

John Cox's Letter

Some years ago the Mullin school board invited Hon. Jno. L. Cox of Temple to deliver an address at the school commencement in this city and his reply is here presented for it's historic worth and in respect to the memory of Mr. Cox., who was always an enterprising and progressive citizen, ever ready to assist with all of his ability in the advancement of every laudable undertaking. He was truly a valuable person. His family lives in Dallas at this time.

The Letter

It may be of interest to some of the new citizens to know something of the early history of the Mullin school. I will therefore, try to give you a few brief facts relating to the same.

I moved from Santa Ana to Mullin on December 26, 1886, having married my wife (Miss Emma Martin) at the former place on May 28, of the same year. We first lived in the Santa Fe depot at Mullin, I was agent and operator for the G.C. & S.F. Ry. Co. at that time, until the spring of 1887, when I built and removed to to my residence on the south side of town, where I continued to reside until I removed to Goldthwaite in May 1895. When I first went to Mullin, J.A. Conner, T.S. Baird, M.C. Kirkpatrick, was the entire citizenship of the town. J.L. Burkett was interested with Mr. Pyeatt, who was his brother-in-law, in a blacksmith and wood shop, but still lived at Williams Ranch, riding back and forth daily on horseback. All the old settlers remember the bay horse, "Boy", Joe used to ride. He was faster than an airship and made more noise with his feet than a crippled automobile.

At that time there was neither church nor school building at Mullin, the nearest being at Williams Ranch. I remember that in April, 1887, Alex Conner, Mose Kirkpatrick, Joe Burkett, Major Trent, and myself met at Major Trent's residence in Williams Ranch and held an election for school trustees for the school district, which at that time was in Brown County. I have a distinct recollection of using Joe Burkett's hat for a ballot box, which we passed around among the bunch. If my memory serves me correctly, we elected Major D. H. Trent, Joe L. Burkett, and J.A. Conner trustees I do not know whether the ballot box (Burkett's hat) was 'stuffed' or not, but I do know that Tammany Hall was never more powerful in politics than was this gang of patriots in that community at that time. Some of those present will recall that at least some of the old-timers made a kick about the result of this election and said something about dark lantern methods, etc., but he soon got in a good humor and the election was not contested. I have reference to our bright , but eratic friend, Captain Hutchison, now deceased.

In August of the same year (1887) Mills County organized, having been created by act of the Legislature in the spring of that year. After the organization of

Mills County, the Mullin School District was created and a one story, wooden building, 25x59 feet erected on the site of the present magnificent edifice. This humble structure was built by voluntary contributions, of the people of Mullin Community, some of which was paid in money and material and a good portion in labor. Uncle Jack Wheatley was employed as Superintendent of construction, and several others assisted him, charging nothing for their work. Joe Burkett, Alex Conner, T.S. Baird, M.C. Kirkpatrick, W.D. Fisher, Floyd Slempe, Newt Pyeatt, E. Oxley, and several others whose names I do not at this time recall, worked on the building. The writer helped to nail the shingles on the roof and as I recollect, it was my first experience in that sort of work. The lumber used in that building was purchased from C.M. Campbell, Sr., who at that time had a lumber yard at Pelton. He now resides in Temple. Mr. Campbell sold us the lumber at actual cost, on account of the purpose for which it was to be used. We were very proud of the building after same was completed and for several years, in addition to being used for school purposes, it was used by all denominations for church and Sunday School services. We also held our political gatherings in same. I believe, however, that an addition was made to the first building sometime in the year 1890, by this time the town and community had begun to settle up, several new families being added to our original citizenship. Some of the early ministers who used to come and preach for us in the old wooden school building, as I now recall, were Reverend G.W. Templin, Now of Goldthwaite, Rev. T. Sykes, who now resides in San Angelo, Rev. H.P. Wellbourn, Rev. J.D. Robinett, Rev. B.T. McClelland, Rev. D.I. Haralson, Rev. W.S. Harris, Rev. Rev. Jno. C. S. Baird & Rev. M.L. Weatherby, nearly all of whom have gone to their reward long since.

Joe L. Burkett, M.C. Kirkpatrick and the writer were the first school trustees for the Mullin district and we employed Prof. R.B. Sharp, now living in Okla., to teach the first public school, which he opened in October 1888. Those (or some of them) who had children entering the first school were B.J. White, J.L. Burkett, T.S. Baird, Capt. Jno. E. Martin, W.D. Fisher, Floyd Slempe, N.J. Pyeatt, Everett Oxley and Joe Jackson. I believe Prof. Sharp taught two terms, but am not certain about it. Then came Profs. M.J. Doyle, A.J. Sibley, T.E. Alvis, and another young begoggled stip of a petagogue whose name I do not at this time recall, who taught sucessively and sucessfully under the difficulties they had to contend with.

In the summer of 1894, the Mullin independent school district was created and the following trustees elected; Dr. Jno.. P. Sharp, G.H. Dalton, M.C. Kirkpatrick, W.W. Roberts, Jno. J. Cox, and I believe, one other, making six in all, I do not recall the name of the sixth man, but believe it was J.W. Lumpkin or E. F. Casey, but I am not sure, as I am writing from memory only.

During the summer and fall of 1894, the people of the independent district voted \$2400.00 bonds and built the old four room, two story stone building that

that stands just south of the new edifice. Out of the proceeds of the sale of this \$2400.00 bond issue, we paid for the building, purchased patent desks and blackboards for the same, I make this statement for the benefit of those who wonder why the old stone building was not better and more substantial than it now appears to be. We were like the nigger's rabbit, when told that rabbits could not climb trees, he replied that a dog was after this rabbit, and he just had to climb a tree. We were pretty much in the same fix---we just had to build and equip a suitable building out of this amount of money, and we did it. There was only one or two votes against this bond issue, which shows the great interest the people of that community had in the matter at that time. Is it any wonder that they should have succeeded so admirably with such a spirit of enterprise as those good people have manifested from the settlement of the town and community. We think not. After the completion of the old stone building, we employed Prof. J.W. Merchant of San Saba as principal, now called Superintendent, Luther Warren of Virginia, as first assistant and Miss. Mary Anderson, (now Mrs. Bolen Tyson) as primary teacher, In order to do this, it was necessary to supplement the public funds by private subscription, but the people came nobly to the rescue of the board and contributed several hundred dollars in order to pay this splendid corps of teachers salary enough to secure their services. It was a hard pull to get the educational interest thus started and launched, but it was accomplished and the writer is gratified and much pleased with the results, and shall always be proud of the humble part he played in the accomplishments and success of this progressive movement.

I shall not undertake to enter into detail with reference to the different teachers and boards that have controlled and directed the school interests and affairs of the Mullin schools since the year 1895, which as already stated is the year I removed from Mullin to Goldthwaite, but suffice it to say that you have steadily pushed forward in an educational sense and every citizen should be grateful to those who have managed their affairs so faithfully and well. I trust that the next decade will demonstrate the wisdom and foresight of those who have given so generously of their time, talent and means to promote the material interests of your town and community. The writer indulges the hope that the advancement of the town and community where he made his humble beginning in his chosen profession will be even greater in the future than in the past.

This article has grown longer than I had intended, and still I have not said near all I would like to say, if I had the time and space, but must close.

Before concluding I want to pause to say that no better and patriotic people ever lived anywhere on God's footstool than the people who first settled your community and those who have cast their fortunes with them since that time. I shall always gratefully remember them for their acts of kindness and encouragement to me and mine during the hardest struggles of my existence. It was at Mullin that I

spent my early married life. All my children were born there.

When I can serve any of the good people of that community in any way, all they have to do is call on me.

I cannot close this communication without personally thanking Dr. R.H. Jones, president and John S. Chessar, secretary, Dr. J.L. Harrington, E.F. Casey, A.F. Shelton, J.H. Wilson and Francis Linnswebber, members of the school board, for the courtesy and honor extended me with the invitation extended to be present and address you tomorrow, and sincerely regret that I cannot be present in person.

Yours Very Sincerely,

Jno. J. Cox

HISTORY OF BURKETT FAMILY RETRACED BY TOUR

One hundred years of family history were retraced, if not relived, in one day during the Holiday Season by six of the seven living children of J.L. and Della Burkett and one grand daughter, and one great grand son in observance of the one hundreth anniversary of the arrival on Christmas Day, 1865 here in Central Texas, of Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his family. Joe L. Burkett being one of these children.

Loaded with old newspaper clippings, letters from old settlers, and their families, records from Mills County Court House and tales told from memory by the older ones of the family, the pilgrimage followed a route from Mullin to Goldthaite, and on to Hoover Valley in Burnet County, to Joy Cemetery, to Williams Ranch, to the Jackson Crossing on the Pecan Bayou, to Chessar Valley and back to Mullin. Each site was honored by the reading of records of the events which occurred there, and tales from the memories of those present, brought back by visiting old landmarks.

Beginning with the first landmark on our route, we stopped near a grove of liveoak trees on a chalky hill on the east side of highway 183 on the farm now owned by C.F. Stubblefield, between Mullin and Goldthwaite. It was on this site in 1868, that John Morris was killed by Indians. Joe Burkett helped carry his body to the home of John Dan Chessar, which was on the Williams Ranch and Chalk Mountain Road. Mr. Morris lived in Center City and was killed only twelve miles from his home.

Not too far from the place where John Morris was killed is the location of another exciting incident in the early history of this county. This near tragedy happened on land now owned by Don Geeslin. Nancy Epley left her uncle's log cabin and went to Brown's Creek to do some washing, then walked to the old rock house where Uncle John Williams lived, to borrow some smoothing irons. As she climbed over the rail fence, she was attacked by one of two pet bear cubs, which were chained to stakes in the Williams' yard. The bear, dragging his stake and chain, seized Nancy's arm, mauling her and tearing the flesh of her face and shoulder. Old Rock, the Williams' blue, shaggy dog, attacked the bear. Old Rock was no match for the bear, but he kept worrying him until Nancy was able to get away and run to the house. The bear made chase and started mauling the door and was about to tear it down, but there happened to be several women in the house and they cut strips of fresh beef and thrust it out the window to attract the bear away from the door. Nancy's sister, Josie, slipped out the back door of the house, jumped on a horse and raced to Williams Ranch for help. Ben White, who worked for the mill and who was at that moment building cages for the bears, heard the screams of the women and started for the cabin. He met Josie but had

to go back to the mill for his gun. Hurrying back to the Williams house, he killed the bear. Nancy was painfully injured and bore the scars of the attack to her grave. Nancy Epley later was married to Newt Pyeatt, brother of our Mother, Della Pyeatt Burkett. Josie later married Charlie Conner who preceded her in death. She died in a rest home in Baird, Texas, February 1966 at the age of one hundred and two years.

Near the cemetery at Williams Ranch is a hanging tree which is probably a unique one, for in it was hanged a white man and a negro at the same time. The story of this hanging has been handed down by word of mouth and according to the story, the negro boy was the son of a freed slave. At any rate the two youths decided to go to a ranch in Coleman County where the white boy's uncle lived and get a job on the ranch. Transportation was a problem and they solved that problem by taking two horses owned by the white boy's father, planning to turn the horses loose when they reached the uncle's ranch, knowing they would find their way home. When the white boy's father discovered that the boys and the horses were missing, he sent a telegram to Williams Ranch, directing the authorities to hold the two boys for horse stealing. The telegram office was in the Florida Hotel, owned by Captain A.A.Hutchison. When Captain Hutchison received the telegram he recognized two of his guests to be the two young horse thieves. Peace Officers were in Brownwood, too far away from this part of the county, so a mob had been organized to enforce the law and order here in this no man's land. The story goes that the two boys were taken out and hanged in one tree. Horse thieves received swift punishment in the early days. The father of the white boy only wanted the boys held there so he could recover his horses and probably persuade the boys to go back with him.

Another story of another hanging tree near Williams Ranch on the old Johnny Long place, tells of the time when the mob had given a man living at Williams Ranch, his ten-day notice to leave the country. The ten days were passed and the man did not leave. The mob rode to the man's house, took him to the hanging tree and put the rope around his neck, as the noose was tightened, the man asked if he might be granted one last request. He was allowed to state his request. He asked permission to pray before his execution. Having received this permission, he knelt there and in the presence of this band of men, he prayed long and fervently. As he prayed, one of the men slipped the noose off his neck and one by one the members of the mob stole away, silently, mounted their horses and rode away into the night. This man lived out his life at Williams Ranch.

The mob hanged a Mexican on the Burrows place across the road from the Niles Wooten Place on the old Wire Road west of Willowby Creek. Henry Leal lived near there with his Mother. He was accused of driving stolen horses for other men to the Indian Territory to be sold. The mob went to the Leal house by night

to take Henry Leal and hang him. Sleeping with Henry that dark night was a Mexican who lived in San Saba and had come to visit Henry's Mother. When Henry heard the mob arrive and call his name, he slipped out of bed and through a window at the back of the house. When Henry did not come out, the mob went into the house, found the older Mexican in Henry's bed and in the darkness, thinking they had Henry Leal, they hanged the man. They learned their mistake only when daylight came and revealed the identity of the hanged man. Though Henry Leal escaped death that night by a terrible mistake, he later was caught and hanged in a Spanish oak sapling on what has come to be called Leal Mountain on the Witt Hodges place, three miles north of Mullin.

The mob was originally formed by responsible citizens for the protection of early day settlers in the absence of duly elected or appointed peace officers, but eventually it degenerated into an organization to take care of personal grudges and land grabbing. If a citizen should be scared out of the country by a notice from the mob without time to dispose of his property, then his place fell to the greed of unscrupulous men. Recognizing and deploring the unlawful actions of the mob and the terror that struck the hearts of honest men and their families because of it, a jury consisting of J.S. Weatherby, Phil Duren, T.B.Graves, J.B. Murrah, J.L.Burkett, John Vann, ---Drybread, Faulkner, Dan Bush, Billy Gray, Jimmy Ewing, and Bryan Humphries in 1893 took action to end this reign of terror, here.

District court was in session, the grand jury had found a true bill against a member of the mob for murder. This man had been recognized by some one and was indicted, though he was only one of the number of men who had participated in the hanging. Until this time each grand jury had been made up of at least seven mob men and the remainder were men who opposed the mob, so that no true bill could ever be found against a member of the mob. This grand jury consisted of five mob members and seven anti-mob men. When the trial came up, about seventy men from Mills County and about thirty-five men from San Saba county rode up to the court house carrying guns. The sheriff ordered them to stack their guns outside. When the judge heard of the arrival of these armed men, he announced the trial would be postponed because some of the important witnesses had failed to appear. At the next session of court, the trial was called again. Again armed men rode into town for the trial, though the number had decreased by about half. Indicating that the strength was decreasing, again the Judge announced that the trial would have to be postponed because important witnesses had failed to appear.

The third time the trial came up, no armed men showed up. The judge threw the case out of court. The mob rule was ended.

Driving on to Hoover's Valley we stopped to view the farm where Jacob Lorenza Burkett, father of Joe Burkett, lived. We also went to the cemetery to see the grave of Joe Burkett's Mother, who died leaving several small children. Kind neighbors

took the children into their homes, caring for them until their father remarried, two years later, when he gathered them together again under one roof. We also saw the grave where the Whitlock Family was buried. They were killed by Indians. Due to the Indian raids, the Jacob Burkett family moved to Big Valley in Mills County where he pre-empted a farm. Then we drove to Joy Cemetery which is now called Mohler Cemetery. It is located on the farm owned by John R. Parker, where Baldy Rudd now lives. There we visited the grave of our Grandfather, Jacob Lorenza Burkett, who was a first Lieutenant in the army of the Confederacy. The grave is marked by a stone erected by the Mills County Historical Society. We also stopped in Mr. Parker's pasture by the ruins of the old Joy home. Mrs. Joy was an early day postmistress, and to their home, mail was brought by horse back.

At Williams Ranch, memories crowded thick and fast, for our parents, Joe and Della Burkett had lived there and their first three children were born there. Joe Burkett and Newt Pyeatt, his brother-in-law, owned and operated a blacksmith shop there. Williams Ranch was a busy frontier town, boasting several businesses. Among them, a drug store owned by Phil Clements, father of Earl and Duke Clements; the old Florida Hotel, whose proprietor was Capt. A.A. Hutchison. When the right-of-way for the rail road missed Williams Ranch, some of the settlers moved to Mullin and some to Goldthwaite. Among those moving to Mullin were, the Joe Burketts and the Eli Fairmans, though the Fairmans later moved to Goldthwaite. Mary Burnet Burkett, Mother of Jacob Lorenza Burkett, is buried at Williams Ranch. The cemetery, filled with grey, weather-worn headstones and graves surrounded by sandstone fences and some completely covered by huge, hand carved sandstones, held such interest for us that we lingered there reminiscing and reading excerpts from letters and articles written by other one-time residents of the almost abandoned town, until we knew we had to leave if we were to see all the places planned for the day's itinerary.

The story of the massacre by the Indians of the Jackson Family was retold and a letter from the little Jackson girl, who was taken captive by the Indians along with a brother, when they killed the father and Mother and another brother and sister, was read on the site of the killing. We visited the graves where they were buried, the father and a sixteen year old daughter in one grave where they fell and the mother and young son in one grave where they fell. The graves were outlined by old, red sandstones guarding them from being lost from the passing of time. The two children who were taken captive by the Indians, managed to escape and were trying to make their way back to the settlement, when they were found, almost starved and exhausted, by neighbors who had followed the trail of the Indians in search of them.

In Chessar Valley, now known as Sleepy Hollow Farm, we saw the site of

the old Bill Williams home where Joe and Della Burkett were married June 11, 1882. Not too far from there we found the ruins of the old Bud Forsythe home where Joe and Della lived when they first married. The old George Williams home still stands in Chessar Valley, being built of native rock.

Leaving Chessar Valley and going back to Mullin, we stopped by Oakview Cemetery. In the south part of the cemetery is the site of one of the last Indian fights to take place in this part of Mills County., in which Joe Burkett took part. The Indian Chief was killed by Bill Williams, father of Ave, Henry and Marion

Williams. The Indians placed the body of the chief across a horse and took it with them. The raid took place about sundown. Early the next morning, the white men followed the trail of the Indians. They came upon a fresh grave on the farm now owned by Mrs. Lou Rothwell. Upon investigation the grave was found to contain the body of the Indian Chief, which proved to be a white man clothed in Indian war dress, a resident of Williams Ranch. This white man disappeared from the community on several occasions for two or three months at a time. Each time he disappeared, an Indian raid would take place. The discovery that the Indian Chief was a white man, suggested to the settlers that this man was helping the Indians steal their horses and then selling them. Here on a rise of ground on or near this site, Joe and Della Burkett are buried along with some of their children and grandchildren. The visit of their graves marked the end to the day's journey.

The observation of this one-hundredth anniversary was to honor the lives of our parents and to mark these events deep in our memories. Those making the tour of the sites of events taking place in the pioneer days of this part of the country were; Edgar L. Burkett, Floyd E. Burkett, Birdie Burkett Chambers, Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin, B.A. Hodges, and Gladys Burkett Hodges; their daughter, Helen Hodges Mayr, Wesley Ray Mayr, son of Paul R. and Helen Hodges Mayr, and grandson of B.A. and Gladys Hodges. John I. Burkett and Merle Means Burkett. Anna Burkett Jackson was unable to make the trip with her brothers and sisters due to inclement weather.

CLOSING WORDS

We, the ten children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett and Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett, want all of the other direct descendants to know the facts contained in this book about our ancestors, our children and ourselves. We trust that you have read and accepted these true facts and related information with the willingness and purpose we had in mind recording them for you. We hope that you will preserve this family history for future reference because we know by experience that in the evening of life when you start down the other side of the hill, you will spend many lonely moments wondering about these things.

THE END

PREFACE

This information about our Burketts and some related families is intended to supplement the Burkett Family History written in 1963 by the children of Joe and Della Burkett of Mills County, Texas. Additional knowledge has been acquired since that time, and we want to share it with you. Although we have done a great amount of careful research for this family history---traveled thousands of miles in many states, read a large number of books and official papers, talked with dozens of people who knew or had heard of our Burketts and allied kin--we realize this information is quite limited and may contain errors. We trust you will appreciate our efforts, correct the errors you see, add whatever extra information you want to include. This book is in a loose leaf arrangement for addition of extra pages that you may want in it.

We are very grateful, indeed, to all persons who helped with this book. Special thanks goes to my Mother, her sisters and brothers, children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett, for cheerfully sharing their knowledge and encouraging us to learn more about our people.

This history starts with my great, great grandfather, Henry Burkett, Sr., born about 1796 in Virginia and died in 1875 in Tennessee. He was the first Burkett ancestor definitely known to be related to our Burketts in Mills County, Texas. Henry's son Jacob Lorenza Burkett, born and reared in middle Tennessee came to central Texas in 1865. Jacob was the father of Joe or J.L. (Joseph Lafayette) Burkett, who lived most of his married life at Mullin in Mills County.

by Stella B. Jackson McMichael

HENERY BURKETT

1796 - 1875

Henry Burkett was a thrifty, industrious owner of a large farm, several head of live-stock, and a well equipped blacksmith shop which he operated along with his farm and livestock production in Cannon County, Tennessee.

It has been said that Henry's craftmanship in blacksmithing went far beyond that of the ordinary work and that he made or repaired articles for household use as well as ~~farm equipment and the shoeing of horses.~~

A good family man, Henry provided well for his wife and children. He also helped the grandchildren whose parents were ill or dead. His good business judgement, skills and habits of steady work apparently were not cultivated by all of his children after they became adults. Most of them moved from place to place, acquiring very little money or property.

Henry's kind, gentle ways and deep love for his family and neighbors did become strong character traits of his children, especially the sons.

MARY EPLEY BURKETT

1800 - 1884

Mary Epley's parents lived in Pennsylvania before migrating to North Carolina where Mary was born and lived until she married Henry Burkett whose family had moved from Virginia to North Carolina.

Several Burkett and Epley families moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in the 1820's Some of them later moved to Missouri and Texas.

Henry and Mary Epley Burkett lived out their married life in Tennessee. After Henry's death in 1875, Mary moved to Lampasas County, Texas, where she lived with her children Jacob Burkett and Mary J. Burkett Young in the Big Valley Community, now a part of Mills County.

Mary Epley Burkett died July 29, 1884. She was buried in Williams Ranch Cemetery, Mills County, Texas.

During our childhood, we heard that one of our great, great grandmothers in the Burkett family could not or would not speak any language but German. She even read the Bible in German language to her grandchildren who spoke English only. Some of our relatives think she was Mary Epley Burkett. Many years have passed and we may have her confused with another grandmother. Our Burketts, also of German descent, are thought to have had neighboring relatives in Tennessee that spoke German at home, and used the Germanic spelling of Berget for their family name.

HENRY AND MARY (EPLEY) BURKETT
FAMILY

HENRY BURKETT, Sr., born about 1796 in Virginia
died March 30, 1875 in Tennessee
married in early 1820's to:

MARY EPLEY, born 1800 in North Carolina
died July 29, 1884 in Texas

Henry and Mary Burkett lived most or all their married life in central Tennessee. They settled in Warren county, Tennessee in the early 1820's and stayed there until the 1840's, when they became citizens of the adjoining Cannon county, where they lived until Henry died in 1875. Several months later (perhaps one or two years) later, Mary moved with their daughters, Martha J. Young and Mary C.E. Brown and families to Lampasas County, Texas, where the son and brother Jacob Lorenza Burkett was already living. In fact, Jacob brought his mother and sisters to Texas when he returned temporarily to Tennessee for settlement of his father's estate.

Eight sons and two daughters were born to Henry and Mary Burkett. If they had other children, we do not know about them. The following list will contain names, significant dates, and marriage partners of the Burkett children:

1. Henry Burkett, Jr., born 1825 or 1826 in Tennessee
died about 1855 in Missouri
Married about 1847 to Nancy Evans in Tennessee
2. John Burkett, born 1828 in Tennessee
died after 1870, probably in Tennessee
Married in 1849 to Paulina Markham in Tennessee
3. Andrew J. Burkett, born about 1829 in Tennessee
died after Civil War; where ?
Married about 1850 to Nancy Jane Derryberry in Tennessee
4. Jacob Lorenza Burkett, born 1830 in Tennessee
died about 1876 in Texas
Married (1) Lavina Burnett about 1850 in Tennessee
(2) Matilda Reed in 1869 in Texas

5. Nathaniel D. Burkett, born about 1833 in Tennessee
died after Civil War; where ?
(An old newspaper mentioned death of
a Nathaniel Burkett about 1903 in Lavaca county,
Texas. I've lost the old paper and do not recall
details of this obituary.)

married:----?

6. George Washington Burkett, born about 1835 in Tennessee
died after Civil War; where?

married in the 1850's to Lucinda----

7. James Burkett, born about 1838 in Tennessee
died after 1880; where?

*8. Mary C.E. Burkett, born 1841 in Tennessee
died after 1883; maybe in Texas

9. Martha J. Burkett, born 1842 in Tennessee
died after 1907 in Oklahoma

Married 1864 to William Young (Yonge) in Tennessee

10. David E. Burkett, born about 1846 in Tennessee
died about 1926 in Tennessee

Married (1) Frances Ferrell in 1867 in Tennessee
(2) Mrs. Emma Phillips in 1919 in Tennessee

***Mary C. E. Burkett Married a Mr. Brown in Tennessee

We do not know the names of parents or brothers and sisters of our Henry Burkett (1796 - 1875). Family tradition is that Henry was the son of a German (Dutch) imigrant who landed in Philidelphia soon after American Revolution ended in 1783; then migrated through Virginia on to North Carolina, and maybe to Tennessee. Another tradition is that Henry's father might have used the German form of name Berget or a close variation of that spelling, and might have been the old JACOB BERGET living near Henry.

Official probate and estate records of Warren county, Tennessee, mention a George Burkett who could have been a brother to Henry.

HENRY BURKETT

to

Last Will and Testament

I, Henry Burkett of the County of Cannon and the State of Tennessee, being now far spent in years, but of sound and disposing memory and knowing the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death which I must meet before a great many years.-- I hereby make and publish this, my last Will and Testament, revoking and making void all other wills by me at anytime heretofore made; and by this will I wish all my property, both real and personal, disposed of in the manner herein directed after it shall please God to take me away from this world.

1. It is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid after my death as soon as can be done, by my executors, out of any money or other effects I may die possessed of, my funeral expense first to be paid.
2. I hereby give and bequeath all my property, both real and personal, to my beloved wife MARY BURKETT for and during her natural life and widowhood, with the exceptions hereafter stated, to have and enjoy during her life in widowhood for her benefit and support; and in case my stock of any sort should accumulate by increase after my death until there is more than my wife can take care of or have a use for, then she is at liberty to sell off any part of surplus property and use the proceeds of sale for her own use and benefit.
3. It is my will, and I hereby will and bequeath unto all my children, share and share alike equal portions of my estate, both real and personal, after the death of my beloved wife, Mary Burkett; and if any of my children shall be dead at the death of my wife, leaving children, then their children are to represent the interest and be entitled to the portion of my Estate which their estate parents would have been entitled to.
4. It is further my will and I hereby direct that after the death of my beloved wife, Mary Burkett, my executors will after advertising, sell all my property, both real and personal. The personal property to be sold on a credit of twelve months with good and approved security for the purchase money, retaining a lien on the land until the purchase money is paid. I direct that my said Executors advertize my personal property for sale by posters and in the

the county newspaper, if any, for at least thirty days; and my real estate in like manner for at least forty days. . I further direct that in case any of my children, or grandchildren whose parents may be dead at the time, are poor and in judgment of my Executors it is for them to do so-- my Executors are to sell anything of the sale notes, for either real or personal property, at the best price they can get, not to exceed ten percent discount, and equally divide the proceeds among those entitled under this will; if any who are entitled are minors, at the time, their parts to be paid over to their regular guardians. I hereby nominate, constitute and appoint Josephus Finley my Executor to this last Will and Testament to carry out the same.

Given under my hand on this the 20th day of June, A D 1874.

Signed and acknowledged
in the presence of witnesses

his
Henry X Burkett
mark

H. J. St. John

A. Finley

HENRY, JR. & NANCY EVANS BURKETT

Henry Burkett, Jr.

born 1825 in Warren County ? Tennessee
died ca 1855 in Missouri

married ca 1847 in Tennessee to;
Nancy Evans, 1825 - 1898 in DeKalb Co. Tenn.

three children, all born in Tennessee

1. James E. Burkett, 1848 - 1935 ? d. in Mo.
wife, Angie Brown
children ? ?

2. Isaac Evans Burkett, 1849 - 1932, Dekalb Co. Tenn.
wife, Mary Belle Parker, 1865 - 1921

five children:

(1). Hellon ? Burkett married James McCool
in Tenn., moved near Sulphur Springs, TX; five
children; Burkett, Robert, Clarice, Forbis, Faye

(2) Sgt. Robert Burkett, 1881 - 1931
wife, Minnie Record, 1884 - 1970

(3). Clarice Burkett, 1892 -- alive May '73
husband, Walter Boyd

sons: Robert and Howard
Clarice, widowed, lives Lebanon, Tenn.

(4). William Wauford Burkett, 1901 - 1943
Two marriages;
1. Annie Midget (Later they divorced)

sons: Wm. W. Burkett, Jr.
Killed 1944, France

Bob Preston Burkett, Sr.
wife, Frances Ann Brown
called "Brownie" Burkett
Murfreesboro, Tenn.

sons; William Jonathan Burkett'
Bob Preston Burkett, Jr.

2. Callie Kelly

children; Kenneth, Ronald, Betty Jo,
(a md. dau. in Kentucky)

(5). Wilburn Lee Burkett, --- --- ---
wife; Wanda L., Tresa A., Preston L., Clarice A.

3. Robert Burkett, 1853 - 1870

NANCY A. BURKETT HUGGENS

Nancy A. Burkett and three older brothers were the orphan children of a son of Henry, Sr. and Mary Epley Burkett. We do not know which son, but think he was either George or Nathaniel, because we have proof that all the other sons of Henry and Mary Burket were living long after Nancy A. went to live with her Aunt, Nancy Evans Burkett.

Later the orphan, Nancy A. Burkett, married a Huggens and lived most or all her married life in Wilson County, Tennessee.. We do not know whether they had any children.

The three older orphan brothers of Nancy A. Burkett seemed to have lost all contact with their Burket relatives, and we are unable to tell you the first names of these orphan brothers. The father and mother both died while the children were very young. Neighbors who took the boys apparently moved away from the vicinity. One story is that in her old age, Nancy A. Burkett Huggens learned that one of her brothers had reared his family in the adjoining county of Warren, Tennessee.

The limited information on this page was given to us by desendants of ~~Henry Burkett, Jr. and his wife, Nancy Evans. These descendants said~~ that older relatives called Nancy A. Burkett, 'Cousin Nan' and remembered that she sometimes mentioned a George Burkett(maybe her father) and Henry Burkett, Sr., her grandfather.

JOHN AND PAULINA MARCUM BURKETT

John Burkett, born 1828 in Warren County ? Tennessee
died -----

married 11 March 1849 in Cannon County to;
Miss. Paulina Marcum (Markham), 1830---

Children; Jobe, Thomas, Mary, others ?
born; 1850, 1853, 1856

Jobe (J.M.) Burkett 1850---

married Aug. 22, 1872 in Cannon County, Tennessee
to Rebecca Caroline Rigsby
born Dec. 1844 -- died Nov. 26, 1927 .

children; Almon Lee 'Aud', Tolbert, Julia Ann, Elizabeth,
Dolly; others?

Almon Lee Burkett - July 22, 1873 -- May 26, 1944
married Dec. 16, 1895 in Cannon County, Tenn.
Nancy Caldon Bogle - July 14, 1872 -- Dec.
6, 1953.

Both are buried in ~~Maple Hill~~ Cemetery, Huntsville,
Ala.

Almon & 'Dona' Burkett had 2 sons & 6 daughters;
Gentry, J.B., Audey S. ,Ova, Tildie, Elisabeth,
Ara HESSIE, Leva Joanne, Martha

Audey S. Burkett, born Jan. 22, 1913, Cannon County
was youngest child of Almon and Dona Burkett.
Audey married Aug. 28, 1936 in Huntsville, Ala.
Agnes Owens. Their three children are; Kenneth
Wayne, Marlene Faye, Frances Elaine

Audey and Agnes Burkett live in Huntsville, Alabama.
He is retired from George C. Marshall Space Flight
Center in Huntsville.

J.B. Buekett, born Sept. 24, 1910, Cannon Co.
Married Bessie Bryant. They have three girls, Betty,
Brenda, Deborah; 1 son, William Verne

J.B. and Bessie Burkett live in New Market, Ala.
He works for Dunlop Rubber Company.

ANDREW AND NANCY DERRYBERRY BURKETT

Andrew J. Burkett, born ca. 1829 in Warren Count, Tenn.
died after 1904 ? Cannon County, Tenn.

Married in Oct. 1850 in Cannon County, Tennessee

Miss Nancy Jane Derryberry, born 1831, in Tennessee to Jeremiah and Susanah Derryberry. Jeremiah D. was born ca 1804 in Kentucky; Susanah ca 1810 in North Carolina.

We are almost certain that Andrew J. and Nancy Jane D. Burkett had a son named Andrew J. Burkett born ca 1869, and still living in July 1935 near Bradyville in Cannon County. They probably had more children.

In 1970, we talked to an old man in Cannon County, I do not remember his name. He was living in his farm home that had been built on the same site of an old, old house where Andrew J. Burkett had lived when he sold the farm in 1904 to the man with whom we talked. He said Andrew was a very old man then. We think it was the Andrew J. Burkett born in 1829, and that he had inherited the land from his parents, Henry and Mary Epley Burkett.

JAMES AND MARY GILLEY BURKETT

James Burkett, born ca 1838 in Warren County, Tenn., married January 17, 1856 in Cannon County, Tenn., Miss Mary A. Gilley, born ca 1837 in Tenn. Their known (to us) children were; Sarah E. -1857; Jacob, -1862; Adelia - 1867; Clementine - 1868.

This James Burkett family lived near Shop Springs, in Wilson County, Tenn. in July 1870. We have on further record of them except a letter written on April 9, 1907 by James' sister, Martha J. Burkett Young at Hollis, Oklahoma, saying she did not know where James was living at that time, 1907. The letter was written to their brother, David E. Burkett in Cannon County, Tennessee.

MARTHA J. BURKETT AND WILLIAM A. YOUNG

Martha J. Burkett born about 1842 in Cannon County, Tennessee was married there in Dec. 1864 to William A. Young, also born 1842 in Tennessee. His name was spelled Yonge on some records.

Martha and William had five children born in Tenn.
Eupha A. 1866; Mary F. 1868; Elizabeth 1870;
James H. 1872; William K. 1875
Thomas C. was born 1879 in Lampasas County, Texas.

This family moved from Mills county, Texas in 1890's to Hollis Oklahoma.

DAVID E. BURKETT

David E. Burkett was born ca 1846 in Cannon County, Tenn. and died there ca 1926. He had two marriages; first on Nov. 28, 1867 to Miss. Frances Ferrell, who died in 1918. His second marriage was in 1919 to Mrs. Emma Phillips, a widow with a small daughter, Lessie who also took the Burkett name. Emma is dead; Lessie is married and lives in Murfreesboro, Tenn.

David E. and Frances 'Fannie' Burkett had a daughter named Louphemia who died when 18 or 20 years old. All three of them are buried in Curlee Church of Christ Cemetery near Bradyville, Tennessee.

This page concludes the information about our Burketts who stayed in Tennessee or nearby states.

The next several pages will give information about Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his families. He was my great grandfather who came to Texas in 1865.

JACOB AND LAVINA BURKETT

Jacob Lorenza Burkett married his first wife, Lavina Burnett in Tennessee in late 1850 or early 1851.

Jacob's parents were Henry and Mary Epley Burkett. Lavina's parents were Hamilton ? and Allie Burnet.

Jacob and Lavina Burkett had seven children, all of them born in Tennessee;

George Washington Burkett, 1852 --

Joseph Lafayette Burkett 1853 --

Mary Burkett, 1855 --

Sarah Burkett, 1858 or 1859 --

Malinda Jane Burkett, 1862 --

James Henry Burkett, 1862 --

Frances Josephine Burkett, 1864 --

This Burkett family seemed to move from area to area in Tennessee.

The census record for 1860 shows them in Cannon County. We have heard some of them tell about living in Rutherford County about 1862 and 1863.

They have also talked about living in Maury County. We haven't found any official records of this Burkett family in Rutherford and Maury Counties, but we found several official records there about other Burketts.

Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his younger brother, George Washington Burkett, were both married and living in Cannon County, Tennessee when they enlisted as privates in the Confederate Army on May 23, 1861 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. J.L. Burkett went into Company D, Tennessee Infantry. On August 7, 1861 he was appointed 1st Lieut. of that same company and served as a commissioned officer until May 1, 1865. (That was Co. D, 18th Regiment). During the war J.L. received wounds that later were a major cause of his death near Goldthwaite, Texas, 1876 (?)

Battles and skirmishes in Tennessee during the war had so severely damaged J.L.'s farm that he decided to move his family to Texas and start a better life. Their trip (really a journey) is told on the following pages.

BURKETT'S 1865 JOURNEY

TENNESSEE TO TEXAS

Jacob Lorenza Burkett, his wife, Lavina, and their seven children, George, Joe, Mary, Sarah, Jim, and Fannie had a long journey when they migrated from Tennessee to Texas after the Civil War ended in 1865.

Leaving their home in central Tennessee, these Burketts with some of their Epley kin, and other people traveled in wagons to Memphis, Tennessee. It is believed that stops were made, particularly in Maury County, to work for needed funds and visit other Burketts living there.

At Memphis our travelers loaded their belongings on big flat boats and sailed down the Mississippi to New Orleans. The river trip of more than two hundred miles lasted thirty days. A story told by some of the Burkett and Epley children is : Delia, Wife of David Epley, being too ill to stay up and supervise the children, assigned that responsibility to her sixteen year old daughter, Sarah. Among Sarah's charges were her younger sister, Nancy and their cousin, Joe Burkett----both had plenty of energy and ideas. Sarah spanked them when she thought they needed it.

At New Orleans the group took passage on a ship bound for Galveston, Texas. While sailing through the Gulf of Mexico, they endured a severe wind storm that rolled the smaller Burkett children like balls on the floor of their apartment.

Our travelers rode the train from Galveston to Brenham, which at the time was the terminus for the railroad in that area of Texas. At Brenham they transferred to ox wagons for the remainder of their long, tiresome journey to Hoover Valley community in Burnet County, where they arrived on Christmas Day, 1865.

The Burketts and Epleys soon became land owners as shown on county records. Jacob Burkett usually sold land within a few months after buying it. He did not live on every place he bought; instead he lived on rented farms.

PLACES WHERE JACOB BURKETT
LIVED IN TEXAS

Jacob and Lavina Burkett's first home in Texas was a small two-room house in Hoover Valley Community of Burnet County in 1865. The house had one main room and a lean-to side room. Both rooms had puncheon floors.

Lavina and an infant died in 1868 in Burnet County. They are buried in Cummings cemetery in Hoover Valley community. Many years, (over a hundred) later some of her grandchildren ---Joe and Della's children--erected a monument at Lavina and infant's grave. After his first wife, Lavina, died, Jacob placed their children temporarily with kind neighbors in or near Hoover Valley. Sarah stayed with Rev. Jack Mabry family; Mary with John Davis family; Jim, Jane and Fannie stayed with the Elkins family. We think that George and Joe, the two oldest children, stayed at home with their father, because we have no record of their living with any other family. Later Joe and Jim stayed with their great uncle, GEORGE EPLEY, a brother of their grandmother Mary Epley Burkett. He lived below Big Valley.

On January 15, 1869, Jacob Lorenza Burkett married his second wife, Miss. Matilde Reed in San Saba County. Her father was Rev. John Reed and her mother a Trent. Soon after their marriage, Jacob and Matilde and his children resided a short time at Rose Mills in McCulloch county. Returning to Burnet county, they were living on the Davis Place when Indians killed the Whitlock family on December 7, 1870. Whitlocks house was at the point of Long Mountain and located across the river from the Burkett house which was three or four miles away at the foot of the mountain on the east side of the river.

At the time of the Whitlock massacre, Joe and Jim Burkett were picking cotton for Jim Allen, whose field was about one-half mile from his residence. The Burkett boys saw the Indians pass within three or four hundred yards.

Jacob and Matilde and family moved, probably in early 1873, to Lone Grove in Llano county and lived on the D.H. Trent farm. The Burketts next moved to the Best farm in San Saba county. From there the Burketts moved close to Big Valley in Mills county, where Jacob pre-empted a farm in 1874 near Pecan Bayou and Colorado River. He sold the preempted place in 1875 to David and Elizabeth Farley and bought a place from John Connor on the Colorado River. In a short while, Jacob sold the Connor place to Abraham 'Abe' Ezzell and bought a place on Prescott Creek. That farm was once a part of the old Murrah ranch about four and a half miles below the old Prescott home place. Jacob died at his home on Prescott Creek, probably about December, 1876. His youngest daughter, Elvina (or Levina) was born in February 1877, about two months after his death.

JACOB AND LAVINA BURKETT
DESCENDANTS

Seven children, three sons and four daughters, were born in Tennessee to Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his first wife, Lavina (Burnet) Burkett;

1. George Washington Burkett

born 1852 -- died March 1, 1927

Callahan county, Texas.

This George W. Burkett married in Texas to

Mary Ezell, born about 1843 ---

died -----Kerrville, Texas

Mary was a daughter of Araham 'Abe' and Keziah Ezzell.

George W. and Mary Ezzell Burkett had three children, a son and two daughters;

John Burkett married Zona Albright.

They had five sons and three daughters.

Salena Burkett married Eph Guthrie.

They had a daughter, June and a son Fay.

Archie Burkett married Vernon W. Heard.

They had a son, Vernon Price Heard.

(We plan to obtain and include additional information about families mentioned above.)

2. Joseph Lafayette Burkett (1853 - 1920)

married Della Catherine Pyeatt (1862 - 1937)

They had ten children; Annie, George N., Stella, Edgar L., Floyd E., Lee, Birdie, Mae Delle, Gladys, and John. (more information later).

3. Mary Burkett

born 1855---died 1896, Llano county, Texas.

married after coming to Texas;

(1) John Clark; they had two children, Albert and Ida (married Box).

(2) James Templeton; they had three children, Alice, Ora and Fred.

Alice married ---Sullivan

Ora married ----Borden

Fred married -----

Albert Clark married Alice Ray.

4. Sarah Burkett

born 1858---died in July 1941 in Gould Okla.

Married in Texas

(1) Archer William Murray, born 1857 ---died 1885.

They had three children; William, Jr., Georgia, and Asa.

Archer William Murray was a school teacher from New York, according to census records.

(2) Ole Storehoff, harness maker & shoe cobbler from Norway.

Ole & Sarah had two daughters -----

5. James Henry Burkett (Uncle Jim)

Born 1862----died 1945 in Clyde, Texas

Married in Texas to Mrs. Samantha Nolley, a widow with three children; Sallie, Jennie, Sam.

James H. & Samantha N. Burkett had four children;

Omar Burkett ---

Joe Burkett ----

Iru Burkett Jackson ---

Kate Burkett ---

6. Malinda Jane Burkett, 'Aunt Jane'

born 1862, twin sister of James H. Burkett

died 1952, October 16, at Chickasha, Oklahoma

married two times;

(1) John M. Pavey in Nov. 1880, Llano, Texas

They had a daughter, Ollie

(2) John Davis Cox in December, 1883, Brownwood, Texas.

They had seven children, the first three were born in Texas last four in Okla.

James Jasper, William Andrew, Luna Eldora, Nancy Melvina, Robert Marion, John Foster and Ella.

(This John D. Cox was a son of Mary C. Forsythe Cox, an aunt of Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett).

7. Frances Josephine Burkett 'Aunt Fannie'

born 1864 --- died 1953 in California, married in 1882 to John Edward McCall (1855 - 1940) in Llano county, Texas.

They had ten children; Robert Leonard, Leona Archie, Alice L. Addie Emily, Ida Ernestine, Laura Estelle, Hazel Ann, Myrtle Ester, Leva May, and Joseph Leroy. (Myrtle & Leva were twins, born in 1901)

JACOB AND MATILDA BURKETT
DECENDANTS

Jacob Lorenza Burkett (1830 - 1876)

married in 1869 to Miss. Mary Matilda Reed daughter of Rev. John
Reed.

Jacob and Matilda Burkett had four daughters
Martha Ellen Burkett

born in March, 1870, Burnet county, Texas

died -----, Cottonwood, Arizona

married Feb. 2, 1887 to L.E. Tizzo (or John Tissaw) in Fisher county
Texas. They had two daughters and two sons.

Mary and Rosa, ----and----

2. Annie Laura Burkett

born Nov. 4, 1872, Burnet County, Texas.

died Aug. 31, 1968, Sweetwater, Texas

married Dec. 25, 1888 to William Andrew Lynch in Fisher county
Texas.

They had five or more children.

3. Virginia Caroline Burkett, 'Jennie'

born May 4, 1874 in San Saba county ? Texas

died Dec. 18, 1959, Sweetwater, Texas

married March 31, 1892 to George E. Godfrey
in Fisher county, Texas

They had children;

4. Elvina (or Levina ?) Burkett

born in Feb. ? 1877, Mills county, Texas

died -----soon after marriage to;

Z.H. Pannell on Nov. 6, 1893 in Fisher county, Texas.

(We heard that Elvina & Z.H. moved farther west somewhere in Texas
and Elvina died there with TB and begging to see her mother.)

FRANCES BURKETT McCALL

Frances Josephine Burkett, youngest dau. of Jacob and Lavina
born 17, May 1864 or 1865 in Tennessee
died -----1953 in California of a stroke and age.

married John Edward McCall on 23 March 1882 in a log cabin at
Lone Grove, Llano County, Texas

John Edward McCall, born 16, May 1855
died in 1940 of heart attack.

Frances J. Burkett and John E. McCall had ten children; five of them
were living 4 March 1971.

Robert Leonard McCall, 16, May 1883 --
Leona Archie Huckaby, 7 May 1885 --1933
Alice L. McCall, 7 Oct. 1887 -- Jan. 1894
Addie Emløy ---18, March 1890 -- Mar 1955
Ida Ernestine Tracy, 10, January 1893 ---
Laura Estelle Safford, 25 July 1895 -- 10 January 1971
Hazel Ann Rust, 1, January 1897 ----
Myrtle Esther Bradford, 10, August 1901 ---
Leva May McCall, 10, August 1901 -- died same date
Joseph Leroy McCall, 19, March ---

Fannie Burkett was 4 years old when her mother died, so Fannie spent
much of her time with her older sister, Mary Burkett Clark Templeton.
After their father Jacob Lorenza Burkett died, his first set of children
were much on their own, and did not live with their stepmother, Matilde
Reed Burkett, but always lived nearby. Jacob and Matilda had four girls;
Ellen, Laura, Virginia, and Levina. Ellen married John Tissaw and lived
in Arizona. She had heart trouble and is buried at Cottonwood, Arizona.
Her sons lived in Flafstaff and Williams, Arizona. One daughter, Mary,
lived in Chula Vista, married Jim Campbell. The other daughter, Rosa
Huckaby lived at Newman, California, last I knew.

Aunt Levina (Burkett) Pannell died years ago in west Texas, shortly after
she was married.

In 1941 Robert Leonard McCall's wife, Lottie, took Aunt Fannie and Aunt
Ellen to Oklahoma to see their older sister Aunt Sarah Burkett (Murray)
Storeoff just before she died. They were at Gould, Okla. in June 1941.
Aunt Sarah died there in July 1941.

(Information on previous page was copied from a letter that Robert Leonard McCall, oldest child of Aunt Fannie Burkett McCall, sent to his cousin, Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin on March 4, 1971. He lives in Fresno, California.)

Mrs. Anna Bell Lykes

Copy of a letter
from Mrs. Lykes
to

506 West Fourth Street
Sweetwater, Texas 79556

Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin

March 9, 1971

Dear Mrs. Goodwin,

So glad to have had the pleasure of reading your letter and answering it. I was Anna Bell Wallace, the youngest of three children of Matilda and Washington S. Wallace. My sister, Pearl Wallace and brother Walter Wallace passed away several year ago. They lived to be in their seventies. Pearl married Brack Mitchell. They had three girls and two boys. Walter had two girls and three boys. His wife and children live in Abilene, Texas.

I don't remember where my mother, Matilda (Reed) and her first husband, Jacob L. Burkett lived, but would very much like to know. My mother must have met my father in Mills county after she lost Jacob. My parents lived in Fisher county, Texas. I remember we had a farm out from Eskota where we grew up, until we were married. Mother was forty years old and Father was sixtyfour when I was born. He was twenty-four years older than Mother. We had a happy home and I always thank God for our Christian heritage. My mother, father, and all four of my half-sisters (Burketts) belonged to the Church of Christ.

I married Dr. Michael Monroe Risinger when I was sixteen. He was a good doctor and a fine man. We lived and reared our family in Roscoe, Texas, ten miles from Sweetwater. We had four wonderful children, two boys and two girls. My husband was killed by a train in 1933 while making a call. I moved to California where I could educate my children, lived there twenty-five years. I met and married Jim Lykes and we spent 13 years of a very happy life. He died with cancer in 1958. I came back to Sweetwater where my oldest daughter, Rita Wharton lives. My youngest daughter died in California; she was forty years old, buried in Forest Lawn.

I became a Baptist soon after I married the first time as that was my husband's faith. My children are all Christians. My youngest son is an ordained minister, but works for the Government In Bureau of Indians Affairs, Wagner, South Dakota. He does quite a lot of missionary work among the Indians. I spend two or three months in the summer with him and his family, a lovely wife and three children.

I am now living with Hazel (Godfrey) Gardner. She is a daughter of Jennie (Burkett) Godfrey. Hazel and her sister, Jewel (Godfrey) McGown both lost

their husbands a few years ago with cancer. Jewel is in a rest home here in Sweetwater. She has diabetes and hardening of the arteries. Her mind is real bad; she can't remember much. She always knows us and likes for us to visit her, but can not remember us being there the next day. Hazel is seventy-four and in very good health. Her legs bother her a lot in walking---arthritis so badly . Their brother J.W. Godfrey lives in Fort Worth, Texas. He is youngest of the three.

Hazel was so lonely after losing her husband, she insisted on my living with her as she has a three bedroom home, and is one of the sweetest people I ever knew. I have been with her since last August. We are really happy together and love each other very much.

I will be 82 years old August 25, 1971; have had good health and worked hard all my life, mostly nursing. I nursed several years in Veterans hospital in Los Angeles and in a number of hospitals in the city.

My father, Washington S. Washington, was born Nov. 4, 1824 and died ~~Nov. 1, 1914.~~ My mother, Matilda Reed (Burkett) was born December 8, 1848 ~~Nov. 1, 1914.~~ They are buried at Palava, a few miles from Sweetwater. Father carried mail from Eskota to Palava several years. He was a Civil War veteran and drew a little pension.

Laura and Jennie, My half sisters, lived in Eskota. Laura married William Andrew Lynch and had three boys; two girls. Laura was in a rest home ten or twelve years, died at 94, was blind before she died. One of her daughters, Ruby Killen who lives in Phoenix, Arizona, is in the millionaire bracket, took special care of her mother and dad through the years. Her dad died several years before her mother. Faye Purser, Laura's youngest daughter, lives at Trent, Texas, about 9 miles east of Sweetwater. Jennie married G.E. Godfrey. In her late years ,Jennie fell and broke her hip which caused death.

I never knew my other half-sisters, Ellen and Lavina Burkett as they married when I was young and moved so far away they never got to visit us after they married. Lavina died begging for her mother, but mama never knew it until after Lavina died. We knew very little about her husband, Z.H. Pannell. Our mother grieved over Lavina a lot.

Could you come and visit us sometime? We would be so glad to have you spend as much time as you could. Until then, much love from Hazel and me. She asked me to answer for her.

God Bless and keep you,
Anna Bell Wallace Lykes

FAMILY RECORDS

NAMES AND DATES

Joseph Lafayette Burkett 'Joe or J.L.' (son of Jacob & Lavina)

Born 3 April 1853 in Tennessee

Came to Texas in 1865 with his parents

Married 11 June 1882 to Della Catherine Pyeat

Died 27 October 1920 at Mullin, Texas

Della Catherine Pyeatt (daughter of Henderson and Emmeline)

Born 14 November 1862 in Arkansas (Parents died 1864)

Came to Texas in 1873 with her Aunt Mary Cox

Married 11 June 1882 to Joe Burkett

Died 11 June 1937 at Mullin, Texas

Joe and Della Burkett had ten children;

1. Annie Louisa Burkett Jackson, 1883 ----
2. George Newton Burkett, 1884 -- 1963
3. Stella Mae Burkett Massey, 1887 --1946
4. Edgar Lorenza Burkett, 1889 --
5. Floyd Eli Burkett, 1891 --1972
6. Lee Pyeatt Burkett, 1895 --1965
7. Birdie Leona Burkett Chambers, 1898 --
8. Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin, 1901 --
9. Gladys Beatrice Burkett Hodges, 1904 --
10. John Ivy Burkett, 1909 --

(This writer does not have all our family records which should be included, especially cousins or the allied families. We trust each family will add its own record of names, dates, et cetera.)

Annie Louisa Burkett (oldest child of Joe and Della)

Born 24 April 1883 in Williams Ranch Community (near Mullin, Texas)

Married 28 July 1901 to William L. Jackson

William L. Jackson (son of Wm, A. & Nancy C.)

Born 6 May 1877 in Cherokee County Alabama

Came to Texas with parents.

Married 28 July 1901 to Annie Louisa Burkett

Died 21 January 1954 at Lubbock, Texas

Annie and Will had eight children;

1. Twin girls born 1903, lived few hours--buried in Williams Ranch Cemetery
2. J. W. Jackson, 1904 ---
3. Stella B. Jackson McMichael Jaynes, 1907 ---
4. Lawrence Jackson, NOV. 1911 --Dec 1911--buried in Williams Ranch Cemetery.
5. Callie Ree Jackson Cooper, 1913 --
6. Addison M. Jackson, July 1915 --Oct. 1925 -- buried in Carlisle Cemetery west of Lubbock, Texas
7. Arthur Dale Jackson, 7 August 1918 ----

George Newton Burkett (oldest son of Joe and Della)

Born 5 September 1884, Williams Ranch Community

Married 7 January 1906 to Clementine Elizabeth Vann

Died 26 November 1963 in Comanche, Texas

Clementine Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Vann (dau. of W.T. & Frances)

Born 16, February 1892 at Blanket Springs, Mullin, Texas

Married 6 January 1906 to George Newton Burkett

Died 10 April 1971 in Comanche, Texas

George and Lizzie had eleven children:

1. Lois Elva Burkett Davis, Dec. 1906 -- July 1924
2. Stephen Lafayette Burkett, 1908 -- 1910
3. Leona Statyre Burkett Coleman, 1911 -- 1968
4. Chlotilde Irene Burkett Swinney, 1914 --1993
5. Frances Katherine Burkett Swinney, 1917 -- 1970
6. Juanita Burkett, 1920 --1920
7. Baby Girl, 1921 -- 1921
8. Floretta Natoma Burkett Chambers, 1922
9. Evelyn Estelle Burkett Hatley, 1924 ----1989
10. Enza Dell Burkett Wilson, 1927---
11. Verna Bess Burkett Collins, 1931

Stella Mae Burkett (second dau. of Joe and Della)

Born 5 January 1887 in Williams Ranch Community

Married 27 April 1919 to Arthur T. Massey

Died 14 March 1946 in Waco, Texas

Arthur T. Massey

Born 15 June 1883 at Giddings, Texas

Married (1) -----She later died

(2) Stella Mae Burkett on 27 April 1919

Died 12 January 1968 in Fort Worth, Texas

Stella and Arthur had three children:

1. Burkett Edison Massey 1920 --
2. Stella Mae Massey Kardash, 1924 --
3. Joe Oliver Massey 1926 ---

Edgar Lorenza Burkett (second son of Joe and Della)

Born 28 May 1889 at Mullin, Texas

Married 20 April 1910 to Evelyn 'Dove' Barton

Evelyn 'Dove' Barton

Born 27 February 1893

Married 20 April 1910 to Edgar L. Burkett

Died 24 June 1953 in Temple, Texas

Edgar and Dove had five children;

1. Baby son born 1912 ---lived four days
2. Blanche Katherine Burkett Britt 1914 --
3. Joe Lewis Burkett, 1916 -- 1924
4. Beryl Juanelle Burkett Curtis, 1920 --
5. Jacob Bentley 'Jake' Burkett, 1923 --

Floyd Eli Burkett (third son of Joe and Della)

Born 3 October 1891 at Mullin, Texas

Married 24 Nov. 1912 to Maude Estelle Petty

Died 27 February 1972 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Maude Estelle Petty

Born 9 July 1892

Married 24 November 1912 to Floyd E. Burkett

Died 21 May 1965 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Floyd and Maude had two children;

1. Wanda Zelle Burkett Gerald, 1925
2. James Floyd Burkett, 1928 --

Lee Pyeatt Burkett (fourth son of Joe and Della)

Born 7 September 1895 at Mullin, Texas

Married 4 August 1920 to Rubye Pearl Lewis

Died 27 October 1965 in Fort Worth, Texas

Rubye Pearl Lewis

Born 9 April 1900 in San Saba County, Texas

Married 4 August 1920 to Lee P. Burkett

Lee and Rubye had four children;

1. Doye Lorena Burkett Fannin, 1924 --
2. Jack Lewis Burkett, 1926 --
3. Donald Lee Burkett, 1930 --
4. Bobbie June Burkett, 1932 --

Birdie Leona Burkett (third daughter of Joe & Della)

Born 5 September 1898 at Mullin, Texas

Married 14 August 1937 to Willis H.G. Chambers

Willis Harrison Grigsby Chambers

Born 27 February 1871 in Marshall County, Alabama

Married (1.)-----She died-----

(2.) Birdie Leona Burket, 14 Aug. 1937

Died 17 April 1961 at Mullin, Texas

Birdie and W.H.G. Chambers did not have any children

Mae Delle Statyre Burkett (fourth daughter of Joe and Della)

Born 6 May 1901 at Mullin, Texas

Married 8 October 1920 to Thomas Daniel Goodwin

Thomas Daniel "T. D." Goodwin

Born 28 June 1899 near Mullin, Texas

Married 8 October 1920 to Mae Delle Burkett

Died 17 August 1962 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Mae Delle and Dan had three children:

1. Margie LaJuana Goodwin Ivy, 1921 --
2. Della Lou Goodwin Geeslin, 1923 --
3. Nelda Berylene Goodwin Beck, 1930 --

Gladys Beatrice Burkett (fifth daughter of Joe and Della)

Born 23 December 1904 at Mullin, Texas

Married 13 June 1927 to Benjamin Archer Hodges

Benjamin Archer Hodges

Born 13 October 1906 near Mullin, Texas

Married 13 June 1927 to Gladys Beatrice Burkett

Gladys and Archie had three children:

1. Helen Colleen Hodges Mayr, 1930
2. Nelda Ruth Hodges Willingham, 1931 --
3. Joe Charles Hodges, 1935 --

John Ivy Burkett (last child of Joe and Della)

Born 8 August 1909 at Mullin, Texas

Married 17 December 1936 to Merle Means

Merle Means

Born 6 February 1917 in San Saba County, Texas

Married 17 December 1936 to John Ivy Burkett

John and Merle do not have any children.

Jesse Newton Pyeatt (only son of Henderson & Emmeline)

Born 14 May 1859 in Ellis County, Texas

Married 23 February 1881 to Nancy Epley

Died-----

Nancy Epley

Born in Cannon County, Tennessee

Came to Texas in 1865 with her parents and Burketts

Married 23 February 1881 to Jesse Newton Pyeatt

Died -----

Newt and Nancy Pyeatt had seven children; (Three Infants Died.)

1. Dollie Pyeatt McCollum, 6 September 1884, Williams Ranch Texas
2. Oscar Pyeatt, 25 Nov. 1886, Mullin, Texas
Died -----Clyde, Texas
3. Callie Pyeatt Marshall, 1 September 1889, Mullin, Texas
4. Russell Pyeatt, 17 August 1891, Cottonwood, Texas
Died -----Clyde, Texas

(Nancy Epley Pyeatt & Joseph Lafayette Burkett were Cousins (2nd.?) through the Epley family.)

BURKETT - PAVEY - BARKER - BURKETT

"Aunt Jane" Malinda Jane Burkett Pavey Cox (1862 - 1952)

Married;

(1) John M. Pavey

They had one daughter, Ollie Pavey

Ollie Pavey

Married Thomas J. Barker

They had a daughter named Bertha Jane Barker

born 1902 at Lindsay Arkansas - died 1969 in Paris, Texas

Bertha Jane Barker

Married Levi Burkett, born 1912

Bertha Jane and Levi Burkett lived on Route #3, Honey Grove, Texas,

where she died of kidney poison in hospital at Paris, Texas.

She was buried in Crestview Cemetery, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Bertha Jane's sister is; Mrs. Curtis Davenport

8 Farris Street

Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

Levi Burkett was a son of William F. Burkett

William F. Burkett was a son of Jobe ? Burkett.

Jobe Burkett may have been the A. J. Burkett, born 1829 or 1830 in Tennessee,
but moved to Clay County, Texas about 1880 or before.

Our Grandpa Jacob Lorenza Burkett had a brother named Andrew J. Burkett
born about 1829 in Tennessee.

According to above information, it seems that Aunt Jane Burkett's (Pavey)
grand daughter, Bertha Jane Barker, married Levi Burkett who was a cousin
(probably a third cousin) to Aunt Jane Burkett ---daughter of Jacob L. Burkett-
-----neice of Andrew J. Burkett.