



THE BURKETT FAMILY

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Henry Burkett, Sr.(1796-1875) and Mary 'Polly' Burkett (1800-1884) with grandchildren



Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett

I'm convinced ! -

Yes, I'm firmly convinced that is Henry and Polly Burkett in the above picture! It is a shame it is of such poor quality but the good news is that we at least have it. The bad news is that the picture itself is probably pretty good but I haven't been able to get my hands on it. What I have is a 'not-so-good' copy machine copy sent by StellaB. She had the original picture when she died and her sister has confiscated all of her belongings and we have been unable to contact her to see if she would be willing to at least let us pay to have good quality copies made of what StellaB had.

But let's go back to the picture we do have. I reprinted a previous picture of Polly Burkett so you could compare, as I did. First, look at the hair line; then the mouth; then the nose and ears; and finally the chin line. If that isn't Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett then I'm a monkey's uncle! And with that established then it could only be husband Henry Sr. with her and that could only be some of

their grandchildren, just who they are is unknown at this time. I thought I had the grandchildren identified until I received some more information from Sid Huggins and discovered what I think are **three (3) more children for Henry and Polly than what I knew about!** **And another daughter, Margaret, for John Burkett!** But you'll read about that in another article in this issue.

In addition to this copied picture of Henry and Polly, I also have pictures of David Burkett with his second wife Emma Phillips, and an unidentified picture which just may be Polly at a younger age. They are also of poor quality but, as I said about this one of Henry and Polly, at least we have them. You will see these later on in this issue. But for now, let's go to the document which I believe shows that there were three (3) more children than what I had listed for Henry and Polly.

The document I received from Sid Huggins is the final settlement of Henry Burkett Sr.'s estate,

the executor of which was Josephus Finley. In the book on Cannon County, Josephus Finley is referred to as having been a justice of the peace for 24 years, an outstanding member of the bench, and a member of the Church of Christ in the 1800's so it would appear that Henry picked a very reputable man as his executor.

As you review this document, notice that within this one document, the name is spelled four (4) different ways! It is spelled Burkette, Burkete, Burkett, and Burket so it's easy to see how names were changed simply because of a clerk's spelling and because the folks involved could not read and correct them.

As has been my practice when I copy a document, I always duplicate them to the best of my ability in order to give you a 'feel' for how they wrote and did things in those days and I have done that in this case. In reading this Final Settlement, you will see the following several times - (sic). This is a method used to indicate that whatever precedes (sic) exactly reproduces the original. For example, when you see "Burkete(sic)", I am indicating that this is the exact way it was spelled in the original document and is not an error on my part.

I have commented several times over the years that when a document or other piece of information is uncovered it often raises as many questions as it answers - and this Final Settlement is no exception. First of all is the wording "Final Settlement". This seems to indicate there were other "Settlements" which preceded this 'Final' one. I have spoken with Danny Banks about this. (For those of you who are not acquainted with our cousin Danny, he retired as a Judge and is now back in private practice.) One of his long time friends, Bill Page, also an Attorney, has been into genealogy for many years and I asked Danny to ask Bill if he had encountered and determined how an Executor made his reports to the Court back in those days. Danny phoned to tell me he had discussed this with Bill and gave me the answer which is a little too lengthy to get into here. But it will help with future research by being able to direct my efforts without wasting time looking for something which may not be there given the way they did things back in those days.

Having said all this, the Final Settlement is on the next page and a summary which I prepared is on the following page. After that, I'll have some more comments about this document.

THE BURKETT FAMILY

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We wish to acknowledge the contributions made by StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes in compiling the initial data about our family. Without her efforts, much of the information we have would probably never have been located.

**A Final Settlement with Josephus Finley of the Will of Henry Burkette(sic) deceased
made by me J.G. Moon, Clerk of the Cannon County Court at office this 25(sic) day of
July 1888**

I found said Executor had in his hands at the time of this Last Settlement the sum of 1465.08
which amount is divided among eleven heirs making each heirs share 133.70

I also find said Executor is entitled to the following credits to wit

| | | | |
|----|-------------|---|---------|
| 1 | Oct 29 1885 | one receipt from Matilda Markum for | 10.00 |
| 2 | Aug 20 86 | receipt from W.Cummings assignee of Matilda Markum for | 61.90 |
| 3 | Nov 25 86 | " " " " " " " " | 61.90 |
| 4 | Dec 31 86 | Recpt from Martha Young & W.A. Young for | 61.90 |
| 5 | June 14 88 | " " " " " " " " | 71.29 |
| 6 | Mar 14 87 | " " Malinda Perryman & J.S. Perryman for | 61.90 |
| 7 | April 16 88 | Malinda Perryman & J.S. Perryman for | 71.20 |
| 8 | Oct 7 87 | " " M.E. Brown for | 61.90 |
| 9 | April 7 88 | " " " " " " " " | 71.29 |
| 10 | Oct 7 87 | " " James Burkette(sic) | 61.90 |
| 11 | Dec 7 87 | " " " " " " " " | 71.29 |
| 12 | Oct 27 86 | " " Jeremiah M. Burkette(sic) | 61.90 |
| 13 | Dec 29 87 | " " " " " " " " | 71.29 |
| 14 | Sept 6 86 | " " D.E. Burkette(sic) | 10.00 |
| 15 | Aug 9 86 | " " W.E. Jones assignee of D.E. Burkette " | 61.20 |
| 16 | Jan 24 88 | " " W.E. Jones " " " " " " | 60.30 |
| 17 | Oct 27 86 | " " George W. Burkette(sic) | 61.90 |
| 18 | Dec 29 87 | " " " " " " " " | 71.29 |
| 19 | Jan 11 88 | " " R C Crane, Attorney for heirs of Jacob Burkete(sic) | 48.80 |
| 20 | Jan 4 88 | " " J C Oatman, Aty for heirs of Jacob Burkete(sic) | 35.46 |
| 21 | Nov 20 86 | " " J C Oatman, Aty for heirs of Jacob Burkete(sic) | 37.14 |
| 22 | Aug 9 86 | " " Isaac Burkete(sic) heir of Henry Burkete (Jr.)(sic) | 30.95 |
| 23 | Nov 26 87 | " " " " " " " " | 35.65 |
| 24 | Aug 9 86 | " " J E Burkett(sic) " " " " " " | 30.95 |
| 25 | Nov 26 87 | " " " " " " " " | 35.65 |
| 26 | Aug 9 86 | " " Isaac & Nancy Higgins(sic)Heirs of John Burkette(sic) | 4.50 |
| 27 | Dec 20 87 | " " " " " " " " | 11.85 |
| 28 | Sept 15 87 | " " Lea & Mary Patterson for | 16.50 |
| 29 | May 6 87 | " " Margaret & Solomon Porter for | 4.50 |
| 30 | Jan 11 88 | " " L M Jetter agent of M & S Pattor(sic) | 11.85 |
| 31 | Nov 28 86 | " " Hoover & Maser assignee of Jobe Burkett(sic) | 4.50 |
| 32 | Feb 6 87 | " " " " " " " " | 11.85 |
| 33 | Sept 6 86 | " " Stephen & Froney atys for John Burkete(sic) heirs | 25.00 |
| 34 | Nov 11 86 | " " E T Fisher Exe to assigne of " " heirs | 10.00 |
| 35 | Nov 11 86 | " " " " " " " " | 4.50 |
| 36 | Dec 6 87 | " " B M Webb & E T Fisher asgne of John Burkete(sic) | 5.50 |
| | | allowance to the Executor for his extra (illegible) (illegible) | 14.52 |
| | | Estate Total Credits | 1444.02 |

Leaving a balance due Tolbert Burkete(sic) of the sum of 16.36 and also balance going to Cage(?)
Burket(sic) of 4.70 the recpt for said amount to filed on this settlement when executed.

Respectfully Submitted this July the 25th 1888, J G Moon Clerk

Examined and approved by the Court this 9th day of August 1888, J B Hawkins Chairman

(The M.E. Brown referred to on line 8 above is the former Mary E. Burkett Hall.)

Heirs Settlement of Henry Burkett Sr.'s Estate
(I made this summary based on the Final Settlement)

| | |
|-----------------------------|---------|
| Matilda (Marcum) | 133.80 |
| Martha (Young) | 133.19 |
| Malinda (Perryman) | 133.10 |
| M.E. Brown (Mary) | 133.19 |
| James | 133.19 |
| Jeremiah M. | 133.19 |
| David | 131.50 |
| George | 133.19 |
| Jacob (Heirs) | 121.40 |
| Henry Jr.(Heirs) - | 133.20 |
| Isaac | 66.60 |
| James E. | 66.60 |
| John (Heirs) - | 110.55 |
| Nancy (Higgins) | 16.35 |
| Mary(Patterson) | 16.50 |
| Margaret(Porter) | 16.35 |
| Jobe | 16.35 |
| Heirs(unidentified) | 45.00 |
| Total | 1429.50 |
| Allowance to executor | 14.52 |
| Balance due Tolbert Burkete | 16.36 |
| Balance due Cage ? Burket | 4.70 |
| Grand Total | 1465.08 |

Comments -

Nita had thought that the Jeremiah M. shown above might be Jobe since his (Jobe's) name is shown as J.M. on his marriage license. However, a review of the Will indicates the estate shares were to go to the children and then to grandchildren if their parents were dead. Not only was Jobe a grandson who received his portion of his father John's share as shown on Lines 31 and 32 of the Final Settlement, Jeremiah received a full share as only a child should receive as shown above. Therefore, I think Jeremiah must be another child the same as Malinda and Matilda.

At the bottom of the above and enclosed in the square is a matter of confusion to me. It shows a "Balance due Tolbert Burkete" of 16.36. Since this settlement took place in 1888 and the only Tolbert I know about was born in 1883, he was only 5 years of age at the time of this settlement plus his father Jobe was still living plus he was a great grandson of Henry, Sr. and therefore was not entitled to anything. So who was this 'Tolbert', I wonder.

Another item in the same square with the Tolbert reference is a "Balance due Cage(?) Burket" of 4.70. I have looked and looked at the way that name was written and, for the life of me, it still appears to be 'Cage' - and I don't have a clue as to who this might be! If you look at the Final Settlement document, it appears that these amounts are the same as others paid to heirs of the children - 16.36 and 4.70. But whose children could they have been??

And another thing - Andrew is not listed perhaps because he died in 1870 but he had one son, A.J., who was born in 1869 and he isn't listed as an heir of Andrew although records show A.J. married an Ella Todd in 1935 in Cannon County so A.J. was still living in 1888 and should have received his father's full share.

Some More Comments About the Final Settlement -

The first thing I learned was about the additional children There are apparently two (2) more daughters than I knew about until I received this document. One - Matilda - married Berry Markum (sometimes spelled Marcum) and the other - Malinda - married J.S. Perryman. I do not know their ages at this time but I'm going to make a guess that they were born before Henry, Jr. who, until now, I thought was the oldest child of Henry and Polly. Shown below are the birth dates and names I had for the children until this document showed up and keep in mind that Henry and Polly were married August 23, 1819.

| | | |
|------|------------|------|
| | Henry, Jr. | 1825 |
| | John | 1826 |
| | Andrew | |
| 1827 | | |
| | Jacob | 1830 |
| | George | 1836 |
| | James | 1838 |
| | Mary E. | |
| 1839 | | |
| | David | 1841 |
| | Martha J. | 1842 |

Although there appears to be a 3 year gap between 1827 and 1830, and a 6 year gap between 1830 and 1836, there was otherwise a regularity of births. There is also an approximate gap of 5 years between the time Henry and Polly were married and the birth of Henry, Jr. based on these dates. To me, it seems more likely that these two daughters, Matilda and Malinda, were born in that 5 year period preceding Henry, Jr. because births started pretty quickly after marriage in those days. So let's assume that that was the order of birth. Now we come to when Jeremiah was born. When there is an inclination for couples to name a son after the father using the father's name to make him a Jr., it *usually* happens with the first son. Therefore my *guess* is that Jeremiah was born after Henry. The first gap after Henry, Jr. appears between Andrew and Jacob which could have been as short as 2 years if Andrew was born at the end of 1827 and Jacob was born early in 1830. Therefore, I *think and would guess* Jeremiah was more likely born

between Jacob and George - between 1830 and 1836. Otherwise that seems to be a pretty long period for Henry and Polly to have gone without a birth.

As I said, these are only guesses and I would like to establish these dates a little more accurately so I plan to get back into the census reports and see if they reveal anything. For now, let's just assume we have discovered that Henry and Polly had *at least* 12 children instead of just the 9 I had recorded.

Another thing that came out of this document was that I only listed 4 children for John - Jobe, Thomas, Mary, and Nancy Ann. Well, according to the Final Settlement, Lines 29 and 30, Margaret Porter claimed her part as an heir of John - and she could have done that only if she were one of his children. So we have another relative I did not know about.

My intentions are to go back to the Cannon County courthouse and see if any of the detail documents supporting this Final Settlement might still be in those files. If so, they may give clues as to birth dates and where they were living at the time. Since there were some attorneys involved (yes, I spotted the B.M. **Webb** on Line 36!), there might be some correspondence still on file especially on behalf of Jacob's heirs who were out in Texas.

One more comment and we'll leave this subject for the time being. I spoke of being confused as to who the Tolbert and Cage (?) Burkett were. They obviously were descendants of a male heir since their name was Burkete (sic) which *might* help in my efforts to identify them. With that, let's move along but you can bet there will be more on this subject because I will be doing some research. ■

*When a society or a civilization
perishes, one condition can always
be found. They forgot where they
came from.*

- Carl Sandburg

LaRussell, Missouri Relatives Have Been Located! -

One thing I have learned about locating relatives is that you just have to keep on trying. And it finally paid off again because I have talked with two of our relatives out there in Missouri. Before identifying them, let me refresh your memory so that you will more readily understand our relationship.

Henry Burkett, Jr. had three (3) sons and he and his wife, Nancy Evans Burkett, moved to LaRussell, Missouri in about 1854 for reasons yet unknown. This estimated year of moving is based on the following. The three sons were James Edward, Isaac, and Robert born in 1848, 1849, and 1853 respectively. These dates were in the data compiled by StellaB Jaynes. Also according to StellaB, Henry, Jr. developed diabetes, died and was buried in LaRussell in 1854. If these dates are accurate or even close, Henry, Jr. must have died very soon after arriving in LaRussell. Again using these dates, the boys were only 6, 5, and 1 respectively at the time of their father's death. With the boys being that young and as far as we know now there being no other relatives out there, Nancy and the boys returned to Tennessee presumably to be near Nancy's parents in DeKalb County. They grew up there and, in about 1884, James Edward married Angeline Brown. They had five (5) children, all of whom were born in Tennessee. Sometime after the birth of their fifth child, James Edward and Angeline moved to LaRussell between 1899 and 1909. Mira Maltby Burkett, the youngest child, was born June 30, 1899 in Tennessee and Thomas, one of the sons, was killed in a lumber mill accident in Missouri in 1909. He is buried in the Harvey cemetery there in LaRussell. It was those descendants of James Edward Burkett and Angeline Brown that I have been attempting to locate.

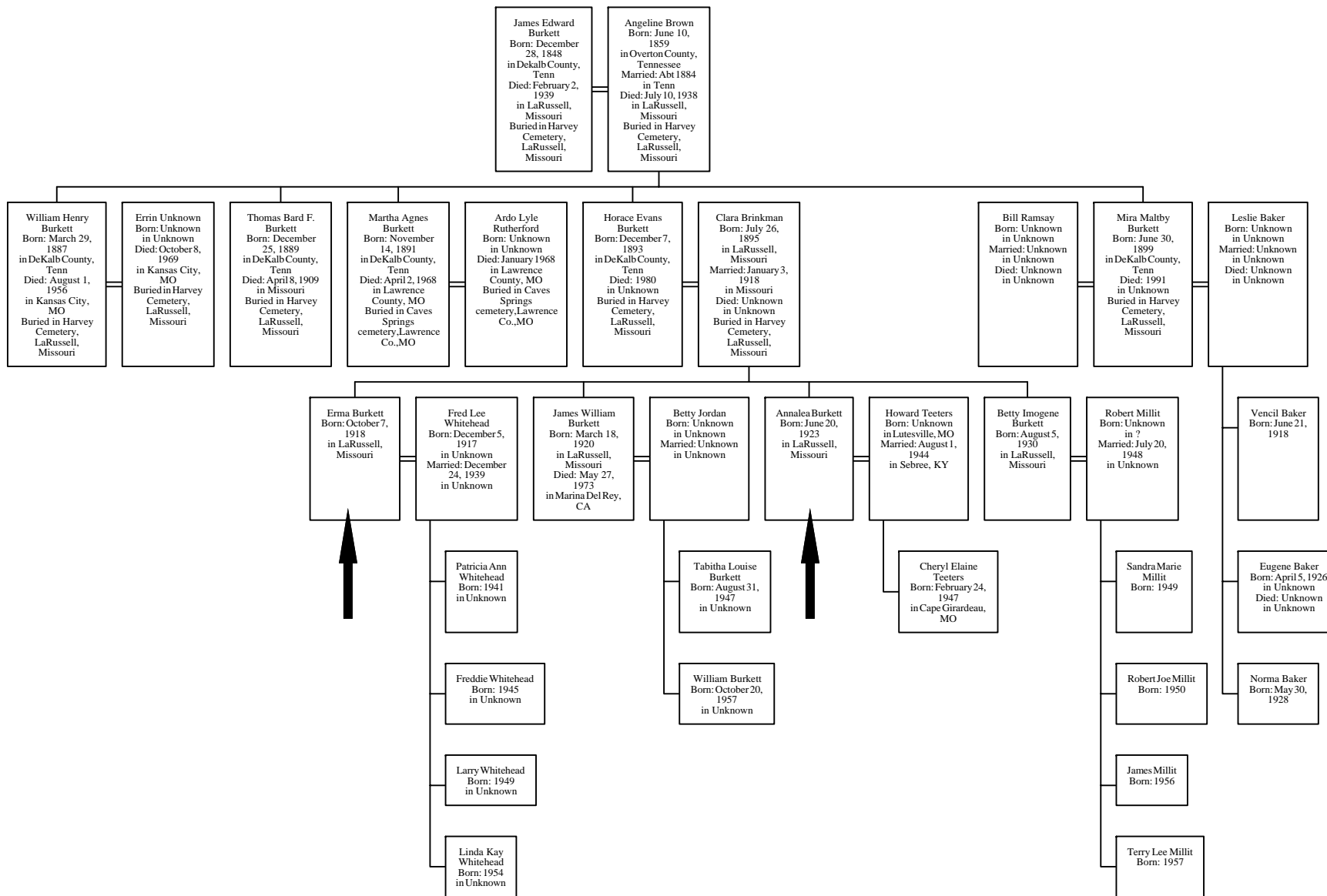
I had gone back and reviewed letters and notes from Nita Jaynes and found a brief mention that one of the descendants, Annalea Burkett Teeters, was living in Cape Girardeau, Missouri back in the late 1970's. Just on a hunch, I called information and, sure enough, there was a Teeters listed in Cape Girardeau so I called it and Annalea answered the phone. Well, I have to tell you I got

excited when I asked, "Are you Annalea Burkett?" and she said she was. I happened to catch her just as she was coming in with a load of groceries but she was gracious enough to talk with me anyway and seemed pleased to hear from a Burkett relative. After we had talked several minutes, she gave me her sister's name and phone number in LaRussell. This was Erma Burkett Whitehead so I called and we also had a nice long conversation. Erma told me she had tried to locate relatives during a visit to her son in Kentucky some years ago and had stopped in Watertown, Tennessee but was unable to locate anybody because she had very little information to go on.

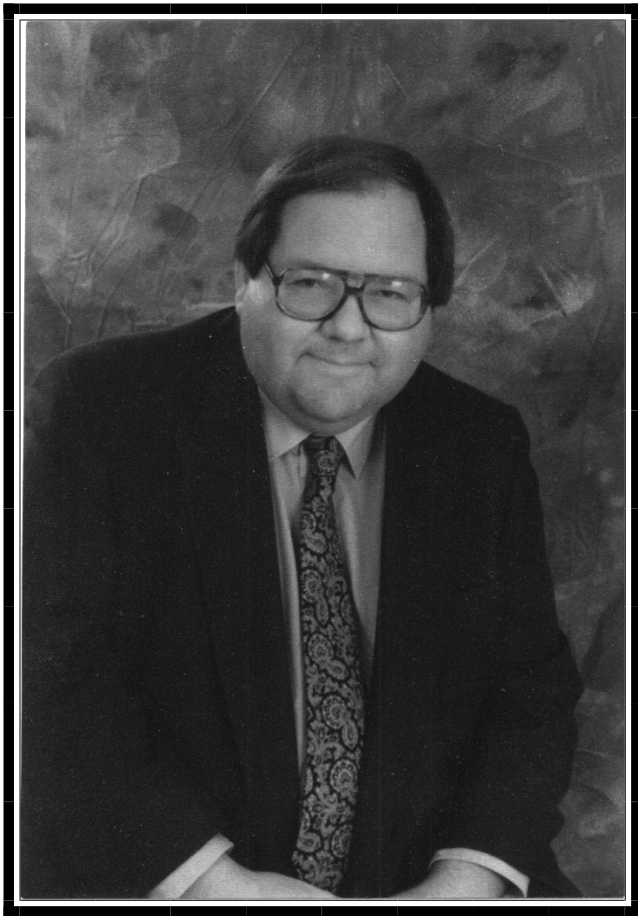
I sent some forms to Erma and Annalea for them to complete and return. I have received them back from Annalea but put most of the burden on Erma since she lives there in LaRussell. I hope to have them back by the time this Newsletter goes out so I can include a tree chart on these relatives. I also told both Erma and Annalea about our reunion in Huntsville and asked them both to attend along with any of our other relatives out that way. I am also hoping to get addresses for the other families out there so that I can get them on our Newsletter mail list. In a recent conversation with Erma she indicated that her family had been very interested in the family information I had sent and that they were interested in knowing what the reunion date was so, hopefully, some of them will be attending.

On the next page I have included a tree chart of these relatives which is as up-to-date as we can determine at this time. But we still don't know why James Edward and his wife Angeline decided to move from Tennessee to LaRussell other than, for reasons of their own, they decided life would be better for them there than in Tennessee. I had speculated that perhaps James Edward's father, Henry Burkett, Jr., might have left some land but Erma tells me that was not the case. But whatever their reason was, it must have been a pretty good life for them since James Edward lived to be 91 and wife Angeline lived to the age of 79. Both are buried in the Harvey Cemetery there in LaRussell along with his father, Henry Burkett, Jr. ■

Descendants of James Edward Burkett



→ Indicates relatives I spoke with on the telephone



Bob Preston Burkett, Jr.
1990

Many of you have met Bob, Jr. while others have only read about his many contributions to our family history. Now, for those who have not met him, here is a picture which will help 'bring to life' his past and future contributions.

He has recently provided several more high-quality photographs along with additional family information and I am including some of those photo's in this issue. My definition of "high-quality" is that some of these are original and some are copies he had made at a photo shop.

To the right of Bob, Jr. is his father, Bob Preston Burkett, Sr. in a photo made at the Naval Air Reserve Training Unit in Memphis, Tennessee. Bob, Sr. was 37 years old at the time of this photo.

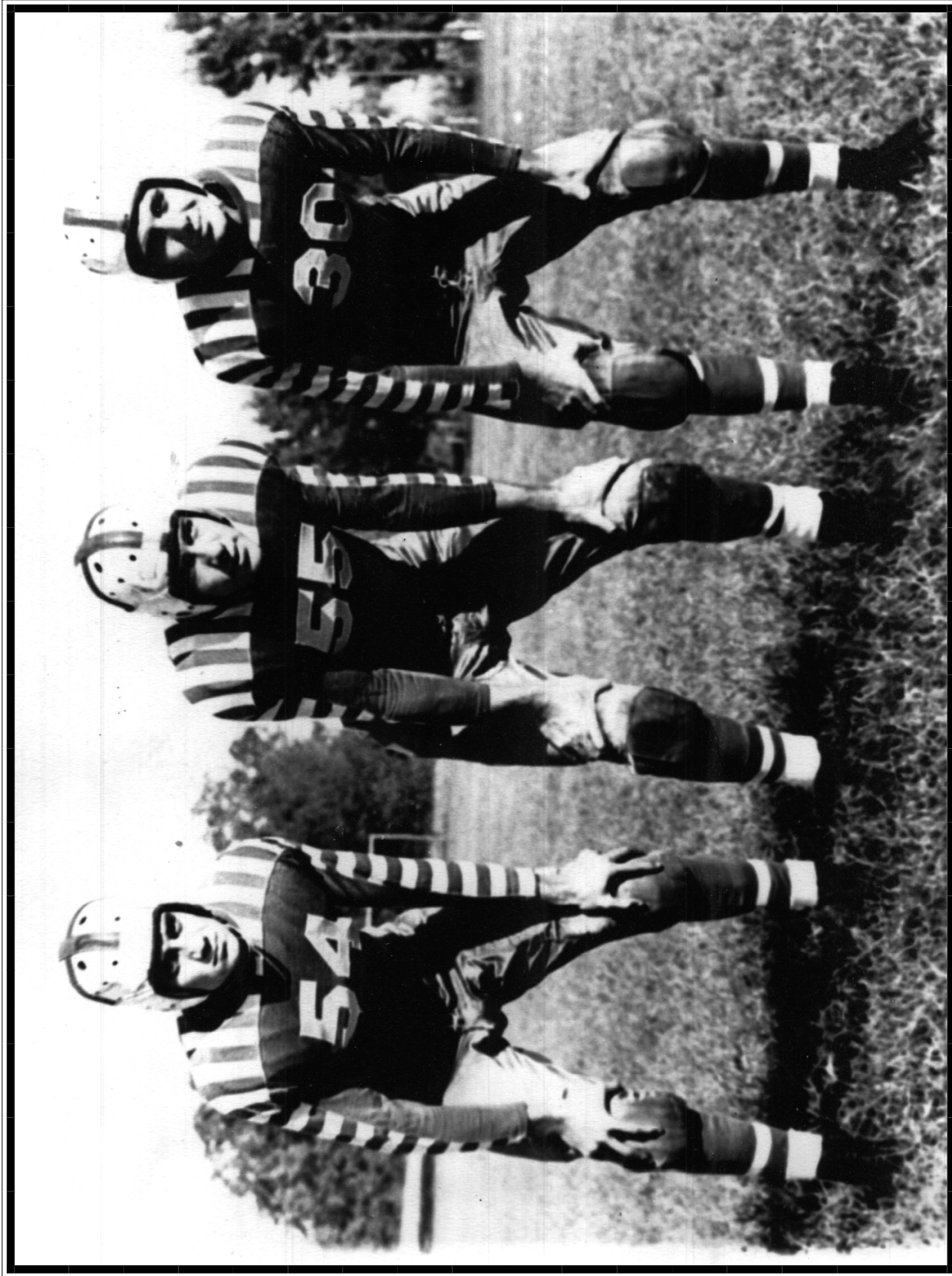
Over to the right is a picture of Bob, Sr. and his brother Wilburn Lee which was taken in Corpus Christi, Texas in 1944. Bob, Sr. was still an aviation cadet at the time and Wilburn must have returned from the Pacific because he is already a Torpedoman 2/C.



Bob Preston Burkett, Sr
June 10, 1960



Wilburn Lee Burkett & Bob Burkett, Sr.



Here are the three Burkett brothers. This picture was made in 1941 at what was then known as State Teachers College in Murfreesboro, Tennessee but later became known as Middle Tennessee State College. The football team was the "STC Blue Raiders" and the brothers were referred to as "The Burketts of Watertown". From left to Right - Wilburn, Bob Preston Burkett, Sr., William Wauford "Bill" Burkett, Jr.

A Visit With Relatives -

- By StellaB 'Nita' Jaynes

This was written June 10, 1973 and fits right in with the photo's on the preceding three (3) pages as well as the two pictures following this article. You will note that Nita refers to her husband by his last name - Jaynes.

Jaynes and I visited some Burkett relatives in Tennessee about three weeks ago. It was such a pleasant and gratifying experience that we want to tell you about it. (*Just who the "you" is she does not say.*) Although the Tennessee Burketts had never seen or heard of us, we have never been treated better. They were warm, friendly, courteous, down-to-earth folks; living in nice homes.

They now live in Wilson County but most of them were born and reared in DeKalb County - - both counties border Cannon County where my great, great grandfather, Henry Burkett lived for many years. The Burketts we recently visited are direct descendants of Henry Burkett and his wife, Mary Epley Burkett, just as we are.

I first read on old census records about the Burketts in Wilson county, Tennessee and for years had wanted to go there to see if their descendants are living there, what kind of people they are, and their relationship to the Burketts we already know about.

On Sunday, May 20, 1973, Jaynes and I drove into Lebanon, the county seat of Wilson County. As soon as we could get a motel room, bathe and change clothes, we asked the motel manager how to go to the little town of Shop Springs because it was listed as the post office for Burketts on the old census records.

Early afternoon, May 20, we drove 5 ½ miles out to Shop Springs and asked the operator of a little store whether he knew any Burketts. He told us how to find the home of Mrs. Annie Burkett who lives in nearby Watertown. We went to her house - - - a large, two-story, tan colored wood structure, square-type bungalow style with a big porch across the front, large entrance hall, parlor, living room, dining room, bed rooms, etc., all beautifully furnished with antiques and other fine, old fashioned furniture, rugs and carpets. She later told us the house had been the home of her

parents, named Midgett, and she had bought it after the parents died.

When I first rang the door bell and knocked on the front door, nobody answered. After the second try, I started walking to the car. A voice from an upstairs window said, "Good afternoon, may I help you? I was taking a bath and could not get downstairs quick enough to answer the door bell."

I looked up to see a blonde young man dressed in light blue clothes, talking through an open window. I introduced Jaynes and myself to him and explained that we were kin to the old Burkett pioneers of Cannon County. He smiled and said, "Good, we are, too. Come on in. I am Bob Preston Burkett, Jr. and this is the home of my grandmother, Mrs. Annie Midgett Burkett. She has gone with some of her Midgett relatives to a homecoming and cemetery meeting a few miles from town but she will be back in an hour or two." He came downstairs, opened the door and invited us in, but the three of us decided to sit on the front porch. Bob was a very talkative person about 24 years old, not married, had been a radio announcer for years but recently started helping his mother, "Brownie" Burkett, operate a travel agency at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She used to have a florist shop there. Her nickname, Brownie, was derived from her maiden name, Brown. The husband and father, Bob Preston Burkett, Sr. is in the Navy currently stationed at Little Rock, Arkansas. They have another son who is married and lives in Murfreesboro.

In a short while, Mrs. Annie Burkett came home. She is a large, heavy-set, gray haired lady in her 70's, very attractive; also very talkative with excellent choice of words, friendly and courteous. After exchanging introductions, we told her we were looking for Burketts related to those who used to live in Cannon County. She then said, "My husband, William Wauford Burkett, was a great grandson of Henry Burkett in Cannon County, but my husband never talked much about his relatives, and as we were separated many years before his death, I can tell you very little about the Burketts. He does have a sister, Mrs. Clarice Burkett Boyd,

living in Lebanon. She is a nice, lovely person but never appeared to be interested in family history; however, she likely can tell you more than I can. I'll call her and ask her when she can see you. She is a big church worker and always busy with community or civic affairs."

After their telephone conversation, Mrs. Annie Burkett told me that her sister-in-law, Mrs. Clarice Burkett Boyd, would be glad to see us anytime and for us to be sure to visit her, but she already had plans to be away from home Monday; so she wondered if we could come on Tuesday — if we could not wait that long, please call her early Monday morning and she would stay at home that day to see us.

I called Mrs. Boyd early Monday and told her that we could wait until Tuesday afternoon to visit her as we wanted to be searching old records at the courthouse in Wilson and DeKalb counties.

That Sunday afternoon Mrs. Annie Burkett told us more about the Burketts and went with us to the graves of those buried in Salem Baptist Church Cemetery in Liberty, Tennessee (DeKalb county). All of the Burketts there have tombstones from which I copied names and dates which I have listed on another page. When we took Mrs. Burkett back to her home in Watertown, she offered us food and coffee, tea, cold drinks and invited us to spend the night; but we told her that we already had a motel room in Lebanon, 12 or 15 miles from Watertown.

Our search of courthouse records next day revealed very little additional information about the Burketts. Tuesday morning we visited about two hours with Mrs. Annie Burkett. That afternoon we visited Mrs. Clarice Burkett Boyd in Lebanon about four hours. I like her very much, and you would, too. She is a combination twin sister of Birdie and Mae Delle (*Aunts of StellaB*), resembling both of them, especially the facial expression and manner of talking. She is about as tall as I am, 5' 6", very slender, short gray hair, not too talkative, a bit precise, but really nice and courteous. When I rang the doorbell of her new and attractive red brick home, she opened the door immediately with a big smile, invited us in, and before we were seated she gave us a big "bear" hug and kiss, saying how happy she was that some

of her Burkett kinfolks from another state would be interested enough to come to see her. We spent a pleasant afternoon talking mostly about family history and looking at pictures of relatives. She offered to let me bring two old pictures of Burketts to show you at this reunion, but she wants them returned soon. She gave us two pictures of herself & husband & a great granddaughter for us to keep. Her husband, Walter Boyd, a building contractor and carpenter died a few years ago. An unmarried son lives with her, but commutes daily to work in Nashville.

(At this point, StellaB began writing what she had learned about the Burketts from Annie and Clarice. This has been printed in other issues so I am not repeating it here.)

Apparently this was written and presented at a reunion somewhere but I have not the foggiest idea of where or when. In the last paragraph above, she again makes reference to a reunion by saying that Clarice had loaned her a couple of pictures 'to show you at this reunion' but StellaB again fails to identify where the reunion was held, when it was held, and which family reunion it was. However, it must have been members of her immediate family because, in describing Clarice Burkett Boyd, she compared her to Birdie and Mae Delle without identifying Birdie and Mae Delle by their last name which indicates that the group she was talking to all knew who they were without their last names. To be sure, I looked back and verified they were StellaB's mother's sisters, therefore her Aunts. She does say that Clarice gave her a couple of pictures to keep and my guess is that they are among StellaB's personal effects that her sister took when StellaB died and that's just one more reason why I hope we can contact her sister and persuade her to at least let us copy everything. ■

"A lot of what I am is what they were."

**George Tankersley
Mount Olive, Ala.**

As quoted in *Progressive Farmer*, June, 1995

More Pictures Courtesy of Bob Preston Burkett, Jr. -

The following two pictures are from a book provided by Bob, Jr. some time ago. As has happened several times, when I look back after a few years of working on our family history, I suddenly understand something I missed the first time I looked. Bob gave me this book a couple of years ago and I saw these pictures then but didn't understand what I was looking at because I was not familiar enough with our family at the time. After you read my next comments, I think you will understand what I'm saying. For now, let's look at the pictures.



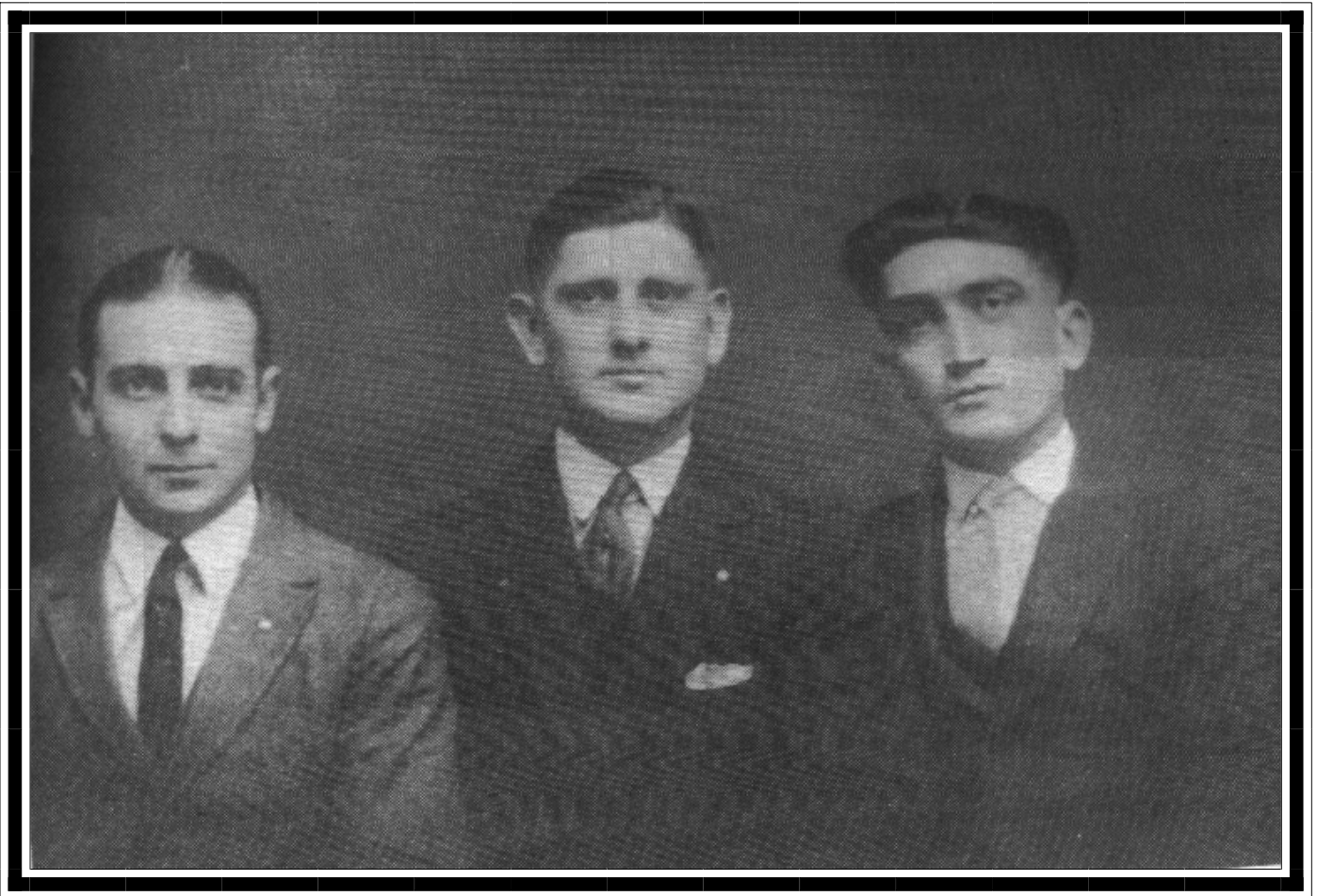
This picture is from the book "In A Place Called Watertown" by Ben T. Traywick and Lowell A. Bogle with the picture being through the courtesy of Mrs. J.D. Crowder. This is how the caption reads "Toll-gate house at Mahone summer 1910. From left to right: unknown, Walter Burkett (Annie's husband in later years), Etta Malone King, Mary Bell Parker Burkett, Mrs. Clarice Burkette Boyd, (Baby) Robert Love Boyd. Prices at this gate were: Horse and buggy — 10¢; horseback — 5¢ ; geese and turkeys — 1¢ each."

In the 1840's, a road was built known as the "Sparta Pike." It was a toll road known as a "Pike" because of the poles - called pikers - blocking the road every few miles in order to collect the toll. The pole (pike) was hung on a post across the road and counter balanced with rocks. The toll gate man operated from a house on the side of the road and kept it tied down until he had collected the toll. The "Sparta Pike" had three gates — one at Shop Springs, one at Cherry Valley and one at Mahone — for the Three Forks area. In the above picture, one arrow points up at the "pike" across the road. The other arrow points to a hand made broom and my guess is that it was used to sweep the road of loose dirt in order to keep down the dust. While I don't know that for sure, it's a good guess because folks used to sweep dirt to keep the dust down.

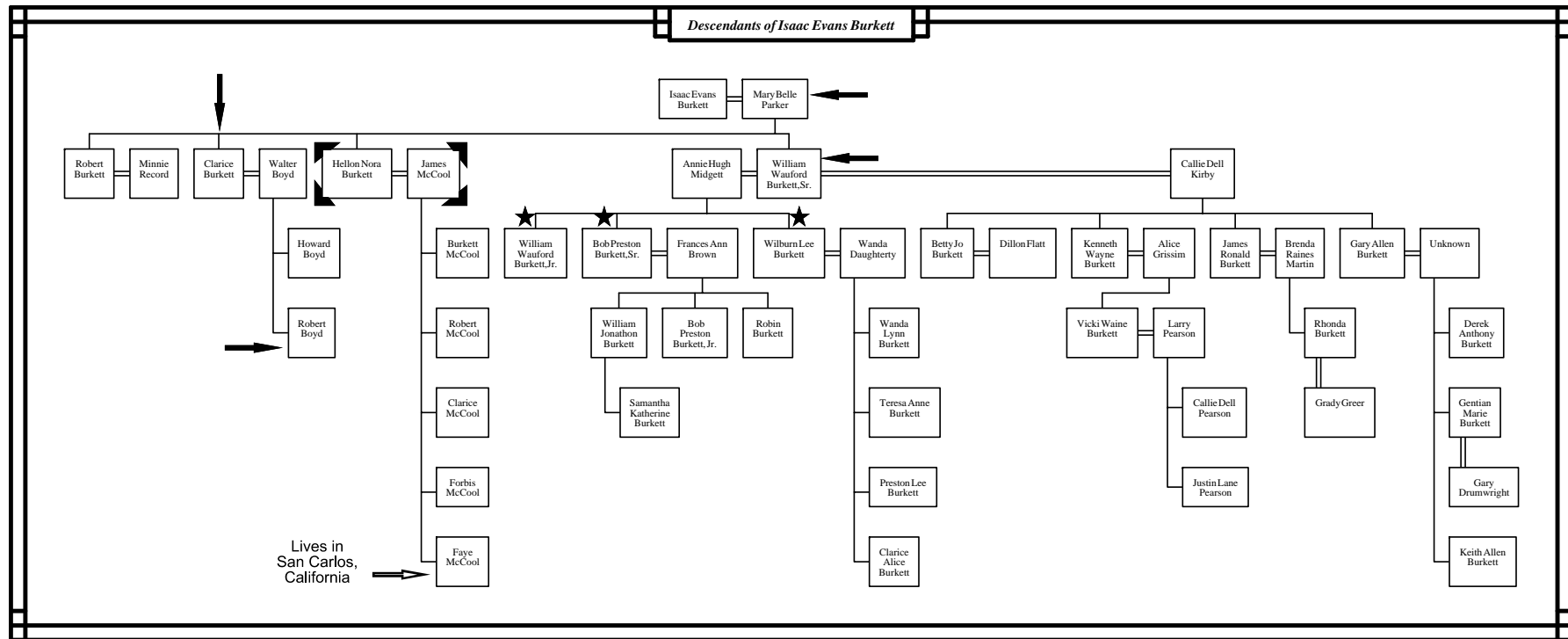
The caption says the young boy is "Walter(sic) Burkett (Annie's husband in later years.)" Well, that had to be *Wauford* not *Walter* because *Wauford* married Annie Midgett in later years and that is his mother *Mary Belle* Parker Burkett and his sister *Clarice* Burkett Boyd with one of her sons, *Robert*. I think this is another

case where folks got the name wrong. This book was written and published in 1992. Wauford died in either 1943 or 1944 so he had been dead almost 50 years and, since Wauford is an unusual name, I think the folks remembered it as Walter. The next picture was identified the same way. Anyway, if you remember from StellaB's article, she said they went to Shop Springs looking for Burkett's and Shop Springs was where one of the three toll gates was located. Why they were here for this picture is unknown but they appear to have known their picture was going to be taken because they seem to be 'dressed up' for it. My Tennessee map does not show any of the three locations so all we know at this time is that it was near Watertown. It would be nice if we can locate the family of Mrs. J.D. Crowder and get a good copy of this picture. Once again, let me point out a mis-spelling of the Burkett name where it says "Clarice Burkette Boyd". Again, we have the picture even if they did mis-spell the Burkett name. One other thing — it says the picture was made in 1910 which would make Wauford about 10 since he was born in 1900.

On the next page you will find a tree chart of the descendants of Isaac Evans Burkett and his wife, Mary Belle Parker Burkett, shown sitting on the edge of the porch. I do not know who Etta Malone King is unless she was the wife of the toll gate keeper. And don't fail to notice that big comfortable looking rocking chair!



Here is how the caption for this picture appears in the book. "Left to right: Walter Burkett, Frank Neal, Will Ray Hearn." Again, I am convinced and Bob Burkett, Jr. agrees that this is Wauford Burkett and not Walter Burkett. Bob, Jr. has identified the others in the photo as follows: Frank Neal, Bob's great Uncle Frank; Will Ray Hearn as the husband of Verna, a sister of Annie Midgett. This would make Wauford and Will Ray brother-in-laws. Given this relationship, it would make sense that they would have a picture made together since they are related at least by marriage. The book does not identify who provided this picture but it probably came from someone in the Frank Neal or Will Ray Hearn family. It would also be nice if we could run this down and get a good copy of the above. I know that Ken Burkett in Lebanon, Tennessee would like to have it because Wauford is his father. No date is shown as to when the picture was made. ■



➔ Indicates those in the photo's on pages 13 and 14. ★ Indicates the three Burkett brothers shown on pages 8, 9 and 10.
 ◀ Corner tabs indicate the family I have been trying to locate for some time — more about them in another article in this issue.

First, let me apologize for the small print in the above tree chart but it is the largest I could use and still get it on the page. Whenever possible I like to include these tree charts because I believe it makes it easier to see the relationship and to remember names a little better.

The above ancestor, Isaac Evans Burkett, was a brother of James Edward Burkett shown on page 7. You will recall they were sons of Henry Burkett, Jr. and had one other brother who died at a young age of diabetes. James, of course, returned to LaRussell, Missouri while Isaac remained in Tennessee with his family.

You will notice that William Wauford Burkett, Sr. had two families and I am in touch with members of both so we are gradually filling in the blanks. However, I was lacking

information about his brother and sisters until just recently when I was able to locate a member of the McCool family, Bill McCool, in Sulphur Springs, Texas who then put me in touch with another relative who lives in San Carlos, California, Faye McCool Kelly. There is a separate article about these folks and I am sure happy to have finally located them. I am hopeful they will be able to fill in a lot of the blanks either themselves or by directing me to others who can. ■

Why pay money to have your family tree traced? Go into politics and your opponents will do it for you.



Wedding picture November 15, 1902
John 'Gum' Montgomery Elrod
and
Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Burkett

Here come the Elrods! -

Well, when I asked Dorothy Elrod Foster to get me some information about the Elrods I didn't really know what I was asking because she sent me the data for **124** descendants of the couple shown above - Gum Elrod and Lizzie Burkett!!

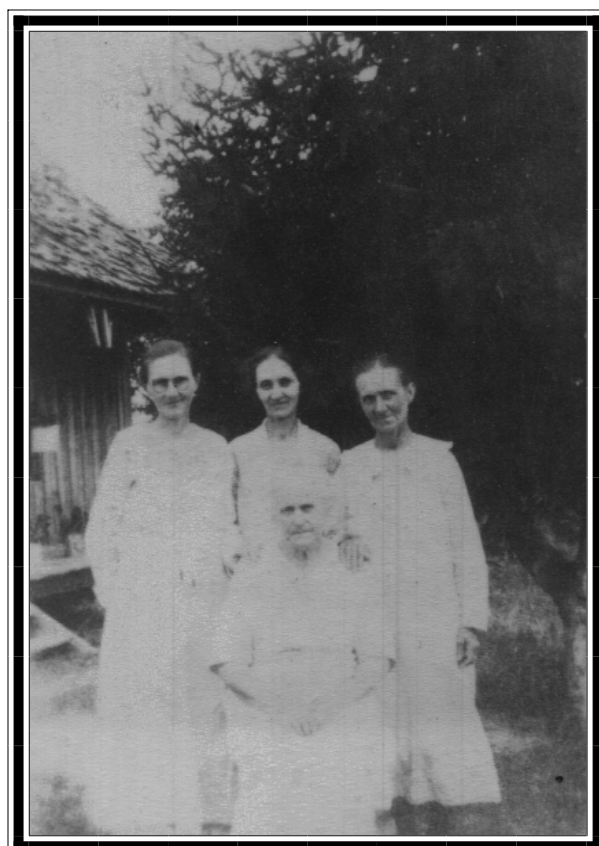
According to Dorothy's count, there were 9 children, 29 grandchildren, 50 great grandchildren and 36 great great grandchildren. And before I get too far along I want to point out that Dorothy also provided the pictures on this page.

To refresh your memory, Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Burkett was the youngest of five children born to Jobe Burkett and Rebecca Caroline Rigsby. (Jobe was a son of John Burkett who was a son of Henry Burkett, Sr.) The brothers and sisters of Elizabeth were:

Almon Lee Burkett
Julie Ann Burkett
JoAnna 'Dollie' Burkett
Tolbert Lee Burkett



↑ Lizzie Burkett Elrod at the grave of her father, Jobe Burkett, at Sugar Tree Knob - Date is unknown



Standing left to right - JoAnna 'Dollie' Burkett Watson Wood, Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Burkett Elrod, Julie Burkett Underhill. Seated is neighbor Mollie Newby.

The vital statistics for Gum Elrod and Lizzie Burkett are shown below.

| | |
|---|---|
| <p>John Montgomery Elrod Known as: Gum Born: May 16, 1881 in Cannon County, Tenn Died: August 16, 1925 in Warren County, Tenn Buried in Oak Grove cemetery</p> | <p>Elizabeth Love Burkett Known as: Lizzie Born: July 11, 1882 in Cannon County, Tenn. Married: November 15, 1902 in Cannon County, Tenn. Died: June 1, 1954 in Warren County, Tenn. Buried in Oak Grove cemetery in Warren County, Tenn.</p> |
|---|---|

Their children were:

Lila Mae Elrod married John Wood
 Nora Lee Elrod married Hobert Griffith
 Samuel David Elrod married Pauline Wall
 Mattie Macon Elrod married Floyd Womack
 Jesse Gordon Elrod married Tiny Lee Grizzell
 Locey Celmer Elrod married Veda Gutting
 Albert Lloyd Elrod married Bertha Blair
 Edward Spencer Elrod married Frances Davis
 Dorothy Agnes Elrod married John Foster

*The following article appeared in the Smithville (Tenn.) Review **Thursday June 10, 1954.** I printed the date in bold print to point out that this was almost 43 years ago. Although long, I have chosen to print it in its entirety because it not only provides a great tribute to our relative, Lizzie Burkett, but is pretty much the same theme we are hearing and reading about today.*

A Farmers Meditation

by

W.R. Lassiter

Some few years ago mention was made in this column of an incident that at least one preacher quoted in a talk that he made. The incident had to do with a happening at a church one Sunday. A certain mother whom we all respected and loved came in to services one morning followed by her nine children, several in-laws, and a number of

grandchildren. There was so much joy evidenced by this happy mother and her beaming off-spring that no one could help from seeing and feeling it. This incident is still a very vivid picture in my mind.

One day last week the scene was repeated except that the mother did not walk into the building; the children, in-laws, and the grandchildren did not enter with joyful expressions; and the heart of everyone present was heavy because this good woman was dead.

Left a widow when the youngest of her children was less than two years old, this woman had the full responsibility of rearing her family and giving the training that children should receive. No one knows the feeling of helplessness she might have experienced since she well realized that she could not give up and that she would not give up. (*This youngest child the author refers to was Dorothy who was about 18 months old when her father died.*)

She was left a small farm and the mortgage that went with the place. The land was poor, but it provided a permanent base of operation, and there she worked and trained her children. There was no welfare agency to assist. She accepted her family as her responsibility. She and her husband were regular church attendants, and this she continued with her children always with her.

Now the youngest of these children is near thirty with the others ranging up from that. Each is fairly well established in life, and each child well exemplifies in his or her life the sterling traits of character instilled by this mother. It is all another example of what can be done with proper training and with courage to meet the problems of life.

This person was Mrs. Lizzie Burkett Elrod Newby of the Oak Grove Community, Warren County, Tennessee. (*Lizzie had married Luther Newby many years after Gum's death.*) She was married to Mr. Newby after all her children were married and had established homes of their own or had taken work away from home. Mrs. (*Elrod*) Newby was well known in my home community and has a sister, Mrs. Julia (sic) Burkett Watson Underhill, who resides in the Mahaty Hill community, near neighbors of mine

The preacher in beginning his talk at the

funeral of Mrs. Newby quoted a headline in one of our daily papers. The headline was a statement by President Eisenhower setting out what he thinks to be one of the grave dangers confronting our country. The preacher recognized the truth of the statement made and added that it could be as truthfully be stated that one of the greatest menaces facing our country is the degeneracy of home life, and here he paid a well deserved tribute to the fruits of Mrs. Newby's life.

To say that home life is broken down implies that it is an institution for training because effective living is non-existent today. I believe, and have good reasons to know, that there are many homes today in which children are being trained for effective living, but the number is far smaller than it should be. And there are many good reasons to believe that this lack of training will be reflected in the lives of the men and women of tomorrow who are not receiving the proper training today.

It is granted without any argument that home life today is under quite a different strain than it was even 25 or 30 years ago, but life then was different to what it was 25 or 30 years before that period. I doubt if any period of time has ever been just like another period of time. Each period presents different problems, and the problems must be met according to the period and not according to some other period. If more is required in one period, then more must be exerted.

In many things we try to excuse our failures by stating that conditions were such that made for failures only. That is a very poor excuse. It is an admission that we were confronted with problems that required more effort to solve than we were willing to exert. Life is composed of many problems, and the measure of one's success is how well he met and solved the problems that came his way.

Child-training is definitely a problem of the home. Assistance is given by the school, the church, and the community, but the primary responsibility is upon the home. And when this responsibility is so well met as was the case with Mrs. Newby, a priceless contribution has been made to the world. ■



Mary 'Polly' Burkett — I think

The above picture is the one I referred to on the first page when I said I had another picture from StellaB Jaynes that I thought might also be Polly Burkett. Again, this obviously is not that good of a picture and I am again guessing by looking at the hairline, facial features and *the dress she is wearing*. The dress strongly resembles the one she is wearing in both the pictures shown on page one.

She has the dog on a leash and it must have been a fairly well trained dog to sit quietly because any movement back in those days of slow cameras would have caused a blur.

I am still hopeful that we can persuade StellaB's sister to either let us have these pictures or make some more professional copies of them. If we could do that I think we could be more certain as to whether or not this is Polly Burkett. ■

| | | | |
|--|---|------|---|
| CLASS OF SERVICE This is a full-rate telegram or Cablegram unless its deferred character is indicated by a suitable symbol above or preceding the address. | <h1>WESTERN UNION</h1> <p>A. N. WILLIAMS PRESIDENT</p> | 1201 | SYMBOLS DL = Day Letter NL = Night Letter LC = Deferred Cable NLT = Cable Night Letter Ship Radiogram |
| | filing time shown in the date line on telegrams and day letters is STANDARD TIME at point of origin. Time of receipt is STANDARD TIME at point of destination | | |
| | NHN17 RX PD=WATERTOWN TENN APR 10 827A DOROTHY ELROD= | | 1948 APR 10 AM 9 16 |
| | FONE 54J | | |
| MOTHER DIED LAST NIGHT FUNERAL SUNDAY AFTERNOON TELL OUR FOLKS= | | | |
| LELLYE.. | | | |
| 857A. | | | |
| | | | |
| LELLYE. | | | |
| <small>THE COMPANY WILL APPRECIATE SUGGESTIONS FROM ITS PATRONS CONCERNING ITS SERVICE</small> | | | |

“Western Union Boy” -

Few words in history have been able to summon such strong feelings of dread, fear or hope as having a knock on the door and hearing the above words “Western Union Boy” — or seeing an obvious Western Union messenger stop his bicycle at your door. When a messenger was spotted, everybody watched to see where he was going.

Before the days when the telephone became commonplace, Western Union was the primary method for conveying what was almost always bad news. None of our younger relatives — and few of our ‘middle-aged’ relatives — can remember those days.

The above telegram was sent by Lellye Huggins to Dorothy Elrod Foster about Lellye’s mother, Nancy Ann Burkett Huggins. In this

instance, Dorothy had a telephone as indicated by the upper left circle — 54J. It was received by a Western Union operator to notify Dorothy at 9:16am as indicated by the right circle. As pointed out by the arrow, the operator made the first call at 9:18am and noted “da” (doesn’t answer) for that call and for other calls at 9:25, 9:50, and 10:11 until Dorothy answered at 10:37am and the operator indicated “dld” —delivered.

Nancy Ann Burkett Huggins was a granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr., a daughter of John Burkett, a sister of Jobe Burkett, the grandmother of Sid Huggins, an Aunt of Elizabeth Love Burkett Elrod, and the grandaunt of Dorothy Elrod Foster.

Dorothy provided this copy and I thought it worthy of this newsletter to give our younger relatives another glimpse of what life was like in those days.

The Clarice Burkett Boyd Family —

Back on page 15, I mentioned I had made contact with members of the McCool family and provided a descendant chart for Isaac Evans Burkett. One of the McCool family I spoke with was Faye McCool Kelley — and I spelled her name wrong on that chart for which I apologize. I spelled it as Kelly instead of Kelley. Anyway, she provided me with the picture to the right but I received her information after I had already printed page 15.

This appeared in the Lebanon (TN) Democrat in February 1981 according to the note written on it and provided information on family members I knew nothing about until I saw this photo.

If you look at the descendant's chart on page 15, you will see I knew nothing about the two children of Robert Boyd, Myrna and Bob, and obviously nothing about Myrna's daughter and her son, Robert Wesley Schrieber.

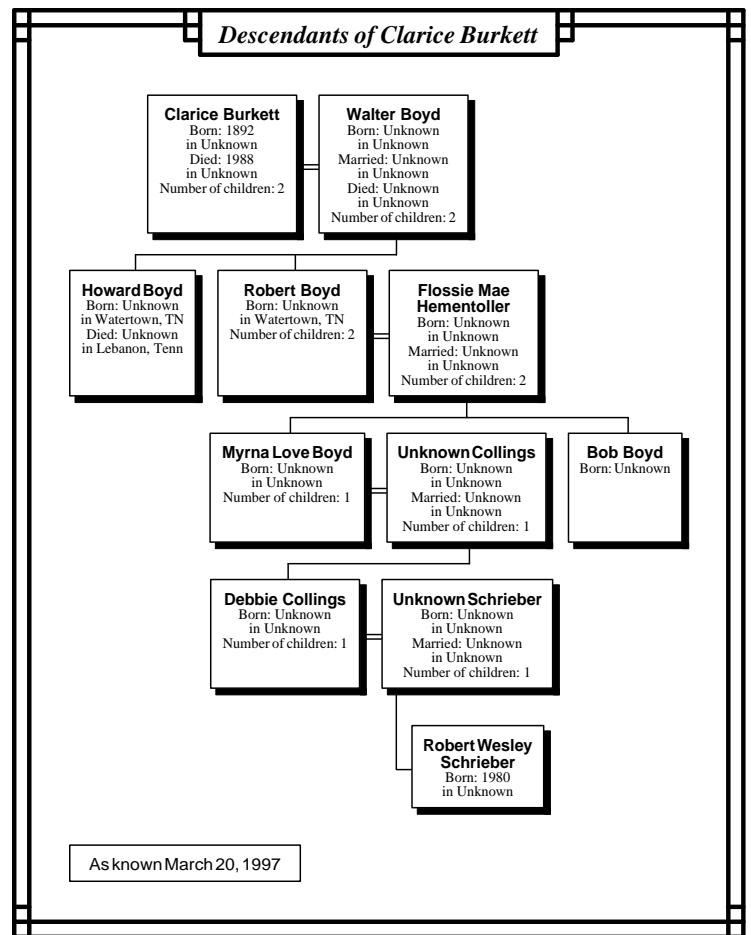
However, a close look at the descendant chart to the right will reveal that while I have learned some names, I have very little information about them beyond that.

In the center of the photo at lower right is Bob Boyd, the son of Robert. The photo was made December 26, 1979 and includes both of Bob's grandmothers with him. From left to right is his grandmother, Clarice Burkett Boyd, Bob, and his grandmother Hementoller. According to information on the back of the picture (which was also provided by Faye McCool Kelley), his grandmother Clarice was 88 years old at the time and was called "Nanny" by the immediate family. His grand-mother Hementoller was 95 and was called "Mama Doll" by the family.

I have made some unsuccessful attempts to locate Robert Boyd and his children but will continue because I believe they are in the Nashville vicinity. And I do want to thank Faye for these and other photo's she sent. ■



Five generations of the Boyd family got together for a reunion last weekend at the home of Mrs. Clarice Boyd in Lebanon. They are, from the left, Mrs. Boyd, the great-great-grandmother; Robert Boyd, Lebanon, the great-grandfather; Myrna Collings, Donelson, the grandmother; Debbie Schrieber, Memphis, the mother; and little Robert Wesley Schrieber. (DEMOCRAT photo by Mike Poley) Feb 1981



And now for the McCool's —

As I pointed out on page 15, I have spoken on the phone with Bill McCool in Sulphur Springs, Texas and with his aunt, Faye McCool Kelley in San Carlos, California. Bill's grandmother and Faye's mother was Hellon Nora Burkett, a daughter of Isaac Evans Burkett who was a son of Henry Burkett, Jr. I am providing a descendant chart on the next page showing the information I have collected on this family as of now.

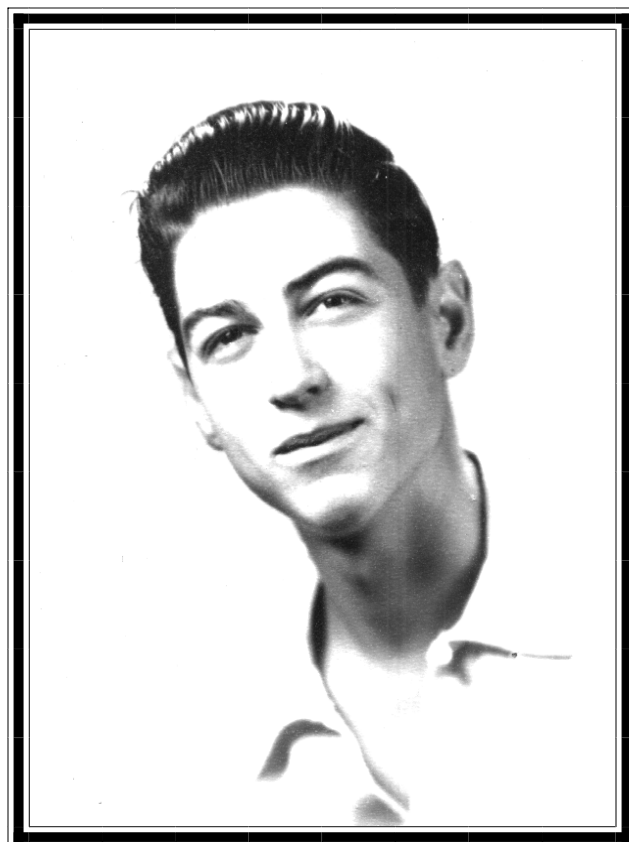
In addition to the pictures of Clarice Burkett Boyd and her family shown on the preceding page, Faye provided some other pictures which are shown on this page.



*Robert Clarence McCool and Eva Clarice McCool
(Date is unknown but around 1909)*

Robert and Eva Clarice are brother and sister to Faye McCool Kelley and Robert was the father of Billy Bob 'Bill' McCool. The black dot on the lip of Robert is a photo blemish similar to the dots on the dress of Eva Clarice.

In the next column are pictures of the children of Jesse Forbis McCool.



Billy Frank McCool (date unknown)



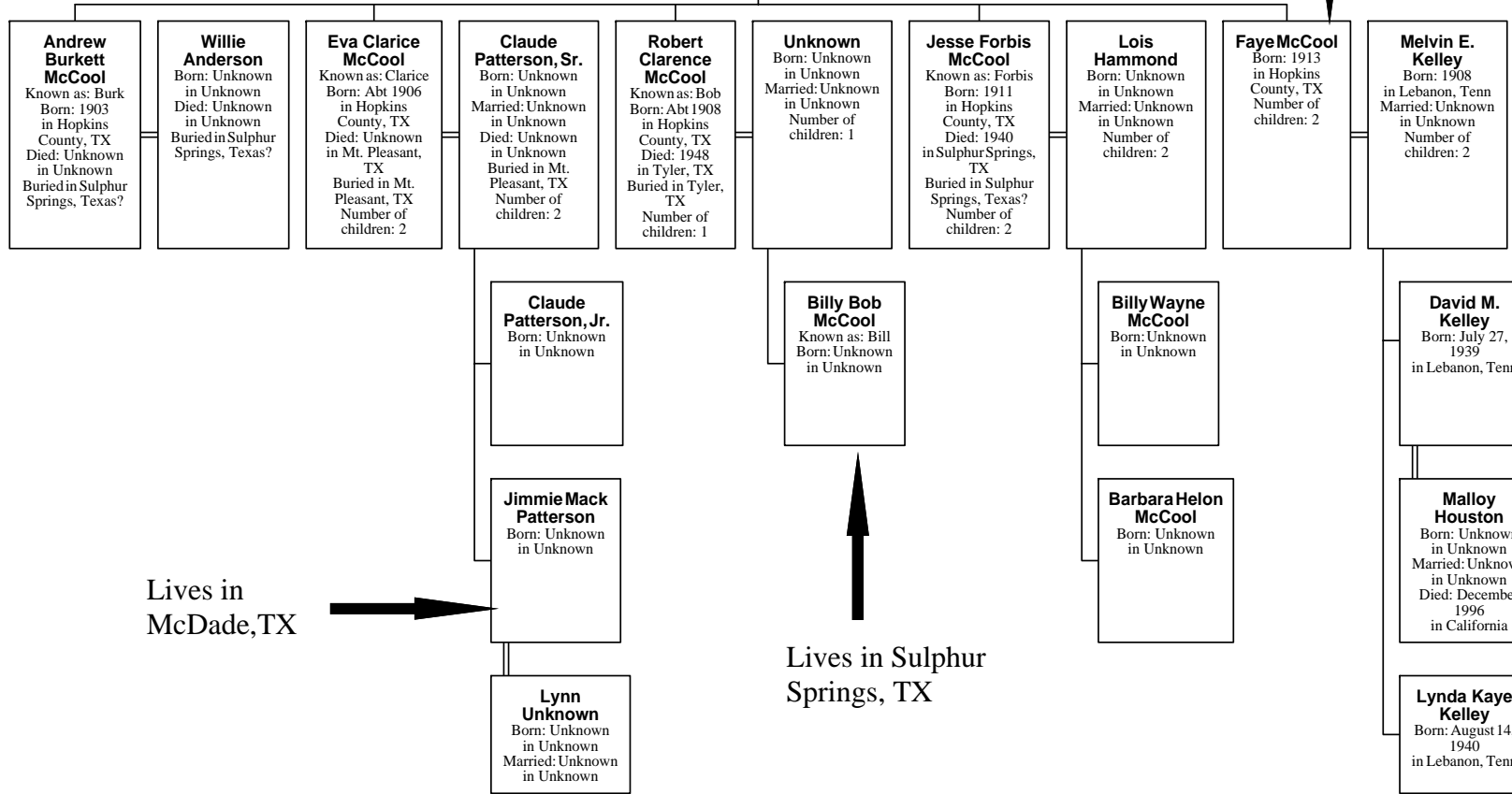
Barbara Helon McCool (date unknown)

Descendants of Helon Nora Burkett

Helon Nora Burkett
 Born: Abt 1884 in Liberty, TN
 Died: Unknown in Unknown
 Buried in Gafford Chapel, Hopkins County, TX
 Number of children: 5

James Calvin McCool
 Born: 1881 in Jackson, Miss.
 Married: Unknown in Tenn
 Died: 1959 in Hopkins County, TX
 Buried in Gafford Chapel, Hopkins County, TX
 Number of children: 5

Lives in San Carlos, California



Lives in McDade, TX



Lives in Sulphur Springs, TX



These are the relatives I have spoken with on the telephone and/or exchanged correspondence. There are many errors and omissions in the above but it is a starting point and we hope to complete it over the next few weeks.

More on the McCools —

After having printed the previous page 22, I spoke with Jimmie Mac Patterson and discovered some errors which I have corrected but I know there are more which will be corrected as we attempt to get these records completed.

One of the errors I made was in the name of the son of Jesse Forbis McCool. Look back at the picture on the preceding page and you will see I show his name as “Billy Frank” but Jimmie Mac tells me his name was “Billy Wayne” but I had already printed the page. I stated the date of the pictures was unknown but when I described them to Jimmie Mac, he speculated they were somewhere around 1947 to 1949. Another error was I had been spelling his great grandmother as “Hellon Nora” with two “L’s” when it should be “Helon” with only one “L”. Anyway, I am mailing some forms to Jimmie Mac so between him, Billy Bob, and their aunt Faye, we should be able to get it all straightened out.

Now, look back at the picture on page 13 which shows the toll gate and relatives Mary Belle Parker Burkett (wife of Isaac Evans Burkett), William Wauford Burkett, and his sister Clarice Burkett Boyd with her son Robert Love Boyd. I had wondered why they were there to have their picture taken and I may now have the answer. In her letter to me, Faye McCool Kelley said she remembered being told her grandfather Isaac Burkett used to operate a tollgate near Liberty, Tennessee. While speaking with Jimmie Mac, he mentioned that he also remembered the tollgate. So it may well be this is the house where the Isaac Burkett family lived and operated the tollgate. He also remembered being told that his great grandfather Isaac was a preacher as well as a tollgate keeper.

One of the puzzles — and cousin Faye Kelley may be able to help us on this — is how James Calvin McCool came to be in Tennessee when he came from Mississippi. He apparently met Helon Nora Burkett there, they married and at some point decided to move to Sulphur Springs, Texas where all of their children were born. What made them decide to move to Texas? Don’t know

at this time but we’ll try to find out.

During my conversation with Jimmie Mac, he also told me he has pictures which he is sure is Isaac and Mary Belle Parker Burkett and also pictures of the Clarice Burkett Boyd family which includes the children of Robert Love Burkett, Myrna Love Burkett and Robert ‘Bob’ Burkett. Those children are included in the photo’s sent by Faye McCool Kelley and shown on page 20. Jimmie Mac was nice enough to promise to send them to me for inclusion in our Burkett book. (And am I spelling his name correctly? *I don’t know — forgot to ask him!* I noticed I have spelled it as Jimmie Mac and also as Jimmie Mack. My apologies but we’ll get it corrected.)

Now that I have contacted our McCool relatives this accounts for all of the descendants of the sons of Henry Burkett, Jr., James Edward Burkett and Isaac Evans Burkett. The third son, Robert, died of diabetes at a young age. We still have some work to do but believe we can get it done with help from these McCool relatives and Erma Burkett Whitehead in LaRussell, Missouri. (As an aside to Cousins Erma Whitehead and Faye McCool Kelley, you two are first cousins, once removed.)

That’s all on the McCool’s for this issue but I’ll have more to say as we fill in the gaps and get some more photo’s. ■

Tennessee Biscuits

(While I don’t know anybody who makes biscuits from ‘scratch’, here is a recipe for anybody who feels ambitious. But I’ll bet they’re good!!)

2 cups warm buttermilk

2 packages dry yeast

1 teaspoon salt

½ teaspoon soda

1 cup Crisco

¼ cup sugar

5 cups flour

Soften yeast in buttermilk. Mix dry ingredients. Cut in shortening. Add yeast and buttermilk and mix well. Roll thin. Cut and put in pan. Brush with melted butter. Let rise in warm place. Bake at 450 degrees for 15 minutes. ■

The Historians Corner



Several of you are receiving this Newsletter for the first time and may find it a little difficult to relate to some of these articles. I started on this project about five years ago using information gathered by StellaB Jaynes — one of our Texas relatives. She had traveled extensively and over a period of many years. Unfortunately, we lost her last June. Without her efforts much of this information would have never been available plus we might not have had the inclination to start something of this magnitude without a starting point. Although they are not all Burkett blood, I currently have over 1200 names in the computer program. Some of them are parents of spouses and therefore are not direct descendants but are important to the children of those spouses. So if you have a question or questions, drop me a line and I'll give you as good an answer as possible. If you are completely lost as to your place in the Burkett family, I can provide you without charts which will trace you from Henry Burkett, Sr.

Earlier in this issue, I talked about the information on the Elrod's provided by Dorothy Elrod Foster. Well, I received some more information from her that I had requested and she *apologized for taking so long!* Dot, if I could get all of the information that fast I would have our book published in no time!! Thanks a million!

I guess it had to happen sooner or later. The other day I received a piece of mail addressed to "M.O. *Burkett*". No, it wasn't from a relative but from a company wanting to sell me a book about the Burketts. How they got my initials and address is a mystery to me. It isn't that big a deal and I did get a chuckle out of it.

For those of you who have been receiving the Newsletter over a period of years, you will recall the trials and tribulations of our relative,

Kenneth Wayne Burkett of Jasper, Alabama. Kenneth had been on the police force in Jasper for many, many years when he was terminated without justification. He elected to fight for his job and spent several years going through legal battles with the City of Jasper who refused to stop in spite of losing in every court they went to. This was a long and time consuming process but Kenneth was determined and I am now happy to report *he has won and is back at work.* The City has a new Mayor and perhaps a new Chief by this time so Kenneth can finally put this behind him and get on with his life without wondering what those elected repre-sentatives would do next. Congratulations, Kenneth! And as I have said before, "Don't mess with a Burkett".

As I have mentioned, I am starting to work at putting the Burkett Family Book together. I had read there were certain genealogical rules and procedures in publishing a family book so I wrote the *New England Historic Genealogical Society* in Boston. Why them? Well, for over 150 years they have been in the genealogy business having been founded in 1854 so I figured they must know something. If I ever had a question as to whether or not genealogy is big, the letter I got back removed all doubt. They have **9 officers, 3 of whom are Vice Presidents, and 15 Trustees.** They have Fax numbers and an E-mail box on the Web; they have a Sales office; and they have a printing press. As to the total number of employees I haven't a clue but I bet it's more than just a few. While I will probably order a book or two from them, I am not so sure I want to follow their recommended format for publishing Family histories. I do intend to get a copy of this procedure and study it carefully before making a final decision. It appears to be a very good method for documenting in accordance with genealogical standards and for review by professional genealogists. However, my objective is to provide a book which will not only be interesting but will be easy to read. The procedure as I now understand it appears to contain so many footnotes and references that it would take away from the pleasure of reading in a continuous manner. Anyway, we'll see. ■

LaRussell, Missouri Relatives Have Been Located! -

One thing I have learned about locating relatives is that you just have to keep on trying. And it finally paid off again because I have talked with two of our relatives out there in Missouri. Before identifying them, let me refresh your memory so that you will more readily understand our relationship.

Henry Burkett, Jr. had three (3) sons and he and his wife, Nancy Evans Burkett, moved to LaRussell, Missouri in about 1854 for reasons yet unknown. This estimated year of moving is based on the following. The three sons were James Edward, Isaac, and Robert born in 1848, 1849, and 1853 respectively. These dates were in the data compiled by StellaB Jaynes. Also according to StellaB, Henry, Jr. developed diabetes, died and was buried in LaRussell in 1854. If these dates are accurate or even close, Henry, Jr. must have died very soon after arriving in LaRussell. Again using these dates, the boys were only 6, 5, and 1 respectively at the time of their father's death. With the boys being that young and as far as we know now there being no other relatives out there, Nancy and the boys returned to Tennessee presumably to be near Nancy's parents in DeKalb County. They grew up there and, in about 1884, James Edward married Angeline Brown. They had five (5) children, all of whom were born in Tennessee. Sometime after the birth of their fifth child, James Edward and Angeline moved to LaRussell between 1899 and 1909. Mira Maltby Burkett, the youngest child, was born June 30, 1899 in Tennessee and Thomas, one of the sons, was killed in a lumber mill accident in Missouri in 1909. He is buried in the Harvey cemetery there in LaRussell. It was those descendants of James Edward Burkett and Angeline Brown that I have been attempting to locate.

I had gone back and reviewed letters and notes from Nita Jaynes and found a brief mention that one of the descendants, Annalea Burkett Teeters, was living in Cape Girardeau, Missouri back in the late 1970's. Just on a hunch, I called information and, sure enough, there was a Teeters listed in Cape Girardeau so I called it and Annalea answered the phone. Well, I have to tell you I got

excited when I asked, "Are you Annalea Burkett?" and she said she was. I happened to catch her just as she was coming in with a load of groceries but she was gracious enough to talk with me anyway and seemed pleased to hear from a Burkett relative. After we had talked several minutes, she gave me her sister's name and phone number in LaRussell. This was Erma Burkett Whitehead so I called and we also had a nice long conversation. Erma told me she had tried to locate relatives during a visit to her son in Kentucky some years ago and had stopped in Watertown, Tennessee but was unable to locate anybody because she had very little information to go on.

I sent some forms to Erma and Annalea for them to complete and return. I have received them back from Annalea but put most of the burden on Erma since she lives there in LaRussell. I hope to have them back by the time this Newsletter goes out so I can include a tree chart on these relatives. I also told both Erma and Annalea about our reunion in Huntsville and asked them both to attend along with any of our other relatives out that way. I am also hoping to get addresses for the other families out there so that I can get them on our Newsletter mail list. In a recent conversation with Erma she indicated that her family had been very interested in the family information I had sent and that they were interested in knowing what the reunion date was so, hopefully, some of them will be attending.

On the next page I have included a tree chart of these relatives which is as up-to-date as we can determine at this time. But we still don't know why James Edward and his wife Angeline decided to move from Tennessee to LaRussell other than, for reasons of their own, they decided life would be better for them there than in Tennessee. I had speculated that perhaps James Edward's father, Henry Burkett, Jr., might have left some land but Erma tells me that was not the case. But whatever their reason was, it must have been a pretty good life for them since James Edward lived to be 91 and wife Angeline lived to the age of 79. Both are buried in the Harvey Cemetery there in LaRussell along with his father, Henry Burkett, Jr. ■

Reunion Date is Saturday June 21, 1997 — Same Location as Last year. Mark Your Calendar Now ! A Map will be in the early June Issue of the Newsletter.

Several of you moved during the past year and failed to send me your new address. When your forwarding time ran out, the post office returned your Newsletter and I had to resend with

new stamps. This not only delayed your receipt of the Newsletter but created additional work and expense for me so please hang on to the form below and let me know when you move.



CHANGE OR CORRECTION OF ADDRESS

FROM:

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TO:

NAME: _____

STREET: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____



1997 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
FOR
THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION
(DUES ARE CURRENTLY \$25.00 PER YEAR)

- Renewal
- I would like to join. Here is my check for \$25.00
- I can't afford a full membership but here is my donation of \$_____.
- I can't afford it at this time but would like to continue receiving the Newsletter.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Make check payable to M.O. Webb and mail to:
The Burkett Family
c/o M.O. Webb