

# Recollections

of the  
*Burleson Family Research Group*

<http://home.triad.rr.com/jdburleson/>

*Honoring the Teachers of the  
Burleson Family Past and Present*

## Ulysses Shakespeare Burleyson

August 8, 1870 – October 27, 1959

Ulysses Shakespeare Burleyson or better known as U.S. Burleyson or as Papaw to his grandchildren was my hero and my grandfather. He always reminded me of Abraham Lincoln, as he was a man of integrity and a man whose word was as good as any written contract.

As most men of his day, he grew up as a farmer and did not have the opportunity of advanced education. However, for as long as I can remember and from family stories, he was in a “learning mode”. He shared his early knowledge as a schoolteacher at the Burleyson School, located in Stanly County near his home area of Bloomington. I am unsure as to the dates of his classroom service and assume that they may have been before his marriage on December 22, 1895, to Rosa Lillian Ann “Mollie” Furr, daughter of Aaron Furr and Sarah Leticia “Janie” Hatley. Judging from a picture of the schoolhouse, it was nothing fancy but typical of the small schools of that period.

He also operated a country store that was located in the Bloomington community. My mother – Judie Burleson Cree – remembers helping in the store. The store was later sold to his son, Theodore, but it burned a short time later with no insurance. He also farmed the land around his home for a number of years.

In the 1920s, he moved his family to Albemarle where he lived the remainder of his life. He continued doing light farming and kept some cows on his “Poplin Place” located west of Albemarle. In later years, he developed this property and sold lots that provided him with much of his income.

U.S. Burleyson was a dedicated Christian and a life long member of the Canton Baptist Church, located near his old home place in Stanly County. He was the author of *The History of Canton Baptist Church*, published in 1952. He continued to “learn” until the time of his death on October 27, 1959. I still miss him.

By: William Robert “Bob” Cree

A special **Thank You**, to Bob for the interesting articles on his grandfather, U.S. Burleyson and his mother, Judie Burleson Cree. This is a very special tribute to U.S. Burleyson and it gives us a better understanding of our earliest teacher.

## Judie Burleson Cree

She is the daughter of U.S. Burleyson (also a teacher) and Rosa Lillian Ann "Mollie" Furr. She was born February 1, 1909 at the home of her parents in Bloomington, Stanly County.

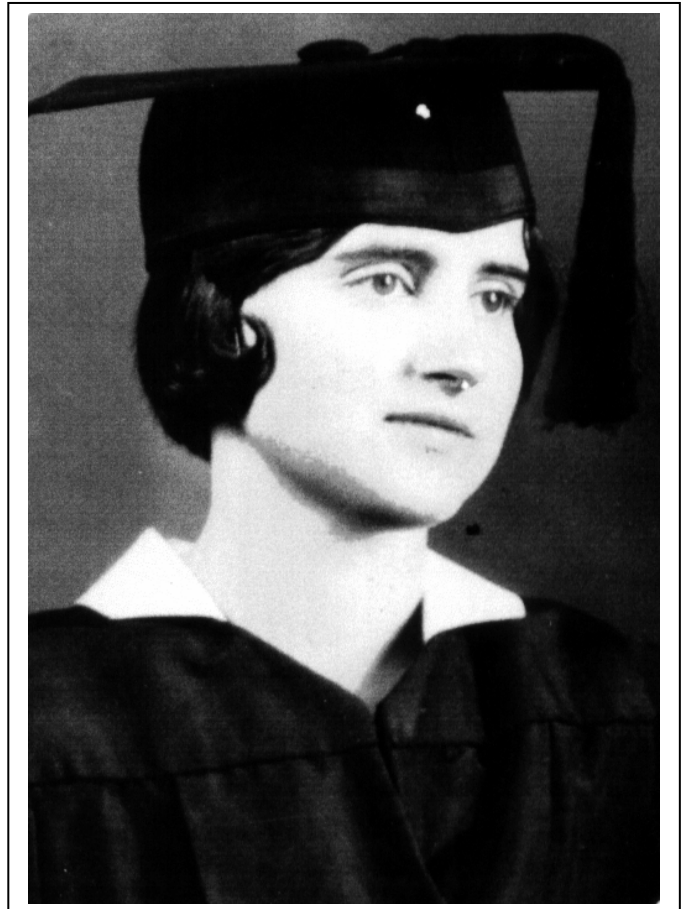
I am unsure of the location of her elementary school education but assume that it was in the Bloomington area. She graduated from Albemarle High School around 1926 and then attended Wingate Junior College, where she met her future husband and my Father- Archie Gilliam Cree. After graduation from Wingate Junior College she attended Catawba College and graduated there with her BA degree. She was the first in her family to graduate from college, which was most unusual in those days.

Her first teaching position was at the Ridgecrest School in Stanly County. She taught there for one school session and wanted "to see the world" so she accepted a teaching position in a one-teacher school in Delaware. She lived with the Reed family who resided near the school. Most days she walked from home to the school but at times, the family with whom she lived would take her. She would assign various boys to build a fire in the heating stove each day as well as to bring in the required wood. She taught all the elementary grades in the one-room school for one year.

An interesting side note: About four years ago, Mother, my wife-June, and I were talking about her teaching in Delaware, and she remarked that she felt she had not expressed her appreciation to the family she lived with during her teaching year there. My wife asked Mother if she had ever had contact with the family since those days and Mother replied that she had not. My wife picked up the phone, called information and connected with the family where she found both the host husband and wife were still living and, in fact, the wife answered the phone. Mother and the lady carried on a conversation as if they had been apart for only a few months but it had been approximately 69 years. Incidentally, Mother then mailed them a check as a token of appreciation for what they had done.

She left the Delaware teaching position and married Archie G. Cree on December 26, 1930. The ceremony took place at the home of her Father who then resided at 1433 Charlotte Highway in Albemarle (next to the old West Albemarle Elementary School which is now a school administration building). They located in Newport News, Virginia where Archie worked as a bookkeeper in an appliance business owned by his sister's husband. Their first child- William Robert Cree (me) was born there on May 9, 1932. Their other child- Lynda Ann Cree was born in Statesville, NC on January 31, 1939.

Mother did not return to teaching until approximately 1945, the year her daughter started school. She taught at the Winecoff School in Concord, North Carolina. When the family moved to Albemarle in 1948, she transferred to the Endy School located in Stanly County. Dad became an Associational Missionary with the Baptist in Stanly County and later relocated to several other communities. Mother continued to teach transferring each time that Dad moved. The locations included Oxford, NC, Whiteville, NC, and Monroe, NC. She retired from teaching in approximately 1971.



I always considered my Mother as a most dedicated teacher. I remember her sitting up late at night grading the papers her students had submitted that day. I knew my teachers did not grade all my own papers so I asked her why she checked every single paper. Her reply was that if I required the student to use their time to prepare the paper, I owed them time to correct it. She loved teaching but when asked recently if she wished that she could return to the classroom, she replied "no". She did not feel she could face the lack of discipline in today's classroom and the lack of parent support, which appears to be a major problem. I must agree with her.

Until the last few months, Mother has worked to keep her mind sharp even at the age of 92. She would work her daily crossword puzzles and always kept at least five library books on her table. While she continues to do some reading, it is becoming more difficult each day. I wish I could provide more detailed information but her memory is not what it once was.

William Robert "Bob" Cree



The Family of Ulysses S. and "Mollie" Rosa Lillie Ann Furr Burleyson

Each birthday, US Burleyson would write what he called his birthday writings.

Here is one from August 8<sup>th</sup> 1944.

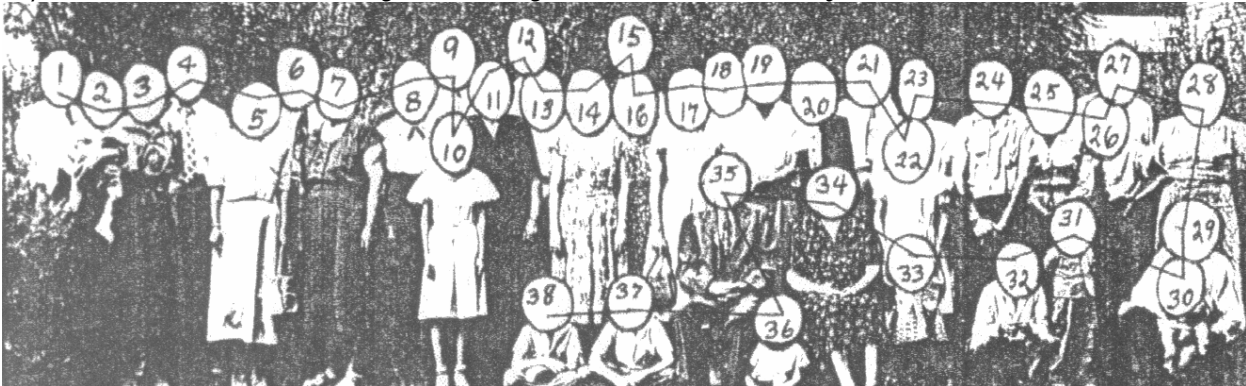
Tuesday 6pm new time, August 8, 1944. Today I am seventy four years old and feeling fine. Bought 1 1/2 bus of apples at \$1.00 for bus and helped to peel 1 bus that my wife is canning now.

My wife's health is better than a few months ago. She now does all the housework. Our eight children I think are all-well, at least six are. We have two sons in military service, so they might not be living.

Nellie our oldest daughter lives just west of Long Creek and helps her husband C.L. Smith who runs a wood shop. Roxie lives in east Albemarle and works in the Lillian Hosiery Mill. Dellie lives at Endy, works in the cotton mill – her husband farms, whose name is Glenn T. Efird. Theodore lives two miles west of Mt. Pleasant, works in the hosiery mill. Judie lives near Kannapolis. Her husband A.G. Cree is an Insurance Agent. Macon is in a tank outfit in Saipan and have not heard from him lately. Raymond is a ship welder at Savannah Ga. US Jr. is a Mo.M.M.2 and was in the invasions in the southwest Pacific. He is now in New Orleans, La. But will soon go back. Neither of these two sons have been injured so far. I do hope they will return home unhurt.

Crops look fine, as we have had plenty of rain for several weeks. We moved to Albemarle in August 1924 so have lived here now for 20 years.

My wife and I still hold our church membership at Canton. We usually go the second and fourth Sunday in each month. These are the preaching Sundays. Rev C.C. Honeycutt of Locust is the Pastor. The protracted meeting begins the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in August each year. We have many faithful friends. My children are all grown. US Jr. the youngest was 22 yesterday (7<sup>th</sup>). They are kind and helpful to me and their mother. How glad I am that so far none has died and all mentally and physically proper. I donot work very much anymore. I read much this helps to pass the time and keeps my mind active. God has been very good to me. My best wishes to all who do right. This August 8, 1944, *US Burleyson*



## The Family of Ulysses S. and "Mollie" Rosa Lillie Ann Furr Burleyson

- |                              |                               |                              |
|------------------------------|-------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1. Lentz Whitley             | 16. Judie Burleyson Cree      | Burleyson                    |
| 2. Reggie Whitley            | 17. Minnie Honbarie Burleyson | 29. Quentin Lowder           |
| 3. Mary Belle Jenkins Lowder | 18. Virgie Earnhart Burleyson | 30. Sally Lowder             |
| 4. Everette Lowder           | 19. Ulysses S. Burleyson Jr.  | 31. Ronnie Burleyson         |
| 5. Geraldine Efird Sr.       | 20. Patty Crowell Lowder      | 32. Gary Lowder              |
| 7. Dellie Burleyson Efird    | 21. E. Macon Burleyson        | 33. Diane Burleyson          |
| 8. Roxie Burleyson Lowder    | 22. Barbara Burleyson         | 34. Mollie Furr Burleyson    |
| 9. C. Lester Smith           | 23. Floyce Eudy Efird         | 35. Ulysses S. Burleyson Sr. |
| 10. Linda Ann Cree           | 24. Glenn Thomas Efird Jr.    | 36. Garrett Efird            |
| 11. Nellie Burleyson Smith   | 25. Beatrice "Bea" Smith      | 37. Jerry Wayne Burleyson    |
| 12. Wm Robert "Bobby" Cree   | Burleyson                     | 38. "Woody" Elwood           |
| 13. Virginia Lowder Whitley  | 26. Buddy Burleyson           | Burleyson                    |
| 14. Zelma Smith Watson       | 27. Theodore Burleyson        |                              |
| 15. Archibald "Archie" Cree  | 28. Troula "Trulie" Bowers    |                              |



# In Honor and Recognition

of all Teachers related to the Burleson Family  
(entries are presented in the order they were received)

## Beulah Burleson Hahn Way

Beulah lives in Middleburg, Florida. She taught school for 15 years: 12 years in Yulee Elementary in Yulee, Florida, and 3 years in Winecoff High School in Cabarrus Co. NC. Beulah's daughter, Judy Haley, is also a teacher. She taught for 30 years and lives in Redfield, Ark. Her son, Charles Hahn Jr., also taught school for 3 years and is an Associate Pastor for Children at Middleburg Baptist Church in Florida.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

She always had a strong desire to help children use their abilities and become good citizens.

Her advice to students today is:

A child who has good dedicated Christian parents should listen to their advice and follow their example.

Her advice to young teachers today is: Try to always be fair with each pupil, no pets.

*Descendants of* BEULAH ODESSA<sup>8</sup> BURLESON (ALLEN LEE<sup>7</sup>, HOWELL<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born November 18, 1907 in STANLY CO NC. She married (1) CHARLES GLENN HAHN SR. November 28, 1934, son of JUSTUS HAHN and FLORA DRY. He was born December 14, 1907, and died March 27, 1971 in MT GILEAD LUTHERAN CHURCH, MT PLEASANT, NC. She married (2) LAWRENCE EVERSON "LARRY" WAY August 27, 1972. He was born March 3, 1915, and died March 14, 1995. Children of BEULAH BURLESON and CHARLES SR. are:

2. i. JUDY ALLEN<sup>9</sup> HAHN, b. December 12, 1945.
3. ii. CHARLES GLENN HAHN JR., b. November 25, 1949.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. JUDY ALLEN<sup>9</sup> HAHN (BEULAH ODESSA<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, ALLEN LEE<sup>7</sup>, HOWELL<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born December 12, 1945. She married CURTIS (CURT) NOEL HALEY December 31, 1966. He was born October 27, 1941.

Children of JUDY HAHN and CURTIS HALEY are:

4. i. CHRISTINA NOEL<sup>10</sup> HALEY, b. January 1, 1968.
- ii. CHARLETON NEAL(CHAMP) HALEY, b. July 29, 1971; m. VALERIE MARIE TAYLOR, May 20, 1994; b. December 11, 1972.

3. CHARLES GLENN HAHN<sup>9</sup> JR. (BEULAH ODESSA<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, ALLEN LEE<sup>7</sup>, HOWELL<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born November 25, 1949. He married (1) CHARLOTTE ANN (SHAN) BARTA FREEMAN December 19, 1971. She was born 1950. He married (2) LAWANNA OWEN HADDOCK STARLING December 30, 1977. She was born December 24, 1951.

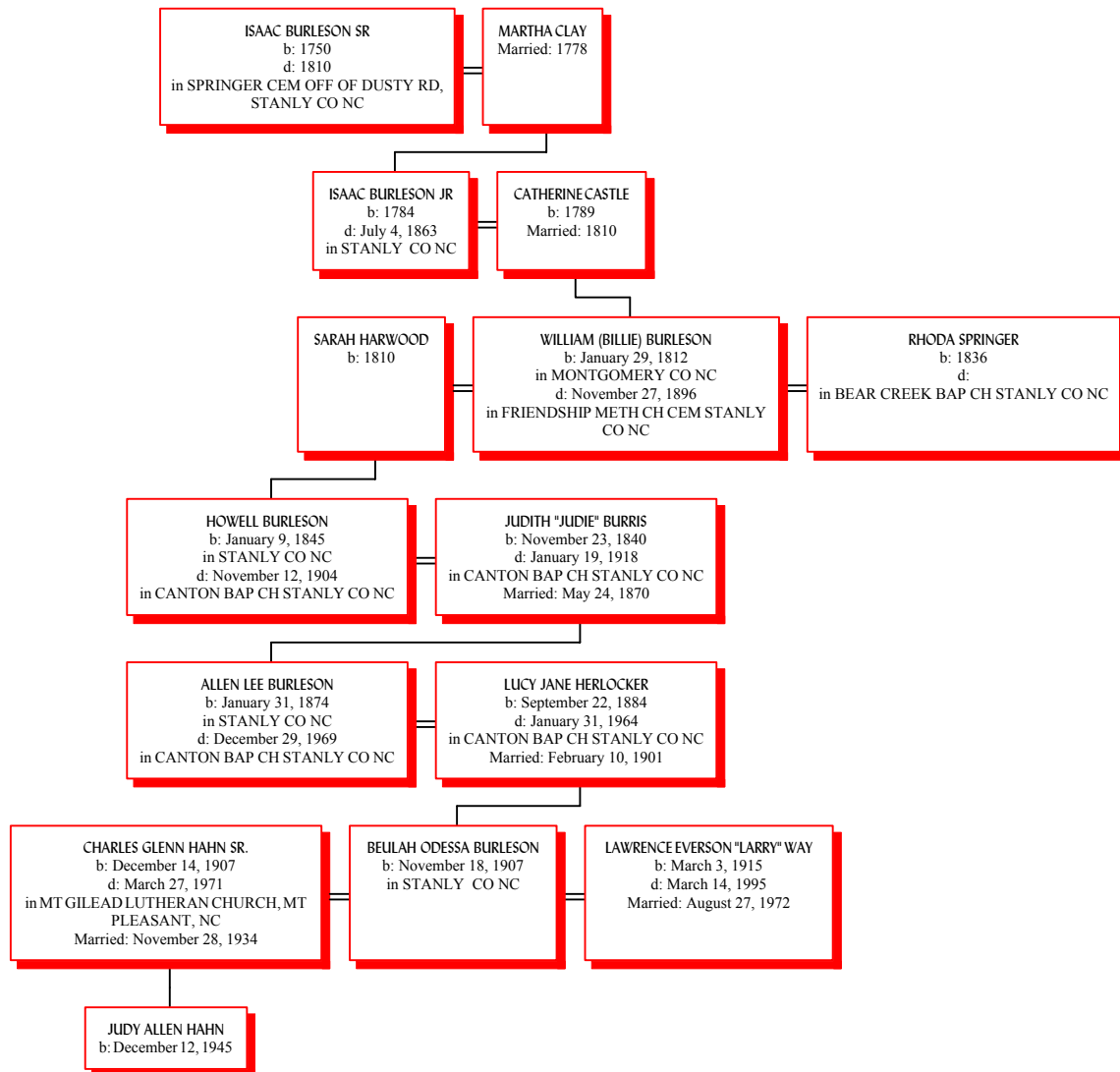
Child of CHARLES JR. and LAWANNA STARLING is:

- i. KATIE MIRANDA<sup>10</sup> STARLIN, b. December 31, 1976.

### *Generation No. 3*

4. CHRISTINA NOEL<sup>10</sup> HALEY (JUDY ALLEN<sup>9</sup> HAHN, BEULAH ODESSA<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, ALLEN LEE<sup>7</sup>, HOWELL<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born January 1, 1968. She married TONY LYNN PARK SR. July 13, 1991. Child of CHRISTINA HALEY and TONY SR. is: i. HALEY NICOLE<sup>11</sup> PARK, b. August 20, 1994.

**Ancestral line of Beulah Burleson Hahn Way, Judy and Charles Hahn  
Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR**



**Charles Glenn Hahn Jr.**

Charles is the son of Beulah Burleson Hahn Way and he lives in Middleburg Fl. He taught Band at Hilliard School for four years.

His inspiration for becoming a teacher is: His mother & sister.

His advice to students today is:

Keep God first in all you learn.

His advice to young teachers today is: Pray daily and seek wisdom in the Word of God.

His most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Finding strength and hope in our children.

## Judy Allen Hahn Haley

Judy is the daughter of Beulah Odessa Burleson Hahn Way, and the granddaughter of Allen Lee Burleson, and she lives in Redfield, Arkansas. She has taught elementary school for 29 years at Nassau County Fl, Dollarway, and White Hall Elementary, Ar.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My mother was my inspiration. She taught school before I was born and started back when I was in high school. She had to get recertified so I attended class with her.

Her advice to students today is:

Make use of every minute of every day in school. Make grades a challenge and a competition. Be well rounded in your scholastic, athletic, social, and cultural experiences. Stay away from harmful temptations as smoking, drinking, and drugs. Make a promise to yourself and know what to do and say when pressured by others.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

School is not the perfect world that is taught in college. Most problems are solved through trial and error. Don't be afraid to ask more experienced teachers for help. Drawing on my 29 years of teaching, I have learned a few successful teaching facts:

- ✓ Make learning fun. Be enthusiastic. When you lose their attention, tell a story or a joke to wake them up then get back to the lesson.
- ✓ Care about your students and try to understand their needs. Think back to when you were their age. What teachers do you remember as being your "best" or "worst". How do you want to be remembered?
- ✓ Get parents to support you. Let them know that you both want the best for their child.
- ✓ Last, the reward you get from teaching is not the monthly check but the satisfaction of watching children grow up and tell you "you were my favorite teacher".

Her most interesting or challenging experiences as teacher are:

1. Obtaining a Master Degree in 1984.
2. Applying to be "Teacher in Space" in 1985 and later being honored by the Arkansas Legislature.
3. Being chosen Conservation Educator of the year in 1989 and being presented the award by then governor, Bill Clinton.
4. Organizing the **Young Astronauts of Redfield** and for nine years we went to NASA facilities in Florida, Alabama, and Texas.



Young Astronauts of Redfield Ar trip to Young Astronaut Convention in Orlando Fl & Cape Kennedy in 1990. Judy Haley, Leader.

# Hilda Burleson Snuggs

Hilda lives in Albemarle, NC. She is an active member of the Burleson Family Research Group. She taught school for 30 years, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade levels at Eden Intermediate, and Albemarle Middle School.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is: Following the role models of a few important teachers to me. Being intrigued by the learning process with my own three children.

Her advice to students today is: Read every chance you get, interact with many classmates, constantly broaden your circle of friends.

Her advice to young teachers today is: Invite learning, spend one-on-one time with each student each week. Seize opportunities to emphasize life skills not included in textbooks.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: Watching the academic growth of students throughout the school year and helping them realize they could have successes.

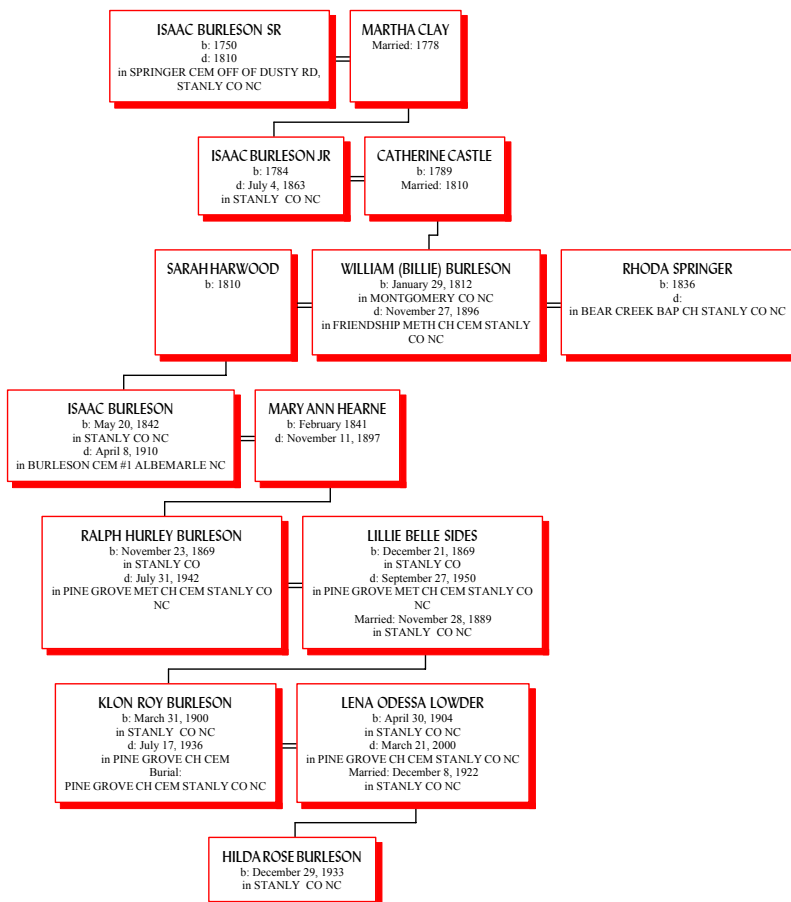


**Leon D. Snuggs**  
June 17, 1929 – Dec 26, 1978



## Ancestral line of Hilda Rose Burleson

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Leon is the husband of Hilda Burleson Snuggs and he taught for 15 years at the 8<sup>th</sup> grade and High School Level. From 1963 till 1978 he taught at Eden Jr. High, Morehead and Eden High School.

### Descendants of

HILDA ROSE<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born December 29, 1933 in STANLY CO NC. She

married LEON DEWITT SNUGGS June 27, 1953 in STANLY CO NC, son of THOMAS SNUGGS and EVA NEEDHAM. He was born June 17, 1929 in STANLY CO NC, and died December 26, 1978 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of HILDA BURLESON and LEON SNUGGS are:

2.
  - i. LESLIE ROSE<sup>10</sup> SNUGGS, b. September 12, 1960, STANLY CO NC.
  - ii. LEON DEWITT II SNUGGS, b. May 8, 1962, EDEN, ROCKINGHAM COUNTY NC; m. BILLIE JEAN SMITH, August 19, 1990, CRIPPLE CREEK, COLORADO.



- iii. VIRGINIA LYNN SNUGGS, b. April 15, 1965, EDEN, ROCKINGHAM CO NC; m. MICHAEL WAYNE SLAUGHTER, May 31, 1987, ROCKINGHAM CO NC.

*Generation No. 2*

2. LESLIE ROSE<sup>10</sup> SNUGGS (HILDA ROSE<sup>9</sup> BURLESON, KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born September 12, 1960 in STANLY CO NC. She married ALAN HARWOOD PHILLIPS June 26, 1982 in ROCKINGHAM CO NC, son of JAMES PHILLIPS and ALMA PHILLIPS. He was born November 22, 1959 in STANLY CO NC. Children of LESLIE SNUGGS and ALAN PHILLIPS are:

- i. GILBERT ALAN<sup>11</sup> PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.
- ii. SAMUEL JAMES PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.
- iii. PAUL THOMAS PHILLIPS, b. June 9, 1995.

## Carolyn Hughes Burleson

Carolyn is the wife of Ted E. Burleson and they live in Albemarle, NC. Ted is the son of Klon and Lena Lowder Burleson. Carolyn taught K-3 for 30 years. From 1961 thru 1963 at Oakboro, and 1963 thru 1991 at Endy.

### *Descendants of Ted and Carolyn Burleson*

1. TED EUGENE<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born May 12, 1929 in STANLY CO NC. He married CAROLYN DOUGLAS HUGHES January 5, 1947. She was born September 3, 1929.

Children of TED BURLESON and CAROLYN HUGHES are:

- i. GEORGE HUGHES<sup>10</sup> BURLESON, b. November 6, 1947, STANLY CO NC; m. DARLENE ALMOND HARKEY, October 28, 1995, STANLY CO NC.
- 2. ii. ANN DOUGLAS BURLESON, b. June 19, 1952, STANLY CO NC.

*Generation No. 2*

2. ANN DOUGLAS<sup>10</sup> BURLESON (TED EUGENE<sup>9</sup>, KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born June 19, 1952 in STANLY CO NC. She married BILLY LEE PURSER May 29, 1972 in STANLY CO NC. He was born October 23, 1951 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of ANN BURLESON and BILLY PURSER are:

- i. JAMIE LEE<sup>11</sup> PURSER, b. April 30, 1977.
- ii. NICOLE ELAINE PURSER, b. June 22, 1985.





## Katherine Almond Talbert

Katherine lives in Albemarle, NC. She graduated from Meredith College, Raleigh, NC and had one year graduate work at UNCC. She was also a member of Alpha Delta Kappg. She taught elementary school for 17 years in Wheat Swamp, Kinston, NC, Hickman Elementary, Nashville Tn, Aiken Elementary, Aiken, SC, and Locust Elementary, Albemarle, NC.

**Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:**

My mother (Nora Almond): I just always wanted to be a teacher-classroom only; at one point I was on the Board of Directors of the American School in Luxemburg, Europe.

**Her advice to students today is:**

Listen, think and most of all your responsibility in the process.

**Her advice to young teachers today is:**

Through high and lows – just keep a love for teaching - to know you help a child read, do Math, all other things is the reward.

Katherine's and Lynn's Ancestral Chart and Descendants will be listed with their mother's.

SEATED: WORTH, NANCY, NORA  
STANDING, KATHERINE, LARRY, AND LYNN ALMOND

## Lynn Almond Smith

March 10, 1939—April 6, 1983

Lynn received her degree from Greensboro College, Greensboro, NC and taught for 5 years, at East Mecklenburg High School, Charlotte, NC and a school in Denver, Colorado. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher was her mother (Nora Almond). Interesting note: She taught Drama as well as English at East Mecklenburg. She had a student who went on to be an announcer on channel 3 and another student who was also on television.



# Nora Blond Burleson Almond

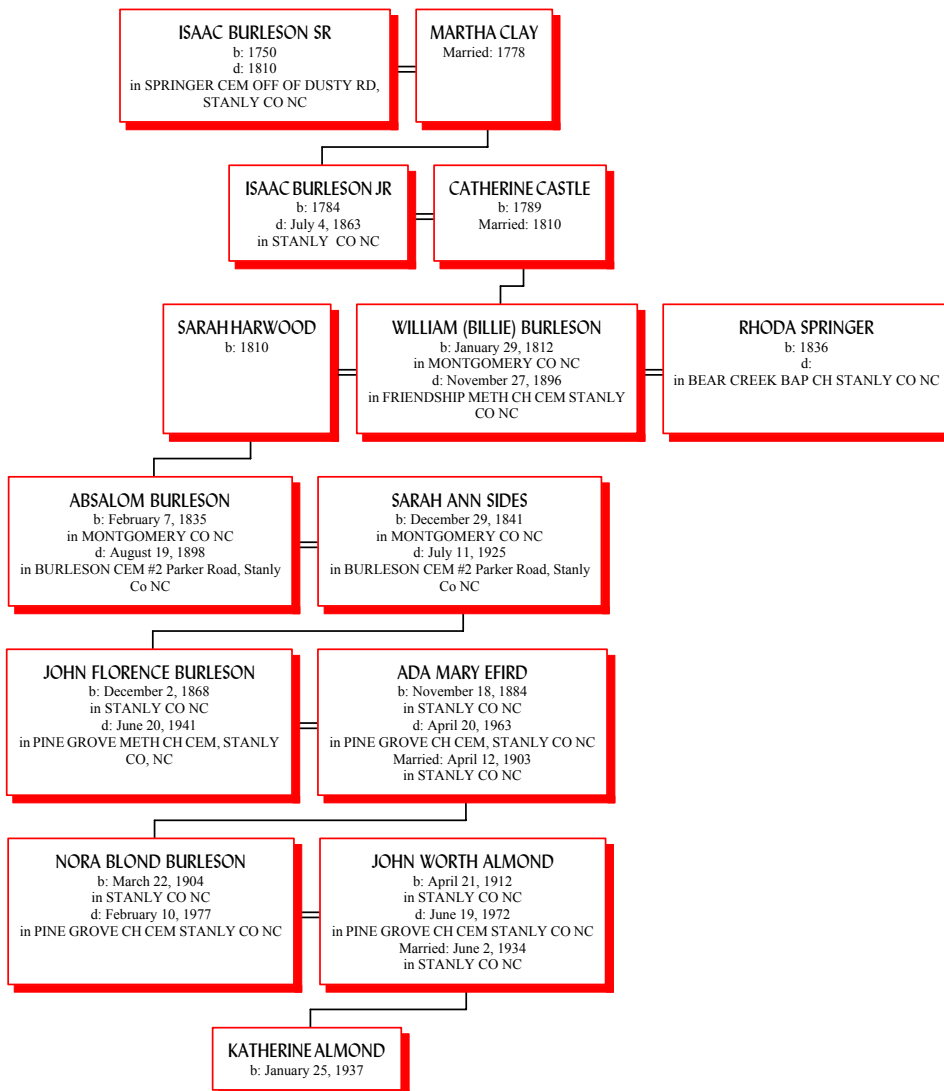
March 22, 1904--February 10, 1977

Nora taught 5 years, all grades – in a one-room school, Bloomington, on Austin Road, off of Canton Road, Stanly County NC. This information was submitted by Katherine Talbert and she thinks her mother’s kind, inspiring manner was a great asset for her. She was a graduate of Albemarle High School because as she told me—“it was the only school that had 12 grades at the time”. She had a two year-degree from UNC-G and some time at Catawba College in Salisbury. She also wrote two historical poems which were published by Catawba college.



## Ancestral chart for Nora, Katherine, and Lynn

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



*Descendants of NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON (JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>)* was born March 22, 1904 in STANLY CO NC, and died February 10, 1977 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC. She married JOHN WORTH ALMOND June 2, 1934 in STANLY CO NC, son of TORRENCE ALMOND and EMMA EUDY. He was born April 21, 1912 in STANLY CO NC, and died June 19, 1972 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC.

Children of NORA BURLESON and WORTH ALMOND are:

2. i. LARRY DOUGLAS<sup>9</sup> ALMOND, b. June 3, 1935, STANLY CO NC.
3. ii. KATHERINE ALMOND, b. January 25, 1937.
4. iii. LYNN ALMOND, b. March 10, 1939, STANLY CO NC; d. April 6, 1983.
5. iv. NANCY LEE ALMOND, b. April 2, 1942.

*Generation No. 2*

2. LARRY DOUGLAS<sup>9</sup> ALMOND (NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born June 3, 1935 in STANLY CO NC. He married DON SAIN FARABEE November 30, 1957. She was born January 23, 1936.

Children of LARRY ALMOND and SAIN FARABEE are:

- i. TARA SUSAN<sup>10</sup> ALMOND, b. February 12, 1960.
6. ii. LISA SAIN ALMOND, b. January 26, 1961.
7. iii. ANNE DOUGLAS ALMOND, b. August 2, 1962.
8. iv. LARRY DOUGAS ALMOND JR, b. November 27, 1966.

3. KATHERINE<sup>9</sup> ALMOND (NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born January 25, 1937. She married LARRY MELVIN TALBERT June 20, 1959. He was born March 12, 1936. Children of KATHERINE ALMOND and LARRY TALBERT are:

- i. STUART GREGORY<sup>10</sup> TALBERT, b. June 14, 1962.
9. ii. JOHN LAWRENCE TALBERT, b. August 14, 1964.

4. LYNN<sup>9</sup> ALMOND (NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born March 10, 1939 in STANLY CO NC, and died April 6, 1983, PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC. She married JACOB MALHON SMITH November 25, 1965. He was born July 5, 1936.

Child of LYNN ALMOND and JACOB SMITH is: i. DAVID STEPHEN<sup>10</sup> SMITH, b. May 9, 1968.

5. NANCY LEE<sup>9</sup> ALMOND (NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born April 2, 1942. She married (1) RONALD WILLIAM SMITH November 4, 1962. He was born August 11, 1942. She married (2) GLEN DALE BURLESON May 31, 1987, son of HARVEY BURLESON and LETHA HINSON. He was born January 21, 1933. Child of NANCY ALMOND and RONALD SMITH is:

- i. BRIAN WILLIAM<sup>10</sup> SMITH, b. September 30, 1970; m. HEATHER BROERING, October 7, 2000.

*Generation No. 3*

6. LISA SAIN<sup>10</sup> ALMOND (LARRY DOUGLAS<sup>9</sup>, NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born January 26, 1961. She married JOSEPH DIXON THORNDYKE November 15, 1986. He was born December 10, 1960.

Children of LISA ALMOND and JOSEPH THORNDYKE are:

- i. LAURAN SAIN<sup>11</sup> THORNDYKE, b. September 22, 1988.
- ii. ANDREW SCOTT THORNDYKE, b. March 4, 1990.
- iii. DOUGLAS REED THORNDYKE, b. December 21, 1994.

7. ANNE DOUGLAS<sup>10</sup> ALMOND (LARRY DOUGLAS<sup>9</sup>, NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born August 2, 1962. She married WATSON RAYMOND TOMLINSON August 25, 1984. He was born March 12, 1959. Children of ANNE ALMOND and WATSON TOMLINSON are:

- i. WATSON RAYMOND<sup>11</sup> TOMLINSON, b. August 21, 1990.
- ii. CAMERON ANNE TOMLINSON, b. October 19, 1992.

8. LARRY DOUGAS ALMOND<sup>10</sup> JR (LARRY DOUGLAS<sup>9</sup> ALMOND, NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born November 27, 1966. He married (1) DEBORAH BEATY December 28, 1985. She was born June 19, 1961. He married (2) LISA 1992.

Child of LARRY JR and DEBORAH BEATY is:

- i. UKE FARABEE<sup>11</sup> ALMOND, b. September 16, 1986.

Child of LARRY JR and LISA is:

- ii. MARY ELIZABETH<sup>11</sup> ALMOND, b. January 4, 1994.

9. JOHN LAWRENCE<sup>10</sup> TALBERT (KATHERINE<sup>9</sup> ALMOND, NORA BLOND<sup>8</sup> BURLESON, JOHN FLORENCE<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born August 14, 1964. He married CHERYL BURR August 20, 1989. She was born December 11, 1969.

Children of JOHN TALBERT and CHERYL BURR are:

- i. MATTHEW RYAN<sup>11</sup> TALBERT, b. February 25, 1992.
- ii. JARED ALAN TALBERT, b. April 2, 1994.
- iii. JOHN WORTH TALBERT, b. April 21, 1998.
- iv. GRAHAM ASHE TALBERT, b. December 17, 1999.

She was born Nora Blond Burleson on March 22, 1904 to John F. and Ada Ebird Burleson. She was the oldest of 10 children; only 8 lived to become adults as two died within 3 months of birth. She was married to J. Worth Almond and they had 4 children, two of which were teachers. Katherine and Lynn followed in their mother's path into the classroom. Two other children, Larry and Nancy, entered the business world as their father had done.

Nora was educated at the Burleson School. Her home environment was a great influence on her as her father had done some teaching and later he led her to follow in the teaching profession. She attended and graduated from the Burleson School. However, she wanted to attend college. So, at the urging of her father, it was decided that she would go to Albemarle and attend the 12<sup>th</sup> grade at Albemarle High School. At this time, it was the only school in the county that had 12 grades.

Later, she attended UNC-G for 2 sessions or years. She returned each year to teach at Bloomington. She did some summer work at Catawba College. While taking a writing or history class, she wrote 2 historical poems which were published by the college. From reading school information at the local library, it was stated that if a person could read and write he or she could become a teacher. So, at this time I am sure that my mother must have been a delight for the system to have a teacher with some college background.

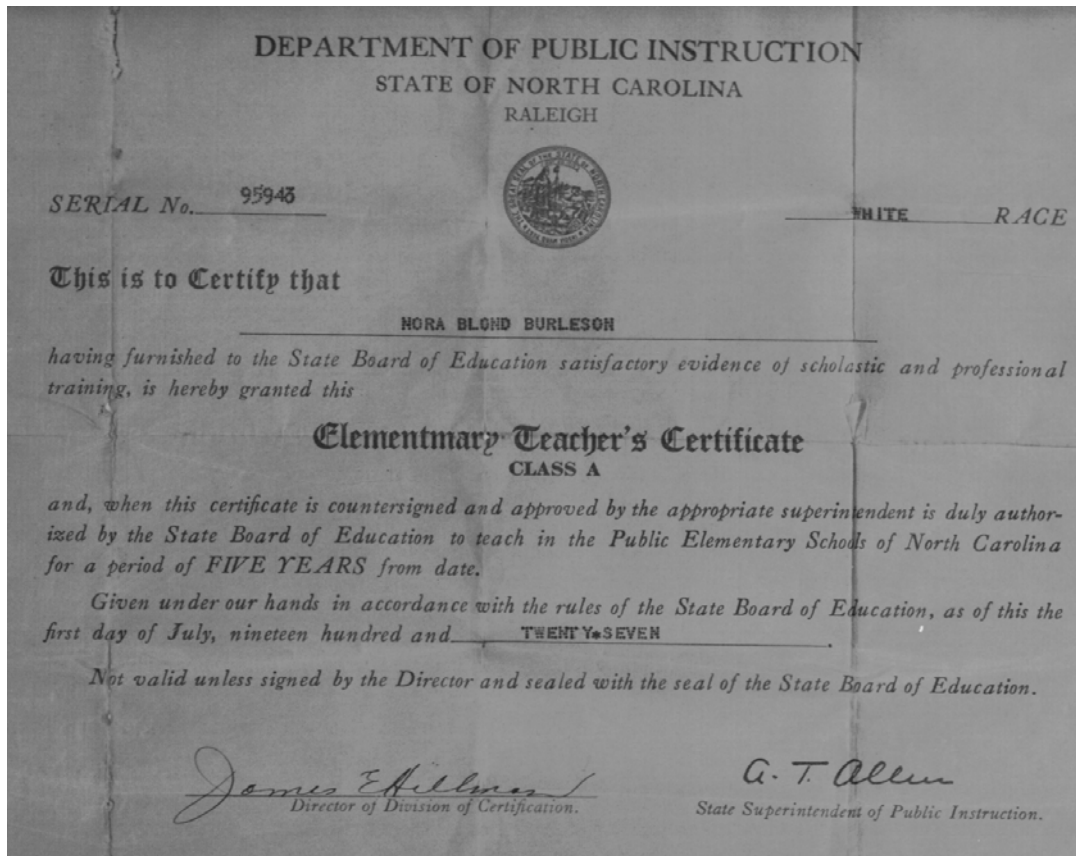
Bloomington School came about as a result of parents' concern about their children having to travel so far to school. It was in this area of the county that Bloomington happened to be "booming township". The Endy Township had not been set up at this time. Here, there was a post office, telephone exchange, cotton gin, corn mill, and other business interests. It was a "social area" for the western part of the county.

Furr had been the closest school for the area and it is the one that split into the schools known as Bloomington and Endy. My mother taught at Bloomington. She taught all grades. My conversation with her before her death was that it was a 1 room school, had a wood stove for heat, no bathrooms or inside water. She said, "some of the older boys would help her with the fire-bringing wood inside." I'm not sure how long she taught or how long the school was in existence. Recently, I spoke with Mrs Blye Lowder, a descendant of Ralph Burleson, and neither was sure how long my mother taught there. The school term was 6 months before 1937. Teachers were paid \$10 TO \$30 dollars for 30 days. Today, the salary is still based on 30 days. Fortunately, the pay is better! I had a conversation with one of her students, Jody Russell now deceased, and at the time he said, "she was a wonderful, kind person and a gifted teacher.

It would be delightful to talk with any descendants of her students in order to learn more about this time in her life and her career. It is evident that my love for teaching profession came from being my mother's daughter. We want to thank Katherine Almond Talbert for this great tribute to her mother.



# Teachers Certificate For Nora Blond Burleson Almond



While at Catawba College Nora wrote two historical poems and they were published by the College.

## ***Historical North Carolina***

At Moore's Creek Bridge the Scotch came down  
To find the logs so bare and round  
The Whigs had removed all the planks  
Leaving the logs slippery from bank to bank

Across the logs the Highlander pressed  
Their hearts were throbbing in the breasts  
The Whig rifles cracked round them left and right  
And the King's men were all put to flight  
The Rebel farmers of Mecklenburg met  
A better government they wished to beget  
They declared that they would be free  
From Old Mother England forever to be

When to Charlotte Cornwallis came  
He thought for himself some fame to gain  
But he could find no peaceful rest  
For he was in the midst of "a hornet's nest"



The women of Edenton would serve no tea  
They used instead some leaves from a tree  
Until England her power would relax  
And from the Colonies remove the tax

Like demons on King's Mountain the Mountaineers fought  
And great havoc they themselves wrought  
Camped on King's Mountain in their den

Guilford Battleground is an interesting place  
That ended in the Revolution a famous race  
Cornwallis, the victory for himself did claim  
But such victories as this, made the British Army lame!

Nora B. Almond  
1928

## The Farmer

God bless the farmer, a tiller of the soil  
Whose life is filled each day with pleasure, care and toil  
His work begins before the break of day  
First the care of his beasts with water and hay

Breakfast, he and his family partakes  
Thanking God, begs for forgiveness of mistakes  
Then to work in the fields of green growing grain  
To make a good, harvest with care and God's rain  
As the summer sun sinks low in the West  
The farmer returns home to Supper and rest  
Weary but happy from a hard day's work  
Cheerfully doing his chores he does not shirk  
He lies down to rest no weary thoughts to ban  
His honest soul is at rest and peace  
With God and man

Nora B. Almond  
1928

## John F. Burleson

Dec 2 1868—Jun 20 1941

## Ireneus Raleigh Burleson

June 23, 1872—January 1, 1951

John and Ireneus are listed as teachers at Bloomington School in the newspaper article July 1, 1941.

## Torrence Homer Almond

October 5, 1887--March 7, 1972

Torrence is the father-in-law of Nora Burleson Almond and is listed as a teacher at Bloomington School, in the newspaper article July 1, 1941.

# Karen Rene' Schultz Stoltz

Karen lives in Murfreesboro, Tn and she is still substitute teaching part time. She taught 21/2 years at Griffith Junior High School in Winston Salem.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

She always enjoyed children, enjoyed research and planning curriculum.

Her advice to students today is:

Read and enjoy being young.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Set a good example for your students. Expect a lot of your students – they only reach for what you expect of them.

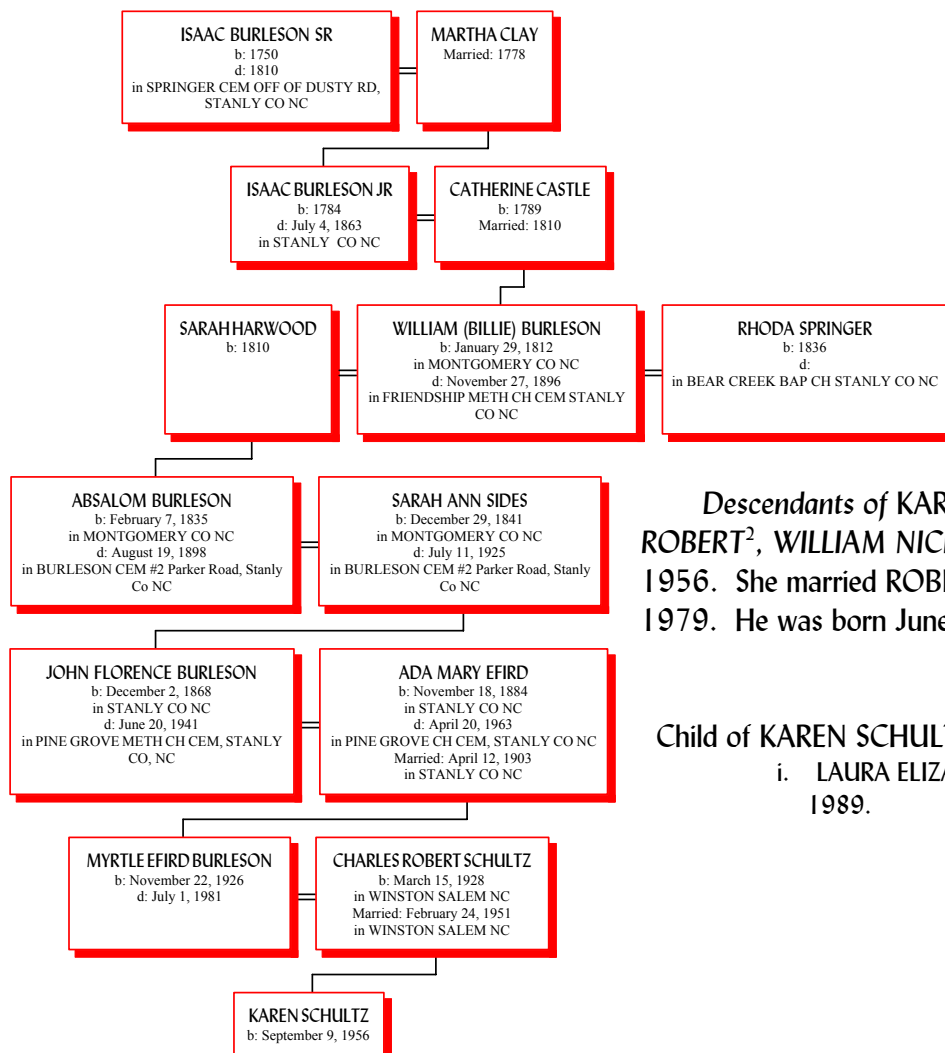
Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Being prepared every day. Having classes that children enjoy being a part of.



## Ancestral Chart for Karen Stoltz

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Descendants of KAREN RENE<sup>3</sup> SCHULTZ (CHARLES ROBERT<sup>2</sup>, WILLIAM NICHOLAS<sup>1</sup>) was born September 9, 1956. She married ROBERT DENNIS STOLTZ July 7, 1979. He was born June 21, 1955.

Child of KAREN SCHULTZ and ROBERT STOLTZ is:

- i. LAURA ELIZABETH<sup>4</sup> STOLTZ, b. November 1, 1989.

## Paula Burleson Ferree

Paula lives in Oakboro, NC. She has taught school for 14 years, fifth grade at New London for 11 years, and AIG for 3 years at Locust. She was also an assistant teacher at Oakboro for 3 years.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

When working as an assistant the eagerness and responsiveness of the children made me love teaching. Fellow teachers encouraged me to return to college to earn my degree.

Her advice to students today is:

Education is the key to most opportunities; follow your conscience and not the crowd. Remember putting others down does not lift you up. Instead it brings us all down. Love God.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Do not be disillusioned. The task is tremendous with very little advantages. Although you think what you do makes very little difference, it does. Remember you're teachers.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

A very disturbed fifth grader knocked on my front door six years later to tell me what a difference I had made in his life. It was the first class I had taught. The teacher of the class had had a nervous breakdown and 5 subs had followed. When I inherited the class of 20 boys and 9 girls, the class was convinced no one was ever going to stay.

### Awards and Honors:

- National Math/Science Teacher Nominee, 1989
- Grade Level Chairperson, 1994-2000
- Teacher of the year – New London, 1991-92
- Teacher of the year – Locust, 1998-99
- Walt Disney Teacher of the Year Nominee – 2001
- Superintendent Leadership Council, 2000-01
- School Improvement Team, 1998-2001

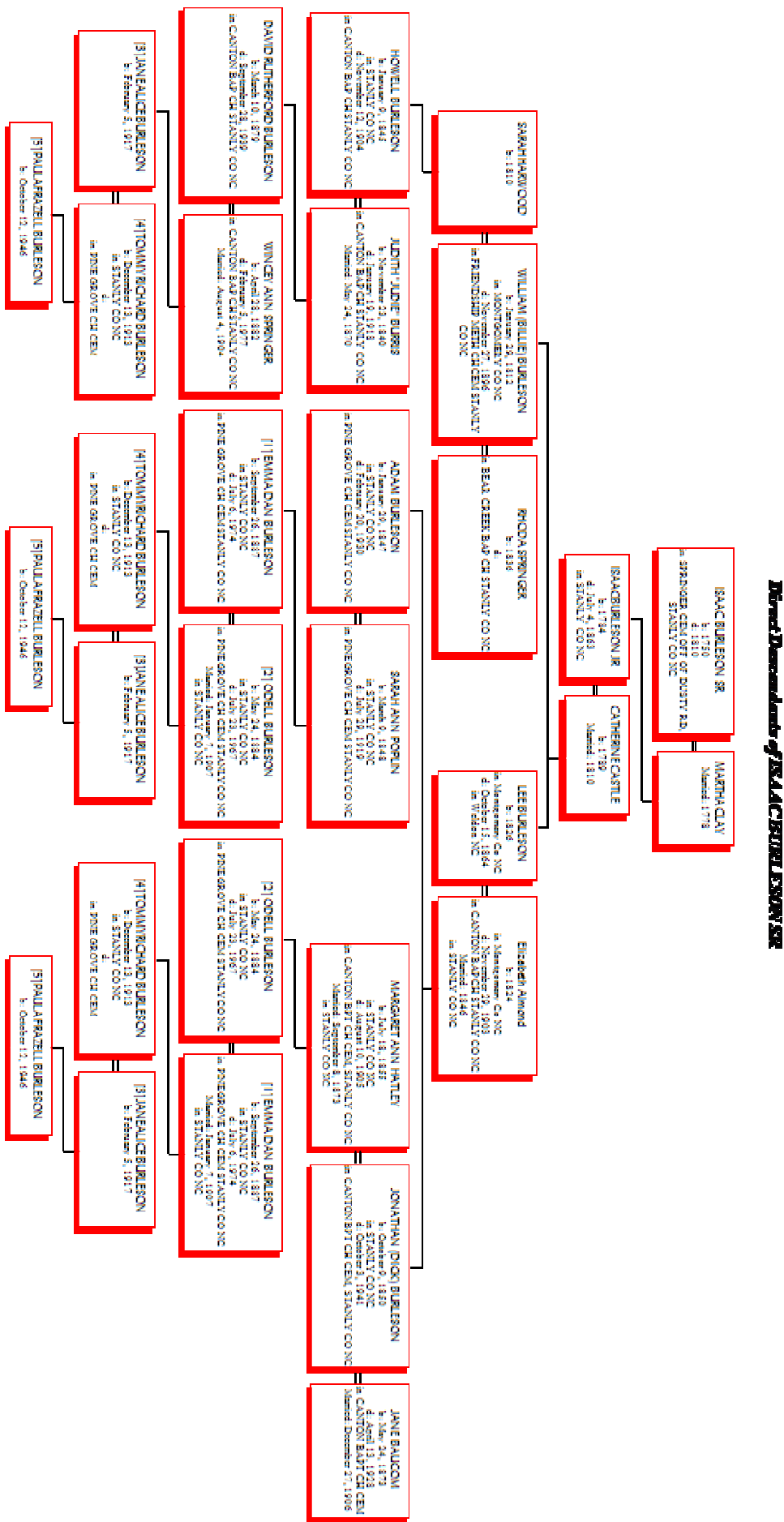


*Descendants of* PAULA FRAZELL<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (TOMMY RICHARD<sup>8</sup>, ODELL<sup>7</sup>, JONATHAN (DICK)<sup>6</sup>, LEE<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born October 12, 1946. She married LARRY RAY HUNEYCUTT.

Child of PAULA BURLESON and LARRY HUNEYCUTT is:

- i. KRISTIE JANETTE<sup>10</sup> HUNEYCUTT, b. January 28, 1968.

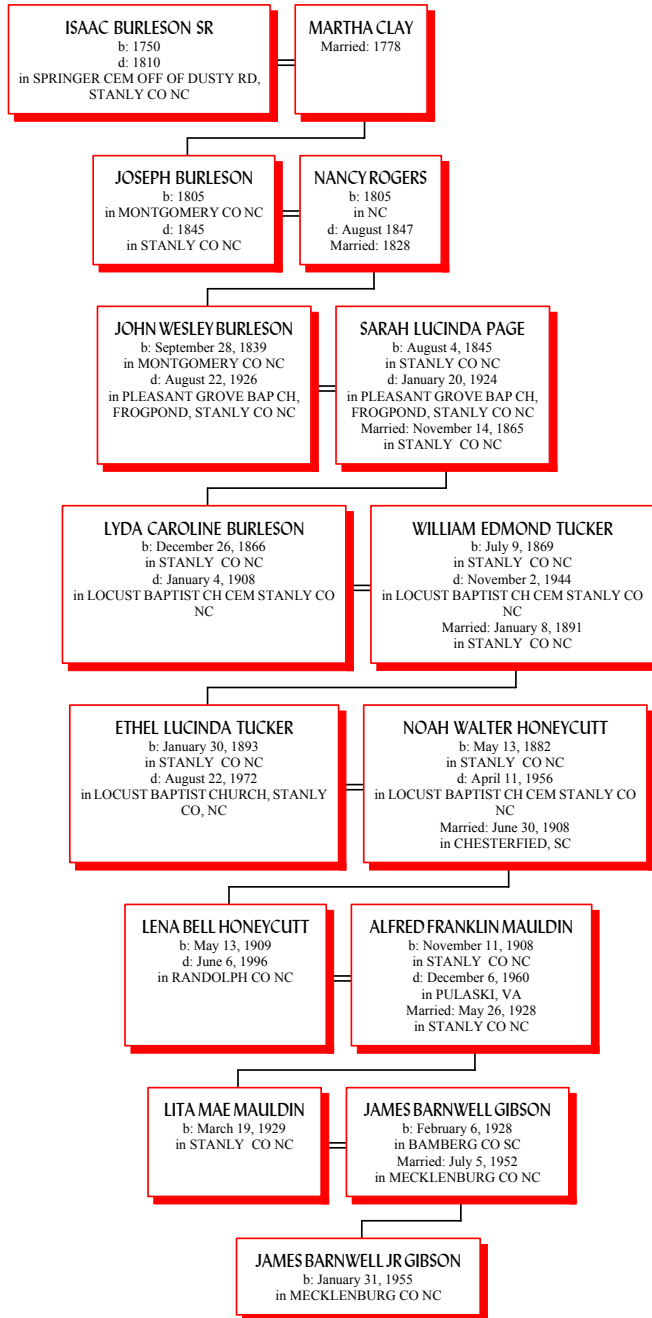
# Ancestral Chart for Paula Bureson Ferree



# Lita Mae Mauldin Gibson

## Ancestral Chart for Lita Mae Mauldin Gibson. and Her son James (Jim) Barnwell Gibson Jr.

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Lita Mae lives in Asheboro, NC. She has taught school, with occasional breaks, since 1953. She has taught at Shepherdville High School, Kentucky, Fort Mill Middle School, SC, East Rowan High School, NC, South Western Randolph High School, NC, Bamberg Middle School, SC, Timmons ville High School, SC, East Montgomery High School, NC, Sandhills Farm Life Moore County, NC. She explained that she retired in 1990 to help care for three invalid/semi-invalid parents. Two years ago, she substituted, however this past year, she was asked to take a regular teaching position at Southwestern Randolph. Since she was on the committee to plan the school and was chairman of the English Department, she found it very interesting to go back there. Her husband is a Baptist Minister, this accounts for the number of places she has taught.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

I realized I had a talent for sharing learning with teenagers. This past year has proven I have not lost the touch even though I am 72 years old.

Her advice to students today is:

Show respect for others: your peers, your parents, other family members, and those in authority. Don't run with the pack. Choose your friends carefully.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Even though you may be close to students' ages, you cannot be buddy-buddy with them. Set fair classroom rules and aide by them, beginning on the first day.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: Teaching drama when there was no stage or other things we consider necessary.

Innovation was the key to a successful program. We studied the history of western drama as well as producing dramas.



## James Barnwell Gibson Jr.

James lives in Asheboro, NC. He is the son of Lita Mae Mauldin Gibson. He teaches High School English, and he has taught at East Rowan and Randleman High Schools. His inspiration for becoming a teacher was his Mother. His advice for students is to do assigned work. Take things seriously and do more than the system requires. His advice for young teachers is to do something else first and if you still want to teach, then do it. Most challenging experience as teacher was having to go before the school board to defend the teaching of a particular student.

The descendants of and the ancestral chart for James are included with his mothers.

**Descendants of** LITA MAE<sup>2</sup> MAULDIN (ALFRED FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>) was born March 19, 1929 in STANLY CO NC. She married JAMES BARNWELL GIBSON July 5, 1952 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. He was born February 6, 1928 in BAMBERG CO SC. Children of LITA MAULDIN and JAMES GIBSON are:

2. i. JAMES BARNWELL JR<sup>3</sup> GIBSON, b. January 31, 1955, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
3. ii. FRANKLIN RUBY GIBSON, b. July 7, 1957, MECKLENBURG CO NC.

### *Generation No. 2*

2. JAMES BARNWELL JR<sup>3</sup> GIBSON (LITA MAE<sup>2</sup> MAULDIN, ALFRED FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>) was born January 31, 1955 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. He married TERESA BARTON. She was born June 6, 1958 in DENMARK, BAMBERG CO SC. Children of JAMES GIBSON and TERESA BARTON are:

- i. JAMES BARTON<sup>4</sup> GIBSON, b. February 28, 1984, FLORENCE CO SC.
- ii. ALEXANDRA LEIGH GIBSON, b. May 24, 1986, MECKLENBURG CO NC.
- iii. JASON BRYCE GIBSON, b. June 24, 1992, RANDOLPH CO NC.

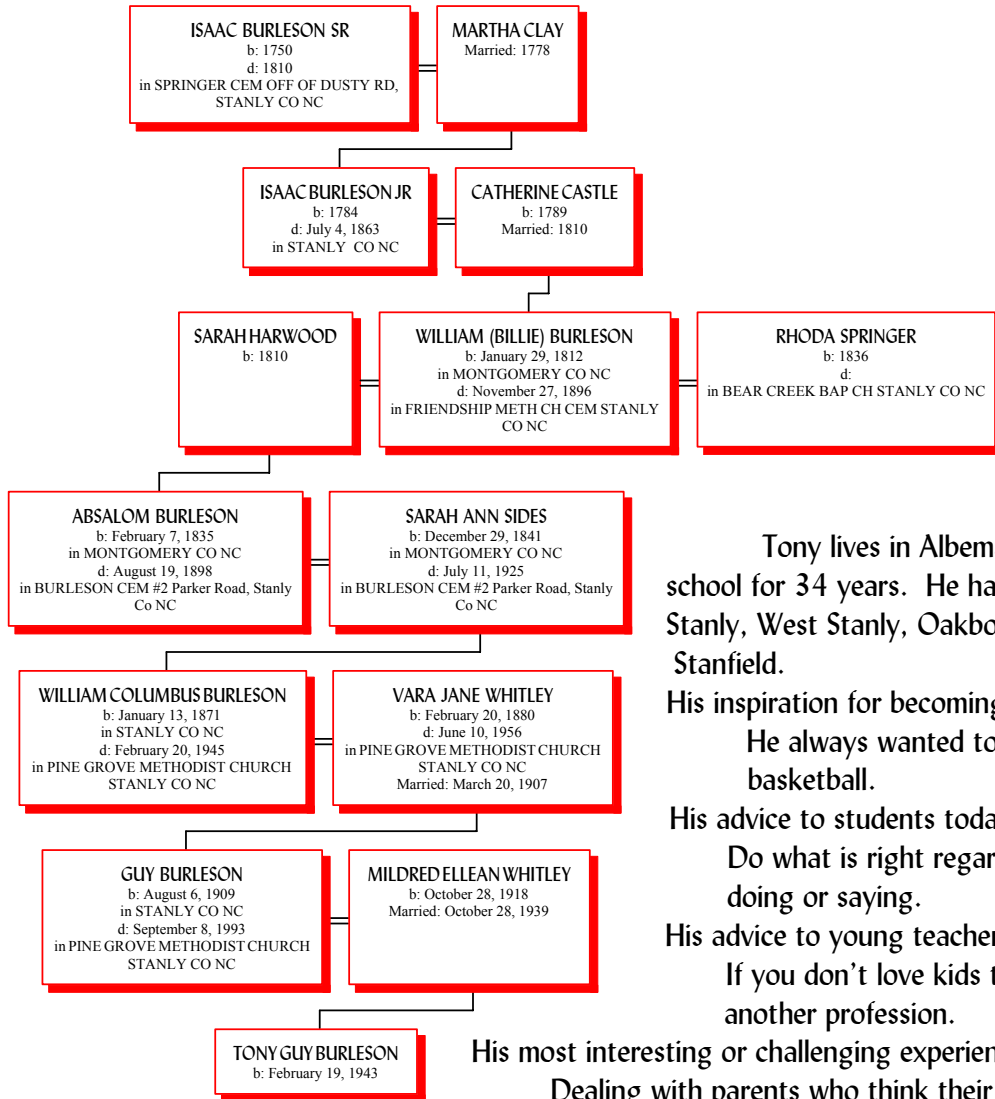
3. FRANKLIN RUBY<sup>3</sup> GIBSON (LITA MAE<sup>2</sup> MAULDIN, ALFRED FRANKLIN<sup>1</sup>) was born July 7, 1957 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. He married BARBARA BRUNO. She was born November 12, 1963 in NEW JERSEY. Child of FRANKLIN GIBSON and BARBARA BRUNO is:

- i. GABRIEL PARKER<sup>4</sup> GIBSON, b. June 15, 1998, COLUMBIA, RICHLAND CO SC.

# Tony Guy Burleson

## Ancestral Chart for Tony Guy Burleson

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Tony lives in Albemarle, NC, and has taught school for 34 years. He has taught at Norwood, South Stanly, West Stanly, Oakboro, Richfield, Ridgecrest and Stanfield.

His inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

He always wanted to teach P.E. and coach basketball.

His advice to students today is:

Do what is right regardless what the peers are doing or saying.

His advice to young teachers today is:

If you don't love kids then you need to find another profession.

His most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Dealing with parents who think their child does nothing wrong.

*Descendants of* TONY GUY<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (GUY<sup>8</sup>, WILLIAM COLUMBUS<sup>7</sup>, ABSALOM<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born February 19, 1943. He married ZOE HUNNEYCUTT 1962.

Child of TONY BURLESON and ZOE HUNNEYCUTT is:

- i. STEVEN GUY<sup>10</sup> BURLESON, b. May 14, 1975.

# Jean Burleson Morgan

Jean lives in Stanly County, NC. She taught school for 30 years and retired in February 1995. Jean taught High School Math at Mt. Pleasant one year and at Albemarle High School for 29 years. She is the daughter of Thurman Burleson. Thurman was one of the first people to have the foresight to realize it would be valuable to future generations to document and preserve the Burleson Family Heritage. Our first edition of "Recollections" was dedicated in honor of his contributions.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

I wanted to make a difference in the lives of teenagers.

Her advice to students today is:

Be respectful of teachers and fellow students. Be responsible – good attendance, assignments completed and on time.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

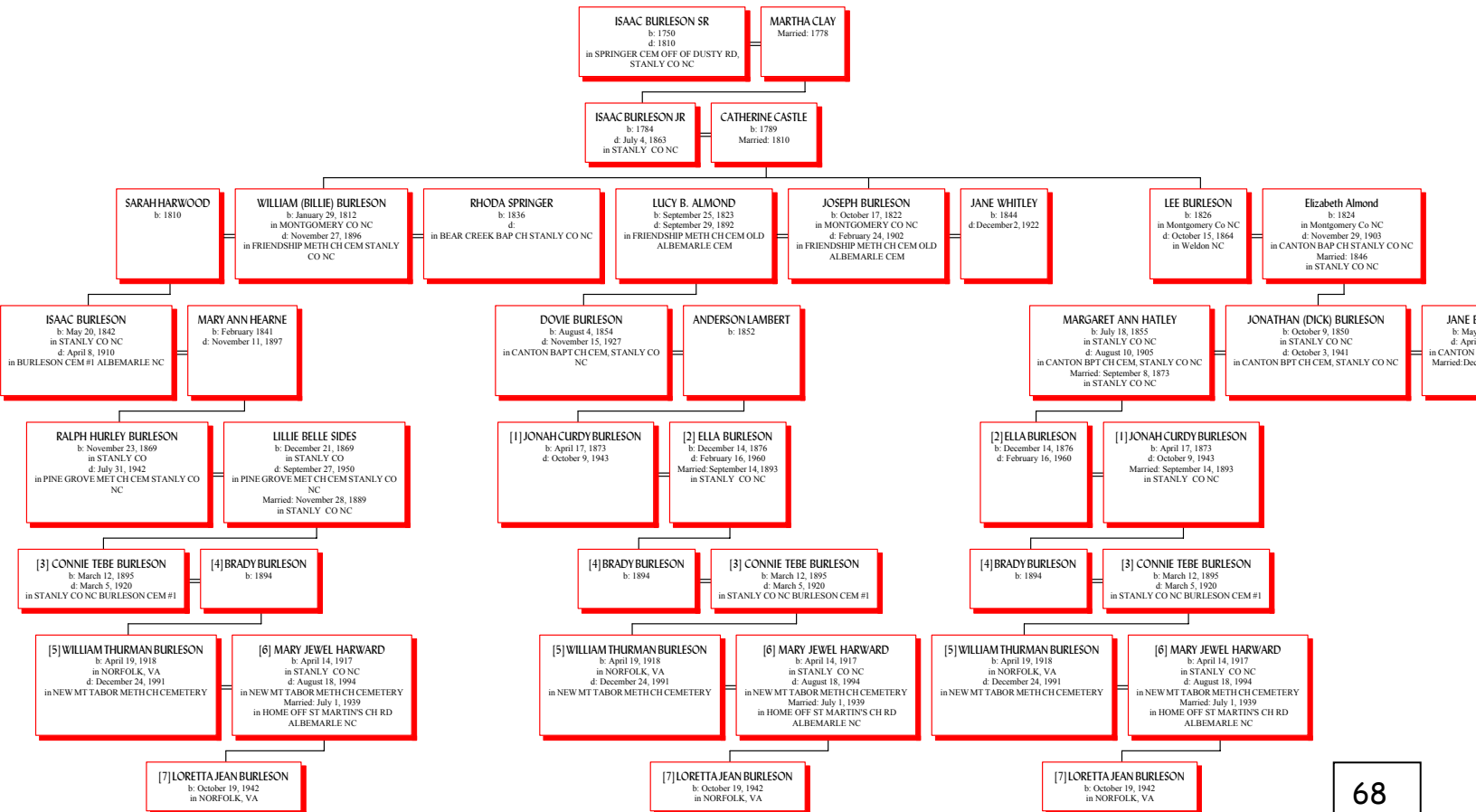
Be dedicated and ready to make a lot of personal sacrifices.

**Descendants of LORETTA JEAN<sup>5</sup> BURLESON (WILLIAM THURMAN<sup>4</sup>, BRADY<sup>3</sup>, JONAH CURDY<sup>2</sup>, ANDERSON<sup>1</sup> LAMBERT)** was born October 19, 1942 in NORFOLK, VA. She married DENNY DAN MORGAN February 3, 1962 in COKESBURY METH CH ALBEMARLE, NC. He was born December 10, 1939 in STANLY CO NC. Children of LORETTA BURLESON and DENNY MORGAN are:

- i. TODD DARRYL<sup>6</sup> MORGAN, b. March 26, 1963, STANLY CO NC; m. JEANNIE MARIE MORTON, December 31, 1995, BETHANY METH CH ALBEMARLE NC; b. January 18, 1957, CHARLOTTE NC.
- ii. WESLEY ALLEN MORGAN, b. May 7, 1968, STANLY CO NC; m. KIMBERLY LYNN "MISSY" ARBO, October 22, 1994, NORWOOD METH CH, NORWOOD NC; b. July 8, 1969, STANLY NC

## Ancestral Chart for Jean Burleson Morgan

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



# Judy Carter Hearne

Judy lives in Hampstead, NC and she has taught elementary level classes for 20 years. She taught in O,L, Kiser Elementary, Stanley, NC, Oakboro Elementary, Millingport Elementary, Albermarle, NC and Title I Coordinator at Johnston County Schools, Smithfield, NC.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

Mrs. Archie Cree was my third grade teacher at Endy School. Her teaching strategies impressed me to become an elementary school teacher.

Her advice to students today is:

Read every day, stay in school, and learn all that you can.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

A teacher should use assessment tools to identify the specific learning needs of each student. Once identified, the teacher should teach to the needs of each student.

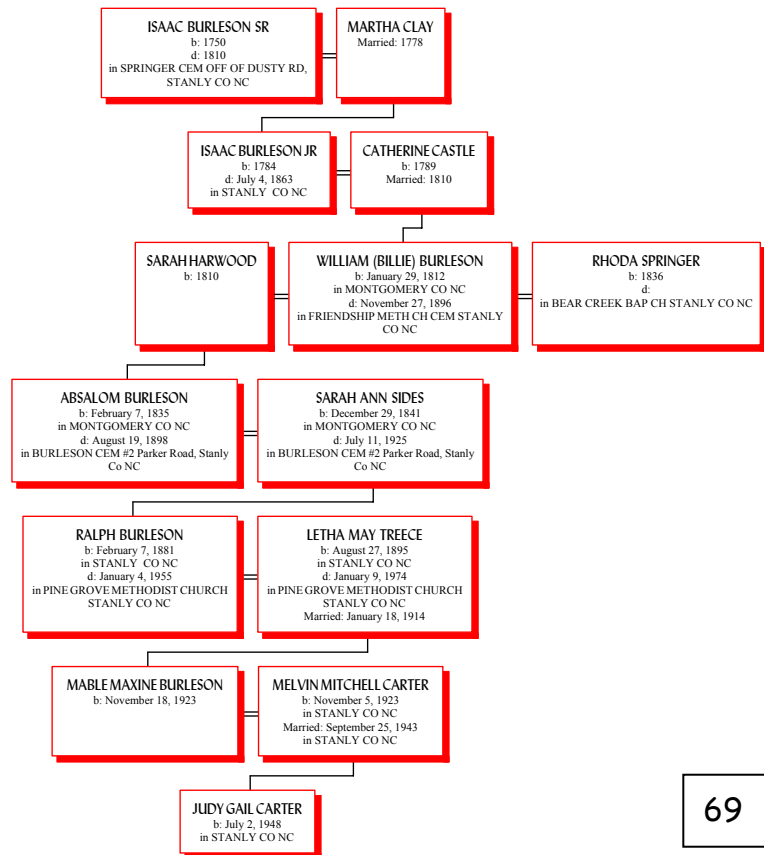
Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Was teaching a 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> combination grade of 26 students, in a single-wide trailer, and completing the requirements for a Masters's Degree at UNC-Charlotte.

## Ancestral Chart of Judy Carter Hearne

I. JUDY GAIL<sup>2</sup> CARTER (MELVIN MITCHELL<sup>1</sup>) was born July 2, 1948 in STANLY CO NC. She married LYNDELL SMITH HEARNE December 20, 1969 in STANLY CO NC. He was born January 17, 1948.

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR

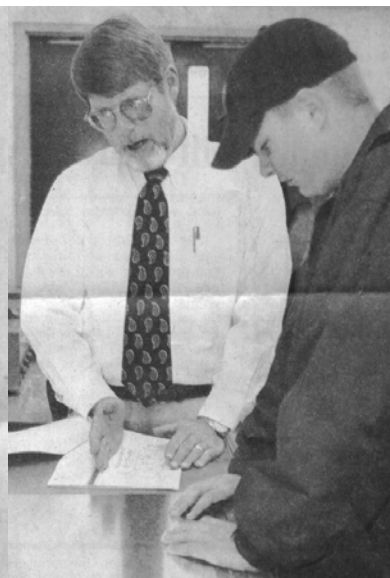


## Philip O. Whitaker III

### SPCC honors teacher's dedication

Philip lives in Monroe, NC with his wife Wanda Honeycutt Whitaker, daughter of Arthur D. and Frankie C. Honeycutt and g-grand daughter of Wm and Caroline Burleson Tucker. He has taught for 28 years in A.A.S. HVAC Technology at Anson Community College and South Piedmont Community College, Polkton, NC. This is a portion of a newspaper article honoring Philip.

For years Phil Whitaker has led South Piedmont Community College's graduation procession each May. The chair of the college's Applied Technologies department and its longest-serving faculty member, Whitaker has thus earned this distinction. This is only fitting to his colleagues, who say that, without his leadership over the years, SPCC would not have developed the way it has. But the college will soon have to look elsewhere for the kind of guidance he has provided. Next spring's graduation will be the last time Whitaker assumes his duties at the head of the procession. The 27-year SPCC professor is set to retire at the end of the academic year.



His inspiration for becoming a teacher:

I wanted to help provide marketable technical skills to others. My instructors at CPCC had provided me with excellent technical skills and I wanted to help other students have the skills that are needed today.

His advice to students today is:

Work hard and continue to seek training after you completed your program of study.

His advice to young teachers today is:

You may be able to find a more financially rewarding career, but no other vocation will provide the personal satisfaction that teaching does.

His most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

To see many of my former students as highly successful heating and air conditioning technicians and contractors

#### *Descendants of PHILLIP O. WHITAKER III*

1. PHILLIP O.<sup>2</sup> WHITAKER III (PHILLIP O. WIHTAKER<sup>1</sup> JR.) was born May 1, 1951 in MONROE, UNION CO, NC. He married WANDA GAIL HONEYCUTT July 1972, daughter of ARTHUR HONEYCUTT and FRANKIE HONEYCUTT. She was born June 18, 1952 in CABARRUS CO NC.

Child of PHILLIP WHITAKER and WANDA HONEYCUTT is:

2. i. JENNIFER CHRISTY<sup>3</sup> WHITAKER, b. October 8, 1974, MECKLENBURG CO NC.

#### *Generation No. 2*

2. JENNIFER CHRISTY<sup>3</sup> WHITAKER (PHILLIP O.<sup>2</sup>, PHILLIP O. WIHTAKER<sup>1</sup> JR.) was born October 8, 1974 in MECKLENBURG CO NC. She married GREGORY THOMAS SLUSHER October 21, 1995. He was born May 12, 1973 in MECKLENBURG CO NC.

Child of JENNIFER WHITAKER and GREGORY SLUSHER is:

i. ELIZABETH CHRISTY<sup>4</sup> SLUSHER, b. January 17, 1996, WAKE CO NC.



# Jennifer Christy Whitaker Slusher

## Ancestral Chart for Philip and Jennifer Whitaker Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR

Jennifer lives in Clayton, NC. She is the daughter of Philip O. Whitaker. She was certified in 1996 and has taught preschool, and summer camps at Horne Memorial United Methodist Preschool.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

Many great teachers along the way.

Her advice to students today is:

Go to college – have a plan for your life and don't be afraid to evaluate and re-evaluate and alter that plan.

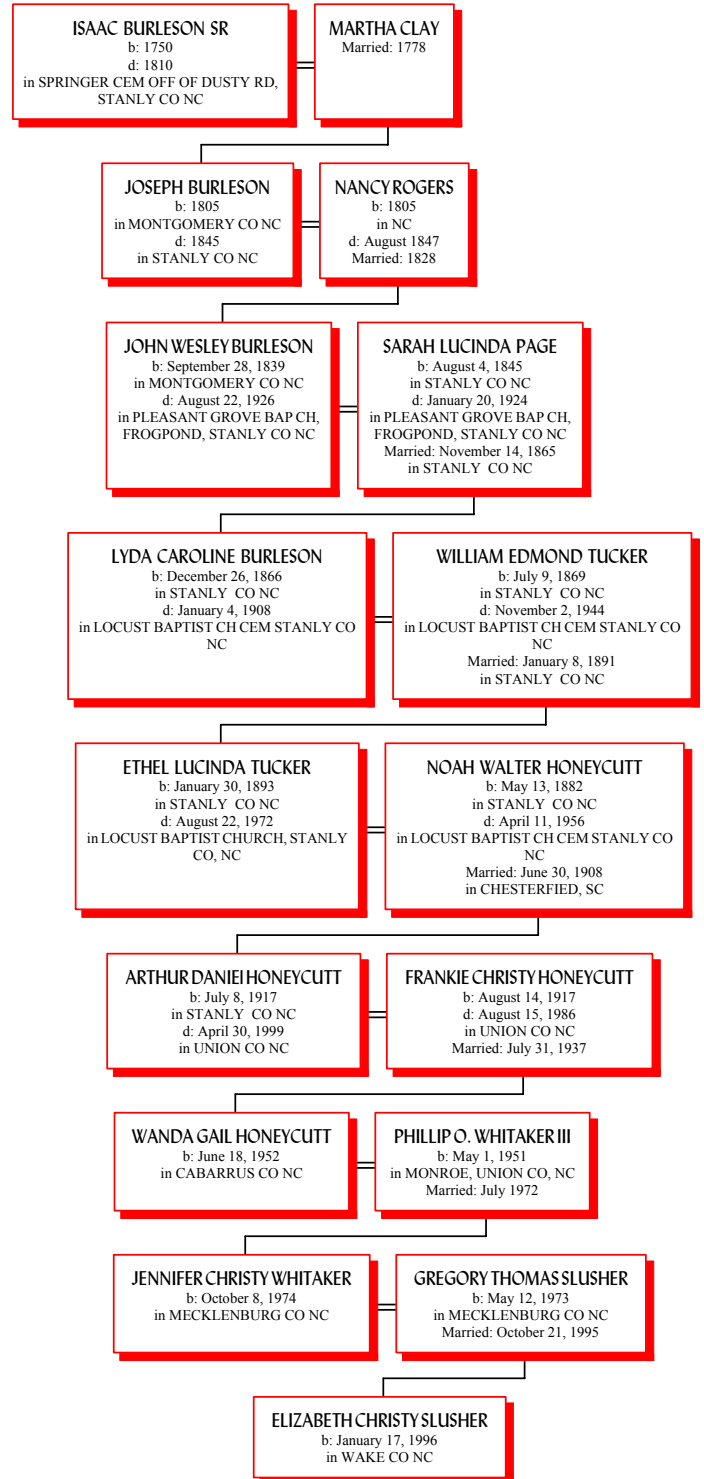
Her advice to young teachers today is:

Know that you are always professional and maintain your standards.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Working with a special under privileged child in summer camp one year. She was passed around to everyone and ended up with me. I found a way to show her the positive attention she needed.

Jennifer received the Carol Hampton NSTA Award for Outstanding Student Teaching in Science Education.



## Johnny Paul Burleson

Johnny lives in Albemarle, NC. He taught school for 36 years as Drivers Education Teacher and Principal. At Brower Elementary, Endy Elementary and West Stanly High School.

## Carol Westbrook Burleson

Carol is the wife of Johnny Paul Burleson. She taught Home Economic, 6<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 8<sup>th</sup> grades, for 34 years. At Norwood, Boyden High School and Seagrove, Oakboro Elementary.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

I just always wanted to teach even as little girl.

Her advice to students today is:

I wish they could foresee the future – they need to work harder and learn everything they can. They will realize this in the future.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

I do hope that discipline returns to the schools. It is truly a challenge and they must be dedicated and love children.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

It is wonderful to hear years later that a student became a teacher because of me. This makes your head “swell”. To be classed as a “good” teacher by your students when they become adults is very rewarding.



### *Descendants of JOHNNY PAUL BURLESON*

1. JOHNNY PAUL<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born May 30, 1931 in STANLY CO NC. He married MARGARET CAROL WESTBROOK June 22, 1957 in STANLY CO NC, daughter of PAUL WESTBROOK and CYNTHIA. She was born September 9, 1934. Children of JOHNNY BURLESON and CAROL WESTBROOK are:

2. i. CYNTHIA LEE<sup>10</sup> BURLESON, b. August 8, 1958, STANLY CO NC.
3. ii. ANGELA LENA BURLESON, b. December 31, 1959, STANLY CO NC.

#### *Generation No. 2*

2. CYNTHIA LEE<sup>10</sup> BURLESON (JOHNNY PAUL<sup>9</sup>, KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born August 8, 1958 in STANLY CO NC. She married RONNIE EUGENE DRY March 3, 1979 in STANLY CO NC. He was born February 25, 1957 in STANLY CO NC. Children of CYNTHIA BURLESON and RONNIE DRY are:

- i. AMANDA JOY<sup>11</sup> DRY, b. December 16, 1980.
- ii. TRAVIS LEE DRY, b. August 23, 1982.
- iii. JILL ELIZABETH DRY, b. June 5, 1985.

3. ANGELA LENA<sup>10</sup> BURLESON (JOHNNY PAUL<sup>9</sup>, KLON ROY<sup>8</sup>, RALPH HURLEY<sup>7</sup>, ISAAC<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born December 31, 1959 in STANLY CO NC. She married ALTON RUDISILL April 7, 1985 in STANLY CO NC. He was born April 15, 1960 in CATAWBA CO NC.

Children of ANGELA BURLESON and ALTON RUDISILL are:

- i. BRADLEY AARON<sup>11</sup> RUDISILL, b. October 15, 1988, CATAWBA CO NC.
- ii. HUNTER PAUL RUDISILL, b. December 7, 1994, CATAWBA CO NC.

## Cindy Burleson Dry

Cindy lives in Albemarle, NC. She has taught the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> grade for 9 years at Millingport Elementary. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is: Family of teachers, my 2<sup>nd</sup> grade teacher Mrs Lillie Mae Lisenby, she was always so caring and loving and wanted her students to learn. She also instilled in her students their caring for each other.

Her advice to students today is: What you do in your school career is very important. Start early with good work habits. Do your best in everything you attempt.

Her advice to young teachers today is: Teaching is an incredible responsibility. There are so many lives you will impact. Enter this profession if you truly want to inspire a student to be their best.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: Each year the challenge I face seems to be TIME. There are not enough hours to teach each child all they need to know. Students don't learn at the same rate and it is hard to make sure everyone understands.

## Angela Burleson Rudisill

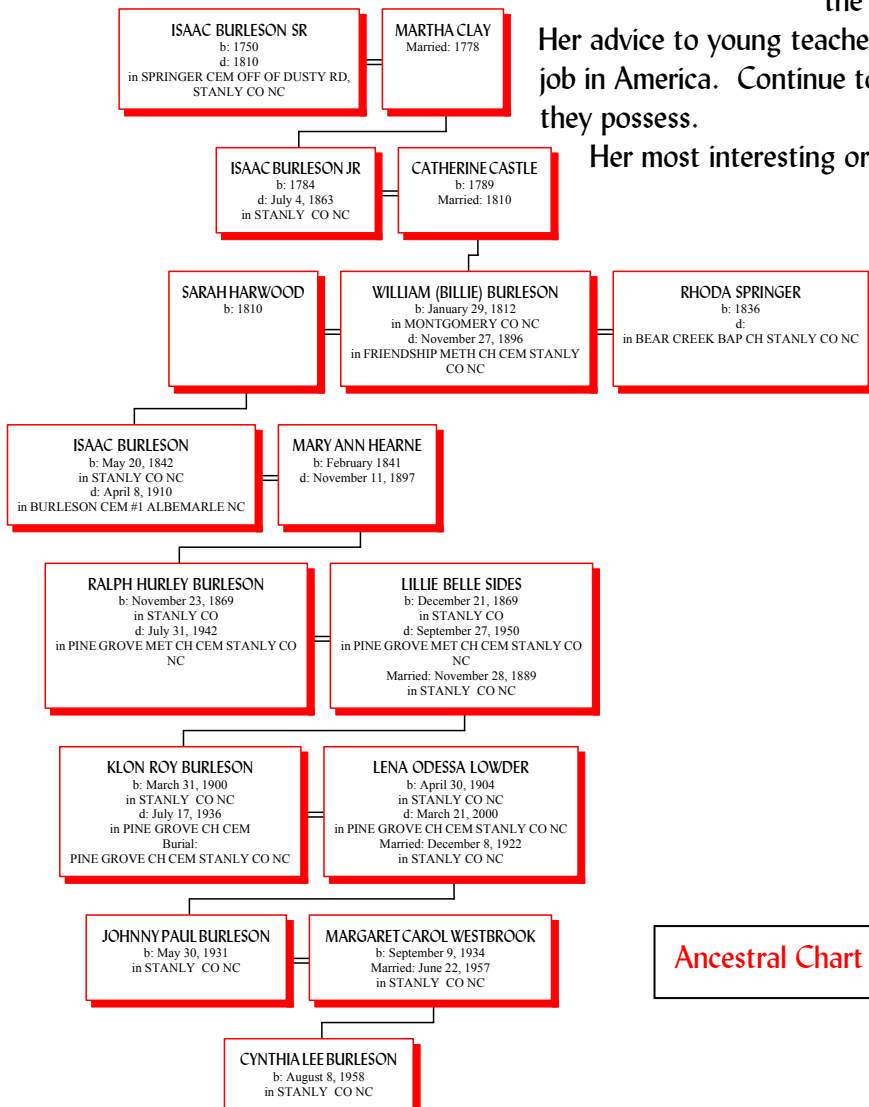
Angela lives in Catawba, NC and she is the daughter of Johnny & Carol Burleson. She has taught for 18+ years, grade levels 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, 7<sup>th</sup>, and 15 years in the 8<sup>th</sup> grade. She taught at Mill Creek, two years, Tuttle Middle School, one year, Sherrills Ford, three years and Catawba Middle School, 12 years. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is: Her parents, who were both educators

Her advice to students today is: To value education – also to be cognizant that education is the key for all future success.

Her advice to young teachers today is: They have the most important job in America. Continue to value their role and educational leadership they possess.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: Obtaining The National Board Certification, Nov 2000.

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



# Judy Burleson Carter

Judy is the daughter of Kenneth and Sethell Burris Burleson. She has taught school for 18 years at the high school level. She taught at Mt Airy and Surry Central High Schools.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

I felt a desire to work with young people. It is a great job for mothers.

Mrs Helen Thomposn was a great inspiration.

Her advice to students today is:

“Shoot for the moon and if you fail you still land among the Stars.”

Her advice to young teachers today is:

It is harder than you think, but more rewarding than you can imagine.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

The daily challenge to be uplifting to a diverse group of students.

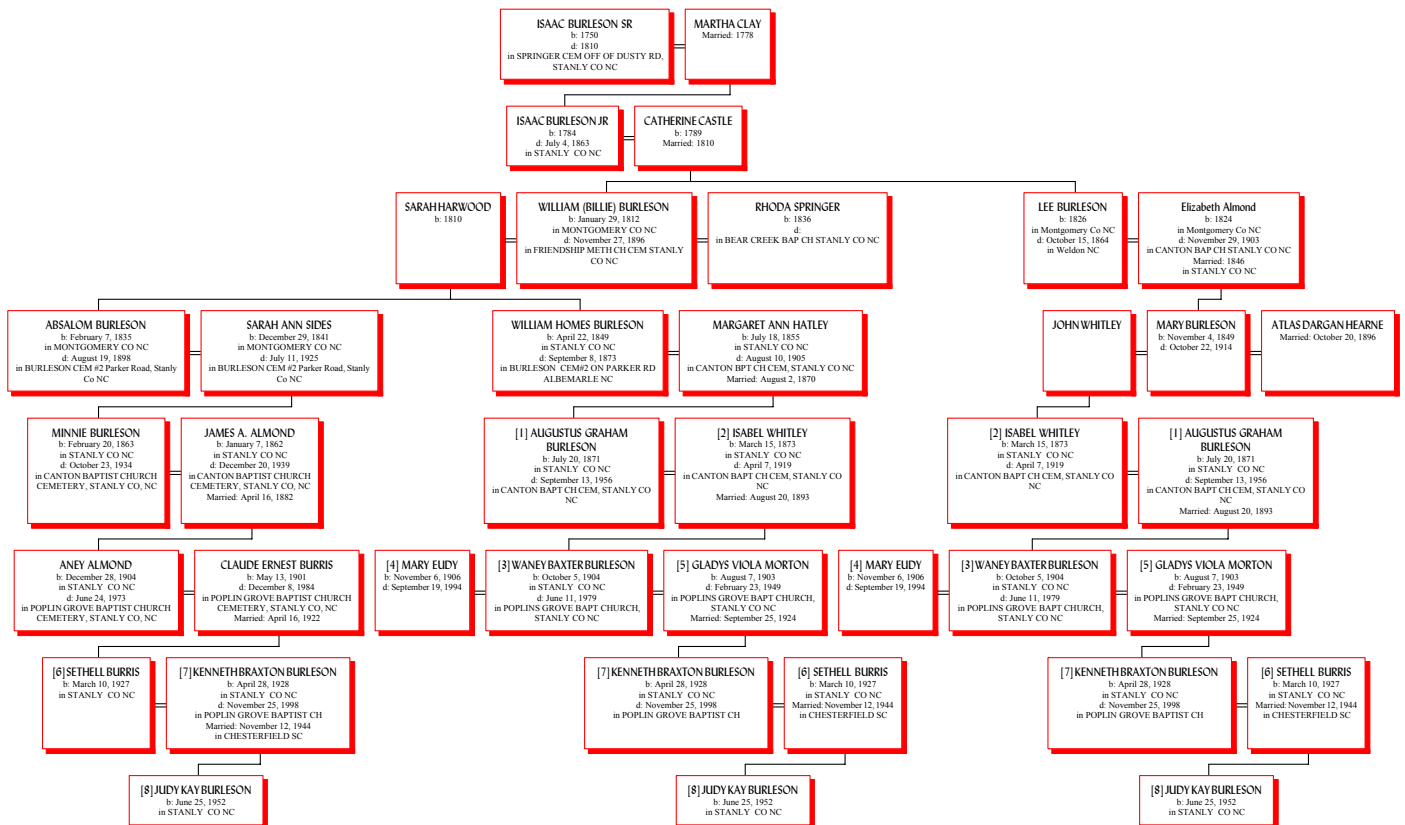
## Descendants of JUDY KAY BURLESON

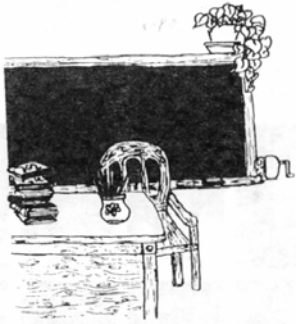
I. JUDY KAY<sup>10</sup> BURLESON (KENNETH BRAXTON<sup>9</sup>, WANAY BAXTER<sup>8</sup>, AUGUSTUS GRAHAM<sup>7</sup>, WILLIAM HOMES<sup>6</sup>, WILLIAM (BILLIE)<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born June 25, 1952 in STANLY CO NC. She married MICKEY BURLESON CARTER May 21, 1972 in STANLY CO NC, son of MELVIN CARTER and MABLE BURLESON. He was born Nov 7, 1950 in STANLY CO NC. Children of JUDY BURLESON and MICKEY CARTER are:

- i. CHRISTOPHER MICHAEL<sup>11</sup> CARTER, b. February 16, 1977.
- ii. AMY LYNN CARTER, b. May 6, 1979.
- iii. MATTHEW BURLESON CARTER, b. May 6, 1979.

## Ancestral Chart for Judy Carter

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR





## Jane Juanita (Nita) Michael

Nita lives in New Bern, NC. She has taught school for 25 years, at Sun Valley Middle & Wesley Chaple (Monroe), Havelock Elementary (Havelock) and presently at Brinson Memorial Elementary (New Bern NC).



Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My stepfather Nick Newton, without his encouragement I'm not sure I would have even attended college.

Her advice to students today is: Always be fair and honest.

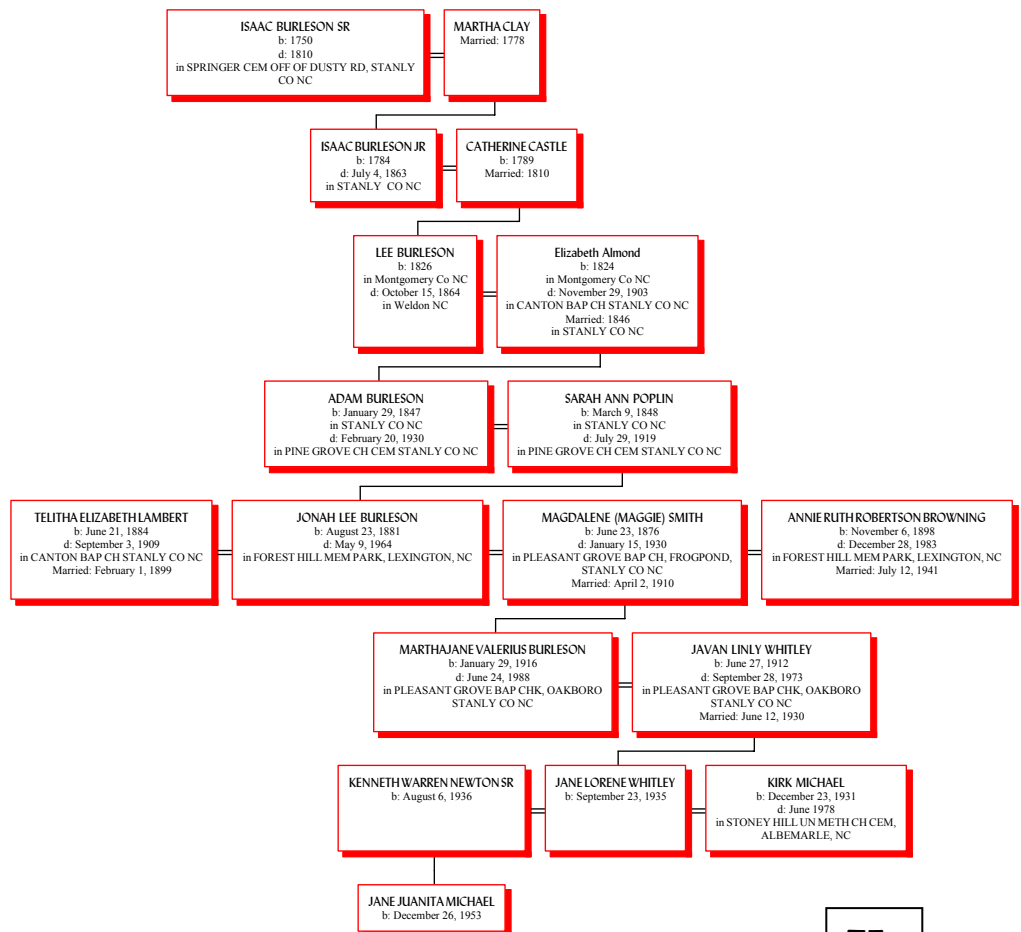
Her advice to young teachers today is: Teaching requires an open mind and giving heart.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Everyday is an experience and a challenge. But the most challenging day of each year is that first day of school. That is the only day of the year that can't be done over.

My proudest accomplishment is knowing I had a part in helping my school, Brinson Memorial, to achieve the honor of being a "School of Excellence", three out of the past four years. The first year we won this honor Brinson was one out of thirteen schools in the state to receive this award. And we were one of two schools that received this award east of Interstate 95.

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Ancestral Chart of Nita Michael



# Helen Barrett Burleson

May 30 1900 – August 10 1985

Mama taught one year in the mountains, she meet Dad when she was teaching. They got married two years later. On their first date they went to (Hurley) Burleson for a Christmas Party. She taught school in 1918-1919. married on Dec 24, 1921, they were married 53 years and eight months.



grandpa  
They got

## *Descendants of HELEN C. BARRETT*

1. HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT (THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born May 30, 1900 in ANSON CO NC, and died August 10, 1985 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC. She married DEWEY DUKE SR. BURLESON December 24, 1921 in STANLY CO NC, son of RALPH BURLESON and LILLIE SIDES. He was born August 19, 1898 in STANLY CO NC, and died August 20, 1974 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC. Children of HELEN BARRETT and DEWEY BURLESON are:
2. i. PIERCE HURLEY<sup>3</sup> BURLESON, b. Sept 21, 1922, STANLY CO NC; d. Aug 21, 1991, PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC.
  3. ii. LILLIE PAULINE BURLESON, b. January 14, 1929, STANLY CO NC.
  4. iii. HELEN LUCIENNE BURLESON, b. May 24, 1931, STANLY CO NC.
  5. iv. MARY LOU BURLESON, b. September 11, 1933, STANLY CO NC.
  - v. DEWEY DUKE JR BURLESON, b. July 3, 1938, STANLY CO NC; m. LILLIE ROSE MODEA, August 11, 1956, SC; b. August 20, 1934, ROWAN CO NC.
  - vi. THETUS ANN BURLESON, b. April 5, 1942, STANLY CO NC; d. July 17, 1999, STANLY CO NC.
- More About THETUS ANN BURLESON: Death certificate: BOOK 86 PAGE 51

August

## *Generation No. 2*

2. PIERCE HURLEY<sup>3</sup> BURLESON (HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born September 21, 1922 in STANLY CO NC, and died August 21, 1991 in PINE GROVE CH CEM STANLY CO NC. He married MARY ELIZABETH ARCHER, daughter of FRED ARCHER and ILA COLEY. She was born February 1, 1928 in STANLY CO NC.

More About MARY ELIZABETH ARCHER: Fact 1: ARTICLE IN ALBERMARLE TALES ON PAGE 28-29

Children of PIERCE BURLESON and ELIZABETH ARCHER are:

6. i. REGGIE PIERCE<sup>4</sup> BURLESON, b. October 7, 1950.
- ii. BEVERLY GAY BURLESON, b. June 16, 1955.

3. LILLIE PAULINE<sup>3</sup> BURLESON (HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born January 14, 1929 in STANLY CO NC. She married (1) ARLIE LEE CORRIHER. She married (2) BAIN HATHCOCK.

Child of LILLIE BURLESON and ARLIE CORRIHER is:

- i. TOMMIE LEICH<sup>4</sup> CORRIHER, b. 1967; m. RANDY EFIRD, 1990.

Children of LILLIE BURLESON and BAIN HATHCOCK are:

- ii. CORNELIA JANE<sup>4</sup> HATHCOCK, b. August 19, 1950.
- iii. DONALD BAIN HATHCOCK, b. February 14, 1952.

4. HELEN LUCIENNE<sup>3</sup> BURLESON (HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born May 24, 1931 in STANLY CO NC. She married REID D. MORRIS August 7, 1949 in STANLY CO NC, son of ROBERT MORRIS. He was born August 7, 1924 in STANLY CO NC, and died September 1990. Child of HELEN BURLESON and REID MORRIS is:

- i. DAVID ERVIN<sup>4</sup> MORRIS, b. March 18, 1952; m. CINDY.

5. MARY LOU<sup>3</sup> BURLESON (HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born September 11, 1933 in STANLY CO NC. She married DONALD STEVEN EUDY December 24, 1953 in STANLY CO NC, son of C.A. EUDY and LETHA MORTON. He was born March 27, 1934 in STANLY CO NC. Children of MARY BURLESON and DONALD EUDY are:

- i. L. STEVEN<sup>4</sup> EUDY, b. September 16, 1954; d. October 1, 1993, STANLY CO NC.
- ii. RICHARD S. EUDY, b. May 25, 1957; m. PATTY RUSELL, May 24, 1980, STANLY CO NC.
- iii. KEVIN M. EUDY, b. April 16, 1961; m. FRANCES HOLMES, July 4, 1989.

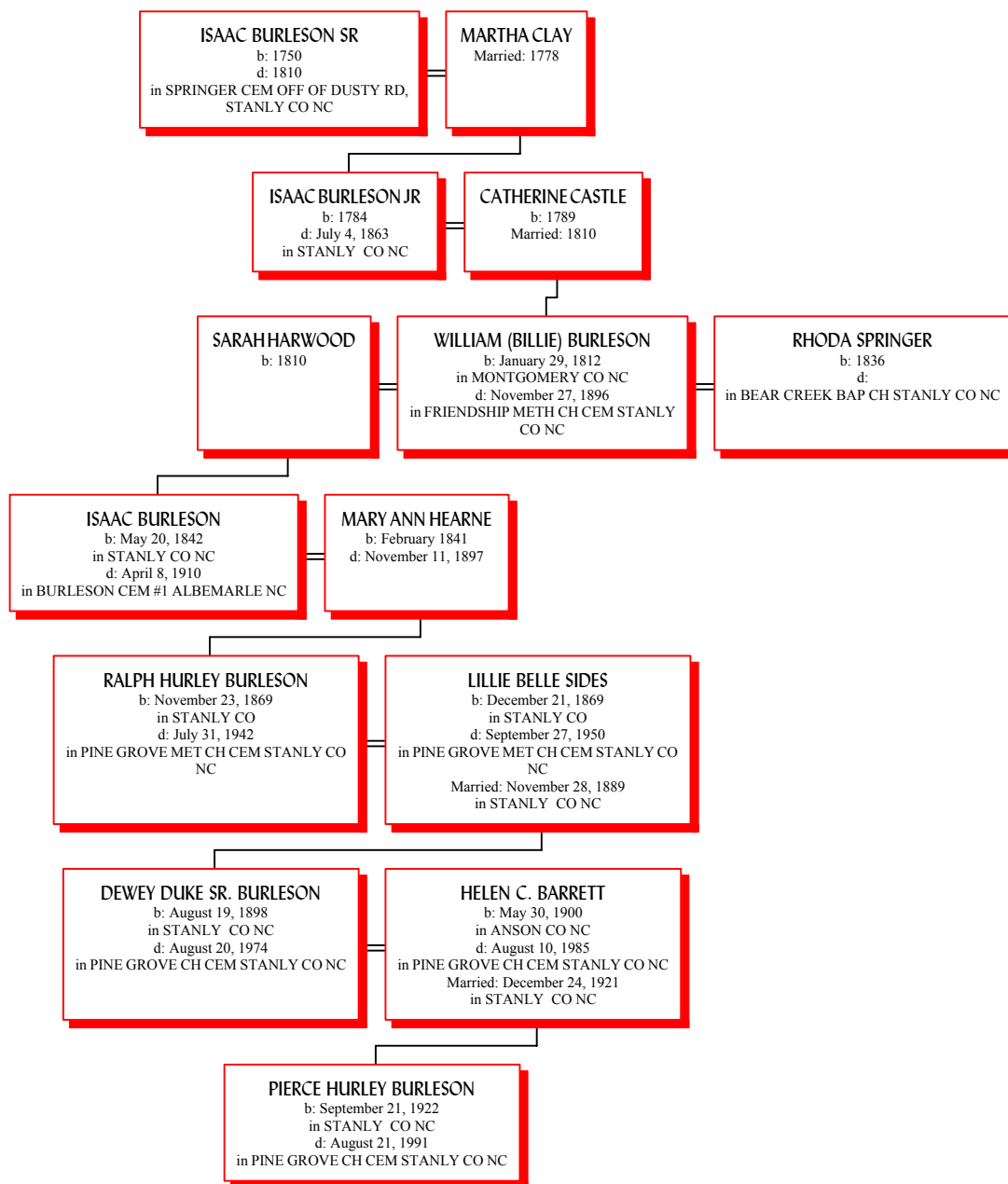
## *Generation No. 3*

6. BEVERLY GAY<sup>4</sup> BURLESON (PIERCE HURLEY<sup>3</sup>, HELEN C.<sup>2</sup> BARRETT, THOMAS<sup>1</sup>) was born June 16, 1955. She married (1) KEITH PRESLAR. She married (2) DAVID WAYNE LOWDER April 16, 1977, son of DAVID LOWDER and BETTY COBLE. He was born October 26, 1950 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of BEVERLY BURLESON and DAVID LOWDER are:

- i. DAVID ERIC<sup>5</sup> LOWDER, b. September 13, 1978, STANLY CO NC.
- ii. RUSTY ALAN LOWDER, b. June 9, 1980, MECKLENBURG CO NC.

**Ancestral chart for Dewey Duke Burleson Sr.**  
**Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR**



## Kathy Lee James Craig

Kathy and her husband Michael lives in Oviedo, Fl. She has taught for 23 years, K-8 at Druid Hills (1978-1980), Citrus (1981-1983), Orlo Vista (1983-1985), English Estates (1985-1988) and Stenstrom (1988-2001).

### INSPIRATION FOR BECOMING A TEACHER

When I think about my inspiration for becoming a teacher I think about my grandmother, Valerius Bursleson Whitley. She did not have the opportunity for an extensive education that many of us have today. Few females of her time were encouraged to finish school and become career women. Instead my grandmother married and produced five daughters who went on to produce five daughters and five sons of their own. This was her legacy.

There was always a close spiritual bond between my grandmother and I. I was the carbon copy of her in many ways. I inherited her short stature and her green eyes. Being born on my grandfather's birthday provided me with a special closeness to my grandparents.

Even though my grandmother had minimal formal education she had an uncanny ability with words. She had hundreds of crossword puzzles in her home, of which she had completed. I remember playing a game with my grandmother and several friends called Pictionary. In this game partners illustrate a word and try to get their partner to guess the word. When it was my grandmother's turn she hesitated before she began drawing. Thinking she did not know the meaning of the word I told her she could select another word. She was indignant at the suggestion that she did not know what the word meant. She stated she was only afraid her illustration might frighten the rest of us. The word was "lobotomy".

My grandmother knew that one of my heroes was Christa McAuliffe, the teacher from New Hampshire who trained to be a teacher astronaut. Unfortunately she was killed when the Challenger Space Shuttle exploded on January 28, 1986. My grandmother bought me the book I Touch the Future...The Story of Christa McAuliffe. The book describes the seven month training process Christa went through to become a teachernaut. It also details her philosophy about teaching. But as I read the book I realized how many parallels there were between Christa and myself. We were about the same age, both of us married our childhood sweethearts, and we had a tremendous enthusiasm for teaching. My grandmother inscribed in the front of the book, "Remember, Little Kathy, you touch the future because you teach."

### ADVICE TO STUDENTS TODAY

Students today need to have a high regard for themselves. They need to avoid potentially damaging situations and gravitate towards people and things that will enhance their lives.

I have seen many students succeed in school by taking pride in their work. They care about the quality of what they are doing. Teachers recognize, praise, and reward students who are determined to put forth every effort they can.



Valerius Bursleson Whitley

## ADVICE TO YOUNG TEACHERS TODAY

Studies show that students tend to draw knowledge from their experiences to make meaning and understanding of the new material they are asked to learn. New teachers need to *listen* to their students to discover as much as they can about their students. Much can be learned about them by asking key question. Enlist the previous knowledge of the students to expand your curriculum. Our responsibility as teachers is to try to get the students to open their minds and let them discover for themselves.

## MOST INTERESTING OR CHALLENGING EXPERIENCE AS A TEACHER

One of the most interesting experiences I have had was the process I went through to become a Teacher in Space Astronaut. In 1985 an opportunity was given to any teacher to become the first teacher to ride on a Space Shuttle. Applying for this adventure was one that I shared with my students. I consulted them for their input as to what type of things to look for while I traveled in space. In developing my space lessons I asked my students what they wanted to learn about space travel. Interestingly my students wanted to know how to handle life's basic needs like "how to sleep, eat, bathe, and go to the bathroom in space".

I was not chosen as the first teacher to go into space, but the experience of being involved was an exciting one. The day the Challenger Space Shuttle took off from Kennedy Space Center, I was standing outside at my school with my students. We saw the Challenger explode a sight I will never forget. My students and I were incredibly shaken with the incident. We walked back to the classroom and wrote in our journals how we felt about what we had seen. Most of the students wrote that there was too much danger associated with space travel and that they would never become an astronaut because of this disaster they witnessed. This gave me an opportunity to talk to the students about taking risks. They knew how much I wanted to be a teacher astronaut and that I could just as easily been on the Challenger as Christa McAuliffe. I told them if I was asked to be on the next shuttle I would jump at the chance. Hopefully my students left me that afternoon feeling deep sorrow for the families of all the victims of the Challenger accident but at the same time feeling they must take intelligent risks in life.

## SPECIAL AWARDS/HONORS AS A TEACHER

1992 – Elected State of Florida President of Kappa Kappa Iota, Oldest Teaching Sorority

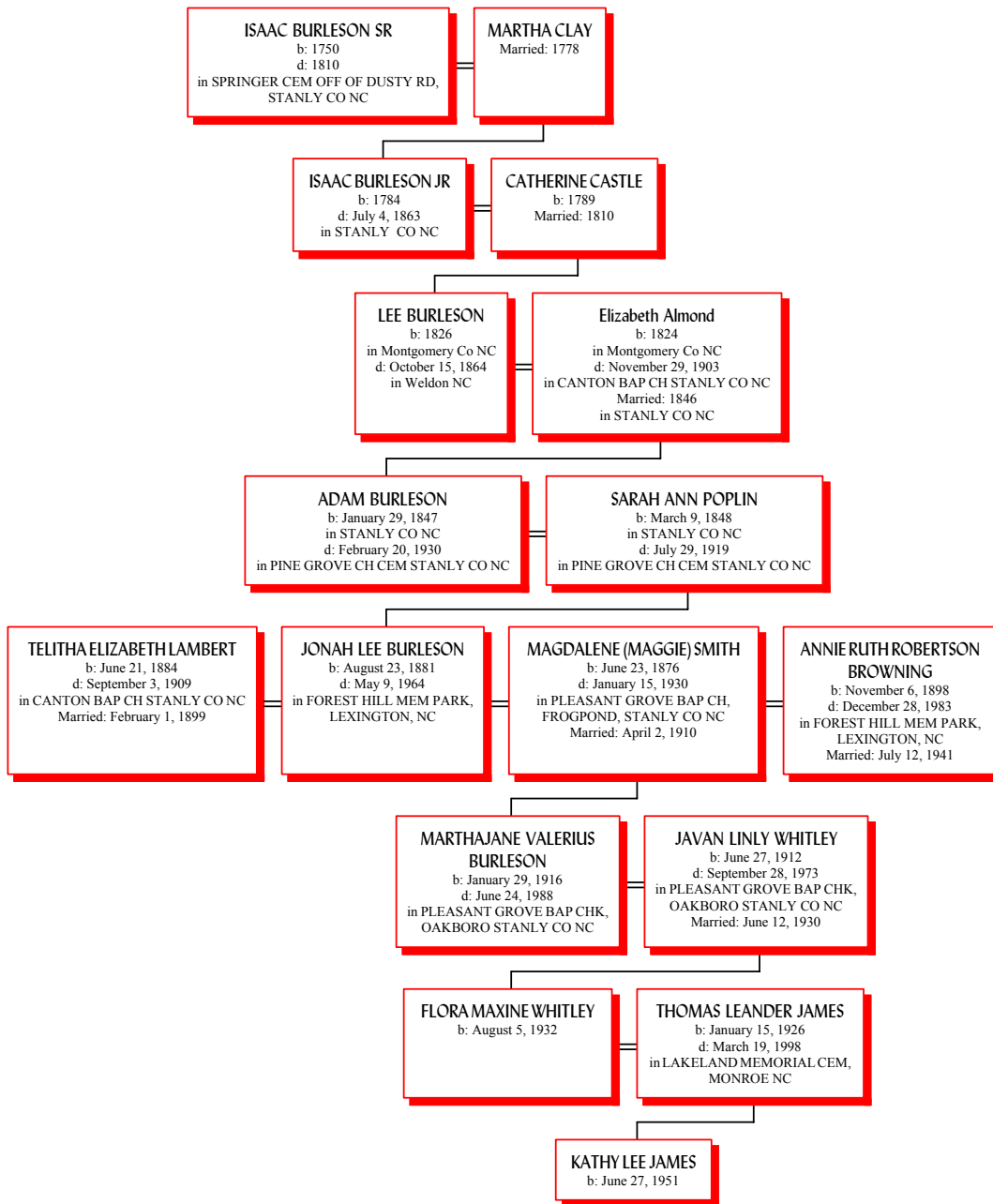
1994 – Named Teacher of the Year from my school, Stenstrom Elementary

2000 – Received Masters of Education degree from University of Central Florida



## Ancestral Chart for Kathy Lee James Craig

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR





## Cheryl Lynn Burleson Best

Cheryl lives in Illinois and has taught school for 20 years. Twelve years in Public School at the second grade level. She taught at Wolf Ridge Education Center, Bunker Hill, Illinois, Litchfield Schools, Litchfield Illinois, Early Learning Education Center, Champaign, Illinois. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My Mom (CYNTHIA JEAN ALLSAPP BURLESON)

Her advice to students today is:

“Keep forever learning and forever Young”.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Pray every day for your students.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

The most interesting part is growing with the children each year, and the most challenging is definitely trying to find ways to inspire and challenge my students.



### *Descendants of CHERYL LYNN BURLESON*

#### *Generation No. 1*

I. CHERYL LYNN<sup>10</sup> BURLESON (EDDIE DWAYNE<sup>9</sup>, GROVER SIMEON<sup>8</sup>, JONAH LEE<sup>7</sup>, ADAM<sup>6</sup>, LEE<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born October 9, 1958 in JEFFERSON CO, KY. She married (2) GIBERT GEORGE BEST JR.. He was born January 9, 1959 in MACOUPIN CO, IL. She married (1) RAYMON M. TROST 1982 in Montgomery Co IL, son of RAYMON TROST and ARLENE PESTELNAIK. He was born September 9, 1960 in COOK CO, IL.

Children of CHERYL BURLESON and RAYMON TROST are:

- iii. RAYMON MICHAEL<sup>11</sup> TROST, b. March 22, 1984, MONTGOMERY CO IL.
- iv. ELIZABETH KAY TROST, b. November 10, 1987, CHAMPAIGN CO, IL.
- v. DAVID WILLIAM TROST, b. December 15, 1989, MACOUPIN CO, IL.

Step Children of CHERYL BURLESON

- i. CASEY<sup>11</sup> BEST.
- ii. CODY BEST.

## William Grover (Burt) Burleson

Burt lives in Lansing, Michigan. Thanks to Burt for sharing his story with us, Burt writes:

I have taught for over twelve years as an Adjunct Professor of Law at Thomas M. Cooley Law School in Lansing, Michigan. I teach basic and advanced trial techniques or what is commonly referred to as Trial Workshop or Advanced Trial Workshop. I have guest lectured and taught at Lansing Community College, Michigan State University and the University of Michigan. I will be teaching this coming Spring at Widner College of Law in Delaware in their Honors Trial Program with distinguished attorneys from across the nation.

I have been an Assistant City Attorney for the City of Lansing, Michigan for 17 years and I currently maintain a part-time private practice which I am shortly anticipating will become my full-time avocation. I am admitted to the State Bar of Michigan, the Western Federal District of Michigan and the U.S. Supreme Court. Inspiration for becoming a teacher:

I have to admit that my inspiration initially was self-serving in that I found that I benefited enormously in teaching trial skills in my own practice. Students, I found, were very challenging adversaries and essentially they kept me on my toes. It has made me a much better lawyer. Time and my experiences have changed that initial inspiration to one of seeking to make what I believe are some of the finest young trial lawyers in the country.

Advice to students today:

My advice to any student in any field of endeavor and at any level is "English, English, and more English!" You may be the greatest in your field, but if you cannot communicate, you will not succeed.

Advice to Young Teacher today:

Love your students and make them all feel special.

Most Interesting or Challenging Experience as a Teacher:

Teaching law students, I have to remind them constantly that at their educational level, and as future attorneys, that they should learn to be human beings again. Learn to talk to people as people, not as other lawyers or judges. Civility is the key to success; as well as, K.I.S.S. (Keep it Short and Sweet!) - Lawyers talk too much! Brevity is the better part of wisdom.

Awards: First, I have had numerous awards in my life, but I am most proud of what a gentleman did once. He was a sign painter in Lansing his whole life. He owned his old sign shop in North Lansing and quite frankly, the City of Lansing wanted his property for development of new condos. Building Officials went to his old sign shop and they red-tagged the building, citing it as substandard and a nuisance. He called our office and got me. I saw that the Building Officials had not followed the law, depriving that old gentleman of due process of law. I ordered the stickers removed and the gentleman got to move back into his building. He immediately hand-painted numerous signs and boards and posted them all over Lansing about "Burt Burleson - The Most Honest Person at City Hall." I got one of the old hand-painted signs given to me - that was the greatest award I have ever received - an old hand-painted sign. The gentlemen, an old veteran, died shortly afterwards.

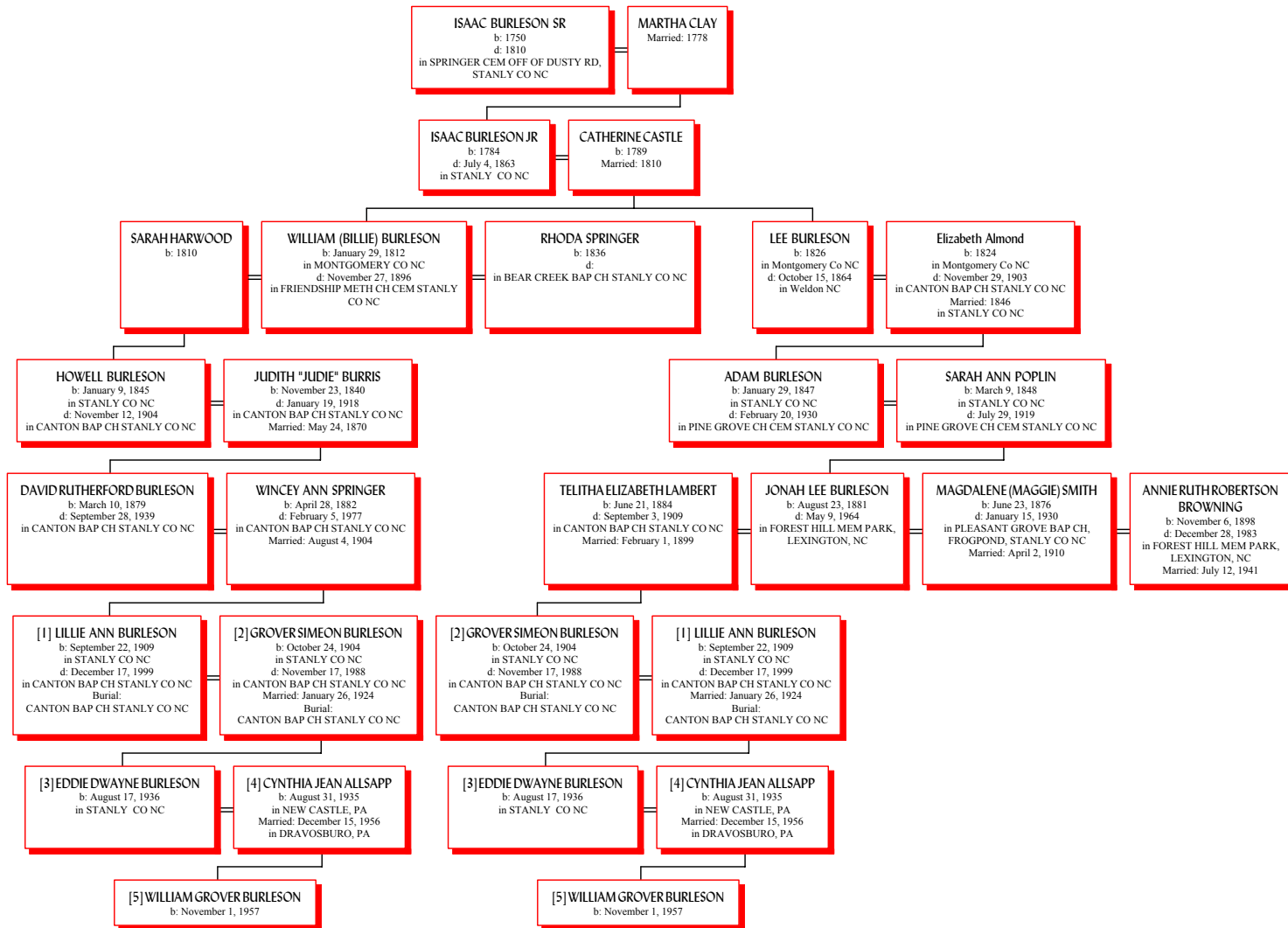


Secondly, I am a former Sergeant in the United States Marine Corps. Once a Marine - Always a Marine!

I am married to Lesa LaLone Burleson. I have three children, William Dempsey Sawyer Burleson (9 years old), Hannah Joan Sawyer Burleson (6 years old), and Ian William Burleson (20 months old). I also have two stepchildren, Alice Hanna (11 years old) and Chad Hanna (10 years old). Lesa and I are expecting another child anytime soon (It will be a boy and his name will be Stephen Eddie Burleson). A update Stephen Eddie Burleson was born on August 28, 2001 and mother and baby doing great. The father doing great also.

## Ancestral Chart for Cheryl Best and Burt Burleson

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR





## Roma Burleson Taylor

Roma lives in Roanoke Rapids, NC with her husband Robert Taylor. She is the daughter of Raymond S. & Beulah (Boots) Burleson. She has taught for 34 years, one year at Monganton High, 29 years at Roanoke Rapids High, and she is starting her fifth year at Halifax Academy.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

The wonderful teachers that I had at Endy School.

Her advice to students today is:

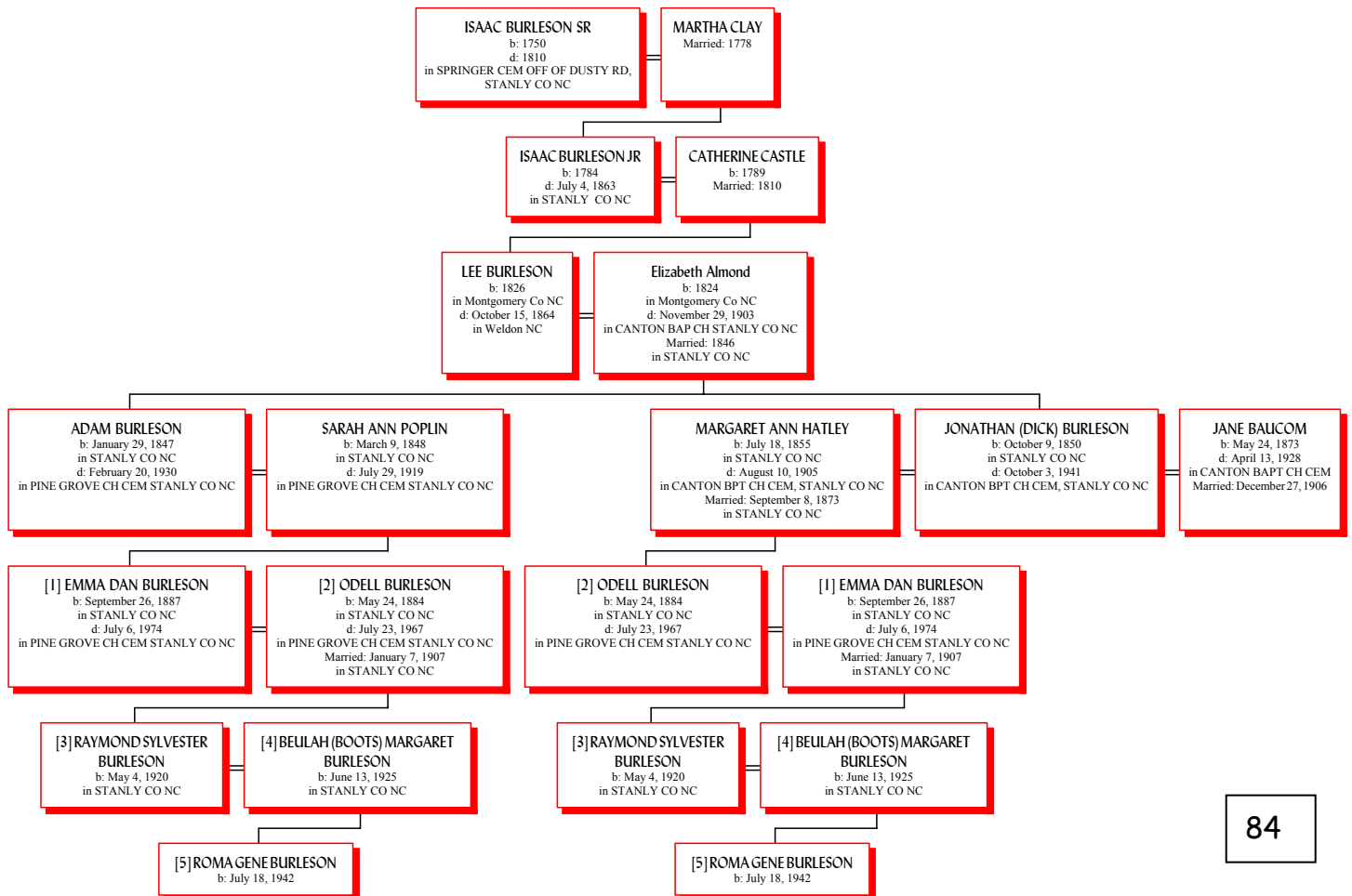
Work hard, love yourself and be honest. Remember when the world gives you lemons you can always make lemonade.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Remember every child is special and should be treated with respect. Always be fair! Remember those who are hardest to love are usually the ones who need love the most.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: When I took students to Los Angeles for National Competition and wound up in the middle of the riot. She was teacher of the year for Roanoke Rapids City Schools and North Carolina Marketing Teacher of the year.

### Ancestral chart for Roma Taylor Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



## Amy Lee Hinson

Amy is the daughter of Kay Almond Robbins and the g-great granddaughter of Allen Lee Burluson. She lives in Wilmington, NC and has taught school for 7+ years. She taught at Chadbourn, Williston and Virgo Middle Schools. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My teachers in Middle School and High School were my inspiration.... mostly the late Samuel Littlejohn (my middle school band director) and Bert Owen (high school band director). I've just always known I would be a teacher.

Her advice to students today is:

There is a song by Leanne Womack that sums this up for me.

"I hope you never fear those mountains in the distance, never settle for the path of least resistance. Living might mean taking chances, but you bitter. When you come close to selling out, reconsider. Give the Heavens above more than just a passing glance, and when you get the choice to sit it out or dance..... I hope you dance."

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Stick it out! I see so many new teachers give teaching one year or less, and decide it's too hard. You'd be amazed at the difference between your first and second year, so just hang in there! The first year is all about keeping your head above water. You don't feel the difference you're making until your second.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

I teach at an inner city school, which services many low socio-economic students. Their parents, many times, don't have steady jobs-- or if they do, it's selling drugs on the corner. These students' sense of reality is so different from mine that it's very hard to find a common ground on which to relate to each other. As a band teacher, one of the most challenging experiences is seeing the lack of support some parents have for their children. Here you have a band full of students who are actually accomplishing something productive and entertaining, and their parents sometimes don't even show up for the concert. They either put the child in a cab or drop them off. My parents drove extraordinary distances to see my concerts, and still come to see them to this day!

Awards I haven't received any awards as of yet.... but I'm keeping my fingers crossed!

## Robert L. (Bobby) Hinson Jr.

Bobby is the son of Kay Almond Robbins and the g-great grandson of Allen Lee Burluson. He lives in Raleigh, NC and has taught Middle School Band for 8 years at East Millbrook Magnet Middle School. His inspiration for becoming a teacher is: the children of my student-teaching experience.

His advice to students today is: Pick one thing you want to be the very best at, then go for it as long and as hard as you can. Oh....and don't forget to be a kid!

His advice to young teachers today is: Remember....you're smarter than they are.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: That's a "toughy". A 12-yr-old boy swallowed a valve cap (the size of 3 pennies) and pointed to his chest, calmly saying, "I can feel it right here." He was kind enough to tell me the next day that he passed it!

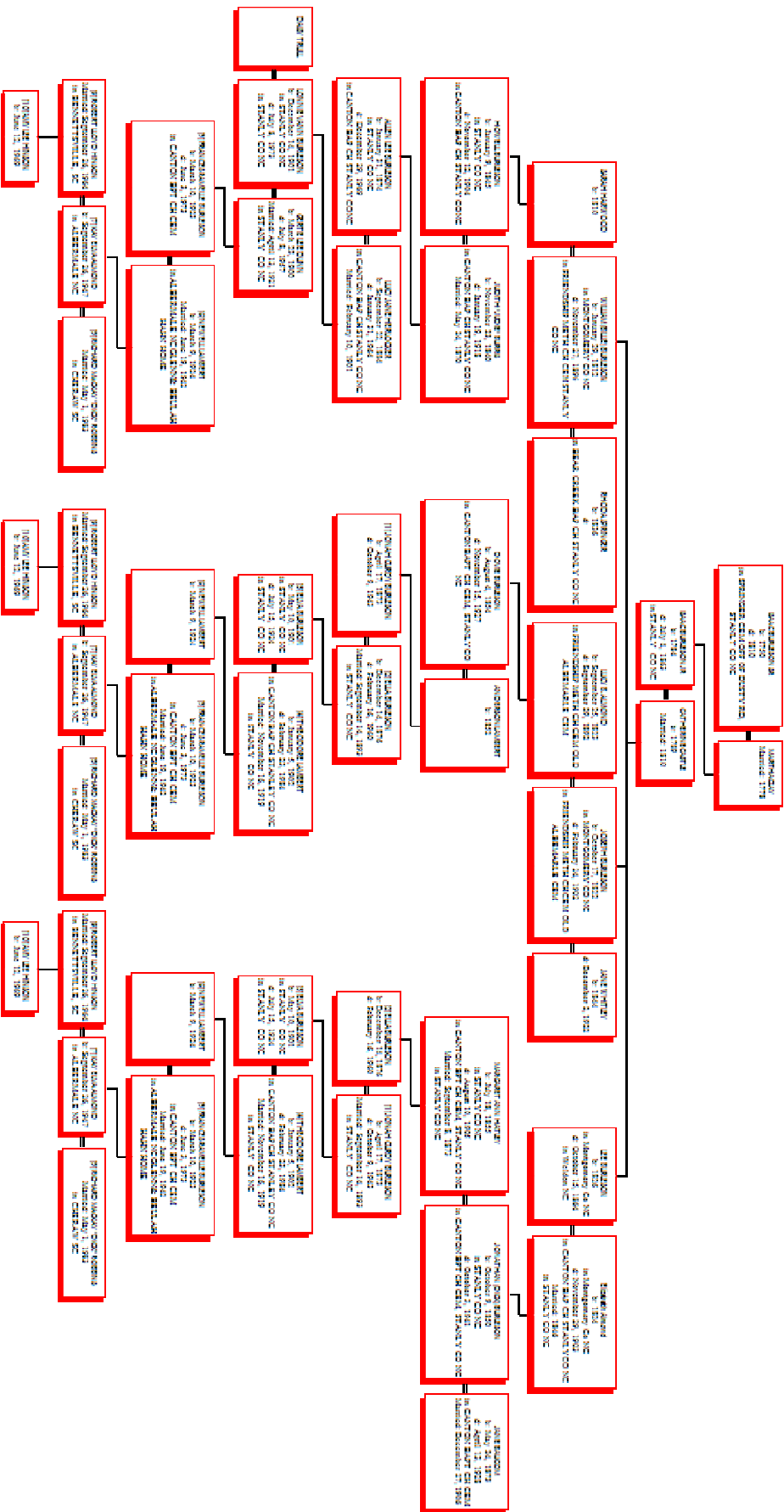
- Teacher of the Year- East Millbrook Magnet Middle School
- Teacher of the Year Finalist-Wake County Public School System
- Band Director of the Year - NC Central District Bandmasters Association
- Guest Clinician/Conductor - New Hanover County All-County Band





# Ancestral Chart for Amy Lee Hinson and Bobby Hinson

## David Descendants of ISAAC HURRY BROWN

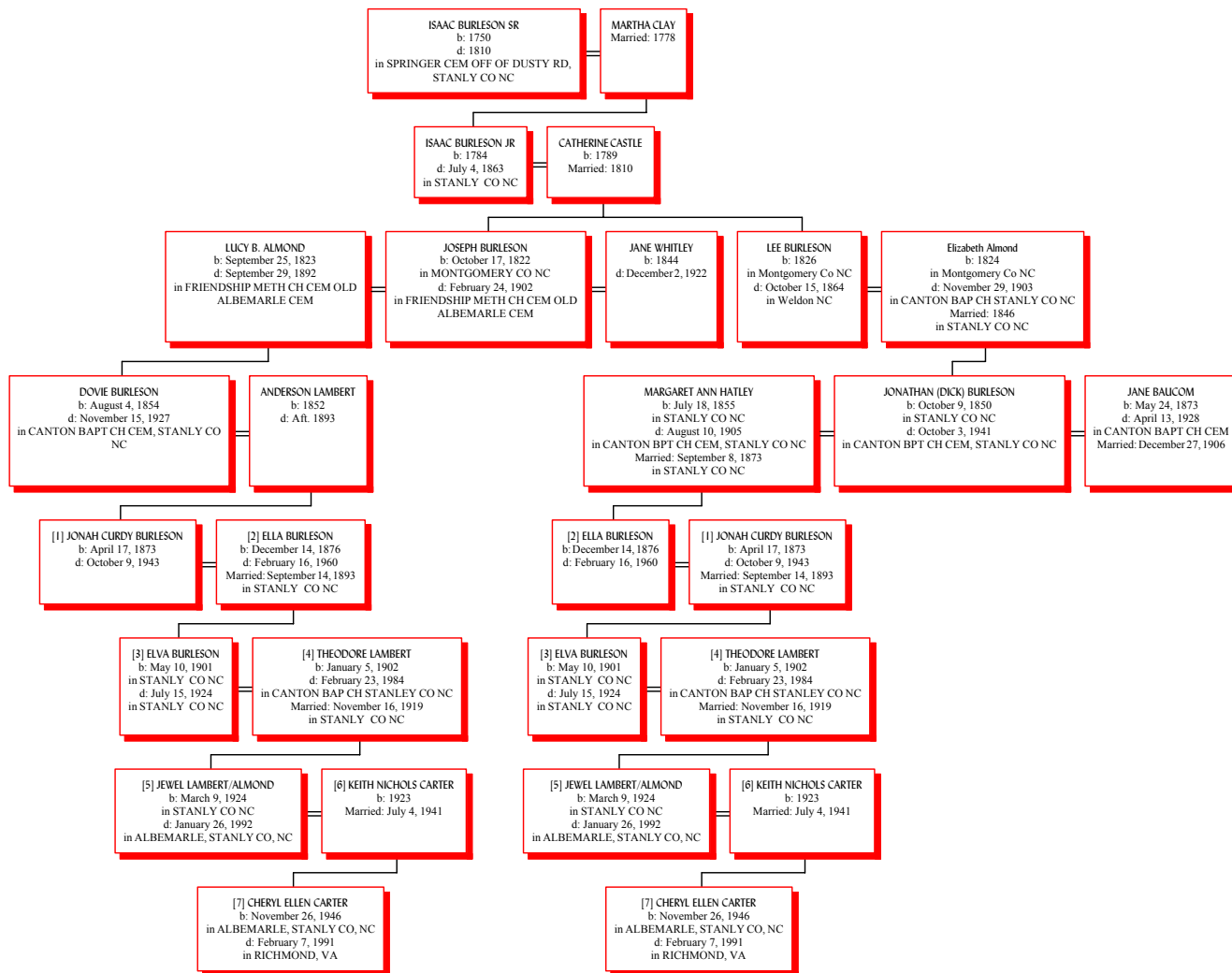


# Cheryl (Cheri) Carter Parris

Nov 26, 1946—Feb 7, 1991

Cheri is the daughter of Keith & Jewell Lambert/Almond Carter. Before her untimely death in 1991 she taught special education for 5 years in Cabarrus and Stanly County.

## Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



# Daniel Burleson

Daniel is the son of John H. & Jackie Sinclair Burleson and the g-grandson of John Florence and Ada Mary Efird Burleson. Daniel lives in Albemarle, NC. He has taught mathematics since 1996 at West Montgomery High School.

### Inspiration For Becoming a Teacher:

As a student, I can remember having some very good teachers. Some that stand out were Mrs. Alley in 2nd grade, Mrs. Underwood in 6-7th, Mrs. Hunt and Mrs. Whitley in high school, to name a few. I enjoyed my time in their classes and their teachings had an effect on the person I have become.

When I was in high school, one of the opportunities that came my way was the Teaching Fellows scholarship. This scholarship offered to pay for the majority of my college education if I would agree to teach in the NC public schools for 4 years after graduation. I thought about it long and hard and decided to take the offer after thinking about how teachers had affected myself. It has been 6 years since I have graduated and I am still teaching.

### Advice to Students Today:

Don't try to grow up so fast. Also, respect the people and the things around you if you ever want to get any respect yourself.

### Advice to Young Teachers Today:

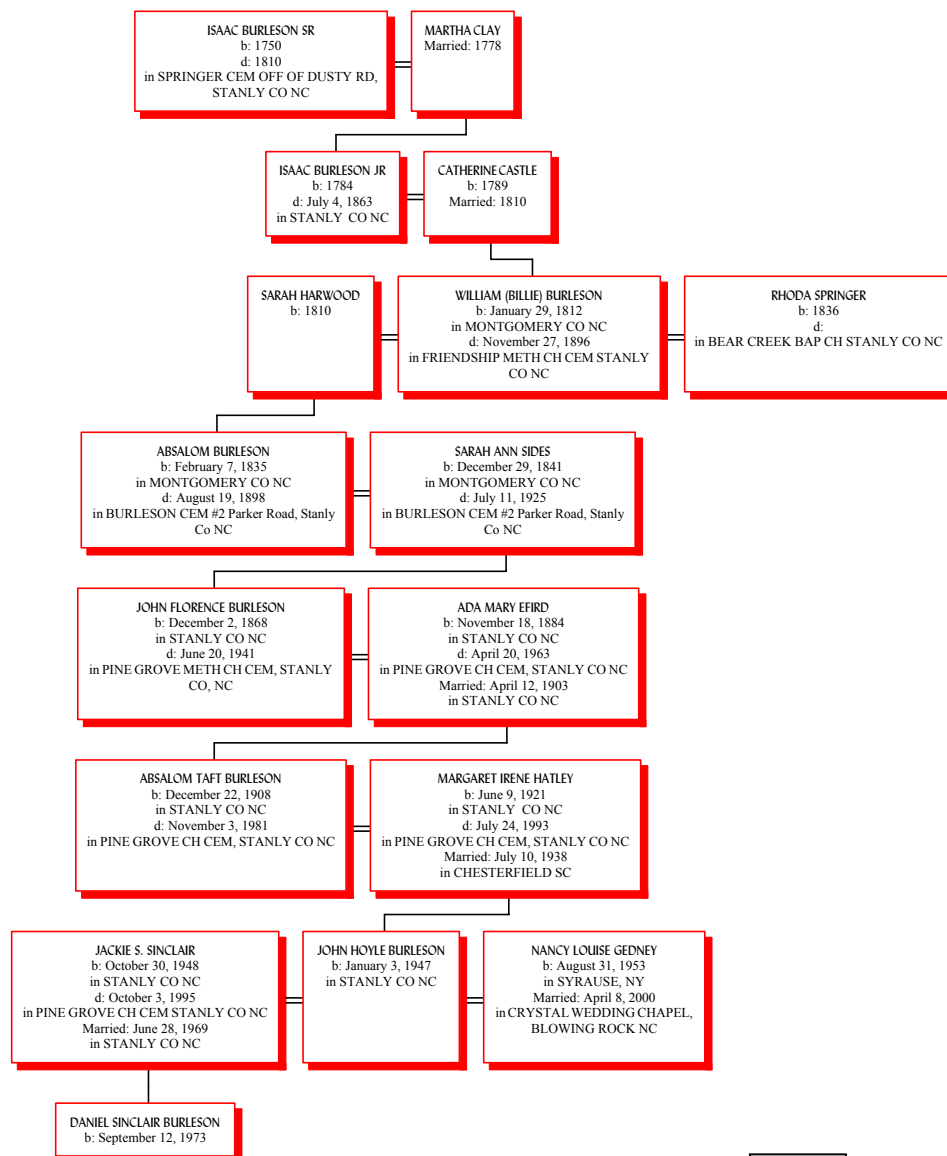
Try not to get caught up in all the paperwork and responsibilities that come with your job. Find time for yourself.

### Most Interesting or Challenging Experience as a Teacher:

I can't think of any one experience that stands out above the rest. It is a challenge everyday to teach and not lose your mind. I have taught my share of kids who didn't seem to care, but I have also taught a great many really good students. Some of those were extremely bright academically and some not, but the one thing they had in common was their ability to be respectable, hard-working young men and women. And that makes it seem all-worthwhile sometimes.



### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



## Glen Dale Burleson

Glen Dale is the son of Harvey & Ila Mae Lomax Burleson and the grandson of Ivey Alan and Mary Jane Turner Burleson. He lives in Albemarle, NC. He was a teacher and principal in elementary school for 35 1/2 years. He taught at Endy from 1958-1961, East Albemarle from 1961-1966 and North Albemarle from 1966-1989.

His inspiration for becoming a teacher is: His High School Teachers, Margie Grigg and Margaret Coble.

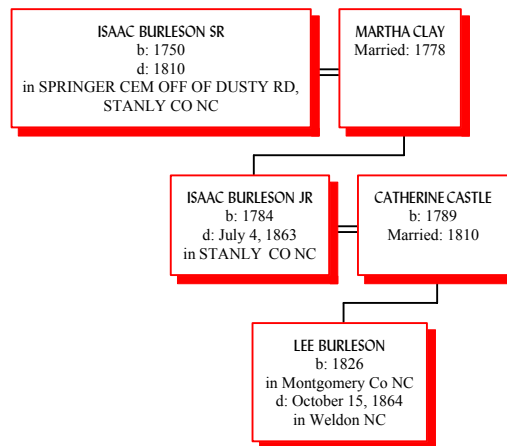
His advice to students today is: Respect everyone-yourself included.

His advice to young teachers today is: Pray each day for patience.

His most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: I had a 4<sup>th</sup> grade class at Endy with 44 students.

I had to teach 5<sup>th</sup>, 6<sup>th</sup> and 7<sup>th</sup> grade combination class plus being principal. I was also assigned a High School Chorus the first teacher workday. I did not read a note of music-and still can't.

### *Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR*



# Janelle Burleson Coltrane

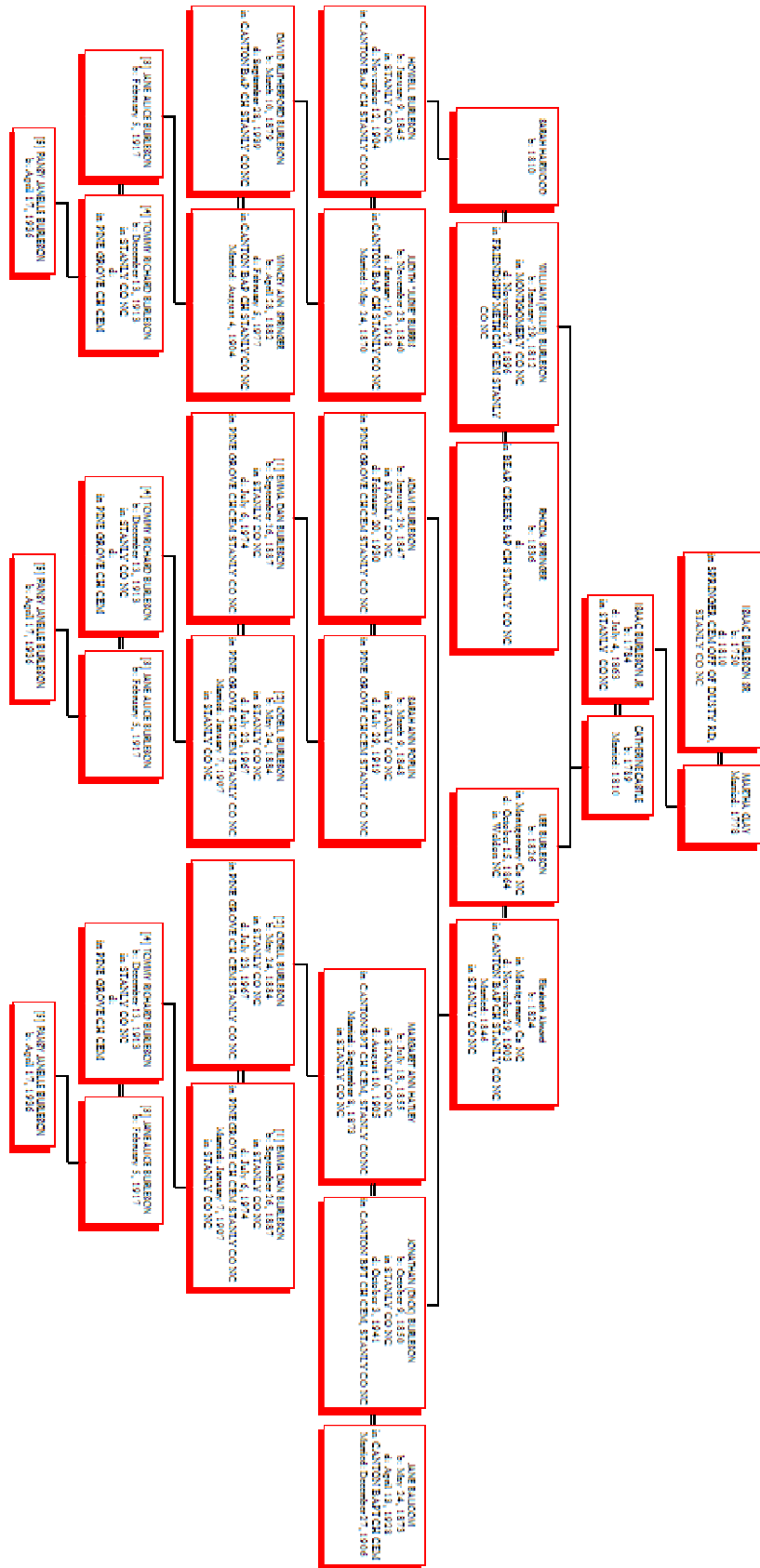
Janelle lives in Cleveland, Tn and is the daughter of Tom & Alice Burleson. She has taught Middle and High School for 28 years, in Albemarle City, Cabarrus County, Guilford County, Greensboro City NC and Cleveland City, Tn. Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My mother always stressed the importance of an education. I felt that to be a teacher was a wonderful thing, and I still do.

Her advice to students today is: Don't settle for less than your best.

Her advice to young teachers today is: CARE about those you teach. CARE about your student's minds but also about their feelings. They have so many needs.

**Ancestral Chart for Janelle Burleson Coltrane**



**Direct Descendants of Isaac Burleson**



# Sherry Burleson Green Lewis

Sherry is the daughter of Ruby Lois Burleson and William R. Green, and the granddaughter of Klon Roy & Lena Lowder Burleson. She lives in Albemarle, NC. She has taught 23 years in elementary and middle school at Millingport, Troy, North Albemarle, and Albemarle Middle School.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

Because I teach exceptional children now, prior to being a teacher, I enjoyed working with the “slower” students that had a desire to learn. Also, quite a few of my relatives are teachers.

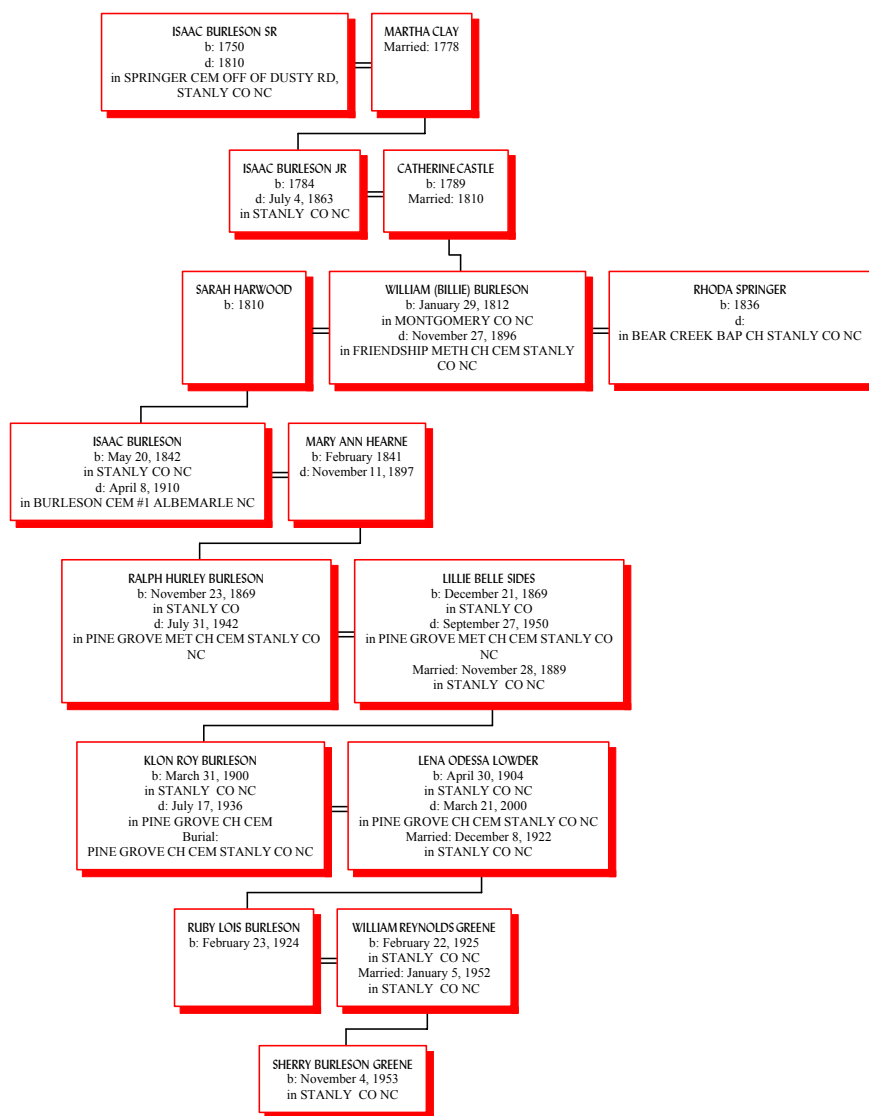
Her advice to students today is:

Students today should take advantage of the opportunities that public schools offer. This ranges from a variety of courses to other of diverse backgrounds and environment.

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Today, a teacher has many challenges. No day is the same, so be flexible to all situations—*pray a lot.*

## Ancestral Chart for Sherry Burleson Green Lewis Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Students are a challenge, but the parents are also. Each day is an experience to be remembered and cherished. Especially with exceptional children, when the “light Bulb” comes on, it’s worth it all.

**Descendants of SHERRY BURLESON<sup>2</sup> GREENE** was born November 4, 1953 in STANLY CO NC. She married TERRY JOE LEWIS March 28, 1981 in STANLY CO NC. He was born July 20, 1951 in STANLY CO NC.

Children of SHERRY GREENE and TERRY LEWIS are:

- i. LINDSAY TRUDELL<sup>3</sup> LEWIS, b. June 6, 1983.
- ii. TYLER GREENE LEWIS, b. April 28, 1986.

## Steve Newell Almond

Steve is the son of NEWELL LAMBERT/ALMOND & FRANCES RAMELLE BURLERSON. He has taught for 30 years (13 years at UNC, and 17 years as a Practitioner Instructor for UNC while working in the Department of Community and Family Medicine at Duke University Medical Center). He taught at School of Pharmacy, University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill.

### **Inspiration for becoming a teacher:**

I didn't intend to become a teacher. Shortly after my graduation from the School of Pharmacy, I was offered a position there as an Instructor. I viewed that as an opportunity to 1) continue learning, 2) contribute to the growth of my profession by teaching students to become *patient care and drug therapy* oriented pharmacists [as opposed to *drug product* oriented pharmacists], and 3) improve the outcomes of patients on drug therapies for their illnesses. Watching my students' professional development, and seeing the beneficial effects for my patients from teaching what I practice and practicing what I teach provided the inspiration and motivation to continue.

**Advice to students today:** Recognize that your time spent in school is an important beginning that establishes a foundation for learning. The greatest portion of your education, built on that foundation, will come after graduation.

### **Most interesting or challenging experience as a teacher:**

There have been interesting and challenging experiences essentially every work day. Those I have found to be most challenging occurred not with students of the profession, but with patients in daily practice. Historically, people have been, for the most part, bystanders in their personal health care. The challenge lies in educating those people to actively participate in their treatment and positively influence its outcome. For example, hypertension (high blood pressure) usually produces no apparent symptoms. If one has a headache, toothache or muscle pain, relief obtained from taking an analgesic is fairly quick and is obvious. A medication taken for hypertension, on the other hand, does not make one feel better and, in fact, sometimes causes side effects that make one feel worse. On top of that, the individual usually has to become non-compliant with his drug therapy, especially when the expense of some medications understanding of just what the drug therapy is supposed to do, how it is supposed to do it, discomfort associated with it. The challenge in educating patients on diseases and drug

1. those who, initially, have no interest in their disease or drug therapy,
2. those whose level of education and ability to comprehend are low,
3. those who speak a language other than English,
4. those whose hearing is impaired,
5. those who are young and have relatively little life experience upon which to draw,
6. those who are elderly and have some degree of memory impairment.

The list above illustrates just a few of the obstacles that must be overcome to educate patients, and it takes time and effort to do it successfully. A challenge? You bet it is.

**Awards:** Selected for membership in The Rho Chi Society, the national pharmacy honor society.

STEVE NEWELL<sup>5</sup> ALMOND (NEWELL<sup>4</sup> LAMBERT/ALMOND, THEODORE<sup>3</sup> LAMBERT, RUFUS A.<sup>2</sup>, WILLIAM<sup>1</sup>) was born December 31, 1945 in ALBERMALE NC. He married JANICE CAROLYN RAHN May 30, 1970 in BREVARD NC. She was born November 27, 1946 in BREVARD NC.

## MORNEN ELLEN LAMBERT ALMOND

3/15/1896-11/3/1969

Mornen Ellen Lambert Almond, a daughter of Rufus A. Lambert and Martha Morton Lambert, was a homemaker who knew how to farm. She served as a teacher at Bloomington School. After her children had grown to adulthood, Mornen took a job at Efir's Department Store in Albemarle, where she worked on the second floor selling clothing and sewing supplies until she retired in the mid 1950s. She suffered from arteriosclerosis and eventually became unable to care for herself, and would spend the entire day sitting in her rocking chair before the time came when she was confined to bed. She gradually lost her ability to recognize some friends and relatives, and she began to speak only single syllable words in response to questions or other stimuli. Mornen (whom I knew as Granny) was bedfast for more than a decade before she gained the comfort and mercy of death in 1969.

Mornen was an attractive woman who spoke softly. Every evening after her work was done, she sat in her rocking chair and read her Bible before going to bed. She would be grateful for recognition of her service as a teacher.



(Thanks to Steve Almond for these articles and pictures)

Elva Bureson Lambert, mother of Newell and Jewell Lambert died 4 months after their birth.

Theodore Lambert was left with the twin infants and their two sisters (ages 2 and 4), and he recognized that he could not provide the level of care the babies would require as he farmed and reared his other daughters. Newell and Jewell were taken to live with Theodore's sister, Mornen, and her husband Ezra Cline Almond, whose home was about one mile away on the Canton Church Road outside of Albemarle, NC. Mornen and Ezra provided the love and care that their father had known would be given, and they later adopted the children.



Elva Bureson Lambert  
Holding Geneva

When Newell enlisted into the Army Air Corps during World War II, a question arose about his name. He had enlisted as Newell Almond, but the federal government had no records of any such person. He learned that, although he had been adopted by the Almonds and was known as Newell Almond, his name had not been changed officially from Lambert to Almond. To clarify the matter and satisfy the Army Air Corps, he took the necessary legal steps to change his name to Almond after enlistment. In my genealogical work, I have referred to my dad as Newell Lambert/Almond to (hopefully) minimize

confusion regarding his natural and adopted lineages.

## Terrie Burleson Parker

Terrie is the daughter of Raymond and Beulah (Boots) Burleson. She lives in Roanoke Rapids, NC and has taught school for 21 years. She has taught at the High School level at Pembroke and Roanoke Rapids High Schools.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

My sister and my former teachers.

Her advice to students today is:

Have a good time, but Study!!

Her advice to young teachers today is:

Take your job serious, but not yourself. And start a retirement plan early.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is:

Trying to keep focused on what they need to be doing is very hard. It continues to be hard to compete with all the worldly things that children face these days, and they are not all positive forces, but for some that is all they have. I teach children with special needs, and they teach me something everyday.

Awards: Teacher of the year at Roanoke Rapids High School, I can not remember the year. However, the best award is having a student return and say thank you for all you did.



*Descendants of* TERRIE DAN<sup>9</sup> BURLESON (RAYMOND SYLVESTER<sup>8</sup>, ODELL<sup>7</sup>, JONATHAN (DICK)<sup>6</sup>, LEE<sup>5</sup>, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>4</sup> JR, ISAAC BURLESON<sup>3</sup> SR, ? JOHN<sup>2</sup> BURLESON, AARON<sup>1</sup>) was born September 2, 1958. She married ROBERT EDWARD LEE PARKER. Children of TERRIE BURLESON and ROBERT PARKER are:

- i. ROBERT EDWARD LEE<sup>10</sup> PARKER III, b. October 27, 1984.
- ii. DANIEL GENE PARKER, b. November 9, 1986.
- iii. RIDGE TYLER PARKER, b. July 6, 1994.

## RAYMOND DWIGHT BURLESON

Dwight is the son of Raymond and Beulah (Boots) Burleson. He lives in Whiteville, NC and has taught in public schools for 30 years. He still teaches *Emergency* at Southeastern Community College.

Inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

LAWRENCE ELLER

Advice to students today is:

DO WHAT MAKES YOU HAPPY AND FOLLOW YOUR HEART

Advice to Young teacher today is:

IF YOU ARE HAPPY KEEP TEACHING. IF NOT MOVE ON!

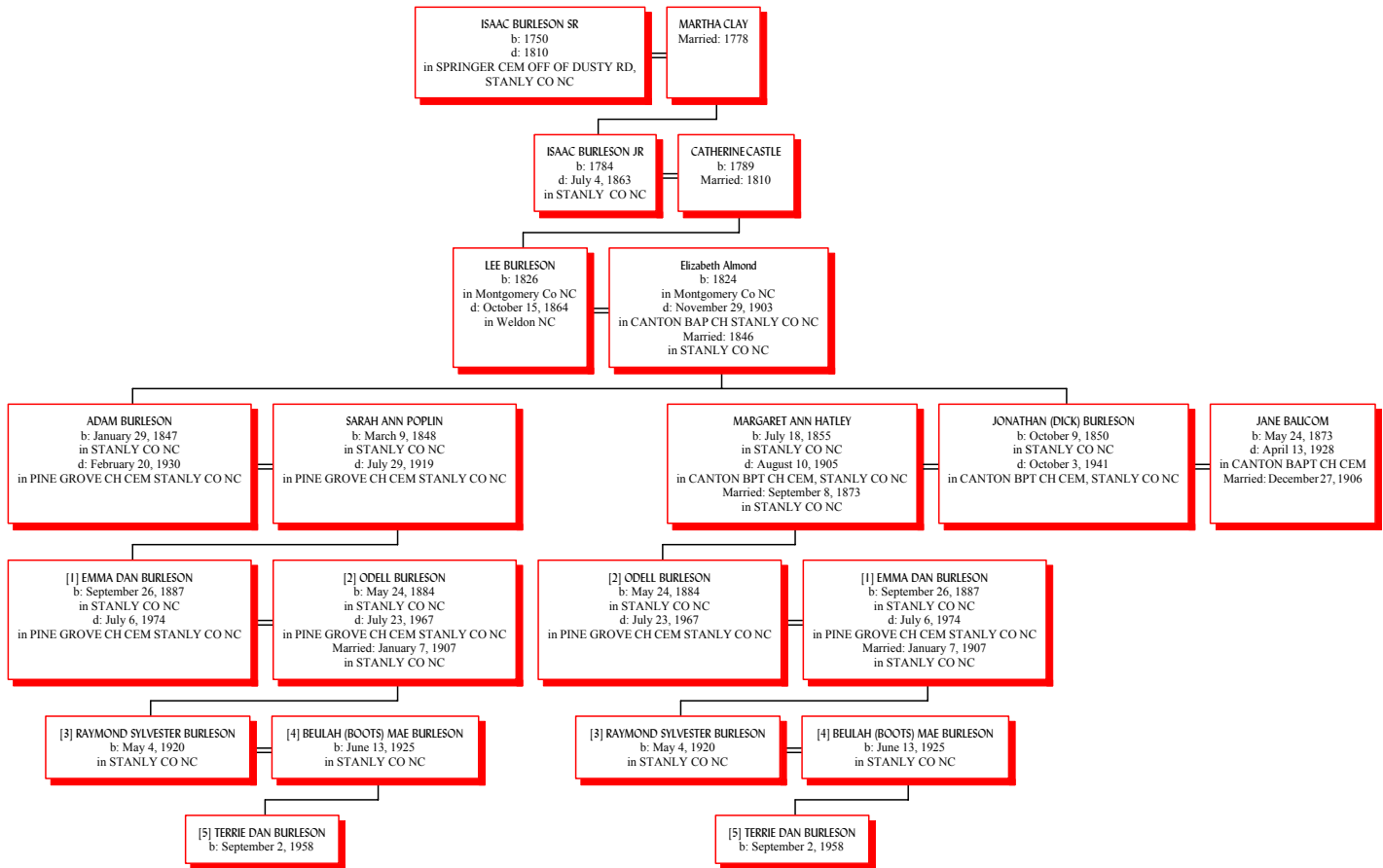
Most interesting or challenging experience as a teacher is:

EVERY DAY TODAY IT IS SEEING STUDENTS THAT I HAVE TAUGHT WORKING A FULL CARDIAC CODE AND WE SAVE THE PERSON'S LIFE.

Awards:

TEACHER OF THE YEAR WHITEVILLE CITY SCHOOLS. THE REAL REWARD IS THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT MY FORMER STUDENTS GIVE ME WHEN THEY SEE ME OUT AND ABOUT.

**Ancestral Chart for Terrie Dan and Dwight Burleson**  
**Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR**



**Jennifer Burleson Hicks**

Jennifer is the daughter of Raymond Dwight and Johnyee Height Burleson. She is a granddaughter of Raymond & Beulah Burleson in the Ancestral Chart above. Jennifer lives in Whiteville, NC and she has taught for 5 years in the Seventh Grade at Douglas Byrd Middle School in Fayetteville, and Central Middle School Whiteville, she also worked one year as Curriculum Coordinator at the Central Office, of Whiteville City Schools.

Inspiration for becoming a teacher: Making sure all children could learn and working with troubled youths

Advice to students today: Take time and study.

Advice to Young teacher today: Take time to understand your students.

Don't jump to conclusions. Be patient.

Most interesting or challenging experience as a teacher. POLITICS

Awards: Coca-Cola Unsung Hero (Teacher) Award, Teacher of the Month

**ED LAMBERT BURLESON**

Ed is the son of Raymond Dwight and Johnyee Height Burleson. He is a grandson of Raymond & Beulah Burleson in the Ancestral Chart above.



# Judy C. Kelly

Judy lives in Cary, NC. She is the daughter of Earl and Margaret Burleson Christenbury. She taught in the classroom for 15 years and in the Administration for 16 years. She taught at Cliffdale Road, Fayetteville, NC, Third Street School, Greenville, NC, and Hope Valley School, Durham, NC

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is:

Truthfully, I changed majors from accounting to education because I was the only female in most of my classes and all my female friends were in education. However, I now believe it was meant to be as it has been so rewarding.

Her advice to students today is:

Set goals, Strive for individual independence. Learn to love learning.

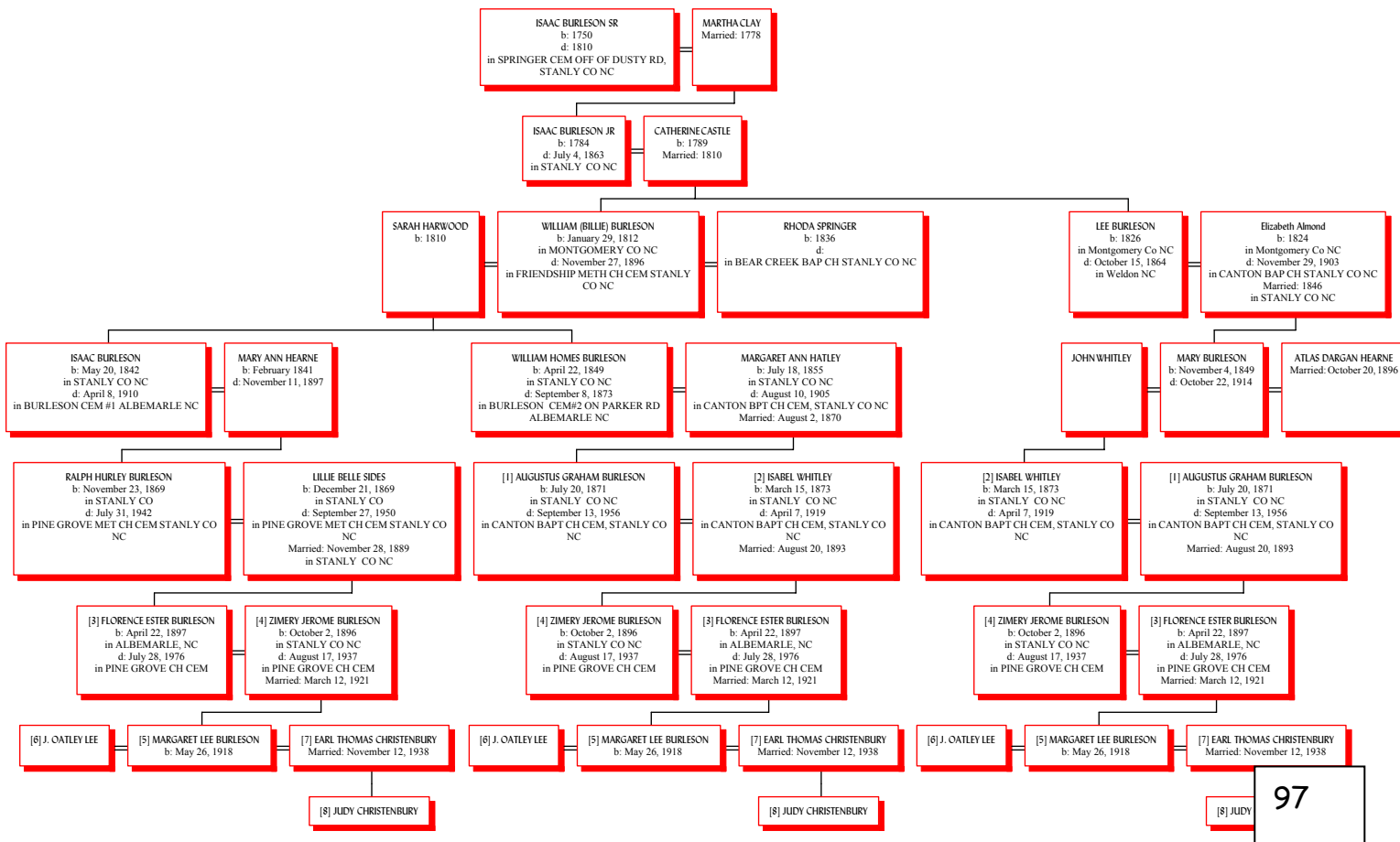
Her advice to young teachers today is:

Be prepared for hard work, always take time to have a life beyond work. Look for the small successes and celebrate differences.



## Ancestral Chart for Judy Christenbury Kelly

### Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



# Colleen Story

Colleen lives in Lexington, NC, and she is the daughter of Fred and Telitha Burleson Story and the granddaughter of Jonah Lee Burleson. She graduated from Montreat College with a BA in French/English and from Appalachian State University with a MA in English.

She worked in education for 38 years, beginning in 1953 teaching French and English at Denton High School, Denton NC, then Churchland High School, and 11 years in Fort Lauderdale FL, and 2 years at the American College of Switzerland. She taught Shakespeare to Sylvester Stallone while there. Returned to Davidson County in 1971 and served as librarian at Central Davidson High School before becoming a supervisor for the Davidson County Schools. Supervised media coordinators, foreign language, art, music, dance and band for 16 years before retiring in 1991.

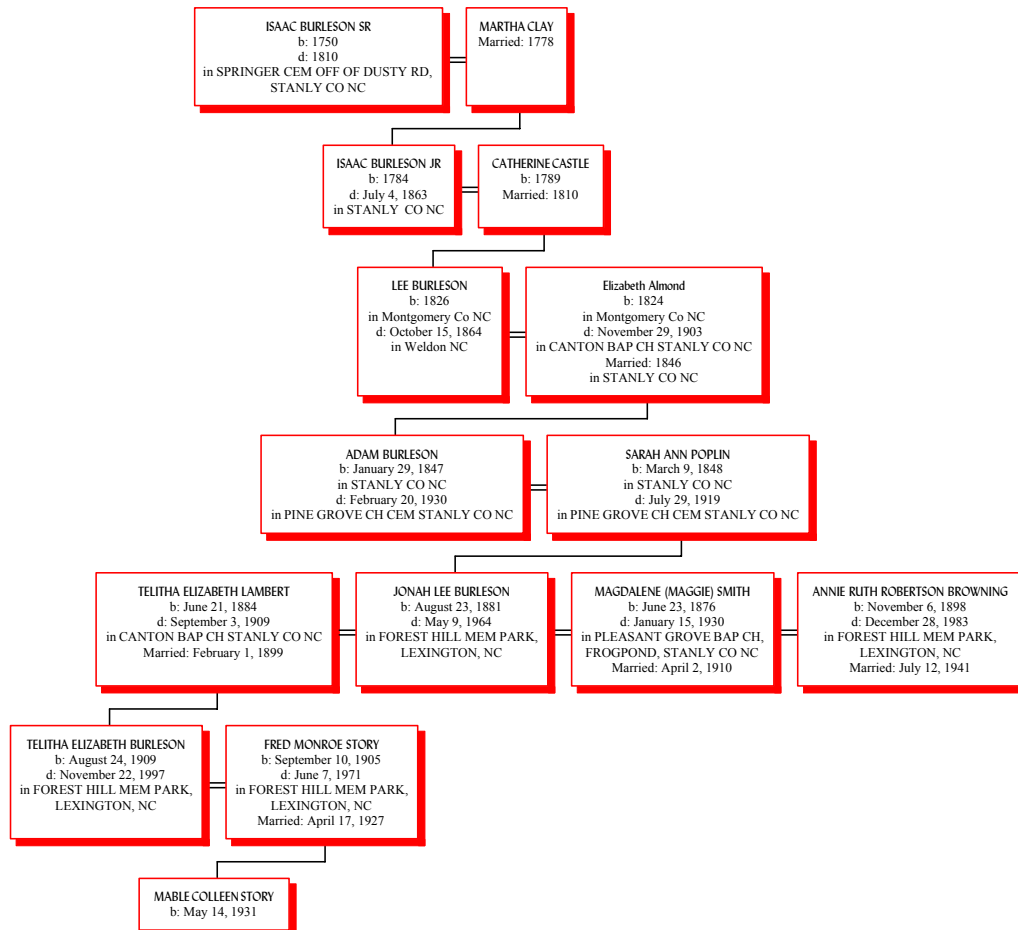


Inspired by my college French teacher to become a teacher. I had always loved school and she instilled in me a love and passion for the French language and culture. I loved chaperoning students abroad and experiencing first hand other cultures. I lived in Europe two winters and 5 summers and traveled extensively, including the Holy Land and Russia.

The teaching profession today is an extreme challenge for teachers. The pay is low, the hours are practically 24-7, and appreciation is seldom expressed. However, the rewards, though not monetary, are many. As the commercial goes, "without teachers, we would not have doctors, scientists, lawyers, ministers, etc". It is gratifying to see our students go on to become successful and to feel that we have helped in some small way.

My advice to students today is to study hard, learn how to live with others who are different from our culture, and hope that by doing this, we can promote love and peace in our country and to our fellowmen all over the world.

## Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR







Fannie

### Endy Class of 1950

Enjoying their reunion were first row (L-R): Alvin Burleson, Betty Ruth Barbee Lambert, Julia Ann Poplin Carpenter, Peggy Hatley Branch, Montie Lee Hartsell Clem, Edna Jewel Hatley Joyner, Joan Caudle Almond, Fannie Burleson; second row: Ray Underwood, Floyd Eggleston, Joe Wessinger, George Smart, Johnny McIlwaine, Johnny Burleson, Carroll Lowder, Harvey Carpenter, Boyd Lambert and Mrs. Bain Jones.

## Endy Class of '50 gathers for reunion

The Endy High School Class of 1950 gathered for its second reunion Saturday, Oct. 4, in the fellowship hall at Canton Baptist Church. Sixteen of the 19 members and their mates had a wonderful time. Their other reunion was in 1960.

All but three of the class relived old times, told stories and jokes, updated everyone on their whereabouts for the past 47 years and just enjoyed each other's presence. Along with the class were Fannie Burleson and her son, Dr. Rowell Burleson, and Mr. and Mrs. Bain Jones, former teachers.

"The class is very thankful that none of the class has passed away which seems to be the exception rather than the rule," said a spokesman.

As the result of the influence of such teachers as G.H. Swaringen, Geneva Swaringen, Mrs. O.H. Bolch, Fannie Burleson,

Marie Coble, Margaret Coble, Claude Grigg, Randall Burleson, Dona Gantt McSwain, D.M. Corn, D.T. Singleton and others in the community, nine class members graduated from college. Two attended business college. There were four teachers, two ministers, an engineer, a TV and electronic technician, a district attorney, a printer, a banker, two brokers, business owners and farmers. All had a career of working. One couple married in 1950 and most have been with their present mates for 40 or more years. In the class, there have been born three sets of twins and each of these families have four children.

The group was so happy to be together that they decided to have another reunion in 2000 to celebrate a half century as a class.

A meal of barbecue and chicken with all the trimmings,

catered by Family Affair Catering, was enjoyed by all.

**Randall Burleson**

January 19, 1908—November 7, 1993

And

**Fannie Poplin Burleson**

## Mary Thomas Raper(Tommie) Holbrook

Tommie lives in Memphis, Tn and is the daughter of Joe and Marijo Raper. She has taught Junior High English for 15 years, at Oakhaven Baptist Academy in Memphis and Southern Baptist Educational Center in Southaven, Mississippi.

Her inspiration for becoming a teacher is: She wanted to work around young people who were enthusiastic about their futures and about life.

Her advice to students today is: The choices you make in school and the foundations you lay now will, to a great degree determine you future success. Develop a healthy work ethic and cultivated self-discipline; these two qualities are priceless.

Her advice to young teachers today is: Your values and character will influence every aspect of your teaching. Because of the fact, you have an awesome responsibility to positively impact your students. Seeking direction from the Lord on a daily basis not only will enable you to accomplish this, but will also allow God to bless you abundantly for you efforts.

Her most interesting or challenging experience as teacher is: Reaching students for Christ in a Christian school can be difficult sometimes. Since these kids hear the Word of God on such a regular basis, they often become calloused to the things of God. Also, many Christian students are given so much from their parents that they are not allowed the opportunity to trust God for things; thus, their faith life is not allowed to develop.

Awards: Who's Who Among America's Teachers: Desoto County Rotary Club Teacher of the Month (Article)



Leah Beth Holbrook A friend  
(Tommie's Daughter)

Marijo Raper  
(Tommie's Mother)

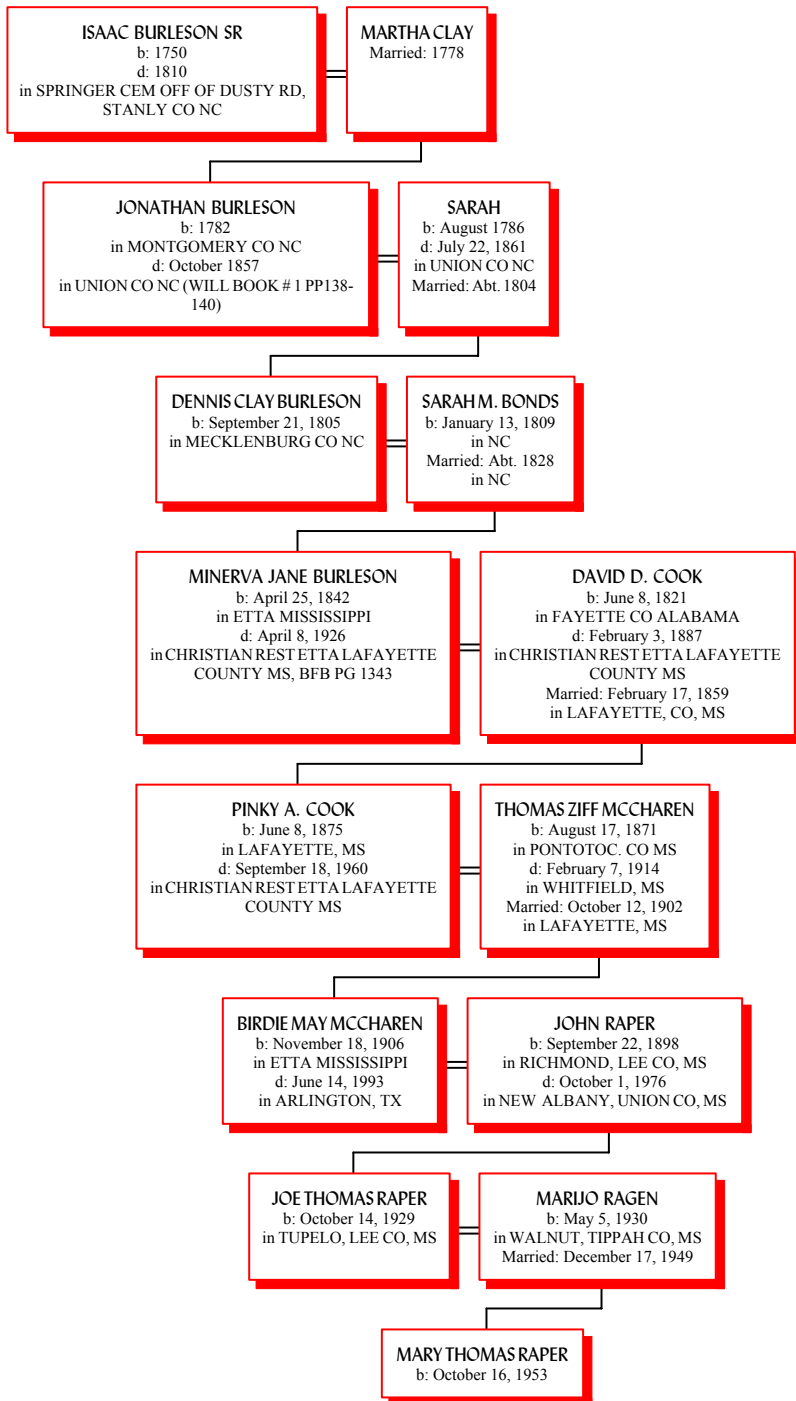
Shannon Holbrook  
(Tommie's Daughter)

Tommie Holbrook



# Ancestral Chart for Mary Thomas Raper Holbrook

## Direct Descendants of ISAAC BURLESON SR



The Southaven Rotary Club recognized three outstanding teachers and students from local high schools during the month of February. The club also extended its recognition to include an outstanding teacher and student from Northwest Community College-DeSoto Center. Honored were: teacher Tommie Holbrook and student Travis Miller from Southern Baptist Educational Center (SBEC); teacher Marian Norwood and student Julie Mapes from Horn Lake High School; teacher Jarri McDaniel and student Jeff McKenzie from Southaven; teacher Debby Rutledge and student Terry Van Story from NWCC.



**Tommie Holbrook** has been a member of the English department at SBEC for five years and currently teaches literature 7 and 8 and grammar 7. Other responsibilities at SBEC include sponsor for the Class of 1997, advisor for the National Honor Society and sponsor for the junior high chapter of the Christian Service Club. She has also served as cheerleading sponsor and judge for the MPSA Spelling Bee. A volunteer for the Arthritis Foundation in Memphis, she is a member of Community Bible Church.

Ms. Holbrook is a graduate of Memphis State University and holds a BSE with endorsements in English and history.

She is the mother of 15-year-old Shannon and 11-year-old Leah Beth.



# The Story of Rufus Burleson

Contributed by Daniel Burleson

One of the most famous educators in the Burleson Family was the Reverend Rufus C. Burleson. He was born in Alabama in 1823 and was descended from Aaron Burleson, who emigrated from England to North Carolina about 1726. His father, Jonathan Burleson, was a Kentuckian who commanded a volunteer company in the Creek War.

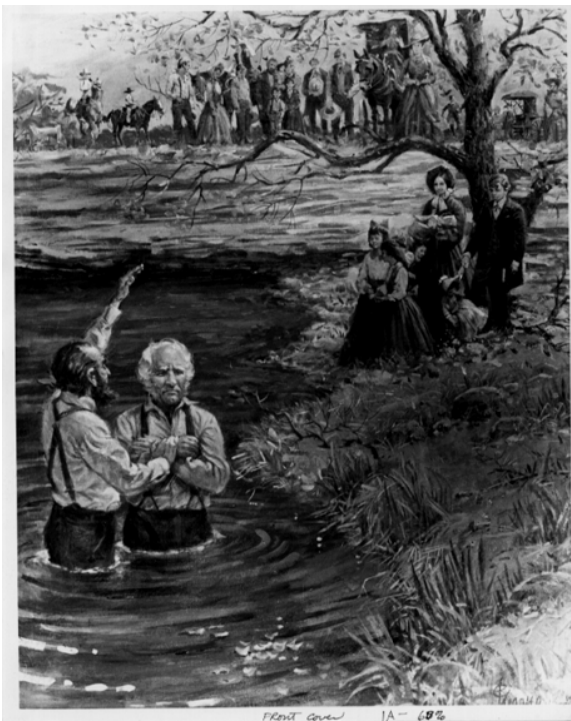
Rufus was an apt student of languages, literature, philosophy, and the classics. He attended the local schools and academies in the hopes of becoming a lawyer. After his conversion at age sixteen at a Baptist-led revival though, he vowed to devote himself to the ministry. He entered a Nashville seminary, but was forced to withdraw after a year because of ill health. For the next five years he taught school and became an ordained Baptist Preacher in Mississippi. He then enrolled in Western Baptist Theological Seminary where he became interested in the religious needs in Texas. After graduation, he was appointed as the pastor in a church in Houston.

Three years after his arrival in Houston, Rufus was asked to become president at Baylor University in 1851, then a small school in Independence, Texas. When his presidency began, there were only two small buildings and only fifty-two students. The school was not publicized much and the salaries of the faculty were very small. Rev. Burleson set himself to his task with energy and enthusiasm. Through the hard work of himself and the agents, more buildings were erected, more equipment and more money for salaries were procured, standards were raised, and a law faculty added.

Even with the incredible growth of the university, there was still controversy. Baylor had two separate programs for male and female students and Rufus was, at the time, an opponent of coeducation. This stance led to many a dispute between Rev. Burleson and the head of Baylor's female program. These two prominent Baptist leaders frequently fought over leadership rights, privileges of position, and prestige. Because of his relentless pursuit to raise the University to the highest heights possible, Rufus resigned in 1861.

The entire faculty and the senior class of the male department went with him to Waco where they took over a school which they renamed Waco University. At Baylor, Rufus has been opposed to coeducation but

now he came to favor it and it was established in 1865. Waco and Baylor remained rival institutions until 1886. During that time, Waco grew steadily in size and importance, while Baylor had declined in attendance. About 1870 a movement for the consolidation of the two schools began, but was not agreed upon until 1886 when the older institution was moved from Independence to Waco with the new consolidated school maintaining the name Baylor and Rev. Burleson was made president. The university continued to grow under his leadership and Rufus remained president until 1897, despite some controversies with the trustees, when he was retired as president emeritus on full salary. In his letter of resignation he closed with the statement that "I will therefore accept the position assigned me and give it a fair trial and do all in my power to advance the glory of Baylor University." He kept his promise and worked diligently for Baylor until his death four years later in 1901. During his time, Rev. Burleson had served as a fine spiritual leader, even having the honor of baptizing Sam Houston, as well as an

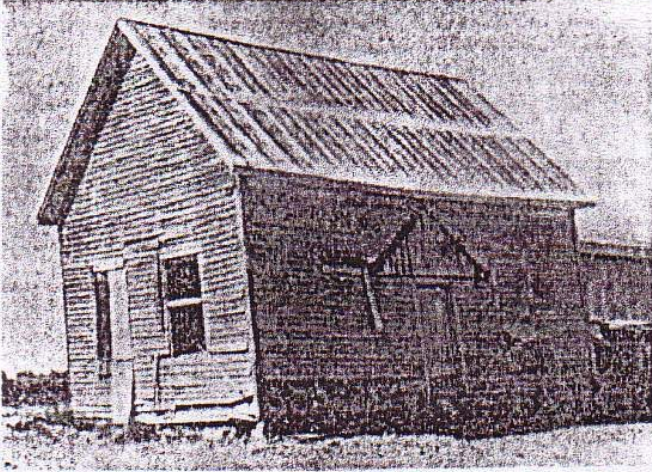


esteemed educator who led Baylor University to its place today, as the largest Baptist University in the United States.



# Pioneer Stanly School Building Now Granary

## The Stanly New and Press, Albemarle, NC Tuesday July 1, 1941



By HORACE CARTER

Standing in the yard of the Luther Herrin estate in northwestern Stanly, is an old delapidated granary with a tottering spire, pointing towards the sky. That inappropriate little tower brings back a feeling of melancholy to all who understand its history. It tells the tale of the education of many present day citizens of our county.

Gazing up at that minute steeple, as compared to some of those today, we learn that the little granary is all that is left of the old Bloomington school house that once stood on the old Austin road nine or 10 miles northwest of Albemarle and which was discontinued in 1924-25.

There in one of the pioneer schools of Stanly began the educational system of that section, and imagination can still bring back memories of the time when the grandfathers of today trotted for miles over wooded paths to take their seats on the split logs that formed the benches of the school.

Looking further, we see a tired, sleepy-eyed little fellow, (let's call him Johnny) crawling out of bed in the early hours of the morning about the first of November and grabbing his "dinner pail" before taking to his heels towards the very distant school house. Then, there were only four months of school in the year, and this was always in the bitter, dead of winter.

Ring the school bell at 8, sometimes scarcely after sunrise, our little student, Johnny, just makes the door in time for his first recitation. Standing, hands clasped, he recites before the entire school because one room housed the whole enrollment. This class recitation business went on through the complete seven grades in every subject.

The proverbial Three "R's," readin', ritin', and rithmetic, had their places but they threw in an "S" too because spelling, considered by some the most important subject, was studied just as diligently as the rest. Even a "G" came in, too, because they studied geography. Maybe not much at first but before the discontinuance of the Bloomington school, geography was a major subject.

Now let's not turn our little example out of school for the day yet, but go back and get some factual history of that little paintless school by the roadside.

### Canton School Formed.

Nearly a hundred years ago George Mendenhall, witty Montgomery county lawyer, "entered" a plot to the Governor of the State, asking for the district now making up Almond and Endy townships, with parts of others. He was given this plot and, with it, and the beginning of the settlement, he found need for names—lots of names.

Thus he happened upon the name, "Canton," and without any explanation of why he so named it that, it became known thus and still bears this title.

Mendenhall sold the land as fast as possible at 50 cents to one dollar an acre and before long 10 or 12 big families were living around the Canton community. This brought about the need for a school and a church, and so in 1850 the first school was established and called "Canton" because it was not so far from the present site of Canton Baptist church.

Squire John Morton, father of John M. Morton, who in turn is father of G. C., Josh, Claude and Hobart Morton, was the first teacher of the school, and the one school committeeman who is still remembered was Rufus Lambert. There were only two committeemen, but the other's name has been forgotten.

Here under the big oaks of Canton in a small, one-room log cabin with a big cordwood stove rising majestically in its center, gathered the "pupils" of that day to learn all that was given them to learn.

Several years after the school was organized at Canton, the parents in the extreme sections of the school district began yelling that "my little girl and boy have to walk too far to school." This brought about a split in the sections, not with a feeling of wrath, but with a feeling that something more convenient could be worked out for all concerned. This tore the Canton school asunder and the two branches formed the Bloomington and Endy schools.

Now the Endy school stands and is flourishing, but the Bloomington part of the split ran into misfortune, so let's trace its history.

### Bloomington Blooms.

Opening about 1883 with one room and one teacher, the school was called the "Furr" school, because of the numerous members of that clan there. The first three committeemen were all Furr—Aaron Furr, William (Josh) Furr and Ransom Furr.

There were only about 30 or 40 students at the beginning of the school and J. Archabald Cauble was the first teacher. Other teachers followed but not necessarily in this order: Miss Emma Carter, who soon left for Texas; Joe Sam Burleson and I. R. Burleson.

Mendenhall was still around, however, and he named the cross-roads a little above the Furr school, "Bloomington," and there in 1897 was moved the Furr school and henceforth it was known as the "Bloomington School."

This new building would lack a great deal of making the Empire State building look like a chicken coop, because at its height, there were only three rooms and the weather-boarding ran up-and-down. But to people of that day, it was a leader as far as school houses went and it finally had 145 students enrolled in its seven grades.

Here more teachers became active with the Bloomington school, but not exactly in the order that they served: D. B. Tucker, uncle of wholesaler R. J. Tucker; Dave Holt, who later became county surveyor; U. S. Burleson, still a thriving and well-known citizen of Albemarle; Tommy Rowland, Eugene Ewing, manager of P. J. Huneycutt and Co.; Miss Bertha Cox, wife of B. L. Peck, of Albemarle; Miss Zora Cox, teacher at Eford school; Morning Lambert, wife of E. C. Almond of Morrow Bros. and Heath Co.; G. L. Eford, mail carrier, and T. H. Almond, prominent Stanly farmer.



After the school was built, a store soon went up, then a cotton gin, a telephone switchboard for the "party" line, a corn mill, and a post office. There was no Endy township then and people living down as far as the present Charlotte highway were in the Bloomington township and went there to list taxes. Yeah, that was Bloomington with the blossom wide open.

Saturday afternoons and Sundays found the little pioneer village filled with people. They gathered from far and near to pitch horseshoes, wrestle or just plain scuffle; and court on a big scale. Bloomington and the big school yard was a lovebird's paradise and they made the most of it. "I have seen the yards filled with couples walking hand in hand on Sunday afternoon," remarked a former teacher there.

Some of the books studied then still exist and among them were the "Milne's," "Sanford's" and "Johnson's" Arithmetics; "Geography of the World," "First," "Second," "Third," etc., Readers, and the "Harrington" and "Blue Back" Spellers.

Going back to spelling, we again bring up the fact that the subject was studied like it was never studied before or since, and on Saturday nights the old people and the young would meet at the school house where they would choose sides and line-up for a spelling match.

Words alternated from side to side and from lid to lid of the old spellers and some of the fellows were so good, they never sat down. As a matter of fact, they would occasionally know the words so well that they would have the book memorized and would spell the word before it was ever actually called out.

When spelling became a little boring, debating came in, and any subject would start an argument that would about raise the roof. One of the topics still remembered by some is the well-known statement, "Which is more destructive—fire or water?"

#### And the Teachers.

Beginning away back, these teachers were given only 10 and 15 dollars a month, but as things began to turn more and more prosperous they rose to the titanic sum of \$30 for 30 days—a colossal amount then.

You see wages and prices ran neck to neck then and a person could board with the school patrons for five or six bucks a month and get "good rations too," according to another Bloomington teacher.

Probably the greatest oddity of the teachers as contrasted to those of today is the terrific number of people who taught school, the ages they began teaching, and the amount of education they had.

Any person that could read and write, work a few simple arithmetic problems and the like, could teach school. No, we aren't trying to say that there wasn't some very learned men in that time or that those who were not so very well learned shouldn't have taught because that was a desperate time as far as education goes and somebody had to do the teaching. This called for any person who would try and that knew a little about the subjects of the time and explains the great number of people that taught.

T. H. Almond, a teacher of the school only a few years before its closing, began teaching at 17 years of age, and he says that he had some students who were older than he was. This happened dozens of times in that early school.

Teachers didn't hand out report cards each month nor did they hand out promotion cards. Instead, when the students wanted to try out in higher class, he just turned over a little further in the book and asked to be placed in another section. If he could hold his own then, he stayed there, if not he was sent back. This sending students back to a lower grade was greatly feared and opposed by the ambitious youngsters.

#### Eddins Superintendent of Schools.

At the time the Bloomington school was running at its best, "Professor" E. F. Eddins was the superintendent of the county schools and "he was one of the smartest men in the community." Then going back before Mr. Eddins, we find the first superintendent of the schools in Stanly county to be Armstead Lilly, the next H. W. Spinks, and J. A. Bivins, brother of J. D. Bivins, now president of the Stanly News and Press.

"Prof." Eddins was a great scholar of the classics and could completely tear apart and analyze any problem in mathematics," a teacher under that superintendent remarked.

#### Getting Back to Johnny.

With a couple of classes finished, Johnny gets a 15-minute recess and boy, is he glad to limber up a bit? The boys fall into a game of "Catta-pattle," played with a batter and catcher placed at both ends of a short distance with the point being to hit the ball and change places with the other batter before the defense crosses the runner out, and before this ends the recess is over.

More classes follow and the dinner period and an hour in the open. This calls for a big game and the most logical thing was "Round-town." This "round-town" was very similar to our baseball but usually played with a

ball of yarn made by unraveling an old stocking the night before, and the purpose was to make runs but you were out if the ball hit the runner or crossed between he and the base. (Arguments came when the played jumped the ball).

Now before going out to this game, Johnny would open his dinner pail and sit on the long stack of cord wood lying near the building and devour that huge mother-packed lunch. Usually he was in such a great hurry to begin the game that he didn't even eat all his lunch.

The county ruling then, because the schools were financed by the county and not the State, was that school had to be in session at least six hours a day, but they always went more than the required time and Johnny usually was turned out about 4, although sometimes he was kept to 5, if all the students had not recited.

Hurrying on home from school on those cold afternoons about the time the sun was setting, Johnny, thought over the past day's humorous events and the fun he had and maybe even the things that he had learned but he never thought of the fact that today there is no Bloomington school but that the little building, remodeled many times, would be standing in a barnward with its spire rising proudly and proclaiming to all passer-bys the fact that it is an emblem of education in Stanly county.



## Isaac Burleyson (1827—January 19, 1897)

Isaac is the son of Joseph and Nancy Rogers Burleson and taught at the Sossamon School in Cabarrus County NC

Fall 1971 Issue

### Early Cabarrus County Schools – (continued)

#### SOSSAMON SCHOOL

Article by: Mr. J. M. White, Concord, N. C., Written in 1932

“From the one room log schoolhouse to the consolidated brick building in a life time:

“Before the War Between the States the schoolhouses in Cabarrus County were principally log houses. My first day at school was in March 1861 at the old Sossamon School House in No. 10 Township. It was a good average of the country and was about 18 by 24 feet with a good brick chimney in the west end and a four foot fire place; one door in the south side, three windows with one long window full length on the east and with an 8 by 10 glass to give light on the writing bench which was a long bench to sit on and write. The seats were principally plain benches without any backs. My first teacher was Mr. Alac Long, who went to the war when school was out and never came back—he died or was killed. The teachers I have heard of teaching there before him were Allison Woods, Dixon Penick, and Reece Winecoff.

“During the war and for a few years after the war there was no public money for schools. The teacher was hired by subscription for three or four months during the winter at one dollar per month per scholar. Mr. Isaac Burleyson and Mr. B. B. Gibelm taught several schools. I can count thirty young men who went to school there that went to the war from that neighborhood; the Rogers, the Archibalds, the Hudsons, the Bosts, the Whites, the Irvins, the Blacks, the Newells, Swaringens, McKinleys, and others.

“We used this log schoolhouse until about 1883. By that time we were getting a little public money for schools but none for building school-houses. So the committee, Benjamin Burleyson, B. A. Gourley and

myself, decided not to have any school one winter and use the money to build a new house. My recollection was that we had one hundred and forty-six dollars for our district. A carpenter in the neighborhood made out a bill of lumber for the house. He said he would put the material on the ground. A neighbor offered us all the field pine timber, near a sawmill, we needed for the framing free, if we would cut and haul it to the mill. We appointed a day and asked the neighbors to come with wagons and hands to chop and haul it to the mill. The mill man agreed to furnish the flooring, ceiling and weather boarding at ten dollars per thousand. The committee and neighbors did all the hauling free of charge. We raised a little money by subscription to finish paying for the shingles and nails and the home-made desks. It was said to be the best country school-house in Cabarrus County at the time it was built. **This building still stands today — wouldn't it be wonderful if our county schools would restore it and use it as a museum?**

Mr. James P. Cook taught the first school in the new house. It was the first school he taught after he graduated from Mt. Pleasant. He taught a good school and we had a good school for several years with Mr. H. T. Baker, Mr. Gus Boger and Mr. Chas. E. Boger as teachers. They taught good schools; several young business men got their primary education there. The Newell boys, W. W. Flowe, the Linker boys, several young ladies, who taught school in the county, also the Gourleys, Whites, and Burleysons received their primary education at the Sossamon School.”



SOSSAMON SCHOOL

## World War II

To Honor all Veterans  
(Additional veterans added)

LOWELL EDWARD BURLESON  
Shellie, Ebin, Billie, Isaac Jr. & Isaac Sr.

ALEXANDER PAUL BASS JR.  
A. Paul & Jerone Burleson Bass, Ebin, Billie, Isaac Jr. & Isaac Sr.

NEWELL LAMBERT/ALMOND  
Theodore & Elva Burleson Lambert, Jonah, Dovie, Joseph, Isaac Jr., Isaac Sr.

DANIEL D. EFIRD  
Victor & Madie Hunrycutt Parker, John & Maggie Burleson Huneycutt, John Wesley, Joseph, Isaac Sr.



Lt Newell Almond 3/9/1924—11/2/1971  
And Frances Ramelle Burleson



Lowell Burleson



## “Recollections”

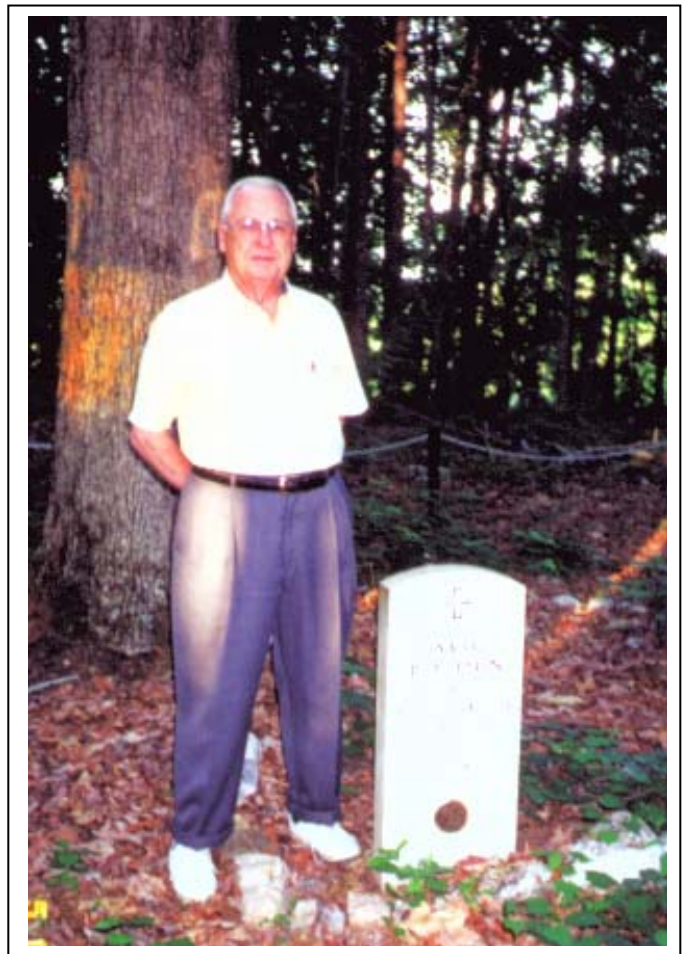
With A. Paul Bass Jr.

by J.D. Burluson

On Sunday May 13, 2001 I meet with Paul Bass Jr. and his wife, Evelyn. We went to the Burluson Cemetery #2 on Parker Road and visited the gravesite of Ebin & Dora Hopkins Burluson. They are Paul's grandparents and my great-grandparents. We also visited the cemetery site of Isaac Burluson Sr. Paul showed me where Ebin & Dora's farm was located -- a big oak tree was the only landmark left to show exactly where it was. From that Oak tree he described the layout of the farm and farmhouse.

He also told several stories that he remembers from his childhood. His family moved to Tennessee when he was young. We had a very enjoyable visit. Later the next week as I thought about our visit, I started putting together all he had told me. I called Paul and asked him to draw out all he had told me about the farm. I also asked him to write the stories he had related to me. Paul did a great job of drawing the farm and layout of the house. Here are the stories as related by Paul Bass Jr.

“On Christmas Day all of the men would rabbit hunt. I remember one occasion Ray (my grandfather), Jerome's brother, ask Paul Bass Sr. if he could see a rabbit sitting on a nest in some brush. Ray eventually shot the rabbit. Some of the rabbits were roasted in front of the fireplace on a string turning around hanging from nails under the mantle. Ray had a full choke shotgun that he shot a bird out of a fruit tree some 75 yards from the back porch. No one else could top that for distant shooting. While roasting the rabbits we would role hot coals out on the hearth and cook thin slices of cured ham. Dora always made biscuits about 5 inches in diameter. One biscuit with some rabbit or ham made a meal. One Christmas Day I received a football and a piece of fruit from Santa. About the 1<sup>st</sup> or 2<sup>nd</sup> time we kicked the football it was punctured on a cut corn stalk end standing in the corn field at the end of the chicken house. Early memories from the 1930s by A. Paul Bass Jr. May 20, 2001.



From the cemetery on Parker Road, Paul showed me where when he was 8 or 9 years old, Marvin or Dewey hooked up the mule and plow and let him try his hand at plowing the corn field, after plowing up a couple or rows, they decided it wasn't a good idea.

Paul Bass Sr. Jerome Burleson Bass, and Ruby Bass



Front, Jeanette and Dora,  
Bertha, Lowell, Mildred, and Polly

Dora the wife of Ebin Burleson  
Jeanette, Lowell, and Polly are children  
of Shellie and Tiny Vanhoy Burleson.  
Mildred is the child of Dewey Burleson



## Brings Back Memories

The Descendants of Absalom and Sarah Anne Sides Book!  
(Contributed by Nancy Burlison)

I was showing the Absalom book to a friend at work in Charlotte when the friend, Alice Beidleman, saw the heading 'Descendants of Daniel Rufus Bowers' and recognized the name Zora Mae Bowers Harwood. Alice asked if she could copy the pages with the Daniel Rufus Bowers family on them so she could share them with her friend, Mrs. Harwood. She felt that Mrs. Harwood who was in a nursing home would really enjoy seeing information on her descendants published in a book. Mrs. Harwood enjoyed the pages so much that John and I decided to donate one of our Absalom books to her in the name of the BFRG.

On June 18, 2001 I received e-mail from Alice expressing that Mrs. Harwood wanted her to tell me how very much she was enjoying the book (under her new gadget!). She said she had seen so many names of people she knew and even some family she had forgotten. There was a picture of her parents with all the "boys", but not the girls for some reason. Alice said the book has been a real "boost" for her-thanks so much!

Zora Mae Bowers Harwood is living in Asbury Care Center in Charlotte and is 92 years old! She has a machine that magnifies the pages so she can read them, as she is rapidly losing her sight. She is a daughter of Daniel Rufus and Maggie Bowers. She and her sister Pauline are the two members of the Daniel R. Bowers family still living. Zora was so appreciative of the book that she personally wrote us a letter expressing "how happy she was to find so many names of Daniel Bowers family". In her letter, she even sent corrections so the information we have would be totally accurate!

Recently we asked if she had any pictures of her or her sisters we might be able to add to the Daniel Rufus Bowers family pages with the corrections when we had the second printing done. Mrs.



Zora and Pearl  
Harwood 1963

Harwood was kind enough to three pictures. One of Flora, Zora, Pauline the three daughters of Daniel and Maggie Bowers from November 1960; one of Zora and husband Pearl from 1963; and of Flora & Cecil Moose on their Wedding anniversary May 4, 1979. The enjoyment she got from the Absalom book should give all of us encouragement to continue these works to share with future generations.

Thank you Mrs. Harwood and thank you Alice!



Flora, Zora, and Pauline  
The Daughters of Daniel R. Bowers



Flora and Cecil Moose  
50<sup>th</sup> Wedding  
Anniversary

Rufus  
that  
along  
share  
and  
her  
one  
50<sup>th</sup>



# List of Honored Teachers

Past and Present Connected to the Burleson Family

Ulysses Shakespeare Burleyson  
Beulah Burleson Hahn Way  
Charles Glenn Hahn Jr.  
Hilda Burleson Snuggs  
Leon D. Snuggs  
Katherine Almond Talbert  
Lynn Almond Smith  
Nora Blond Burleson Almond  
Amy Lee Hinson  
Bobby Hinson  
Cheryl (Cheri) Carter Parris  
Daniel Burleson  
Glen Dale Burleson  
Judy Carter Hearne  
Philip O. Whitaker III  
Jennifer Christy Whitaker Slusher  
John F. Burleson  
Torrence Homer Almond  
Ireneus R. Burleson  
Isaac Burleson  
Tony Guy Burleson  
Jean Burleson Morgan  
Johnny Paul Burleson  
Carol Westbrook Burleson  
Cindy Burleson Dry  
Angela Burleson Rudisill  
Judy Burleson Carter  
Jane Juanita (Nita) Michael  
Helen Barrett Burleson  
Kathy Lee James Craig  
Roma Burleson Taylor  
William Grover (Burt) Burleson  
Cheryl Lynn Burleson Best  
Karen Rene' Schultz Stoltz  
Paula Burleson Ferree  
Lita Mae Mauldin Gibson  
James Barnwell Gibson Jr  
Judie Burleson Cree  
Judy Allen Hahn Haley  
MORNEN ELLEN LAMBERT ALMOND  
Sherry Burleson Green Lewis  
Steve Newell Almond  
Terrie Burleson Parker  
RAYMOND DWIGHT BURLESON

Jennifer Burleson Hicks  
ED LAMBERT BURLESON  
**Janelle Burleson Coltrane**  
Carolyn Hughes Burleson  
Colleen Story  
Mary Thomas Raper Holbrook  
Joseph Sam Burleson

These are the Teachers we have Identified but don't have any response as of yet. These will be added as we receive information.

Lanny Larmar Burleson  
Connie Everhart Burleson (Mrs Lanny L.)  
Melinda Lowder Burleson (Mrs Dennis)  
Nellie or Dellie Burleson  
Phil T. Burleson  
Reba Burleson (Mrs Phil T.)  
Terry Dean Burleson  
Terrie Hunsucker Burleson (Mrs Ronnie)  
Wendell M. Burleson  
William Columbus Burleson  
Zoe Huneycutt Burleson (Mrs Tony G.)  
Earl Christenbury  
Nancy Higdon  
Julie Burleson Hodge  
Donna Yelton Nunn  
Bobby Schultz  
Lynn Schultz  
Ellen Burleson (Sidney Burleson's daughter)

## Identified at reunion

Need to add to Recollection #5

LouAnn Burleson  
Montie and Marie Burleson  
Donald K. Burleson  
James Vespasian (Pace) Burleson  
Corrina Hardister Burleson

Des of Edward Macon Burleson  
Gloria Burleson  
Crystal Annette Minter  
Karen Elizabeth Minter

**Michael Ray Burleson (Ramon Cline Burleson)**

# Burleson Reunion & Conference – Decatur Alabama

## March 30, 31 and April 1

### Our First Day

John and I arrived in Decatur, Alabama late afternoon on Thursday, March 29. We decided to go a day early to just have some get-away time to ourselves. We stayed at the Holiday Inn and Suites located on the Tennessee River. We enjoyed that!

On Friday, while we were having our breakfast at the restaurant in the hotel, we overheard three women talking at a nearby table. They were talking about Burlesons! After awhile we introduced ourselves and found that all of them were from Texas and one was Nancy McCoy, the woman in charge of the Burleson weekend. Of the other women I could only remember one of their names and that was Sigur Lassiter (she is related to the Burleson's through Rufus Burleson). We all had our own plans for the day, but all agreed we would see each other that evening at the Welcome Reception.

John and I went on and traveled about town. We visited the Decatur Visitor Center, the Archives, and just drove around to get our bearings. We even went shopping for a while at Wal-Mart!

### The Reception

That evening we went to the Morgan Room in the hotel for the Burleson Welcome Reception. There we signed in, and started meeting Burlesons from many different cities and states. We shared snacks, beverages, and conversation as we socialized with various Burleson descendants (there were about 60 people in all).

We then listened to a short program as well as the plans for the next day's tour. There was a message from the President Bill Fischer, and an introduction of Present and past members. There was an explanation why Helen Kelso wasn't there; she is the Head of The Daughter's of the Republic of Texas and was going through another Alamo fight! After May 19, 2001, Helen will be coming back to take an active part in the BFA. She is expected to be completing Volume 18, # 4 and it should be out soon after she returns. There was also a short informational speech from David Burleson (owner of Westview Plantation). Nancy McCoy culminated the meeting by giving the agenda planned for Saturday. They also shared some handouts with the group.

After the reception most of us went to the Hotel Restaurant for a meal of Fried Catfish or Chicken Parmesan. We continued to converse and in doing so realized common traits between our ancestors and families. It was a very enjoyable dinner. After dinner everyone retired to their rooms with plans to meet again in the morning in the hotel lobby.

### The Tour

We all met the next morning in the hotel lobby at 9:30 AM to begin our tour of sights in Decatur. Our first stop was *The Old State Bank*. This is one of four original buildings in Decatur left standing after the Civil War. David Burleson gave us a short, brief history outside, then inside, a woman that works there daily came in on her day off to share the history of the old building and it's upstairs living quarters with us. We went behind the teller's cages, went into the vault (if we dared), and even pretended to be the teller sitting on the stool.

From there we went through a door that took us upstairs to what appeared to be an apartment. This apartment, she explained, was where the head teller of the bank would reside. There was a large meeting room, sitting room, bedroom, and bathroom. She went on to explain that it is believed that his wife and family were not allowed to reside with him there; it was only an apartment for him. The city of Decatur is in the process of trying to refurbish the rooms with original or at least "like original" furnishings from the 1860's. As we were leaving *The Old State Bank*, she told us about the courtyard garden in the back of the building. It was still pretty today, and you could almost feel the history of the whole place as you stood there.

### The Burleson House (Circa 1836)

The next stop on our tour was *The Burleson House*. Though we did not get a chance to go inside as the owners were out of town, David gave us a complete history of the house and it's part in the Civil War. He stated that it housed the headquarters for both the Confederate and the Union Troops (at different times). The house is located on the Tennessee River. It also had some very beautiful gardens around it, especially on the waterfront side.

### Mooreville, Alabama

From here we were supposed to take our lunch Break, however since we were running ahead of schedule, David suggested that we take a short side trip to an old town he thought we might enjoy. We all agreed and hopped into our vehicles and followed David over the bridge across the Tennessee River to a small old town, Mooreville, Alabama. The first building we saw there was a Post Office, right out of the 1820's and still in use! As we strolled through the town, we saw many magnificent old homes, a brick church completed in 1839, and even a Stagecoach Tavern from 1820!

When we left the beautiful old town, we all traveled back toward Decatur to enjoy our lunch with plans to meet again at the Holiday Inn at 2:30 PM to start our afternoon tour.



## Westview Plantation

We headed up to Westview, up on Burleson Mountain. It is a three-story house with a lookout on top. On one of the front columns is a plaque that states, "Westview 1841 has been placed on the National Register of Historic Places by the U. S. Dept. of the Interior". On the other side of the front porch is another column with a plaque that states, "Site of National Reunion of the Burleson Family June 14-15, 1991, marking the 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Westview".

The yard was landscaped beautifully and the views from the mountaintop were just magnificent. David gave us a complete tour of the house with full description of its history. Most of the furniture is an antique and there is even a wooden cradle in one room that has been passed down for six generations.



### F. E. Burleson School

From Westview, we headed to Hartsell, AL where David's workplace, Southtrust Bank, is located. He had set up a chicken barbeque to be catered in for us all on the second floor of the bank on Saturday evening.

On the way, we passed by Bethel Cemetery where many Burleson's are buried. There was also another small cemetery, Jonathan Burleson Cemetery, at the bottom of Burleson Mountain. In telling of his family history at Westview, David spoke of his father, Forest E. Burleson who was principal of F. E. Burleson School for many years. David took us by F. E. Burleson School, which was built in 1916 to show us that it is still in use today, but this probably the last year as a new school is being built. The Town of Hartsell is trying to preserve the old school to turn it into a Senior Citizen Center.

### South Trust Bank Barbecue

We left the school and went about six blocks to the South Trust Bank where David's wife met us with the key to the Bank. We went up to the second floor, where tables were set up for all of us to eat. There were about 50 of us in all. The caterer's arrived and we all chowed down! After dinner, Stanly Burleson pulled out his guitar and started playing and singing some Gospel songs. Many of us joined in, if we knew the words. We slowly left the Bank, saying our good-byes and Thank you's as we went. It was a wonderful day, well spent learning and sharing with newfound friends and family.

John Hoyle & Nancy Burleson



Westview's 150<sup>th</sup> Anniversary in 1991 was the site of the BFA National Reunion that year



Plaque showing that Westview (built in 1841) is listed in the National Registry of Historic Places by the US Dept. of the Interior

## Monday Night Football

By John Hoyle Burleson

“Hoyle I don’t see why you invite your buddies over here on Monday night to watch the football game on TV. They all have a TV at home, don’t they?” asked Louise.

Hoyle replied, “Sure they do, but they’re my buddies at work and it’s just a friendly tradition to watch the game together.”

Louise said, “Well they do try to behave, but the “friendly tradition” before TV and football surely must have been more civilized.”

Hoyle then said, “My Daddy told me about Grandpa Billie; those were the days before TV and football. On Monday nights he would have friends over to play cards. Since this was illegal he only invited people he knew or that the other players knew. This was back in the 1860’s and 1870’s”.

“Well Hoyle, Playing poker I bet no body came in dressed like a Viking or a Red Skin. Last week a guy came dressed as a Dolphin!” exclaimed Louise.

Hoyle said, “Well, one of Billie’s regulars always dressed a little better than our local farmers. He was a stock buyer and horse trader from Missouri.”

Louise replied, “I bet he didn’t jump around and pretend to be a professional athlete.”

Hoyle said, “No he didn’t. In fact he came here to take advantage of the healing mineral waters of Rocky River Springs. He said it helped him recover from wounds he received during the Civil War.”

Louise stated, “Then he was a true Southern Gentleman and I bet he conducted himself in a civilized manner.”

“Mr. Howard was a gentleman and did serve the Southern cause during the War,” Hoyle continued, “but he openly expressed contempt for the carpetbag officials of that day.”

Louise said, “Those Law enforcement officers were just doing their job to keep law and order and you know it. Being a civilized gentleman, unlike your football buddies, I’m sure Mr. Howard understood this too.”

Hoyle replied, “Well, Mr. Howard did not fear the officers, but after six or seven months of treatment at Rocky River Springs he returned to Clay County.”

“This proves that your football buddies aren’t even as civilized as Grandpa Billie’s poker buddies of a hundred years ago.”, stated Louise.

Hoyle explained, “ I guess I better tell you all the facts, Louise, Mr. Howard was not the poker players real name, he was none other than Jesse James the notorious outlaw!”