



# THE BURKETT FAMILY

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*StellaB "Nita" Jaynes*

I **told** you I would find her, didn't I?! Well, I have. Not only have I located her, I have spoken with her on the telephone and we have exchanged correspondence. She is a resident of the Colonial Oaks Nursing Home in Goldthwaite, Texas. Those of you who recall our last issue will remember my frustration when I felt I was getting close but had still not located her *because I didn't have sense enough to check the nursing homes when I came through Goldthwaite!* Had I done so, we could have had a nice visit. So much for missed opportunities. At least we are now in touch and I am putting together a package of questions for her to work on as she has time. But already she has provided me with new information which I will share with you in this issue. Welcome, Nita!! Glad to have you back in the loop!

## **First, an apology . . .**

In the last issue I wrote about trying to contact James "Jim" Burkett in Burnet, Texas during my trip out there. In doing so, I guess I tried to get "cute" by saying I was going to drive "right up to his front door" and I guessed he was just a "stubborn Burkett". Nita Jaynes has now sent me a newspaper clipping showing he died in 1989. She also told me that he was the son of Floyd Burkett, a brother to her mother, Anna Louise Burkett Jackson. This, of course, made them first cousins. I wish I could say this was the first time I put my foot in my mouth or even that it would be the last time. Unfortunately, I can't say either but, in the meantime, my apology. ■

## **The Bogle Reunion '94 . . .**

This year the weather cooperated with us so we had a very nice and enjoyable trip. As usual, several of us gathered at Audy Majors' house while some drove directly to Woodbury. Those making the trip this year included John Almon Carroll and wife Betty; Herman Chisholm with wife "Sitch"; Nancy Majors Roberson; Loretta Chisholm Patterson; Buddy Burkett and wife JoAnna; Earl Burkett, wife Jenifer *and new son William Vann*; also

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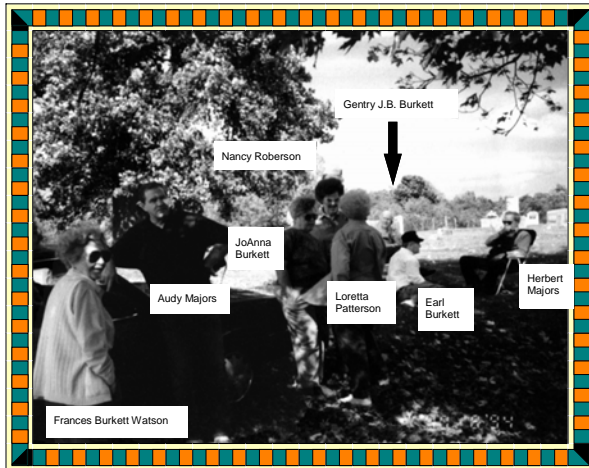
Burkett Waldrup with *new daughter Jeri Ann*; Audy Majors and wife Sandy; Herbert Majors with wife Liz; Cindi Majors Himes with son Jonathon; Karen Majors Howell; Susan Majors with fiancée Mickey Campbell; Gentry J.B. Burkett and myself.

In addition to the "Huntsville Bunch", we were very happy to see Ken and Alice Burkett from Lebanon, Tennessee drive up. Also, Laura Burkett Durham with sister Francis Burkett Watson drove over from McMinnville along with Dorothy Elrod and, as you will find out later, I received a very nice surprise from Laura.

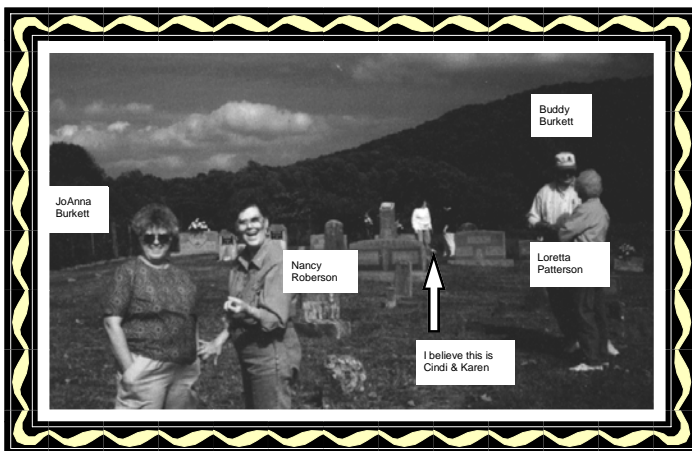
With the absence of last year's rain which kept some of the Bogle's from attending, there were some Bogle's present who were not there last year so we enjoyed visiting with them. Also, I again got the opportunity to sit down and talk with Catherine Gannon Hutchison who is the keeper of the Bogle records. On one of my next trips north I hope to go on to Nashville where Catherine lives and visit with her to not only review the Bogle records but to do some research on our Burketts. She had already done a lot of research in the records there in Nashville and has promised to "walk" me through the procedures.

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Speaking of the rain last year, it caused several to cancel plans to walk back around the mountain from Sugar Tree Knob to what we call the old Burkett homestead. However, given good weather this year, several of us went on up to Sugar Tree Knob Saturday afternoon when the Bogle reunion ended. Upon arrival, some chairs were taken from cars and set up for those not making the hike. There was a nice breeze blowing so everybody took advantage of that to just relax and have some good old conversation as



shown below.



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## Back to Texas . . .

I mentioned in our last issue that I had more about Texas and shown below is the beginning of pictures I had in mind and hoped to be able to print in this issue. After Abilene, Burkett, Texas was my first main stop.



Main entrance to the cemetery in Burkett, Texas

As I reported there are many Burketts buried here and I have several photo's of markers to figure out whether or not we are related. I expect to get some help from Freeda Burkett who lives about two blocks from the cemetery and who, as previously reported, maintained the cemetery for many years.



This is the view looking to the right of the main entrance of the Burkett, Texas cemetery.

In answer to a question I know some of you will have, the answer is the large round vault on the left of the picture does not contain a Burkett.

Upon leaving Burkett, Texas, I headed out for Mullin, Texas and headed specifically



for the Williams Ranch cemetery.

This is the marker just inside the gate showing that the cemetery was established in 1864.



Main entrance to the Williams Ranch Cemetery

The arrow on the left points to the box containing the log book for visitors and the right arrow points to the marker for Mary Epley



**Now, with thanks to StellaB, here is a picture of Mary Epley Burkett!!!**



Mary "Polly" Epley Burkett  
1800 - 1884

According to StellaB, Mary Epley Burkett was the oldest child of Daniel Epley I and Catharine Keebler. Mary married Henry Burkett on August 23, 1819 in Greene County, Tennessee. They lived in central Tennessee until Henry died in 1875. Mary then went to Texas in 1875 to live with her son, Jacob Lorenza Burkett. After his death *December 25, 1875*, Mary probably went to live with her sister Annie Williams whose husband, John Williams, had died in 1871.

StellaB apologized for the quality of the above picture but I think it turned out pretty good considering the age of the picture plus the fact that she had copied it on a regular copy machine. Given my new ability to not only import pictures into this Newsletter but to also "enhance" the quality of pictures, I decided to see what I could do to "clean it up" while, at the same time, learn more about I

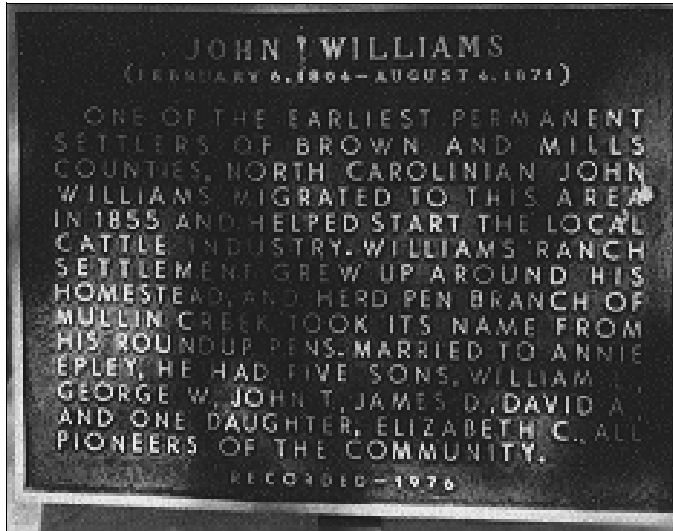
really could do with this new equipment and computer software. Here is the result of that effort. One thing I noticed in the picture was that she seemed to be wearing a bonnet. You will notice that I used the computer to complete my idea of what is missing in the picture. Having said all of that, I think I like what StellaB sent better than the enhancement shown below because the original gives the feeling that it is an old picture compared to this computer cleanup. But it at least gave me an opportunity to learn



more about what I can do and I'll show you more later in this issue where this learning came in handy.

(Continued from page 5)

North Carolina to join her sister Mary and her husband Henry Burkett there in the Woodbury, Tennessee area. Anyway, here is the John Williams marker at the Williams Ranch



cemetery.

As you recall from the last issue, I also wanted to locate the grave of Jacob Lorenza Burkett but was unable to find him at Williams Ranch but did learn of another cemetery there



in Mullin. This was the Oakview cemetery.

Main entrance marker showing the cemetery established in 1891

This cemetery showed signs of being well maintained and there was a gentleman working at trimming and burning tree limbs when I arrived and he helped me locate the



Main Entrance to the Oakview Cemetery  
Mullin, Texas



Jacob Lorenza Burkett  
Oakview Cemetery - Mullin,

Texas

Since the marker at the front gate indicates the cemetery was established in 1891 and Jacob died in 1875, it would stand to reason that he had originally been buried elsewhere. Not far from this grave is a marker

(Continued from page 6)

sons Joseph L. Burkett and his wife, Della C. who were the Grandparents of StellaB Jaynes. Joseph died in 1920 and Della in 1937 so it is entirely possible that some of their children moved the grave of Jacob Lorenza. And it may even be that he was originally buried at the Williams Ranch cemetery since it was established in 1864.



Oakview Cemetery - Mullin, Texas

This next marker has absolutely nothing to do with our family but it caught my eye and I couldn't help but wonder about the



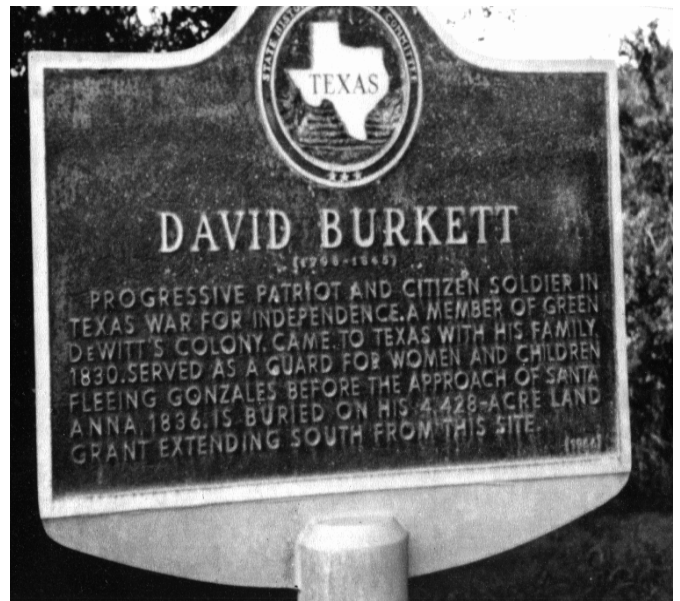
story behind it.

This was a slave buried to the best of my knowledge in an all-white cemetery. From the

inscription, he was killed in 1886 which was  
*continued in next column*

also before the cemetery was established. Was this his original burying ground and the cemetery later established around him? Or was he moved from some other location? It appears to me that his "owner" - Welcome Chandler - must have thought an awful lot of him to make a marker for him in cement and to inscribe his name and how he met his death. And again, in those days an all-white cemetery? And who placed the engraved stone at what must have been a much later date? To me, it's an intriguing situation but, obviously, one which will never be answered.

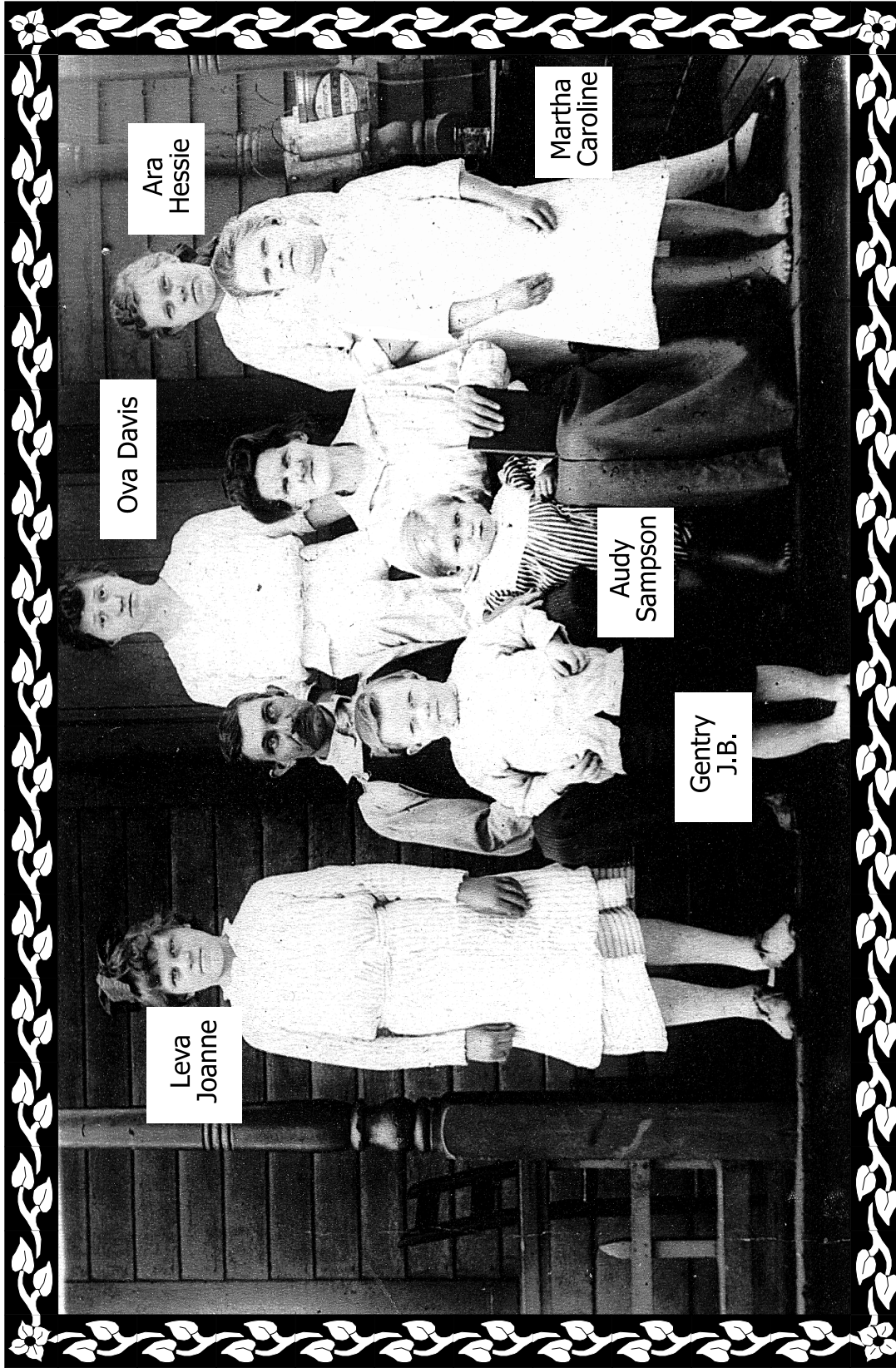
Leaving Mullin and heading on toward home and as my last stop, I went to Gonzales to check on a David Burkett I had been told



about by A.J. Burkett back in Abilene. Shown below is the marker I found there.

At this time, I have no idea as to whether or not we are related. You will note that he arrived in Texas in 1830 which is much earlier than any Burketts I know of at this time. How-ever, I have heard or read about Green DeWitts colony somewhere so I have some research to do on this. I will call your attention to the size of his land grant. If you can't read it, it's 4,428 acres. At this point, I got curious as to just how big that was so I did some checking. There are 640 acres in a square mile so he had almost 7 square miles!

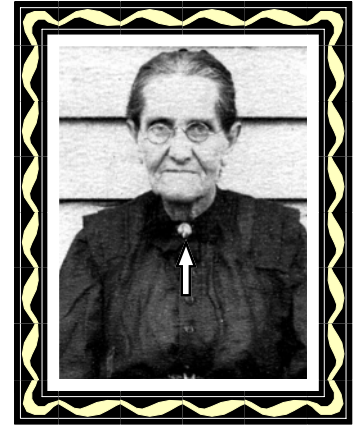
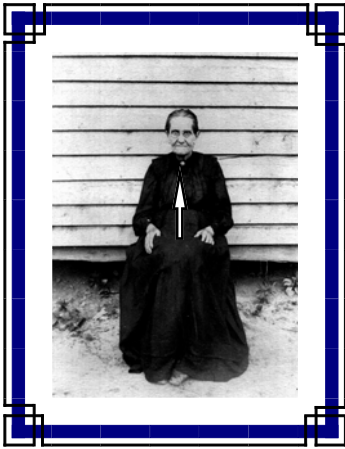
*Do you know these relatives? I bet you do!!*



Almon Lee and Nancy Caldonia Burkett  
Dallas Village - About 1914

If it was 1914, appx. ages would have been: Almon 39 (7/22/1875); Nancy 42 (7/14/1872);  
 Leva 9 (5/12/1905); Ova 18 (11/2/1896); Ara 12 (1/19/1902); Martha 7 (10/27/1907);  
 Audy 2 (1/22/1913); Gentry J.B. 4 (9/24/1910)

## Rebecca Caroline Riggsby Burkett



Yes, all three of the above are the same picture. I got curious about what she was wearing around her neck and remembered that I could “zoom in” with the computer and that’s what I did. But as hard as I tried, I still can’t say for sure whether that’s a cameo or a picture of a man! Look closely at the picture on the right and it sure looks like a man’s picture to me. I’ll bet if we could talk to some of the Elrod’s, Wood’s, or Underhill’s we would find that someone has whatever it is. Regardless, the “zooming in” gives us a better and more close-up look at her face. I do not have



Jobe and Rebecca Burkett with two of their children Tolbert and

This picture is almost completely faded out so I am a little proud that I could get even this much out of it but wanted to include it since it is a different age period.



This is another picture starting to show its age. Front row is Almon Lee Burkett, Rebecca Burkett, and Tolbert Burkett. Standing is Julie (Underhill), Dollie (Wood), and Lizzie

Another picture of Rebecca Caroline. Again, no date as to when it was





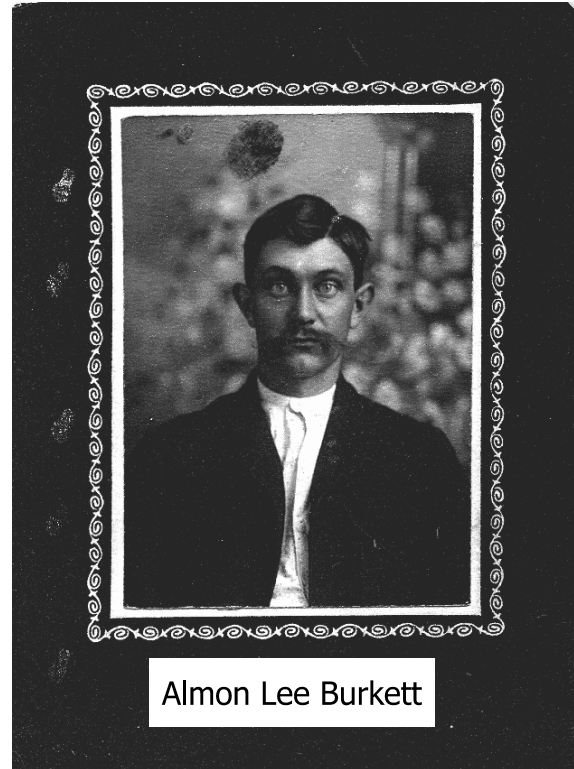
And now for some miscellaneous pictures . . .



Ara Burkett (Chisholm) and Laura Burkett (Durham)  
- Date of picture and location is unknown at this  
time -



Julie Burkett Underhill, husband Ezekial and  
daughter Laura Ula - date unknown. Julie was  
first married to John Watson and married Mr.  
Underhill when Mr. Watson died.



Almon Lee Burkett

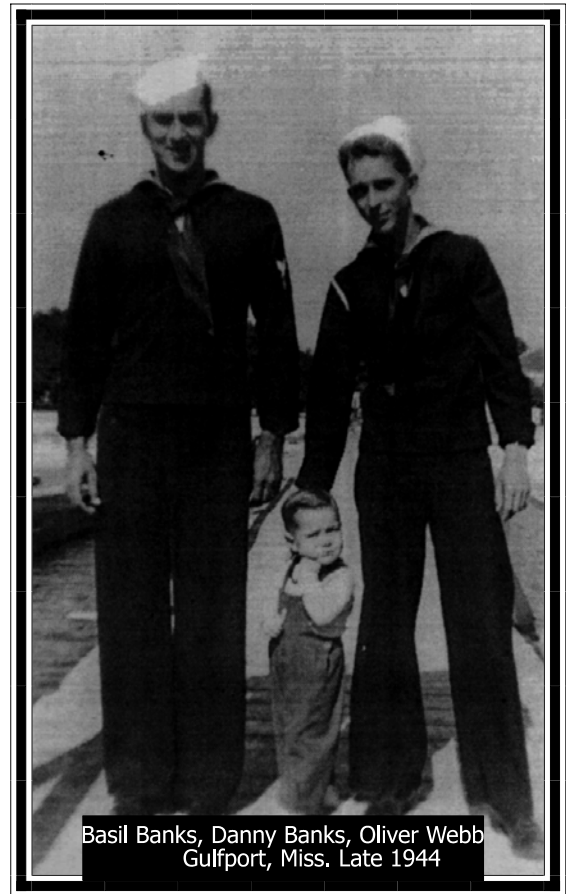


Almon Lee Burkett with Jessie Mae  
Gaines the daughter of Ara Burkett and  
Jessie Gaines, Ara's first husband who  
died as did Jessie Mae

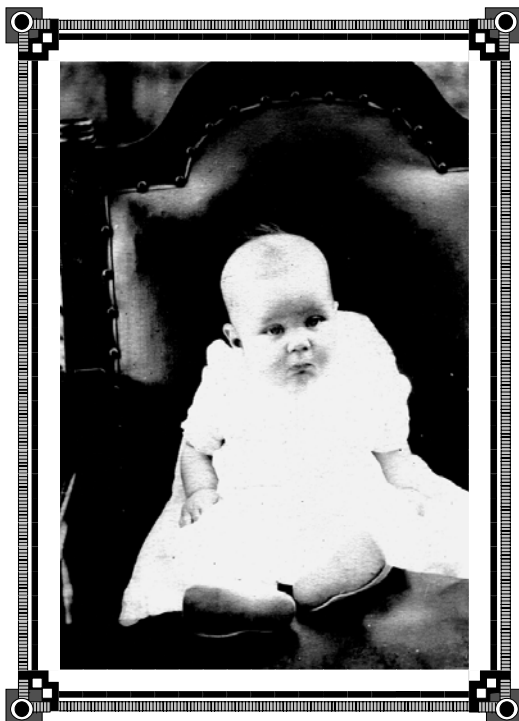
Just a few more . . .



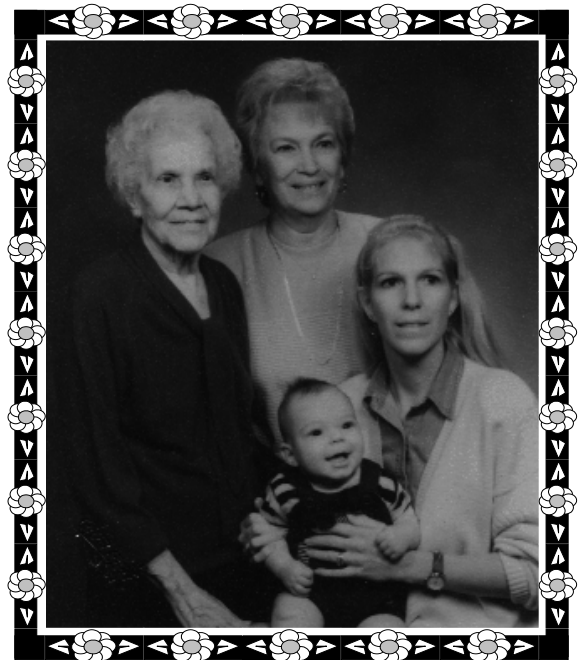
Grannie Nancy Burkett with grandchildren Barbara Ann Chisholm



Basil Banks, Danny Banks, Oliver Webb  
Gulfport, Miss. Late 1944

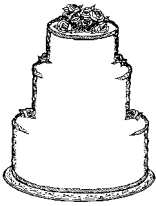


Mildred Lucille Trapp Banks



Four Generations - Martha Burkett Webb Hunter with daughter Joan Webb McMahon, her daughter Debra Jean McMahon Fitchett and son Billy John Fitchett

# Congratulations



Belated congrats and Best Wishes to Mickey Campbell and Susan Majors, daughter of Audy and Sandy Majors, who tied the knot on November 17. Coincidentally, that would have been Mickey's parents 53rd anniversary. They will make their home in Lincoln County, Tennessee where Mickey works in the District Attorney's office. ■



We have some more new arrivals! Not to be outdone by Buddy and JoAnna Burkett, Kenneth and Janie Burkett of Jasper, Alabama announce recent grand- daughters! Yes, that's plural. There's two of them! Daughter Lori and her husband Wesley Bertoldi announce the birth of their daughter Amanda Jane on August 13. Amanda Jane checked in at 6 lbs 15 ounces. Then on October 28 daughter Gina and her husband Gene Hyché welcomed the arrival of Sarah Elizabeth weighing in at 7 lbs and 8 ounces. Congrats to both sets of new parents - and to the grandparents! ■



## Over the back fence

Shame on me! From the last issue I omitted a very notable accomplishment. Loretta and Carlos Patterson's grandson Bryan, son of Greg and Nancy Patterson, placed second in an AAU track meet in Huntsville on a run of 3000 meters. If my memory is any good, that's just under *2 miles!* Not only that, he placed fifth in the Cotton Row Marathon which was approximately *5 miles!* Bryan is now 14 but was 13 when he ran

these races which naturally were grouped according to age. Nice going, Bryan!

*continued in next column*

I also believe congratulations are in order for Barbara Ann Patterson Peek who is now in charge of *all* public relations for the Huntsville airport. Keep up the good work, cuz.

Who brought the creamed corn to the reunion? I ran across a forgotten note that somebody asked for the recipe. So whoever you are, send me the recipe so I can publish it for whoever wanted it. Boy! Talk about getting old and forgetful!

## Around here, if it wasn't for the last minute, nothing would get



Hey! Let me hear from you out there! There's got to be things going on that you are not telling me about so let me hear from you! ■



## Holiday Checklist

We want all of our relatives to not only enjoy the holidays but to also **survive** them. With that in mind, we offer the following checklist even though you have probably already seen it.

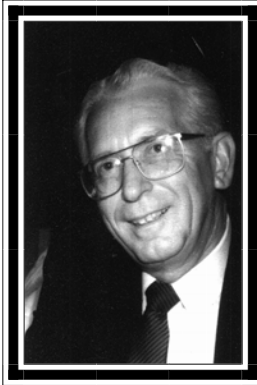
- \* Inspect indoor and outdoor lights for frayed cords, bare spots, broken plugs, and loose bulbs and sockets.
- \* Make sure your extension cords are an adequate size and in good working condition.
- \* Don't overload electrical outlets.
- \* Always turn all Christmas lights off

**Smile, it takes only 13 muscles,**

## ***Many thanks to Laura Durham . . .***

Laura provided almost all of the old pictures in this issue, including the Almon Burkett Dallas Village family picture. Use of these pictures made me aware of names I've heard all my life but never put a face to. Watson, Elrod, Wood, Underhill, Aunt Lizzie, Uncle Tolbert, Aunt Julie and Aunt Dollie were all just names to me until now. Thanks, Laura. After they see them I'm sure the rest of our

## ***The Historians Corner***



Marvin Oliver

I finally reached my goal of being able to bring you pictures and, to me, some of these pictures in this issue are priceless! Who would have thought, for example, that StellaB would have a picture of Mary Epley Burkett? And how about Rebecca Caroline Burkett from Laura Durham, among others?

I have to confess this has been a real chore involving an awful lot of work - but it's been worth it! Some of the pictures didn't turn out as well as I wanted them to and others turned out better than expected. But that's the learning curve for you.

As it turned out after buying the scanner, the printer I had simply would not give the needed quality so I bought a Laser printer. But then I found I didn't have enough memory in my computer so I had to upgrade there. And if that wasn't enough, I then found that the Publishing program I was using would not handle the needed resolution for pictures so I bought a new program to publish with.

The beauty of all this is that once in the computer these pictures will not fade or

deteriorate. At this time I am backing up the computer files on tape but costs are coming down rapidly and I see the not-too-distant day when I can put them on a compact disc which is forever!

Additionally, I have upgraded the program I use for our family records and I can copy from that program into this Publishing program which gives me a lot of flexibility. So we're getting there and even though this issue took an awful lot of time, next time will be both faster and easier.

What I need now is for everyone to help me by sending copies of photo's of parents, children, grandparents, etc. Black and white copies are best. Almost any picture relating to our family will be appropriate and can be included when I write our book. I think it goes without saying that, if I can copy a picture, I can copy anything. So send along copies of things such as high school and college diplomas; birth certificates; marriage licenses; death certificates; military papers; wills; land transactions; obituaries; wedding and birth announcements and any other documents which would be suitable for inclusion in a book about our family.

Right now I still have information which I have not entered into our records but will be starting on it soon. For example, I still have information from Bob Burkett, Jr. which I haven't entered and now that I have this new capability I can copy the documents themselves directly into our records.

I have plenty more which I could have included in this issue but, frankly, I have just run out of time and had to draw the line somewhere. I know that with the holidays you won't have time to work on anything until after the first of the year but don't forget me. I want all the information and pictures you can come up with.

I forgot to mention that the quality of the picture in the computer is much better than what you see in this issue but, at this time, the printer cost to print them at even higher quality is a little out of my reach but I think we can live with this for now.

I hope you all enjoy this issue and that you have a very merry Christmas and Happy New Year!