



THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION



*Alma Robbie Trapp Edgemon
(Mrs. William Clayton Edgemon)*

Born January 30, 1922

in

Huntsville, Alabama

Died March 28, 1997

in

Jasper, Alabama

My Cousin Alma -

by Oliver Webb

She came into this world as the daughter of Ova Davis Burkett and Felon Brown Trapp and as a younger sister of Mildred Lucille Trapp (Banks). Her father, Felon, served in the Army during World War I and died at the early age of 31 as a result of that service. Alma's mother, Ova, then married Benjamin Franklin Majors — or 'Uncle Ben' as we called him. They had six (6) children for a total of eight (8) brothers and sisters.

She was a scrappy thing always being able to stand her ground against girls *or boys*. And I don't remember that she had to do much to prove she could 'hold her own'. Somehow folks just knew

not to fool with her. But at the same time, she had a multitude of friends and I always believed it was this inner strength that drew people to her. Yet her womanly and ladylike ways were sufficient enough that when William 'Bill' Edgemon came along he found himself unable to escape — and Alma found herself feeling the same about Bill to the extent that after World War II they never spent a night away from each other.

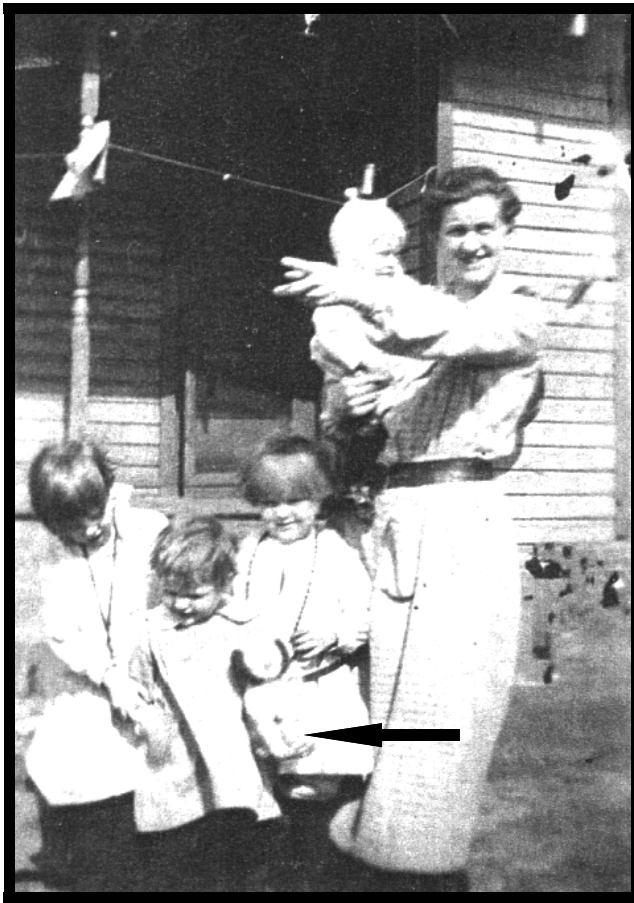
When Bill was transferred to Camp Wheeler near Macon, Georgia during World War II, we were living in Macon and Alma came over and stayed with us while Bill was there at Camp Wheeler. I was only 17 at the time which made Alma about 21. Looking back, I know she was concerned about Bill

but I can remember she was a lot of fun and we did a lot of laughing. She had to sleep on a rollaway bed in the dining room.

After the War, Bill went to work for radio station WWWW in Jasper and they lived there in Jasper for more years than I can remember. I do remember we had a family reunion there at their house on my birthday in 1975 with lot of the family in attendance. And the reason I remember it was because Alma came up with a birthday cake for her cousin Oliver.

Bill and Alma's first son, William Clayton Edgemon, tragically died at the age of about 7 months. Their second son, James Howard 'Scrappy' Edgemon, married Leslie Martin in 1987 and they gave Alma two grandsons that she simply adored. The joy they gave their grandmother was obvious anytime you were around Alma or even talked with her on the phone.

Here are a couple of pictures which her sister Mildred recently sent to me.



Standing and holding Herman Chisholm, son of Ara Burkett Chisholm, is Ova Burkett Trapp. Left to right is Jessie Mae Gaines, daughter of Ara Burkett Chisholm, Alma Trapp holding what appears to be a stuffed dog, and Alma's sister Mildred.

THE BURKETT FAMILY

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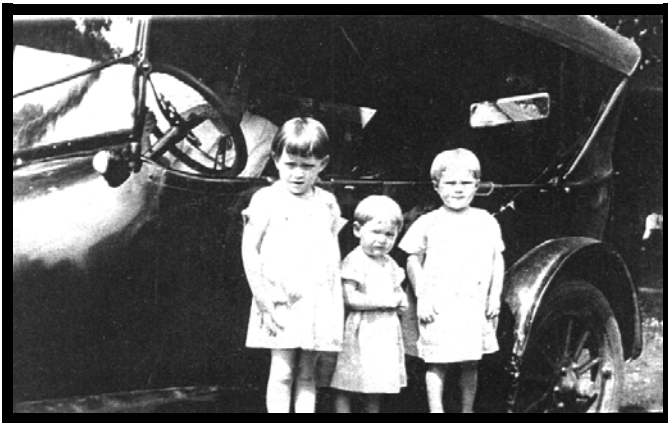
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The Ancestry Research Club

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.

Also in that picture, Alma seems to be hanging on to something with her right hand and Jessie Mae seems to want it! I'm guessing the picture was made probably in the fall of 1924. Herman was born in March of 1924 and appears only a few months old. This would have made Jessie Mae about 6; Mildred about 4; and Alma about 2½.

Now here is another picture of the three girls on the running board of what appears to have been a fairly new automobile at the time — maybe



a Ford T-model.

Again left to right is Jessie Mae, Alma, and Mildred. Again guessing, this was probably taken some time between the fall of 1924 and the summer of 1925. I'm guessing summer because of the way the girls are dressed with their short sleeves. Tragically, Jessie Mae died in December of 1925 probably not too long after this picture was taken.

After divorcing my father, Elgie Webb, my mother married Frank Hunter and we moved around the southeast following him in his work. I can remember several times when Alma, Bill, her sister Mildred and husband Basil Banks used to visit us. I used to enjoy those visits because, frankly, I missed all of my cousins and Alma and Mildred could bring us news about them.

The last couple of times I was in Huntsville for reunions I stopped on my way back home to visit Alma and Bill in Jasper because by now Alma had gotten too sick to attend the reunions. No matter how bad she felt, she seldom let it show and always insisted that Bill and I go play golf. And that was her character — always thinking of others. Oh yes, she had some of what we called the Burkett temper and she could use it when she

felt it was called for but that was so seldom that I am hard pressed to remember those times when I saw her angry.

There are so many things I can think of about my cousin Alma and I know our other relatives also have many memories but I lack the talent to adequately express those remembrances. It's a hard thing to try to sum up a persons life. Some of our memories are even felt to be private and we aren't willing to share them even with other relatives.

Toward the end, she and Bill made the decision they wanted to return to Huntsville to be buried. Bill purchased two lots there in Maple Hill cemetery where so many of our relatives are buried and it was there she was laid to rest. And even in sickness she demonstrated that inner strength by her wishes for a simple ceremony and her final wish summed up her life of thinking about others because she asked that donations be made to the UAB Hospice in Birmingham who helped care for her in her final days. Below is the obituary which appeared in the newspaper.

Alma Edgemon

JASPER — Mrs. Alma Edgemon, 75, of Jasper died Friday at her home. A graveside service will be Sunday at 1:30 p.m. at Maple Hill Cemetery in Huntsville with the Rev. Charles W. Powell officiating and Kilgore-Green Funeral Home in Jasper.

Survivors include her husband, Bill Edgemon; a son, Jim Edgemon of Orange Beach, Fla.; two brothers, Herbert Lee Majors and Andy Majors, both of Huntsville; four sisters, Mildred Banks and Martha Teague, both of Huntsville, Kathleen Andrews of Morgan City and Nancy Roberson of Athens; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to UAB Hospice.

The address for the Hospice is as follows:

UAB Hospice
1517 4th Avenue South
Birmingham, AL 35233

Have you ever wondered what day of the week something happened on ? Now you can figure it out by using the formula below.

Formula for "What Day of the Week?"

	<i>Example 1</i>	<i>Example 2</i>
	9 December 1824	8 August 1781
Step 1. Begin with the last 2 digits of the year	24	81
Step 2. Add $\frac{1}{4}$ of this number, disregarding any remainder.	6	20
Step 3. Add the date in the month.	9	8
Step 4. Add according to the month:	6	3
January	1 (for a leap year, 0)	
February	4 (for a leap year, 3)	
March	4	
April	0	
May	2	
June	5	
July	0	
August	3	
September	6	
October	1	
November	4	
December	6	
Step 5. Add for the	<u>2</u>	<u>4</u>
18th century 1701-1800	4	
19th century 1801-1900	2	
20th century 1901-2000	0	
21st 2001-2100	6	
Step 6. Total the numbers.	47	116

Divide the total by 7. Check the remainder against this chart to find the day of the week.

1 = Sunday
 2 = Monday
 3 = Tuesday
 4 = Wednesday
 5 = Thursday
 6 = Friday
 0 = Saturday

6 with a remainder of 5.
 The event took place
 on Thursday.

16 with remainder of
 4. The event took
 place on Wednesday.



*The James Edward Burkett Family
LaRussell, Missouri
About 1905 - 1906**

Front row left to right - James Edward Burkett (seated), daughter Mira Maltby Burkett (standing), and Angelina Brown Burkett (seated)

Back row - Thomas Bard Burkett, William Henry Burkett, Martha Agnes Burkett, Horace Evans Burkett

*Date estimated guessing Mira's age as being about 6 or 7

The Missouri Burkett's -

In the first issue of our Newsletter for this year, I wrote about contacting two of our relatives in Missouri, Erma Burkett Whitehead and Annalea Burkett Teeters. Both have now sent me a lot of information and Erma sent the above picture along with others which you will see in this issue.

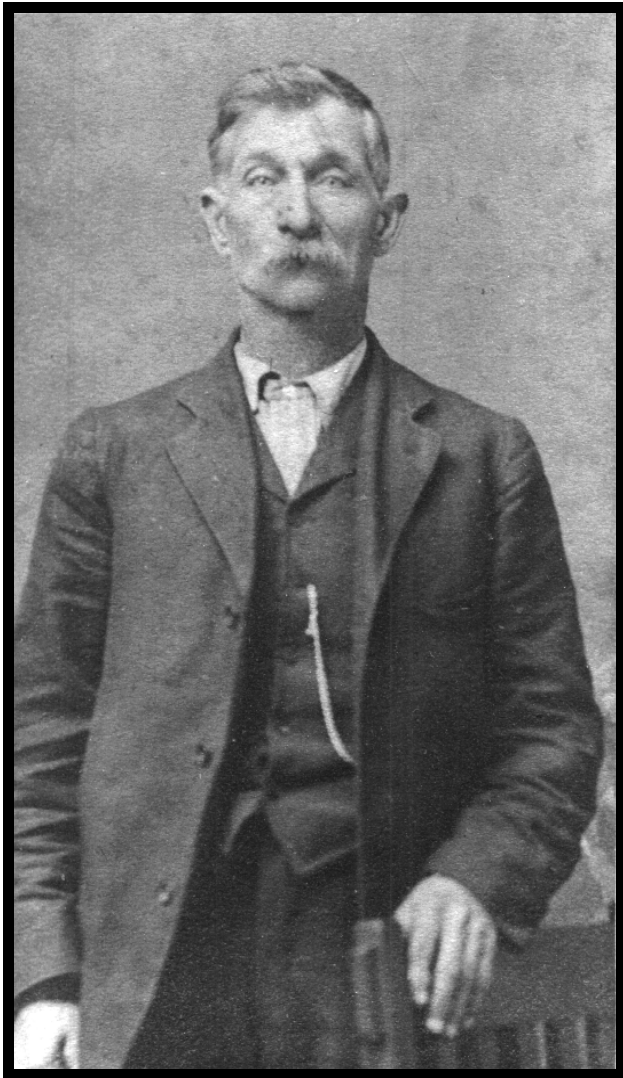
I have written in the past about how everybody had to stand still and not smile because the cameras in those days — plus the film — were not fast

enough to stop movements. Now I want to call your attention to another part of picture taking back then. Notice the hats on the boys in the back row. They are all tilted to the back of their head so as not to shade their faces ! The photographer needed all the light he could get so I can guarantee that is not the way they customarily wore their hats. Yes, one or two might have but not everybody and anytime

you look at old pictures I think you will find those hats on the back of their head.

Before going any further, look back at the right side of the picture at the two arrows \longrightarrow and you can see the original was damaged but now, thanks to Erma, we both have a good copy which should last a long time and this is a good example of what you can do with any of your pictures which are getting old or which have been damaged.

Now let's look at another picture Erma sent.



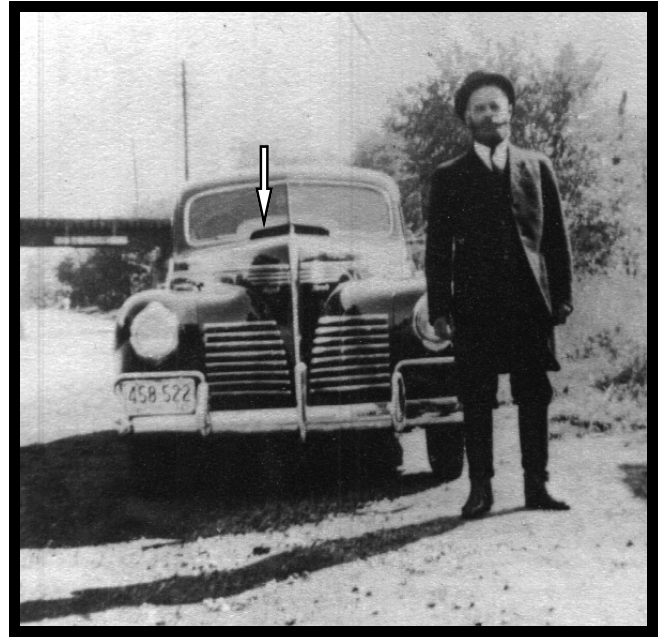
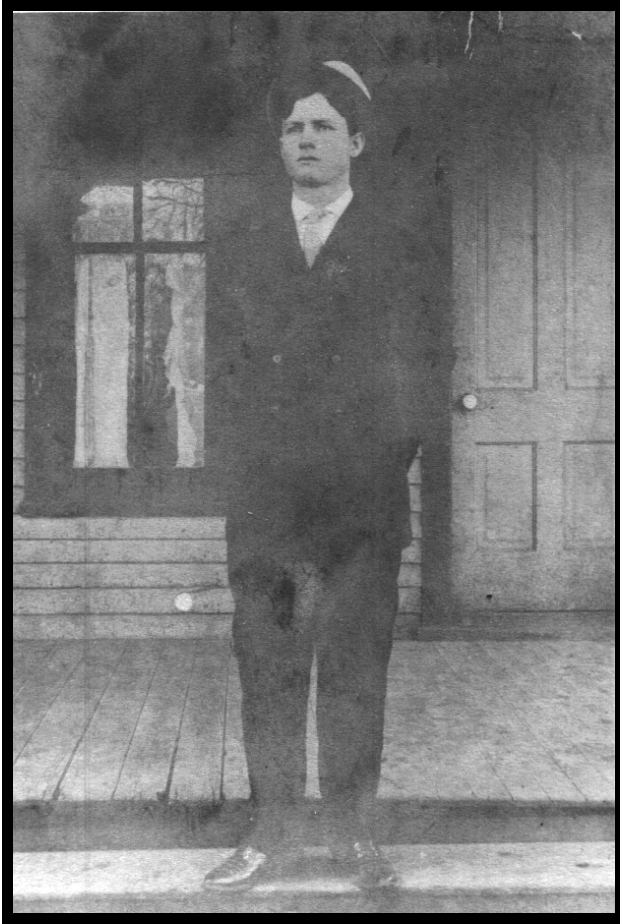
*James Edward Burkett
Date Unknown*

And over in the next column is still another picture of James Edward Burkett and his wife Angelina Brown Burkett. Obviously, this was taken alongside the house shown in the picture on the preceding page.

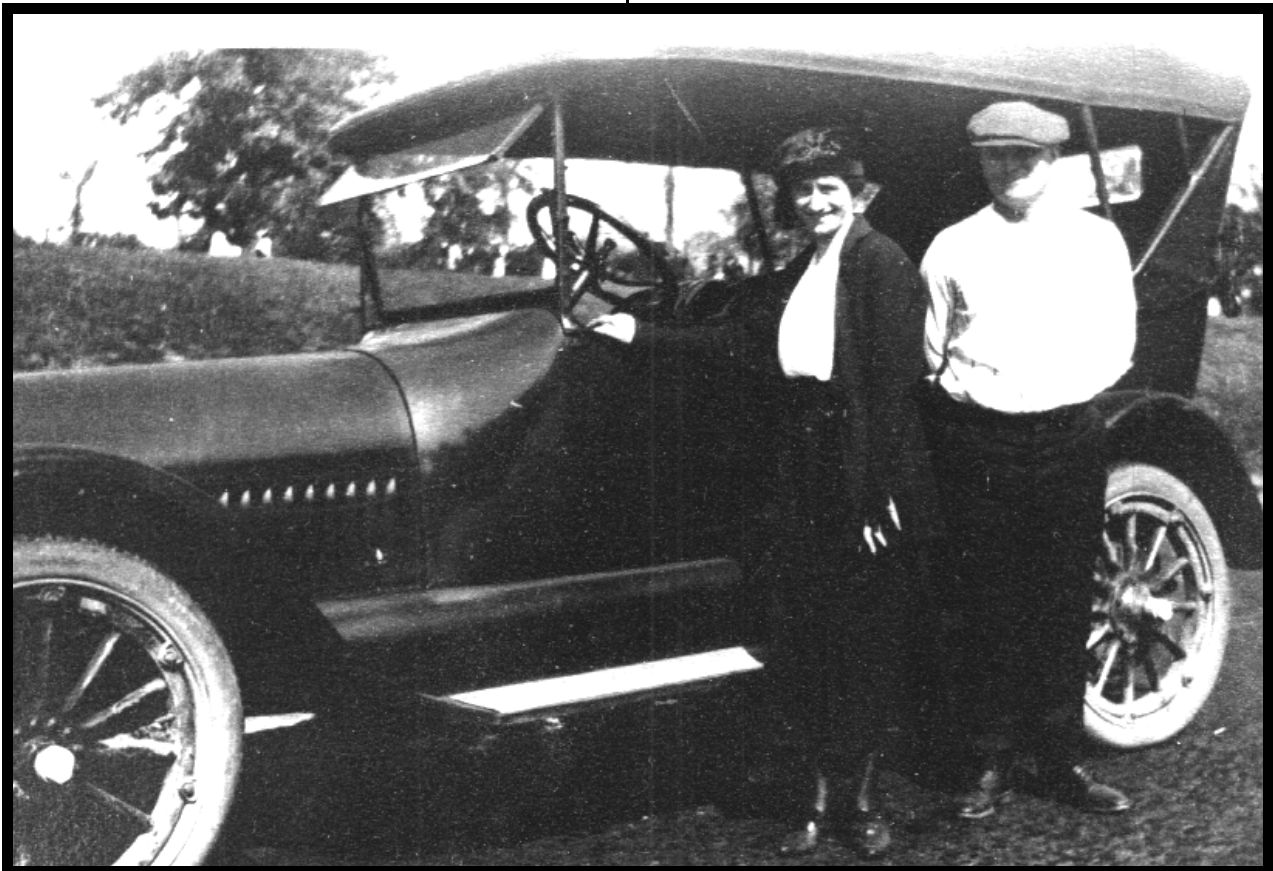


Again, the year is unknown but they appear to be a little older than they were in the family picture in front of the house which I guessed at as being around 1905 - 1906 using Mira to guess with. However, I don't have a clue here since James Edward lived until 1939 when he died at the age of 81 and Angelina lived until 1938 when she died at the age of 79.

When I wrote about our Missouri relatives in our Newsletter, Volume 1 1997, I only had about 31 names. After I heard back from Erma and Annalea, I find I have 87 names! Of course, this includes spouses but it shows you how much work they did to give us the latest information on who and how many relatives we have who are descendants of James Edward and Angelina Burkett. In fact, I could only get the chart on page 7 of Volume 1 by reducing the print size and now I find I can't begin to get it on fewer than four pages! So thanks for the work everyone did to come up with this information. Now let's look at more pictures.



To the left is Thomas Bard Burkett who was killed in a lumber mill accident in Missouri at the age of 19. Date of the picture is unknown. Above is William Henry Burkett with what appears to be a fairly new 1940 Plymouth — it's shiny! For the benefit of our younger relatives, I have pointed an

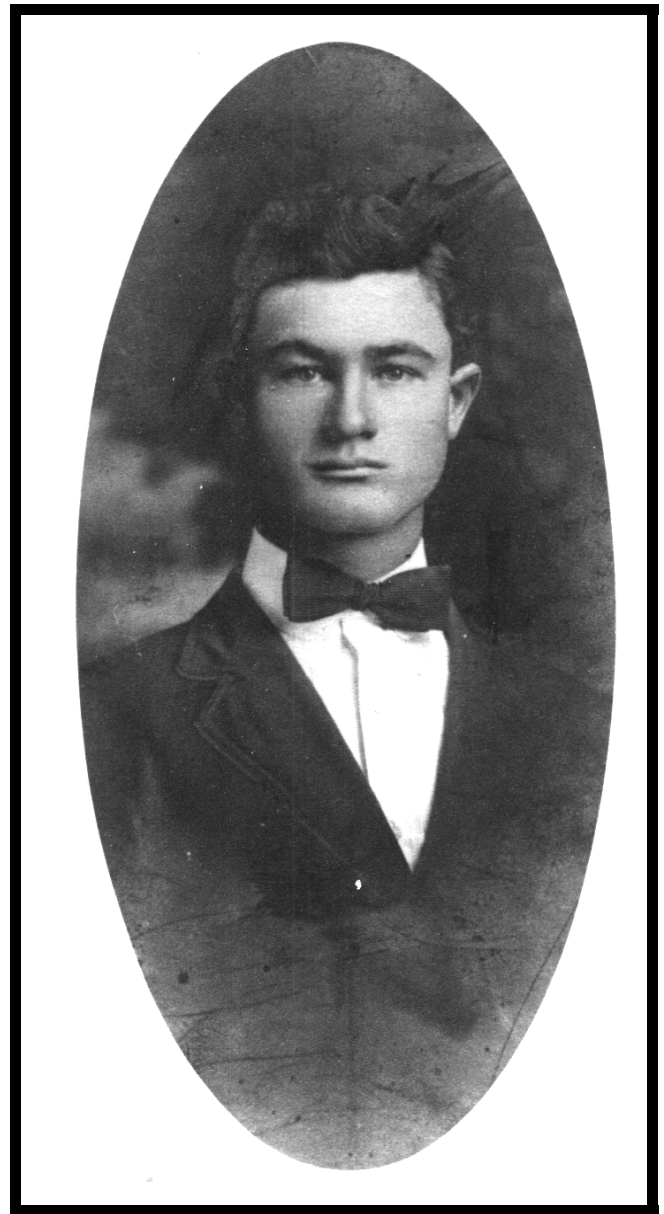


arrow to something on that Plymouth they are probably not familiar with. It's a fresh air vent controllable from below the dash inside the car. Believe it or not, cars have not always been air conditioned! This vent had wire over the front which kept out large items such as leaves, etc. and could be closed during rainy weather or during the winter. I know Herman Chisholm will recognize this car because I believe it is the type he learned to drive in. Seems to me his father's was blue though. Another thing I think Herman might recognize and definitely would if the picture was better is I think William Henry is wearing what I remember was called 'leggings' which Herman's father wore when riding motorcycles. They were leather and wrapped around the calf of the leg above the shoe. However, William Henry seems to be wearing them more from a fashion viewpoint because he is wearing what appears to be a full dress suit with what I would call a 'long' coat. And you will notice again that Thomas and William Henry both have their hat on the back of their head.

The third picture on the preceding page is of Martha Agnes Burkett and her husband Ardo Rutherford. Ardo has on a cap which was popular in those days of riding in the open style cars but notice how Ardo's cap puts a shadow on his face which the camera and film of those days couldn't overcome. This car also appears shiny enough to be fairly new and, if you look back on page 3 at the picture of the three young girls on the running board of a car, I think you will see a strong resemblance of the two cars with the exception of what appears to be a running light near the windshield of the car on page 3.

The next picture is the one on this page of Horace Evans Burkett, the youngest child of James Edward Burkett. Horace married Clara Brinkman and they had four (4) children — Erma Charlene, James William, Annalea, and Betty Imogene.

One thing I have noticed now that I have more information about the family is the longevity. James Edward died at age 81; his wife Angelina died at age 79; son William Henry died at age 69; son Thomas died at age 19 but due to an accident; Martha Agnes died at age 77; and Horace Evans died at age 87. Now those were pretty hardy folks I would say because the living wasn't all that easy in



Horace Evans Burkett
1893 - 1980

those days nor did they have access to all of the health care that we seem to take for granted these days. They went through the Flu epidemic of 1918 which killed so many millions world-wide and they endured diseases such as measles, mumps, chicken pox, whooping cough, tuberculosis, and pneumonia. These were all pretty commonplace and, as I have written before, required quarantine of the family members except for the bread winner. Now I want our younger relatives to go back and read that list of diseases and answer this question. How many people do you know who had any of those? ■

What Is a First Cousin, Twice Removed ?

Over the years many of you have heard me say a person is our “3rd cousin, once removed”, to use an example, or you have read it in our Newsletter and you may not have really understood that expression.

Most everybody has a good understanding of words such as “mother”, “father”, “uncle”, “aunt”, “brother”, and “sister.” But what about these other terms you have heard such as “second cousin” or “third cousin” or “first cousin, once removed”? Normally, we don’t get that exact and if introducing one person to another, we usually just say “cousin”.

[I want to pause here and tell you about little Johnny who went to school one day and the teacher said, “Now children, I’m going to give each of you a book to read tonight and tomorrow you are to give a report on it.” Johnny looked at his book and it was about beavers. The next day the teacher said, “Okay class, it’s time for our book reviews. Tell me, Johnny, what did you learn about Beavers?” Johnny replied “More than I wanted to know.”]

Now for those who want to know about these relationships, this article will explain these terms but for some of you it may be “more than you want to know” — but I hope not. Anyway here goes.

FIRST COUSIN - your first cousins are the people in the family who have *two* of the same grandparents as you or, in other words, are the children of your aunts and uncles. Think now — we each have *four* grandparents, don’t we?

SECOND COUSIN - a second cousin is a person who has the same *great*-grandparents as you but not the same grandparents.

THIRD, FOURTH , FIFTH COUSINS - your third cousins have the same *great-great*-grandparents; your fourth cousins have the same *great-great-great*-grandparents; and your fifth cousins have the same *great-great-great-great*-grandparents.

REMOVED — WHAT DOES THAT MEAN? This indicates that people are from different generations. First cousins are in the same generation — two generations younger than their

grandparents — so the word “removed” is not appropriate to describe that relationship. The words “once removed” mean there is a difference of one generation. Consider the case of your mother’s first cousin who would be your “first cousin, once removed.” This is because your mother’s first cousin is one generation younger than your grandparents and you are two generations younger than your grandparents. This difference of one generation equals “Once removed.” Twice removed would indicate there is a two-generation difference. Instead of your mother’s first cousin, consider your grandmother’s first cousin. You are two generations younger so you and your grandmother’s first cousin are first cousins, twice removed.

Okay, now we’re all experts. Right? Wrong. The above is how things are today but back in colonial times the word “cousin” often meant a niece or nephew so if and when I get back before Henry Burkett, Sr. with my research I’ll have to remember to be careful in establishing relationships based on the use of the word “cousin.” But that’s down the road and we’ll deal with that when we get there.

Now having defined all of these terms would seem to make it easy to figure out what your relationship is with another relative. And it may well be for some of us because some people just have a knack for remembering and figuring out things. But the first thing you have to do is to determine who is a common ancestor and what the relationship is between each of the two people and the common ancestor. That isn’t that hard to do but then you have to remember and apply the definitions above.

So to make it easy I have included a Relationship Chart on the next page which not only includes instructions but has an example you can follow in learning how to use the Chart. ■

The Irish Blessing

May the road rise to meet you. May the wind always be at your back. May the sun shine warm upon your face, the rain fall soft upon your fields, and, until we meet again, may God hold you in the palm of His hand.

RELATIONSHIP CHART

COLUMNS

		1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	
COMMON ANCESTOR		SON/DAU.	GRAND-SON	GREAT GRAND-SON	2G GRAND-SON	3G GRAND-SON	4G GRAND-SON	5G GRAND-SON	6G GRAND-SON	7G GRAND-SON	
ROWS	1	SON/DAU	BRO/SIS	NEPHEW/NIECE	GRAND NEPHEW	GREAT GRAND-NEPHEW	2G GRAND-NEPHEW	3G GRAND-NEPHEW	4G GRAND-NEPHEW	5G GRAND-NEPHEW	6G GRAND-NEPHEW
	2	GRAND-SON	NEPHEW/NIECE	1ST COUSIN	1 COU 1 R	1 COU 2 R	1 COU 3 R	1 COU 4 R	1 COU 5 R	1 COU 6 R	1 COU 7 R
	3	GREAT GRAND-SON	GRAND NEPHEW	1 COU 1 R	2ND COUSIN	2 COU 1 R	2 COU 2 R	2 COU 3 R	2 COU 4 R	2 COU 5 R	2 COU 6 R
	4	2G GRAND-SON	GREAT GRAND-NEPHEW	1 COU 2 R	2 COU 1 R	3RD COUSIN	3 COU 1 R	3 COU 2 R	3 COU 3 R	3 COU 4 R	3 COU 5 R
	5	3G GRAND-SON	2G GRAND NEPHEW	1 COU 3 R	2 COU 2 R	3 COU 1 R	4TH COUSIN	4 COU 1 R	4 COU 2 R	4 COU 3 R	4 COU 4 R
	6	4G GRAND-SON	3G GRAND-NEPHEW	1 COU 4 R	2 COU 3 R	3 COU 2 R	4 COU 1 R	5TH COUSIN	5 COU 1 R	5 COU 2 R	5 COU 3 R
	7	5G GRAND-SON	4G GRAND-NEPHEW	1 COU 5 R	2 COU 4 R	3 COU 3 R	4 COU 2 R	5 COU 1 R	6TH COUSIN	6 COU 1 R	6 COU 2 R
	8	6G GRAND-SON	5G GRAND-NEPHEW	1 COU 6 R	2 COU 5 R	3 COU 4 R	4 COU 3 R	5 COU 2 R	6 COU 1 R	7TH COUSIN	7 COU 1 R
	9	7G GRAND-SON	6G GRAND-NEPHEW	1 COU 7 R	2 COU 6 R	3 COU 5 R	4 COU 4 R	5 COU 3 R	6 COU 2 R	7 COU 1 R	8TH COUSIN

ABBREVIATIONS

BRO = brother
 SIS = sister
 DAU = daughter
 COU = cousin

GRANDSON = grandson *or* granddaughter
 SON = son *or* daughter
 NEPHEW = nephew *or* niece
 R = removed (generations removed)

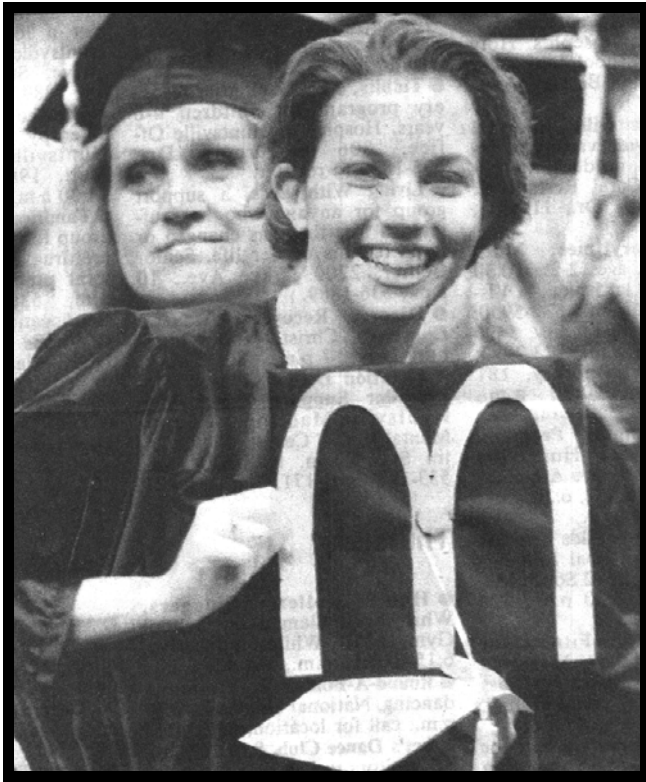
INSTRUCTIONS FOR USING THE ABOVE CHART

1. Identify the common ancestor of two people using the box in the upper left corner as that ancestor.
2. Across the top row of the chart, find the relationship of one of the people to their common ancestor.
3. Down the left edge of the chart, find the relationship of the second person to their common ancestor.
4. Read down the column of the first person and across the chart on the row of the second person. Where the two rows intersect is the box which identifies the relationship.

EXAMPLE: (Using Henry Burkett, Sr. as the Common Ancestor)

1. Danny Banks is the fourth great grandson of Henry Burkett, Sr. Read down column # 6.
2. Erma Burkett Whitehead is the second great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr. Read across row # 4.
3. Column # 6 and Row # 4 intersect at the box which reads "3 COU 2 R" or third cousin two generations removed. Danny and Erma are third cousins twice removed.

-- Two of Our Graduates --



Kara Lynn Sweeney

Kara recently graduated from the University of Alabama at Huntsville and this photo appeared in the Huntsville Times May 19, 1997. In the caption with the photo Kara is quoted as having jokingly referred to the McDonalds Golden Arches which she placed on the top of her cap as being one of the fast food places where she could find a job since she was a liberal arts major with a B.A. in philos-ophy.

Kara is a daughter of Phillip and Susan Sweeney of Goodlettsville, Tennessee, a granddaughter of Jimmie Lois Wood Williams of Old Hickory, Tennessee and a great granddaughter of JoAnna Burkett and James Lafayette Wood. She has a younger sister, Lisa Ann.

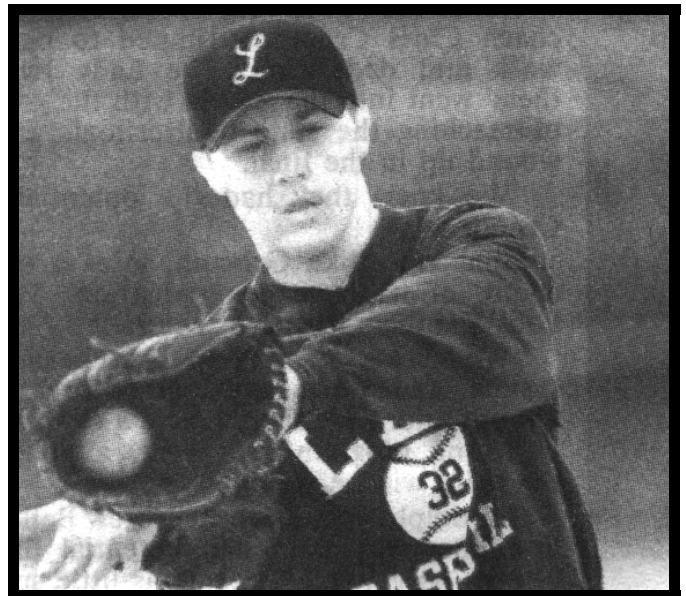
It doesn't matter what degree you got, Kara, we're still proud of you. Congratulations!!

Christopher Lee Majors

Chris graduated from Lee High School in Huntsville, Alabama May 29, 1997. He was an outstanding baseball player and was selected for the Lions Club regional East-West team.

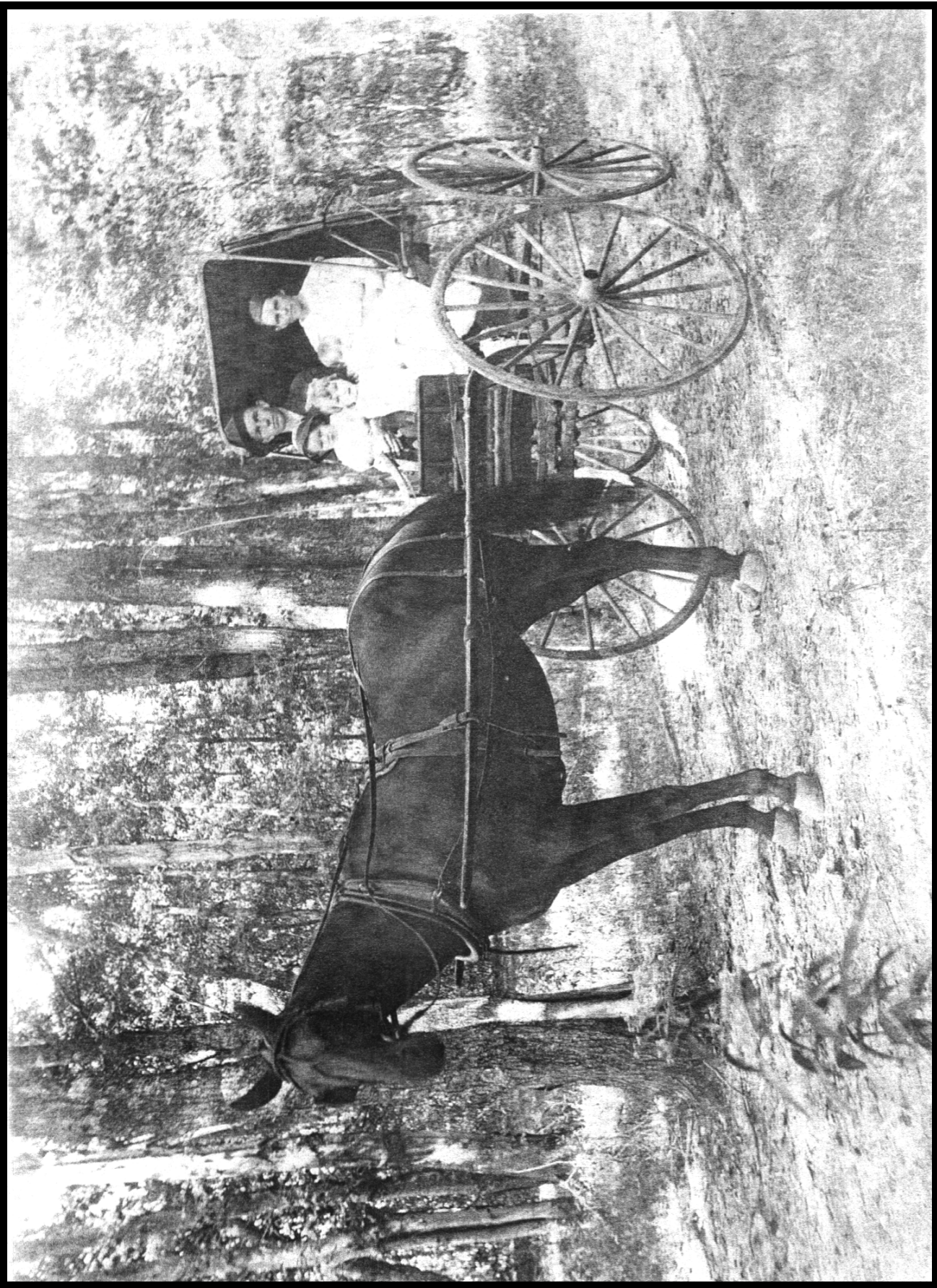
During the championship game of the city baseball tournament, behind by a score of 5 - 1 and in their final at-bat with one out and the bases loaded, Chris drove in two runs with a single to right to tie the game and his teammate Todd Gentle scored the winning run on a throwing error by the first baseman. In the Huntsville All-Star game, Chris was the winning pitcher and also hit a two-run homer. Chris played catcher and center field and pitched the fourth and fifth innings in relief of starter Eric Wiscovich.

Chris is a son of Gary and Pam Majors of Huntsville, a grandson of Marjorie Beard Majors and the late Almon Majors, Sr, and a great grandson of Ben and Ova Burkett Majors. He has



two younger sisters and a younger brother.

Great playing, Chris, and congratulations on your graduation!!



James Ernest Watson and wife Belle with daughter Lela in front; Joe in father's lap; and Fred in mother's lap. Fred is hard to see because of the white clothes. Photo in Warren County, TN in 1918 based on Fred's birthdate of January 13, 1918

The Watson's Are Here ! -

But there are two groups so let me explain. Jobe Burkett was a son of John Burkett and a grandson of Henry Burkett, Sr. Jobe had five (5) children — Almon Lee, Julie Ann, JoAnna, Tolbert Lee, and Elizabeth Love.

JoAnna Burkett, known as Dollie, married Ezekial Watson and they had four (4) children — James Ernest who is shown in the picture on the preceding page with his family, Edgar Garfield, Dewey Palmo, and Magnolia. The father, Ezekial, died at the relatively young age of 39 and Dollie then married James Lafayette Wood. It is this group of Watson's I am referring to in this article.

However, Dollie's sister, Julie Ann, also married a Watson — his name was John — and we will cover them in another article so let's get back to JoAnna Burkett Watson and her family.

I only had 34 descendants of Ezekial and Dollie but knew there had to be more. Well, one evening not long ago my phone rang and the caller identified herself as Martha Watson Coppinger, a daughter of James Ernest Watson. Through some of our relatives she had gotten her hands on some of the documents I had sent out seeking information and which had my name and phone number. She told me she was calling from Muscatine, Iowa and would be glad to fill in as much on the family as she could. It took a minute or so for me to get her and her father placed but when I did I really got excited — and rightly so as events proved.

As I said above, I only had 34 names for that family but, by the time I received the package from Martha the other day and entered it into the computer, I found it had increased from 34 to 163!! Plus she sent the picture on the preceding page!

(And speaking of the picture, let me point out that James Ernest has his hat pushed to the back of his head *and* the buggy top has been pushed back in order for the camera and film to get the best possible picture. Notice this picture was made in 1918 and I'm going to guess this was made by a professional photographer who set up a large tripod camera. I also want to speculate that this picture is now serving the purpose intended by

James Ernest. He wanted to leave something for his descendants and relatives.)

Although I knew James Ernest Watson and wife Belle Brady had nine (9) children, I knew almost nothing beyond that. Now Martha has provided so much more it is impossible for me to get a Tree Chart on one page so I'm going to have to work on how I can present that in our next Newsletter.

Thanks, Martha. I know we still have some gaps to fill in but we can work on that together but we have most of the data and that is what's important. And I especially thank you for the picture. We'll take more when you come up with them! ■

We're on the Internet -

I finally got to the point where I felt I had about caught up with entering the information I had and it was time to start searching elsewhere for our relatives so I signed up with AOL and went on the InterNet.

The next page shows what I have posted for others to read when and if they come searching for Burkett's. As you can see, it's referred to as a 'User Home Page'. This site is sponsored by Family Tree Maker which is the supplier of the software I use. I have also placed a Classified Ad in another section of the site seeking information. I haven't had any results yet but I just got it on this past week so it's too early to be expecting anything.

One thing I have done with the InterNet is to collect the names and addresses of Burketts in Tennessee and Texas and I expect to do a mass mailing to these folks to see if I can locate some more relatives. That's a pretty handy feature because it not only gives the full name and address including the zip code, it also lists phone numbers.

When I 'clean up' my files a little more, I plan to upload them into the Family Tree Maker World Family Tree which already has about 130 million names in it — and more Burketts than I have had time to really take a look at.

There are also many other databases such as Marriage indexes, property records, Social Security Death Index, etc. and I'm looking forward to doing a lot of searching after I return from the reunion. ■

Family Tree Maker **ONLINE****User Home Pages**

Home | Family Finder Index | Mail | How-To | Genealogy Classifieds | World Family Tree | User Home Pages | Message Boards | Record Lookup Service | Search

THE HENRY BURKETT FAMILY OF TENNESSEE (AND TEXAS)

ANNUAL REUNION
JUNE 21, 1997
HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA

I am continuing the research into my grandfather Burkett's family started by a Texas relative and have been working on it for the past five years. These Burketts begin with three brothers who came over from Germany. One of them, Henry Burkett, Sr. (1796 - 1875) eventually made his way down from Virginia into North Carolina and then into Tennessee where he married Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett (1800-1884) in

Greene County, Tennessee August 23, 1819. We have a copy of the marriage license and bond. From this marriage they moved over into Warren and Cannon Counties, Tennessee and had twelve (12) children. Their names were Henry, Jr., John, Andrew J., Jacob Lorenza, George W. James, Mary C.E., Martha J., David E., Malinda, Matilda, and Jeremiah.

One of these children, Jacob Lorenza Burkett, born March 15, 1830 in Warren County, Tennessee, left Tennessee in 1865 and moved to Texas taking with him his family along with several cousins and their families. They stopped first in Burnet County and then moved on to Mills County around the Williams Ranch near Mullin. By his first wife, Lavina Burnett, Jacob had 7 children; George Washington Burkett, Joseph Lafayette Burkett, Mary Burkett, Sarah Burkett, James Henry Burkett, Malinda Jane Burkett, and Frances Josephine Burkett. (James Henry and Malinda Jane were twins and James Henry developed the Burkett pecan which is still known in many parts of Texas.) Jacob Lorenza's first wife, Lavina, died and was buried in Burnet County. By his second wife, Matilda Reed, Jacob had four (4) children; Martha Ellen, Annie Laura, Virginia Caroline, and Lavina Burkett.

When Jacob's father, Henry Burkett, Sr., died March 30, 1875, Jacob returned to Tennessee to help settle his estate. When he returned to Texas he brought with him his mother, Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett. Not long after the trip to Tennessee, Jacob died December 25, 1875 and is buried at the Oak grove cemetery in Mullin, Texas. His mother, Mary, lived at the Williams Ranch outside Mullin and died there July 29, 1884. She is buried at the Williams Ranch cemetery.

Other family names associated with the Burketts in Texas are Chambers, Goodwin, Hodges, Sullivan, Templeton, Borden, Clark, Box, Murray, Storehoff, Jackson, Grubbs, Pavey, Barker, Cox, and McCall -- lots of McCalls I would think. I have a total of about 72 Texas Burkett relatives. Would like to contact not only Tennessee relatives but the vast number of Burkett relatives who must still be around in Texas. A key person would be the James Henry Burkett who developed the Burkett pecan. That's something likely to be remembered.

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And now the other Watsons -

But before I do, I need to go back and make some corrections to a Tree Chart which I published in Volume 3 1995 on page 6. I had so many errors in that Chart it seems unbelievable but I think that is all corrected now in the computer records thanks to the information from Dorothy Elrod Foster and the Watsons.

However, even with the errors that Chart revealed two unique situations - ***two sets of double first cousins!*** I have already pointed out that Julie and Dollie married Watsons. Julie married John Watson and Dollie married Ezekial or "E" as he was called. Well, John and E were brothers who married sisters so that made their descendants double first cousins.

(Now I'm going to shift away from the Watsons long enough to point out the second set of double first cousins. Tolbert Lee Burkett and Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Burkett, a brother and sister of Julie and Dollie, married Elrods, Minnie and Gum, who were brother and sister so here was another set of double first cousins ***all within the same immediate family.*** So while a set of double first cousins is somewhat rare, two sets within the same immediate family is very, very rare. Looking back at Volume 3 1995 when I first mentioned this, I found that I had discussed this with Laura Burkett Durham, a daughter of Tolbert Lee Burkett, and Laura's comment was "Well, we didn't go anywhere so we just married neighbors!")

I recently received from Dorothy Elrod Foster an article from the McMinnville, TN newspaper dated January 15, 1997. This article which appears on the next page is about Russell Watson, a grand-son of Frank Watson and a great grandson of Julie Ann Burkett and John Watson.

After receiving the article, I used the InterNet to locate his address and phone number. I mailed a package which included the last Newsletter and forms for information about his Watsons. I waited to give him time to receive them and then called him. We had an excellent conversation and Russell told me one of the Watson relatives had already researched the

Watsons and he would send me a copy of it. I am hoping to get it before I complete this issue of the Newsletter but, if not, I will include it in the next issue. As you will learn from the article on the next page, Russell is a teacher in the Warren County High School and, unfortunately for us, has an NVATA (The Professional Association for Agriculture Teachers) meeting (of which he is a Regional Vice President) in North Carolina on the day of our reunion so he won't be able to attend. He did tell me that "Harry" has now been picked up and you'll learn who "Harry" is when you read the article. Russell, I forgot to ask. What was "Harry" doing so far north??"

Another thing he told me was that he thought there were four (4) children of Julie Ann Burkett and John Watson. All I had was Louis, Jessie, and Frank who was Russell's grandfather. So it's going to be interesting to get this information ■

Just a Normal Saturday Evening but with a Surprise!

At least when Susan Majors Campbell left her home in Fayetteville, TN — or Fedville as the locals pronounce it — she thought it was a normal Saturday evening with husband Mickey taking her down to Huntsville to visit her folks, Audy and Sandy Majors.

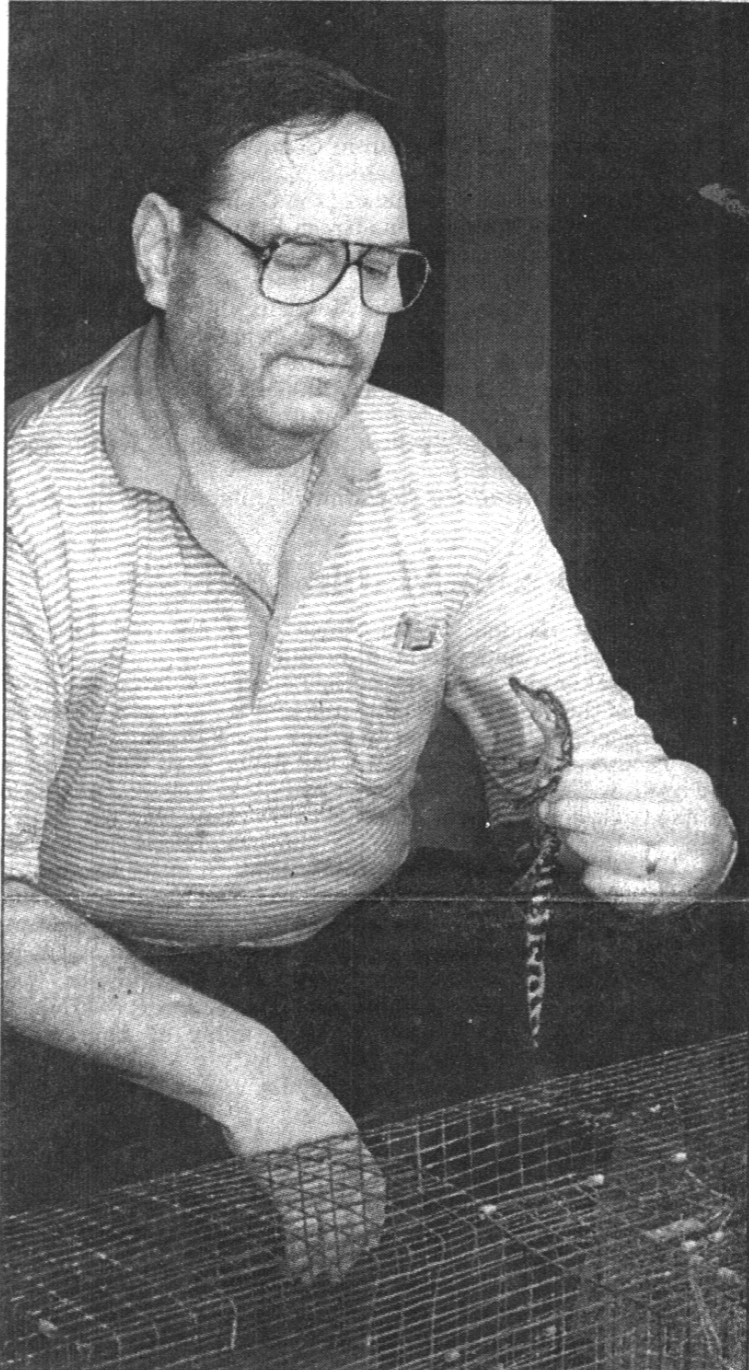
But when they arrived and Susan saw all of the cars parked in the driveway she immediately knew this was something else — and so it was. It was a gathering of family members to give her a surprise birthday party!!

Unfortunately, it had rained and the ground was soft so Audy couldn't hide the cars in back of the house so the cars gave it away but it was a super party anyway. This took place April 26 and I'm sorry I missed it!

A belated Happy Birthday! to you Susan. I won't mention your age because I'm a gentleman — although Becca Banks might want to debate that point about not mentioning ages and being a gentleman! ■

GATOR-SITTING

Watson, aquaculture program help raise orphaned Louisiana alligator



Greg Davis photo

Is the pioneer being replaced as the Warren County High School mascot? Russell Watson holds Harry, a 13-inch Louisiana alligator visiting the school's aquaculture program until June. By the time he's ready to go home, Harry should be around 24 inches long.

GREG DAVIS

Standard Staff

Harry isn't the Warren County High School mascot — at least not officially.

He's a 13-inch long alligator from Louisiana visiting the aquaculture lab located in the WCHS Agriculture Department.

Don't worry, though. The reptile won't reach his 20-foot potential for another 15 or 20 years, according to Russell Watson.

"We're wintering him until next June," Watson said. "Female alligators laid their eggs earlier than usual this year, and the small ones can't survive the winter."

Watson, who teaches aquaculture and several agriculture courses at the high school, said the fisherman who found, and named, Harry had heard about the Aquaculture program at WCHS and brought the now three-month-old alligator to the school to save him from the elements.

Although you might've never heard of it, the aquaculture program at WCHS is actually the model for similar programs across the state, according to Watson.

Aquaculture is a part of agriculture that involves the business of growing or culturing aquatic plants and animals, and the course of study isn't new to the Warren County School System. Watson said he taught aquaculture before the new high school was built three years ago, but he said the principal at the time, Bentley Rowdon, wanted to expand the program in the new high school.

This article appeared in the McMinnville, TN newspaper January 15, 1997.

Reunion Saturday June 21!!

Okay, if you haven't already marked your calendar better mark it now and make your plans to be there because, if you don't, you're going to miss a good one!

Those of you who have been getting our Newsletters right along know I have been talking about working on our hard bound family book. Well, this year we will have a professional photographer at the reunion from 10AM to 1PM. He will be taking individual and family group photo's *plus* one master photo of everybody there. Copies will be available for those who want them and these will be used in the Family Book so be sure to attend and bring the kids.

Also, we will be distributing a family directory and a kinship list as part of your registration package. And if I can get it done, we will also have a map of the U.S. showing where our relatives live and have lived. If I can't get this ready, I will include it in the next Newsletter.

But come and be with us. Some of you have missed the last one or two and I think you will regret it down the road so come on!

On the last page of this issue, I have again included a map with directions on how to reach the Park but, if you have questions, call me at 813/961-1679 or Audy Majors at 205/852-7024. ■

And Still Another Surprise Birthday Party!

The Majors household in Huntsville, Alabama just loves surprise parties! I just wrote about the surprise party for daughter Susan and then I learn about one for mother Sandy!

This one was Friday May 30 and apparently was pulled off without Sandy getting wind of it. Audy and the multitude of family members who attended got a kick out of it as did Sandy.

But you know what? I'm afraid they will have to work pretty hard if they try any surprises next year! Belated Happy Birthday to you, too Sandy!

The Historians Corner -

Oliver Webb



The other day I was typing away entering relatives into the computer when, suddenly, it went *ding!* and a message appeared on the screen which said, "Congratulations! You have just entered the 1300th member of your family!" The person I had just entered was Robert Cole Elrod. I thought, "Wow! It doesn't seem that long ago when I only had 800 - 900." Well, let me tell you. The number now stands at **1,485** individuals. *And I still have the other Watsons to enter when I receive the information from Russell!* As I have pointed out before, this includes spouses and some parents of spouses so that number is not all direct Burkett blood but they are very closely related so our number grows.

I was talking to Mildred Trapp Banks the other day and we got on the subject of when I was stationed in Biloxi, Mississippi at the same time she was there with husband Basil during WWII. Christmas of 1944 was approaching and my mother Martha and stepfather Frank Hunter came down to visit and stayed with Mildred and Basil. That evening at dinner my stepdad drank some milk which Mildred had and just loved it. You see, it was the first time he had tasted *homogenized milk!* He liked it so much that the next morning he got up, went out and bought some more. The reason he had to go out to get more is because *Mildred didn't have a refrigerator to keep things cold.* True story.

During that same conversation we were talking about the pictures she sent of Alma. I commented about the automobile in the picture on page 3 resembling the automobile of Martha Agnes

Burkett and husband Ardo Rutherford on page 7 and speculated to Mildred that they might have been Ford Model T's. Mildred said she seemed to remember that her mother had a Buick and pointed out that you can see her mother, Ova Burkett Trapp, behind the steering wheel of the car shown on page 3. I went back and looked and, sure enough, you can see someone sitting there — can't see her face but you can definitely tell someone is there. So maybe both cars were Buicks. Mildred said her mother drove the car until she ran it into a building in downtown Huntsville and then she wouldn't drive it anymore!

Had a nice letter from Suzanne Burkett Minert, a daughter of James Ronald Burkett of Lebanon, TN. Suzanne lives in Anchorage, Alaska. She up-dated my records on the family and also told me about a mountain in Alaska named "Burkett's Peak." She had her dad mail me copies of the book where it talks about Lt. E.F. Burkett of the U.S. Navy and what he did in Alaska. I haven't had time to fully digest all of it so don't know if there is any relationship to us but will look into it when I return from the reunion. Thanks, Suzanne.

Spoke with James 'Jimmy Mack' Patterson the other day. He's down in Texas and is part of the McCool family I've written about. He is still working so he doesn't have the time I do to put into our family history but promised to get some information and photo's pretty soon now.

Just recently learned that Erma Burkett Whitehead of LaRussell, Missouri has a granddaughter at the University of West Alabama in Livingston which is southwest of Tuscaloosa near the Mississippi line. Her name is Chelsea Taylor and she has been there for the past two years on a volleyball scholarship. Sorry we didn't know about that sooner. We might could have arranged a visit.

The longer I work with our family history and study about genealogy I more I find I must do. For example, genealogists like to have everything documented. They don't like to accept hearsay or someone's word. For a birth, they want to see a copy of the birth certificate or to know the location, book, and page number where it is recorded. Same

for marriages, property records, etc. If records aren't available but information is recorded in a family bible they want to record who has the bible. But for those cases far enough back in time that records are simply non-existent then reliance is placed on the "preponderance of evidence." What this means is that by taking family legend, as an example, and comparing it with other records, the preponderance of the evidence supports whatever fact you are trying to prove. I will be coming to almost all of you later this year requesting source information because it is important that we eliminate as much guesswork as possible.

Just when you are 'full of yourself' and proud of something you have done, something comes along, punctures your balloon and deflates you. This applies to me with regards to my explanations on how to determine kinship in this issue. Having looked back at it, it dawned on me that I did not say a thing about "half" relationships. For example, Dollie Burkett married Ezekial Watson and, after he died, married James Wood so those descendants are half-brothers, half-sisters, half-nieces, and so forth to each other. Well, if it's the last mistake I make I'll be in good shape!

I'm feeling pretty good these days about the data on our family. I've told you in the past of my concern about losing all of this information due to a fire, hurricane, etc. and how I rented a safe deposit box and would back up everything on tape and take it to the safe deposit box. Well, now we have something even better. Susan and Mickey Campbell recently bought a computer *and* the same Family Tree Maker software I am using. Now all I have to do — and I have already started — is to make a backup disk and mail it to them. By doing this each time I enter any significant amount of information, we can lose only a small amount.

I have again upgraded my computer to deal with being on the InterNet and to speed up processing of photo's and printing.

FLASH - I have just received a FAX from Russell Watson which is about 12 pages long so won't be able to get it done before I have to mail this issue. Look for it next time. Thanks, Russell!

DIRECTIONS TO KALEA PARK - THE DATE IS JUNE 21

THIS IS A PICTORIAL DRAWING AND IS NOWHERE NEAR SCALE!!

