

Burleson Family Research Group's New Project

We at the BFRG are very excited about this new project. John Hoyle Burleson has done extensive research and along with the valuable information provided by the Burleson Family Association, John has compiled this into what we believe to be the facts about Aaron Burleson. Here is just the first portion of his research. We want to publish this in different forms of data, first will be the written portion with pictures and documentation. We also want to put this in a DVD format so John can explain it in much more detail.

We want to show only information with documented proof. John will explain some of his theories and give examples of facts that lead him to his conclusions. This will be our position and give you things to think about. We also want to receive feedback and hopefully we can open a dialog for discussion.

If you have comments or questions please e-mail them to bfrginfo@gmail.com and JBURLESON2@carolina.rr.com This is the first part in a series that we hope will tell the Life and Travels of Aaron Burleson

The Life and Travels of Aaron Burleson

John Hoyle Burleson 2012

There are several Aaron Burlesons in the 1700's. The task of identifying any one is a huge undertaking. I would like to present my research on Aaron Burleson whose Willⁱ was probated in Washington County North Carolina in 1782. There has been many theories and some facts that have surfaced in the last 150 years about this Aaron Burleson. Some of these stories are: He was born in Buncombe Co. NC and he died in Tennessee. These two stories can't be true because the County of Buncombe was not created until 10 years after Aarons death and the State of Tennessee was not created until 1796. From old documents and published articles we now know that Aaron was born in New Jersey and died in Sullivan County North Carolina. Aaron is known as Aaron II by most researchers. The II is a modern designation to distinguish this Aaron from his father Aaron from Wales. The trouble with this theory is that there is not the first document or a single first hand source that indicates that there was ever an Aaron Burleson from Wales or anywhere else who was old enough to be the father of Aaron Burleson of the Washington Co NC Will. If that document exists it has not come to light yet. We just do not know the father of Aaron Burleson. But there is some new information today and thanks to the Burleson Family Association much information has been gathered and preserved in the Bulletin. Thanks to Mary Keller and Helen Burleson Kelso the Editors and the many researchers who have contributed their research, now a good history of Aarons life can be presented.

Early Virginia

Aaron Burleson is first mentioned in Lunenburg County Virginia records in 1746. He must have been born 21 years prior to that or about 1725. Aaron of Washington Co. NC son Thomas is shown as a chain bearer in Aaron's 1766 Mecklenburg County, North Carolina land entry. North Carolina law required a chain bearer to be at least 14 years of age making his birth prior to 1752. Aaron Burleson JR is thought to have been the oldest son which would make his birth about 1746-48. By this we can assume that Aaron of Washington Co. was born about 1725 also.

Thomas Jones in 1742 was granted several thousands acres of land on Slate River. Slate River is a tributary of the James River and is today completely inside of the county of Buckingham VA. The Slate River is about half way between Richmond to the east, and Lynchburg to the west. It is also located about 45 miles east of the South Fork of the Little Otter River where Aaron obtained a Kings Grant in 1749. Thomas Jones had at least five sons and at least one daughter. Looking at the birth years of Thomas's children 1715 thru 1735, these years match the period that Aaron was born, making Aaron the same age as the Jones siblings.

Thomas Jones of Virginia was born about 1690. Jones did not leave a Will but instead he gave all

his children land as they became of age. Years later this practice would produce a lawsuit between two of his sons, William Jones and John Jones as they began to deed land to their adult sons.

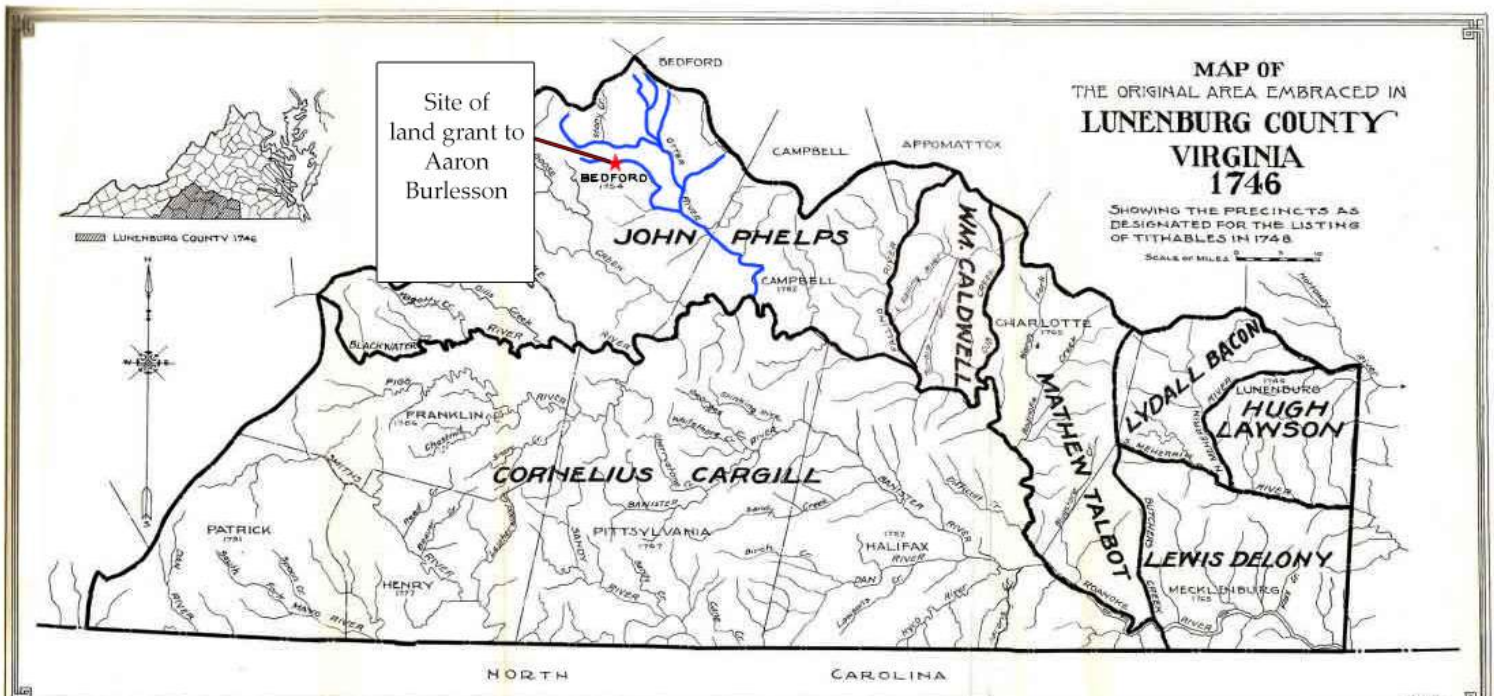
The 1793 (William) Jones vs. (John) Jones case was begun in Prince Edward County Court and would finish in the Richmond Court of Appeals in 1798. In the 1793 hearings depositions were taken and presented. One deposition was by Thomas Jones Jr. a younger brother where it is recorded:.

"Deposition of Thomas Jones, at the house of William Jones in Buckingham Co., Feb. 3, 1794: His 'father Thomas Jones did agree to give Aaron Burleson a certain tract of land lying on both sides of Slate River the quantity of acres not known by me but my brother John Jones did purchase said tract of land of the said Burleson and paid him his price in full for it and for which land my father Thomas Jones and my brother William Jones did make my brother John Jones a right to and this deponant further saith that the said tract of land lies in the bounds of the concluding [inclusive] patern [patent]."

The gift to Aaron Burleson was not part of the disputed land but the affidavit was to show how Thomas Jones Sr. had disposed of his land to his children. There can be no doubt that Aaron Burleson married a daughter of Thomas Jones Sr. therefore Aaron Burleson was receiving his wife's share of the Thomas Jones inheritance.

The question remains; Is this Aaron Burleson of Lunenburg Co VA with a Jones wife the same man that appears on Sandy Run Creek in Mecklenburg County in 1766? The answer can be found by studying other documents and following the Aaron Burleson's connection to the Clark family of Lunenburg Co. VA.

According to Aaron's son Joseph Burlesonⁱⁱ in the 1819 interviewⁱⁱⁱ with Anne Newport Royals, Aaron Burleson was born in New Jersey. The 1739 probated will of Ebenezer Lyon of Elizabeth Town, NJ, named his daughter, Elizabeth, wife of Ephraim Clark, and their children: Elizabeth, **Ephraim**, Hannah, Darkis, **Henry, Riderous, Nathaniel** and **Ichabod Clark**. Henry Clark b.1732 would marry Sarah Jones, I do not know if Henry Clark's wife was related to Thomas Jones b. ca 1690.



Lunenburg County VA

On the title list of Lunenburg County from 1748 through 1752 we find the Burlison family of Jonathan, John and Aaron and the family of Ephraim Clark's sons Henry, Reyderus, Nathaniel and Ichabod, living in close proximity of each other. These neighbors in Lunenburg would remain neighbors to Aaron and his family thru out their migrations till Aaron's death and even afterwards.

Aaron Burleson obtained a Kings Grant^{iv} on the South Fork of the Little Otter River in 1749. This land is approximately where the town of Bedford Virginia now sits in the shadow of the Peaks of the Otter Mountain and is gentle rolling hills and clear mountain fed streams.

Aaron Burleson disappears from written records after his sale of his land in Lunenburg County sometime prior to 1755 until he purchased two tracks of land in Cumberland County, North Carolina in 1761. He is said by a Cumberland/Moore County historian to have been on Dunham Creek by 1760. No doubt he moved south, but at what year we do not know. Before 1750 the Great Wagon Road was still a trading path to the Catawba Nation and only suitable for foot and horse pack travel to the Catawba River where the town of Charlotte would be settled in the next decade. The headwaters of the Rocky River is located about half way between the Yadkin River and the Catawba River. The Rocky River area began to be settled about that time. This is about the time period that Aaron probably left Lunenburg Co. and settled here about 1750/55.

ⁱ Aaron Burleson's Will. Washington County TN Will book 1, page 2. In the Burleson Family Bulletin page 67.

ⁱⁱ Burleson Family Bulletin page 234, Family Group Sheet for Joseph Burleson

ⁱⁱⁱ In the Burleson Family Bulletin page 159. Old Family Letters

^{iv} Burleson Family Bulletin page 297. Land Records, Colonial Grant, Lunenburg County Va, 19 Dec 1749, 147 acres on the South Fork of Little Otter River