

Burleson's Connection in Lane's Brigade

By: John Hoyle Burleson

Lane's Brigade, composed of NC soldiers of A.P. Hill's Light Division, was one of Gen. Lee's Army of Northern Virginia's finest. This brigade probably saw more action and participated in more tough battles than any other.

At Sharpsburg, Maryland (also know as Antietam), Gen. Lee's 37,000 men opposed by 87,000 union troops, was whipped and his back was to the Potomac River. Gen. A.P. Hill, holding at Harper's Ferry, Va, was requested to send help and save Lee's and Jackson's armies from certain destruction. Hill put his "light division" on a 17-mile forced march. They were still at a trot when they fired their first volleys into the oncoming union ranks. This halted the Yankee attack. As more troops arrived and more volleys were fired, the union attack became a retreat. Lee and Jackson were saved.

The lead regiments were the 28th, 37th, and 33rd, North Carolina, commanded by Lawrence O'Brian Branch of Wake County, NC. He died leading his troops and directing their fire into the union ranks. James Henry Lane took over and the brigade would come to be known as Lane's Brigade for evermore. Cousins Ebin Burleson, Joseph Benjamin Burleson, and John Wesley Burleson were among the ranks of this brigade.

When both Gen. Robert E. Lee and Stonewall Jackson lay on their deathbeds, their last words were the same, "Tell A.P. Hill to come up." The Carolina boys of A.P. Hill's Light Division, Lane's Brigade, never failed them in life and they were on both Lee's and Jackson's minds at their deaths.

At Fredericksburg, when the union troops penetrated Lee's line, it was Lane's Brigade that refused to retreat and they turned ninety degrees and attacked to fill the gap and stop the breach in the line. At Spotsylvania Courthouse when Johnson's division was routed and captured at the Bloody Angle, it was Lane's Brigade that again stood fast and counter attacked to restore the Confederate line. The same happened at the Crater in the Petersburg line in 1864. Lee's and Jackson's most successful battle was at Chancellorsville where Lane lost a third of his entire brigade. This was the heaviest loss of all of Lee's army.



A.P. Hill's Corp and Lane's Brigade may not have been the last thought on Gen. U.S. Grant's mind on his death bed, but they were the first consideration in Grant's plan to crush Gen. Lee in April 1865 to end the war. Grant knew that if he could overpower the best of Hill's troop, the rest of Lee's army would have to retreat or surrender. By April 1865, Grant had the men and was willing to sacrifice them. After pushing Gen. Pickett away with very little opposition on April 1, Grant was ready to deliver the final blow to Lee. He ordered his spearhead to strike Lane's Brigade at 4:40 AM, 2 April on the Boydton Road. Grant attacked with three union corps, outnumbering Lane twenty to one.

Today you can visit the exact spot where Grant made his breach in the Confederate line. It is located in Pamplin Park outside Petersburg, VA. The break came in the 28th NC defense. You can stand in the rifle pits just as Ebin and Adam Burleson stood. You can also look to your front and see the ground where 1,100 union soldiers died during the first 15 minutes of their attack on Lane's North Carolina troops. Only after exhausting their ammo did the 28th allow the break. Ebin had fought in all of Lee's campaigns since March 15, 1862, but was captured here. He was not released from Point Lookout Prison until three months after the surrender at Appomattox.

Survivors would rally at Ft. Gregg to their rear. This is where Grant's spearhead was stalled until noon. History credits the defense with saving Lee's crushed army and giving the government at Richmond time to evacuate to the south. Fighting at Ft. Gregg was furious, the Confederates fought with clubbed rifles, bricks, and rocks. Men would light explosives cannonballs by hand and throw them over the ramparts. Only a handful would survive at Ft. Gregg, while hundreds died.

Many Stanly County sons served in Company K of the 28th NC, known as the "Stanly Guards", including Ebin Burleson. Company D of the 28th NC known as the "Stanly Yankee Hunters", contained cousins Adam Burleson and John Wesley Burleson. Joseph Benjamin Burleson served in Company C of the 37th NC of Lane's Brigade, also known as the Mecklenburg Wide Awakes".

On July 3, 1863, Gen. Lane led his brigade all the way to the rock wall at Gettysburg, but had to fall back. On the wall the 28th NC lost their regimental flag to the 126th NY Infantry. Ebin and John Wesley were among the lucky ones to return alive to the Confederate cannons to take up a defensive position. Joseph Benjamin was left on the field wounded for the third time and captured by the Yankees. History credits Gen. Lane's Brigade as the only unit to fight to the rock wall, reform on their broken retreat on the battlefield and march back under fire, all under the control of their commanding officer Gen. James Henry Lane. Loyalty and trust like this explains used to say that when the army of Stonewall Jackson was near, women and children would cry. But in all actuality, when A.P. Hill's Carolina Boys were near, the Yankee soldiers knew they would soon be in a fight for their life sooner more than later.

My g-grandfather Ebin Burleson

EBIN⁸ BURLESON (*WILLIAM (BILLIE)*⁷, *ISAAC JR*⁶, *ISAAC BURLESON*⁵ SR, ?*JOHN*⁴ *BURLESON*, *JONATHAN*³, *JOHN*², *EDWARD*¹) was born 11 Jan 1839 in STANLY CO, NC, and died 27 Jan 1927. He married (1) MARY CATHERINE SIDES 10 Jan 1867, daughter of CHARLES SIDES and SOPHIA LYLERY. She was born 25 Jul 1846, and died 11 Feb 1891 in FRIENDSHIP METH CH CEM, PLYER, STANLY, NC. He married (2) DORA HOPKINS 16 Apr 1893 in ALBEMARLE, NC, daughter of EPHRAIM HOPKINS and HENRIETTA

CARTER. She was born 17 Jan 1874 in STANLY CO, NC, and died 05 Apr 1951. Children of EBIN BURLESON and DORA HOPKINS are:

2. i. JENNIE NETTIE⁹ BURLESON, b. 18 Feb 1894, STANLY CO, NC; d. 18 Jun 1977, SALISBURY, ROWAN CO, NC.
3. ii. JOHN RAY BURLESON, b. 27 Jul 1896, STANLY CO, NC; d. 04 Nov 1963, THOMASVILLE, DAVIDSON CO, NC.
4. iii. SHELLIE BURLESON, b. 06 Jan 1898, STANLY CO NC; d. 01 May 1975.
5. iv. DEWEY HENRY BURLESON, b. 02 May 1900, STANLY CO, NC; d. 25 Apr 1966, SALEM METH CHURCH, STANLY CO, NC.
- v. LIZZIE BURLESON, b. 24 Jul 1903, STANLY CO, NC; d. 09 Sep 1908, BURLESON CEM #2 Parker Road, Stanly Co, NC.
6. vi. ATTIE JEROME BURLESON, b. 18 May 1907, STANLY CO NC; d. 07 Jan 1982, CITY CEM LENOIR CITY, TN.
7. vii. DALLIE MAE BURLESON, b. 04 Apr 1914, STANLY CO NC; d. 03 May 2003, ROWAN MEMORIAL PARK.
8. viii. MARVIN BURLESON, b. 12 Feb 1917, STANLY CO NC; d. 23 Nov 1989, Plyer Baptist Church, Stanly Co NC.

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Ebin Burleson lived in Stanly County, NC. He had fair complexion, red hair, blue eyes and was five and a half feet tall. At age 24, he fought in all of Lee's campaigns beginning on March 15, 1862. Ebin even witnessed his company's regimental flag being taken at the wall by the 126th NY Inf. It was during that battle that cousin J. Benjamin Burleson, 37th NC Infantry, left on the field, wounded for the third time (once in the hand at Fredericksburg), was captured and sent to Point Lookout POW camp. Uncle Joseph Burleson was captured at Harrisonburg, VA (after being shot in the right thigh 6 days prior at Winchester); cousin David Derric Burleson, 5th NC Inf, was captured at Cedar Creek; cousin John Wesley Burleson, 28th NC Inf, was captured at Waterloo, cousin William Burleson, 42nd NC Inf, was captured at Cold Harbor...all sent to Point Lookout! William died after a transfer to Elmira Prison. On April 2, 1865 Ebin was captured at Petersburg. He too, was sent to Point Lookout POW Camp until his release on June 23, 1865.

Ebin and his relatives were true Southerners. His father, known as Grandpa Billie was conscripted because of the shortage of men in 1864 at the age of 52! He also had four brothers, Absolom, Isaac, and Howell to serve the CSA. Several of the teenage Burleson cousins were registered with Junior Reserves!

In 1893, Ebin married nineteen year old Dora Hopkins and they had eight children. The last baby girl was born on April 4, 1914 and they named her Dallie Mae. Dallie Mae Burleson Moore is our latest PLPOW Real Daughter!

Ebin farmed all his life and lived to be 89 years old. He is buried in a private family cemetery in Stanly Co NC.

Last month, the Burlesons hosted a family reunion, with over one hundred in attendance. A program was presented, highlighting their family members who had served in The War Between The States. At this time, John D. Burleson, Ebin's great grandson, adorned with his PLPOW medal with four stars, presented 85 year old Dallie Mae with her PLPOW Real Daughter certificate! Dallie Mae will receive a free lifetime membership in our Descendants Organization.

The Burleson Family has discovered that their ancestors have been true patriots for over 200 years, starting with American Revolution in the NC militia during our first war for

Independence, all the way down to present day. Last year, they honored all 65 of their Burleson's who had been WWII veterans.

There's nothing like family pride and preserving your family's heritage for the present generation and for those who'll follow in your footsteps when you're gone. We need to do as this family has done....tell and show our children!

**Ebin Burleson Private Company K, 28th North Carolina Troops
Branch/Lane Brigade By JD Burleson**

Ebin Burleson was born January 11, 1839, the son of William (Grand-paw Billie) and Sarah Harwood Burleson. He was a farmer and a life long resident of Stanly County and made his home on Burleson Road. According to his military records, he had fair complexion, red hair, blue eyes and was five and a half feet tall. At age 24, he enlisted for the war on March 15, 1862 and fought in all of Lee's campaigns. Ebin was a member of Company K. 28th NC Regiment which was part of the Branch/Lane Brigade. He witnessed his companies' regimental flag being taken at the wall by the 126th NY Inf. It was during that battle that cousin J. Benjamin Burleson, 37th NC Infantry, left on the field, wounded for the third time (once in the hand at Fredericksburg), was captured and sent to Point Lookout POW camp.

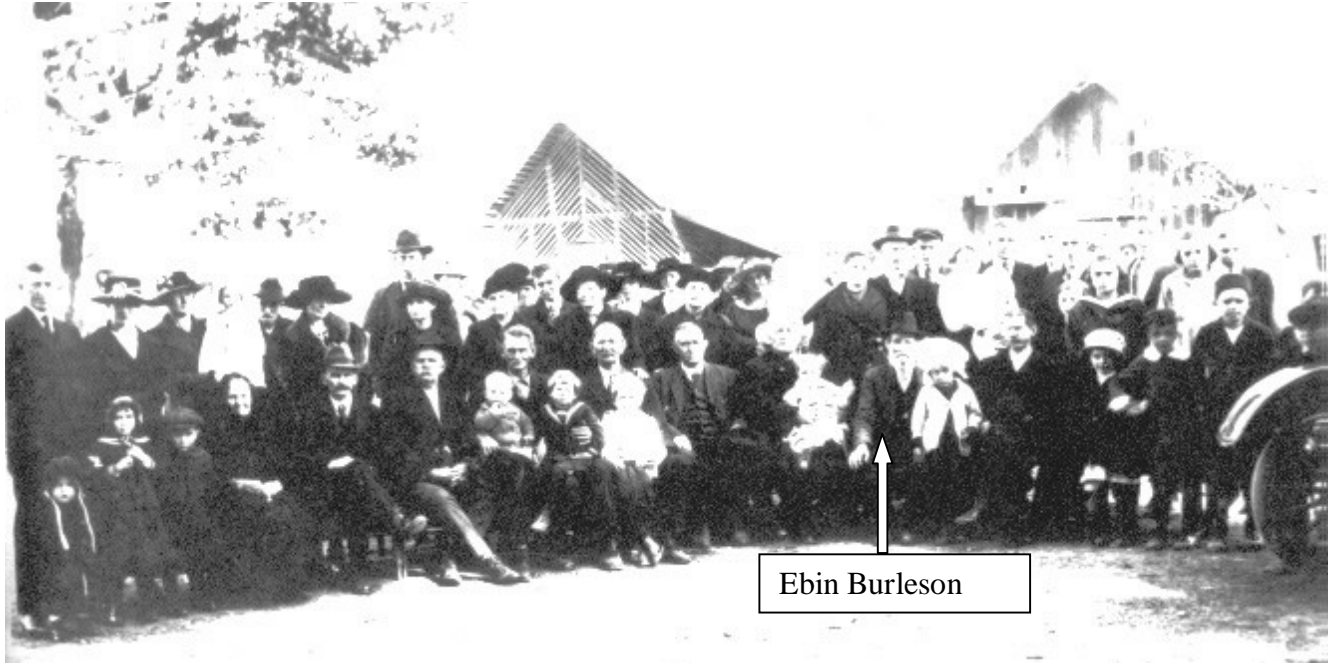
On April 2, 1865 Ebin was captured at Petersburg. He too, was sent to Point Lookout POW Camp until his release on June 23, 1865. Family tradition says Ebin was starved half to death and was almost blind when he arrived home. It took several years for him to recover.

Ebin was active in Stanly County's reunions of Confederate Veterans. He died at the age of 89 on January 27, 1927, and was buried at Burleson Cemetery #2 on Parker Road in Stanly County, NC, where he rests today with his wife Dora Hopkins Burleson.

Ebin's Story

The men that lived to return home at the end of the war would have many tales to tell their families. I am going to take the time to tell you just one of those stories...It came from Ebin Burleson.

The Northern Virginia winters can be harsh for all. Southern soldiers used to warmer climate would protect themselves the best they could. Ebin Burleson and a couple of other privates looked for shelter anywhere they could find it. The only place they were allowed to entrench was on the side of a hill next to some large rocks. The privates stacked their arms and began to dig. The digging stopped when the ground opened up and Ebin and his fellow Confederates fell into a boar's nest filled with several frightened, and now very mad, Wild Boars. Ebin had faced death many times in battle but his situation now was entirely different. In battle Ebin's company was always outnumbered. Stonewall Jackson taught them how to deal with this, simply make every shot count and reload quickly. But, Stonewall had never fallen into a boar's nest like these poor, tired, hungry Confederate privates.....The Wild Boars did not have a chance. Ebin and his buddies were now looking for someone that had raided a henhouse. Ham and eggs would be the menu for breakfast the next day! By John Hoyle Burleson



Ebin Burleson



Our regular monthly meeting was Monday night, July 7, 2003 at Lena's Farm House. We had a great time with about 25 present. Several people brought interesting items to share with the group.

Calvin Burleson, grandson of Ebin Burleson, brought a medal that Ebin received for attending a reunion of Confederate Veterans. Ebin was very active and enjoyed attending these reunions and meetings. In a conversation with Mae Burleson Moore, Ebin's daughter she said that she could remember Ebin getting the whole family together in a wagon pulled by a horse and traveling to Salisbury to attend one of these reunions. She was young when Ebin died, but that was one of the things she said he really enjoyed. Here is a picture of the Medal. We are going to research further to find out more about this Medal.