



THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION



1997 Reunion - Kalea Park - Meridianville, Ala. - June 21, 1997

Even though it rained, we still had fun!! And so did some of the children as you will see later. It may have been that I was just hungry but I don't think so — seems to me we had **more variety and quantity** this year. Thanks to all the cooks who brought that good food!

And before you even start thinking about the picture above, let me tell you that this black and white reduced size copy doesn't begin to do it justice. I'll have more to say about it later on and tell you how to get a copy but an 8"x 10" color enlargement is simply magnificent!!

Now let's talk about who came this year. In addition to those of us who have been attending year after year, we got some surprises this year. By order of arrival at the Park, first came Erma Burkett Whitehead and Annalea Burkett Teeters from LaRussell and Cape Girardeau, Missouri respectively. With them was Patricia Guinn, daughter of Erma, and

Patricia's husband, Rodney. Audy Majors and I had the pleasure of having dinner with the four of them Friday evening. They are descendants of James Edward Burkett who I wrote about in the previous issue of our Newsletter. Although they were tired from having ridden all day, we had a very spirited conversation during and after dinner. However, I think Audy and I finally tired them out and had to let them go get some rest so they would enjoy the reunion the next day.

Next to arrive was Martha Watson Coppinger and husband Glen from Muscatine, Iowa. With them came Allie Watson Latimer and her children, Betty and James Edward from McMinnville, Tennessee. Martha and Allie are sisters and descendants of JoAnna 'Dollie' Burkett and Ezekial Watson. Dollie and Ezekial Watson had four children — James Ernest, Edgar Garfield, Dewey Palmo, and Magnolia.

In the previous issue of our Newsletter, I included a large photo of Martha and Allie's parents, James Ernest and Belle Watson, in their horse drawn buggy. Although Martha had mentioned to me over the phone she thought she would be at the reunion, I was really surprised when Allie and her children showed up with Martha and her husband, Glen.

But the surprises did not end there! Next to show up was Dorothy Elrod Foster, a daughter of Elizabeth 'Lizzie' Burkett and John 'Gum' Elrod. Dorothy lives in McMinnville, Tennessee and a niece, Julia Carter, was kind enough to drive Dorothy down although Julia attended in her own right. Julia is a granddaughter of 'Lizzie' Burkett and 'Gum' Elrod and a great granddaughter of Jobe Burkett and Rebecca Caroline Rigsby. I had never met Julia and it had been a couple or three years since I last saw Dorothy at the Bogle reunion in Woodbury, Tennessee after which we had gone up to the cemetery at Sugar Tree Knob.

Well, all of these 'new' folks just mixed right in and the rest of the family kinda' crowded around to get to meet them. Needless to say, I think they enjoyed themselves and the rest of the family members were really happy they had come.

One of the highlights for this year was the baskets brought to the reunion by Kathleen Majors Andrews and her husband, Verdi, who had made them. They brought seven and contributed them as 'door prizes' with the winners drawn from a hat. Among those winning, and I'm sorry I didn't get the names of all the winners, was Patricia Guinn from LaRussell, Missouri. The *big basket* was won by Audra Majors, daughter of Audy and Sandy Majors. See picture below.



Kathleen Majors Andrews and Audra Majors

These baskets are well made and, if you will notice in the above picture, Verdi even put the reunion name and year on the basket won by Audra. And I might mention that I also won one! Verdi spent a lot of hours of work to make these but, for those of us lucky enough to have won one, they will serve as excellent mementos of the 1997 reunion. Special thanks to Kathleen and Verdi for these!!

Those of you who attended know that we had a professional

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.

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photographer this year and that is who made the group picture on the first page and the one of Kathleen and Audra. We also had him make a camcorder tape in addition to over 100 snapshots. Some of these other pictures will be also be included in this issue and later I will tell you how to obtain copies of these and the tape.

As I mentioned it rained and delayed some of our relatives in getting there but they made it in spite of some having to pull over and wait for the rain to let up. And we're glad they came on instead of turning around and going back home. Some of them encountered really heavy showers.

Thinking about those relatives who attended for the first time got me to thinking about a letter from Laura Eula Bain — and I'll have more to say about her later — in which she mentioned how families get spread out these days. So I went back and looked to see where we are and here are the states where we have known relatives: Tennessee, Alabama, Missouri, Iowa, Texas, Ohio, California, Delaware, Idaho, Indiana, Virginia, New York, Kansas, Florida, Pennsylvania, Georgia, Louisiana, Alaska, Michigan, and Kentucky. I bet a lot of you are just like me and didn't realize we had relatives in that many states.

I had just received information about a lot of our Elrod and Watson relatives shortly before the reunion and contacted them for the first time so they didn't have much of a chance to plan to come — especially since they just heard about us for the first time. Maybe they will be able to join us next year and we'll all get to meet some more relatives for the first time so I say to those just contacted, "Start thinking and planning now to join your relatives next June." ■

Contact by Epley relatives -

After I returned from the reunion, I found I had an email message on the Internet from Charlotte Iker out in Oregon which read: "Just found your reunion notice on the net . . . wondering if you have Epley genealogy. I am descended from Daniel Epley who married Sally Brown and who was a brother of Mary Epley who married Henry Burkett".

I replied and we sent several messages back and forth and I also wound up talking with Mrs. Freda Miller of Green Valley, Arizona and John W. Epley of Plymouth, Indiana — both of whom are Epley descendants. You will recall our Henry Burkett, Sr. married Mary 'Polly' Epley so we really are as much descended from Polly as from Henry.

I have not only spoken with them over the phone but we have exchanged letters and Freda out in Arizona found a copy of the same picture of Polly that I published in our Newsletter!! Her copy was a little better than mine. John Epley seems to have most of the information but one of the things that turned up is that they have Henry Burkett, Sr.'s birthplace as Wythe County, Virginia. ***This was information I did not have.*** I have written John asking for his source but have not heard back other than a letter saying he had to go into the hospital for some tests and he would get back to me as soon as he got that problem taken care of so I'm anxious to hear from him. When I spoke with John on the phone, he

told me he had been doing his research for many, many years and had also hired some professional genealogists to do some parts of the research.

Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett's parents were Daniel Epley, Sr. and Catherine Keebler. Polly was the oldest and after her came Daniel Jr., John, Sarah, Annie, George and David. To refresh your memory, it was Polly's sister, Annie, who married John Williams and they subsequently moved to Texas and established Williams Ranch near Mullin, Texas where the cemetery is in which Polly is buried. John, Daniel, George and Sarah wound up in Missouri while Annie, Polly and David wound up in Texas. At some point, George must have left Missouri and moved down to Texas because he is buried near Mullin, Texas with his death date as March 13, 1893 — several years after the death of sisters Polly in 1884 and Annie in 1885.

By early 1852, John Epley had moved his family to Missouri but he and his wife died by November 1852 leaving two daughters, Elizabeth Caroline and Louisa Ann, to live with an Aunt and Uncle in Tennessee. This would have placed Elizabeth's age at about 10 when they died and the sister, Louisa Ann, even younger.

Sometime in the fall of 1857 or early 1858, John Williams and wife, Annie Epley Williams, were leading a wagon train to Texas. Family legend says that the two daughters of John Epley, Elizabeth and Louisa Ann, were unhappy in their foster home and a friend, Avery Toby, slipped the girls out a window one bitter cold night and took them to W.L. "Bill" Williams, a brother of John Williams. Elizabeth Caroline — now about 15 years old — forgot her shoes and rode for several hours on the horse behind Bill as they rode to meet the wagon train. Her feet were frostbitten when she reached the wagons and were in bad shape throughout the entire trip and, for a long time, it appeared she would lose both feet.

John Epley, Polly's brother, married Mary Spangler and they had at least 8 children. Three or more were born in Tennessee by 1840. On June 14, 1840, a son, William Henry Epley, was born in Alabama, just 50 miles south of Cannon County, TN. There seemed to be quite a bit of moving back and forth across the state line about that time. Perhaps there were other friends and relatives or better land to settle. Some Becks and Alsops also lived in Lincoln County, Tennessee right on the Alabama line and these families became allied with the Epleys through marriage and migrated together to Missouri and Texas.

Copies of deeds show that John Epley was very active buying and selling land in Cannon County, Tennessee. He gave land and a building to be used by several denominations for church services.

John also had an Epley bible among his household possessions when he died. It was included in the estate sale after his death and was purchased by a brother-in-law, Andrew Moore who was married to John's sister, Sarah. Andrew and wife Sarah probably had the bible in their possession until about 1857 and entered the names of their

children and their wedding date. The bible subsequently came into the possession of Elizabeth Caroline (the barefoot daughter mentioned above) who passed it on to her daughter, Louise Iola Chesser. Louise then passed it on to her daughter, Leta Mae Durst. (Elizabeth married John Dan Chesser)

At this point I want to present a story prepared by StellaB Jackson Jaynes and which I have had in my possession for some time. I haven't presented it before now because I didn't understand the whole picture. After you read it, I think you will see how it all comes together. Keep in mind that Elizabeth Caroline went to Texas about 1857 or 1858 when she was about 15.

Chesser Valley

In 1860, John Dan Chesser, a young man eighteen or nineteen years old, staked a claim on land in the valley that later would bear his name. That same year (1860) he married an orphan girl, Elizabeth Caroline Epley, in the home of Mr. and Mrs. W.L. "Bill" Williams at nearby Williams Ranch. Very soon after their marriage, John Dan and Elizabeth walked to Burnet, Texas and lived there while he carried mail to Fredericksburg, Texas. A few years later they returned to their 'staked' land in Brown County, Texas, built a home and reared a family of eleven children. The valley became known as Chesser Valley and was transferred to Mills County when it was created in 1887.

John Dan and Elizabeth Caroline first built a one-room log cabin for their home in Chesser Valley. As their family increased, more rooms were added and eventually the whole thing was covered with lumber to make a frame house. The original log cabin room remained the bedroom of Dan and Caroline until their deaths.

Chesser Valley was famous for its' frequent and fervent camp meetings, the biggest in the country, and wagon loads of people came many miles to attend. They camped in a grove of live oak trees near the brush arbor where services were held, and stayed from one day to two weeks for the preaching, praying, singing and fellowshiping. The preacher, regardless of his denomination, always stayed at the Chessers who were Methodists. Dan would kill a deer or fat hog and entertain lavishly while the preacher was there. Almost every Sunday, Dan asked friends and neighbors to eat dinner in his home; usually about fifty of them gathered for the big meal prepared by his wife and three daughters who always started the preparation before daylight. The Chessers always had an ample supply of home-grown vegetables and meats,

The first school at Chesser Valley was in a one room building of lumber hauled to the site in ox wagons from Round Rock by men of Chesser Valley. The hard-packed dirt floor used for a number of years was covered in 1890 with planks. The first benches of split logs were replaced by planks and desks.

Wesley Head, Bill Epley (an Uncle of Caroline) and William Jasper "Bud or Bill" Forsythe settled in Chesser Valley about the same time as the Chessers. George and W.L. "Bill" Williams rode from Williams Ranch to work their land in Chesser Valley until Indians became less troublesome in

the valley then George and Bill built homes and moved their families to Chesser Valley. The Bill Williams home was a big log house and it was in the Williams yard that Joe Burkett married Della Pyeatt in June 1882. (This was Joseph Lafayette Burkett, StellaB's grandfather)

John Dan Chesser died in 1914; his wife Caroline died in 1924. Their old farmhouse and outbuildings were destroyed by fire in 1926, and the place along with most of the other farms in Chesser Valley incorporated into Sleepy Hollow Cattle Ranch. They are buried in the cemetery at Williams Ranch. (end of Chesser Valley)

In reviewing the information I received from the three Epley relatives, it was interesting to note that Daniel, Polly's brother, married Sally Brown who was born in Greene County, Tennessee which is the same county where Henry and Polly were married. A tragic story about Daniel appeared in a Missouri newspaper, the BOLIVAR WEEKLY COURIER dated December 22, 1860, as follows:

"On the 13th inst. a difficulty occurred between O. F. Hall and Wm. Thompson at Black Oak Point, in which the latter struck the former which caused him to procure a warrant and Mr. Daniel Epley was deputized to arrest him, and whilst performing this duty Thompson stabbed him with a knife eighteen inches long which resulted in the death on the following morning. Thompson is now in custody and undoubtedly will be dealt with by law as he justly deserves, and his fate cannot be too severe, for he has robbed the life of one of our oldest and most respectable citizens. The life that he has so brutally destroyed is worth more than all the vagrant striplings in the universe."

(I did not recall what a "stripling" was so looked it up in the dictionary which says, "an adolescent boy". Daniel was 54 years old when he was killed.)

That's all I have about the Epley's right now. I still have to get it entered into the computer and also I am waiting for more information from John Epley in Indiana. ■

Maury County, Tennessee -

Recently, I received another email message on the Internet from Michael Hailey in Joplin, Missouri who is looking for his gggrandmother, Mary Burkett. In the 1860 census, he had located an Absalom Burkett and a Mary in Maury County, Tennessee and wanted to know if there was any connection.

At first, I told him there was no connection but it kept bothering me that something sounded familiar so I ran a special report on our family listing birth places and what did I find? Jacob Lafayette Burkett, a son of Jacob Lorenza Burkett and the grandfather of StellaB Jackson Jaynes, ***was born in Maury County April 3, 1856.*** (In case you don't know where Maury County is, Columbia is the county seat and is just south of Nashville and to the west of I-65.)

Well, we started working in earnest to see if we could

find the connection because there couldn't have been that many residents in Maury County in 1860 and to have two different sets of Burketts seemed like too much of a coincidence.

Michael Hailey works at a University and also has access to a library which has detailed census records so he sent me the records on Burketts for 1850 and 1860. You have read before where I told you it seemed that everytime we answered a question it frequently brought up even more questions. Well, that sure turned out to be true in this case.

You may recall that in reviewing the settlement of Henry Burkett, Sr.'s estate, it appeared there were three children we had no real knowledge of, Jeremiah, Malinda and Matilda. Since we had no birth dates, I speculated they might have been born before Henry, Jr. (who was born about 1826) because Henry Sr. and Polly were married August 23, 1819 which is almost 7 years before Henry Jr. was born. Also, after looking at these census records, it made me think a little more and I realized that Polly was 42 years old when her last child was born based on the information compiled by StellaB. This is getting up in years for child-bearing even with today's medical knowledge and facilities.

But back to the census records themselves. What Michael sent me was a summary of the actual census report itself. For example, the 1850 census for Henry Burkett, Sr. and family is listed in the following format and shows the following information:

BURKET, Henry 56, Mary 49, Andrew J. 20, Jacob 17,
George W. 14, James 11, Mary C.E. 9, Martha J.
5,
David 4, Nancy J. DERRYBERRY 18 Va NC
Ca-515-774

The first thing you will notice is that Burkett was spelled with only one "t". The next thing but without going into specifics at this time is that some of the ages are notoriously wrong. Then you see the name Nancy J. Derryberry listed. She was the wife of Andrew J. so they must have been living with Henry Sr. and Polly at the time the census was taken. The next items you see are "Va NC" which indicates the birthplace of the Husband and wife and we already know Henry was born in Virginia and Polly was born in North Carolina. After that comes "Ca 515-774". Ca is the abbreviation for Cannon County and the numbers indicate the book and page number of the census report itself. To check on the accuracy of the above information it would be necessary to look at the original census report itself — but even that would not necessarily prove its accuracy because the census taker could have been extremely careless in either the taking or writing down of information.

When I turned to the 1860 census summary provided by Michael Hailey, Henry Sr. and family was not listed!! The only families I can find in 1860 were the Jacob Lorenza Burkett and John Burkett families — Jacob being in Cannon County and John in Warren County. And again there are obvious errors. For example, the 1850 census lists the first born child of John as Job when it was really Jobe. Then in the 1860 census it gives his name as Joel!

So what this means is that Michael and I have our work cut out for us if we are to prove any connections *and* it's about time for me to go over to the Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints (Mormon) Church and start using their records to look up information. The Church is only about 5 miles or less plus I don't have to go through any heavy traffic to get there. ■

More and More Kenneth Wayne Burketts — but Not Ours !

As I have mentioned, I am getting a lot of inquiries off the Internet about Burketts and I attempt to help when I can. Just recently, I had an inquiry about a George Washington Burkett in South Carolina.

In looking for information, I checked a book I have about Burketts entitled "**Descendants of George Burkett (1788 - 1877) and Jane Spence Burkett (1793 - 1883)**" and ran across the following:

Kenneth Wayne Burkett born 7/10/1942
in Ashland, Ohio
married Cheryl Jean Quesonberry
son Kenneth Wayne Burkett, Jr.

Kenneth Wayne Burkett born 11/3/1928
in Tazewell County, VA
married Doris Adkins 2/6/1948
son Kenneth Wayne Burkett, Jr.

Guess I can get over my surprise that we have two Kenneth Wayne Burkett's in our family — and for those of you who are new to our Newsletter, one of ours is in Lebanon, Tennessee and the other is in Jasper, Alabama. ■

THE WAY WE WERE



We were before television, before penicillin, the pill, polio shots, antibiotics and frisbees; before frozen food, nylon, dacron, Xerox, Kinsey. We were before radar, fluorescent lights, credit cards and ballpoint pens. For us, time-sharing meant togetherness not condominiums; a chip meant a piece of wood; hardware *meant* hardware; and software wasn't even a word. In those days bunnies were small rabbits and rabbits were not Volkswagens.

We were before Batman, Rudolph the Rednosed Reindeer and Snoopy. Before DDT and vitamin pills, vodka (in the United States) and the white wine craze, disposable diapers, jeeps, and the Jefferson nickel. Before Scotch tape, M and M's, the automatic shift and Lincoln Continentals.

When we were in college, pizza, Cheerios, frozen orange juice, instant coffee and McDonalds were unheard of. We thought fast food was what folks ate during Lent.

We were before FM radio, tape recorders, electric typewriters, word processors, Muzak, electronic music and disco dancing. We were before pantyhose and drip-dry clothes. Before ice makers and dish washers, clothes dryers, freezers and electric blankets. And bath tissue was toilet paper. Before men wore long hair and earrings and women wore tuxedos. We got married first and *then* lived together. Wasn't that quaint?

In our day cigarette smoking was fashionable, grass was mowed, coke was something you drank and pot was something you cooked in.

We were before coin vending machines, jet planes, helicopters and interstate highways. In the 30's, "made in Japan" meant junk, and the term "making out" referred to how you did on an exam.

In our time there were five-and-ten-cent stores where you could *actually buy things* for five and ten cents. For just one nickel you could ride a streetcar, make a phone call, buy a coke or buy enough stamps to mail one letter and two postcards. Twenty-five cents bought you five pounds of flour and a half gallon of milk was twenty-three cents. You could buy a new Chevy coupe for \$600, but who could afford that in the 30's? Nobody. A pity too, because gas was eleven cents a gallon.

We were not before the difference between the sexes was discovered but were before sex changes. We just made do with what we had.

And so it was in the 30's. This is "the way we were" — and we **Loved** it!!!



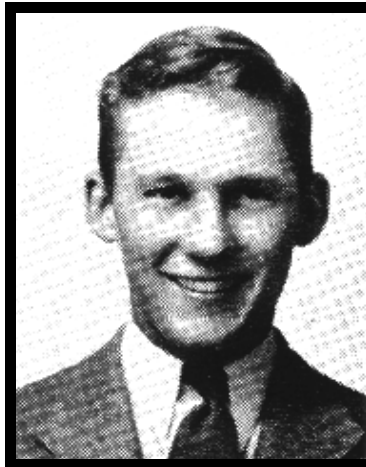
Middle Tennessee State College 1943

At our reunion this year, Bob Preston Burkett, Jr. again showed up with his collection of pictures for everyone to see. This year he brought something else — his father's college album. He was kind enough to loan it to me and I want to share with you some new information and pictures of the three Burkett boys from Watertown who must have been just devastating on the football field.

The album is entitled "*The Midlander*" and was the last one printed for the duration of the war in order to conserve

paper, ink, and labor.

Before presenting the Burkett's, let me tell you about somebody you may not be aware of who was also at that school — and many of you had the opportunity to meet him and his wife at the reunion last year. That was Clyde G. "Sid" Huggins. He was in the same class as Bill Burkett which was the Junior Class. Below is a picture of Sid taken from the album and let me apologize for the quality of these pictures. There was something about the way they printed album pictures back in those days that just doesn't lend itself to good copies. But as I've said before, better to have these than none at all. Okay, below is Sid and then the Burkett's in order of their age.



*Clyde G. Huggins
"Sid"*

Junior Class

*Middle Tennessee State
College*

1943



*William Wauford Burkett, Jr.
"Bill"*

Junior Class

*Middle Tennessee State
College*

1943



*Bob Preston Burkett
"Bob and Preston"*

Sophomore Class

*Middle Tennessee State
College*

1943

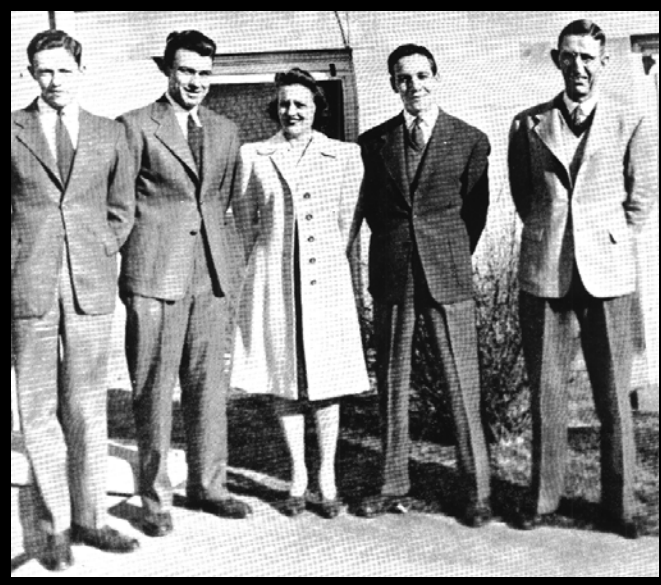


*Wilburn Lee Burkett
"Pudge"*

Freshman Class

*Middle Tennessee State
College*

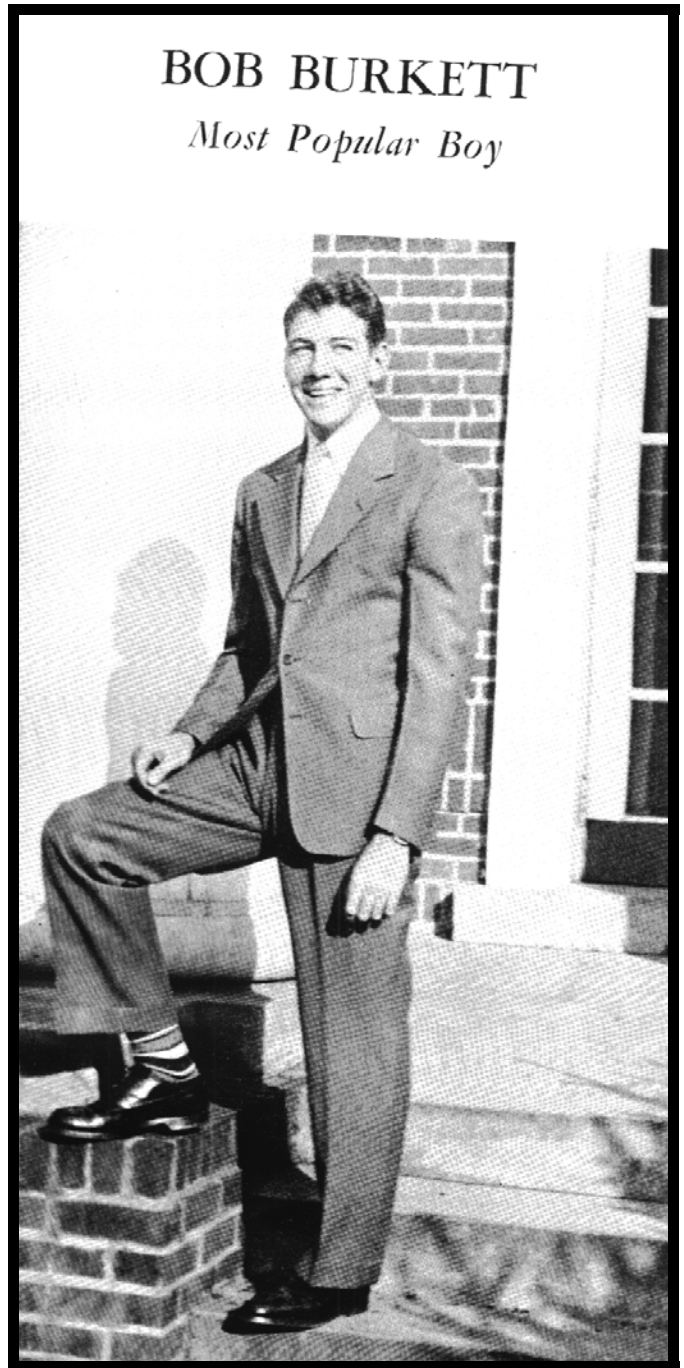
1943



*Junior Class Officers - Bill Burkett, President
(Bill is fourth from the left)*



*Sophomore Class Officers- Bob Burkett, President
(Bob is on the left)*



*I got this picture a little crooked but that's okay,
the caption says it all "Most Popular Boy"*

Thumbing through this book supports the above picture that Bob was the "Most Popular Boy". On almost every page is somebody with their comments about how proud they were to have known Bob and how he had been a true friend to them. Since this was Bob's book, you would normally expect these comments directed to him but let me quote part of one comment: "I have nothing but the highest respect for you and I've often wished I could be like you. You have what it takes and will go places. Three boys like you Burkett brothers are hard to find and I love all of you for 'Various and Sundry' reasons."

To me, that's a pretty impressive statement — not only about Bob but about his brothers as well. Now I invite you to

go back and look at the pictures of Sid and the three brothers to see if you notice what seems to just jump out at me. Their neatness and clean-cut appearance! Look at the crease in Bill's and Bob's trousers on the preceding page and the shine on Bob's shoes in the "Most Popular Boy" picture. While Bill opted for a casual look in his individual photo, Sid, Bob, and Wilburn all have on nice suits and ties. Makes you kinda' proud to have relatives like these, doesn't it? Sid was a 3rd cousin of the Burketts and my 2nd cousin once removed so that makes me a third cousin once removed to the Burketts.

Thanks to Bob Preston Burkett, Jr. for the loan of this annual which gives us a better insight as to how these relatives conducted themselves. ■

Kids Don't Change ! -

All kids love to stomp in water ! And while all of the reunion pictures are good, these almost begged to be included in this issue. For those who did not attend, keep in mind I said it rained.



Hey cousin, ain't this fun !



Yes, that's a puddle of water !



Just one more time by myself

The children in these pictures are William Vann Burkett, born August 9, 1994, and Jeri Ann Waldrup, born August 8, 1994, and are first cousins. William Vann's parents are Earl and Jennifer Burkett; Jeri Ann's parents are Jerry and Martha Burkett Waldrup. The grandparents are William L. "Buddy" and JoAnna Burkett; the great grandparents were Gentry J.B. and Bessie Burkett; the 2nd great grandparents were Almon and Nancy Burkett; the 3rd great grandparents were Jobe and Rebecca Burkett; the 4th great grandparents were John and Paulina Burkett; and the 5th great grandparents were Henry Sr. and Mary 'Polly' Burkett.

In case you missed it, Jeri Ann's birthday is just one day ahead of William Vann's which made it kind of exciting for grandparents Buddy and JoAnna when they were born. ■

Hand Carried From Missouri -

Earlier I wrote about Audy Majors and myself meeting the group from Missouri for dinner Friday evening before the reunion. That group was Erma Burkett Whitehead, Annalea Burkett Teeters, Erma's daughter Patricia and son-in-law Rodney Guinn.

Erma and I had been corresponding and putting together family information and she brought with her the latest answers to questions I had about her immediate family plus some pictures I had also asked for. She gave these to me Friday evening at dinner and I have now entered the information into

the computer. She also brought some pictures which I had also asked about.

Before I present the pictures let me refresh your memory and keep you from having to look back at other issues of the Newsletter. Henry Burkett, Jr. had three sons, James Edward, Issac, and Robert. Henry Jr. moved his family to Missouri but died from diabetes soon after arriving. His wife Nancy returned to Tennessee with the three boys. Son Robert died at the age of 17 also from diabetes. James Edward brought his family back to Missouri — he had five children. One of them was Horace Burkett and his picture was in a previous Newsletter. Horace married Clara Brinkman and they were the parents of Erma, James William, Annalea, and Betty.



Front row l to r - Erma Burkett Whitehead, Annalea Burkett Teeters, Betty Imogene Millett Back row l to r - Horace Burkett, Clara Brinkman Burkett, James William Burkett Made in 1965 LaRussell, Missouri



Seated Clara and Horace Burkett Standing l to r daughters Annalea, Betty and Erma. 60th Wedding Anniversary 1978



Grandchildren of Horace and Clara Burkett
 #1- Tabitha Burkett #2 - Cheryl Teeters #3 - Sandy Coffee
 #4 - Patricia Guinn #5 - Bill Burkett #6 - Robert Joe Millett
 #7 - Linda Taylor #8 - Fred Whitehead #9 - James Millett
 #10 - Larry Whitehead.

Erma's children are # 4, 7, 8, and 10
 James William's children are # 1 and 5
 Annalea's daughter is # 2
 Betty's children are # 3, 6, and 9. Not shown is son Terry.

Date of this picture is not known at this time

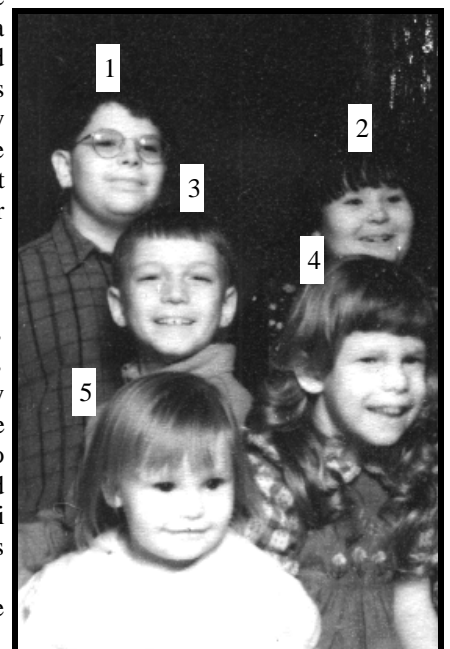
My thanks to Erma for these pictures but we can't quit now, Erma. How about pictures of descendants of the above?? ■

And Some More Grandchildren -

Had a couple of nice letters from Brenda Burkett Elders and Buddy Elders. She is a daughter of Gentry J.B. and Bessie Burkett and she sent me a photo of their grandchildren.

1 - Bryant Askins
 # 2 - Caitlin Barclay
 # 3 - Andrew Askins
 #4- Courtney Askins
 #5-Adrianna Barclay
 Their parents are David and Tina Jo Elders Askins; and Michael and Terri Lynn Elders Barclay.

Thanks for the photo, Brenda !



Now For The OTHER Watson's ! -

In the last issue, I told you I had just received a FAX from Russell Watson but didn't have time to review it and get it into that issue because it was so lengthy. Well, I have now entered that information into the computer and it consists of **253 more relatives !** I thought I had received a lot of Elrod's and mentioned that to Dot Elrod Foster and Dot said she bet the Watson's would have more — and she was right!

Before telling you about them, let me go back and refresh your memory on why I refer to these Watson's as the "other" Watson's. Jobe Burkett and Rebecca Caroline Rigby had a total of six children — Almon, Tolbert, JoAnna "Dollie", Julie, Elizabeth "Lizzie", and Tildie. JoAnna married Ezekial Watson and I wrote about them in the previous issue. I told about receiving a phone call from Martha Watson Coppinger, a daughter of James Ernest Watson and a granddaughter of Ezekial Watson and JoAnna Burkett. Martha sent a large photo of her parents in their buggy which was also included in the previous issue and a lot of family information. JoAnna's sister Julie Ann also married a Watson — John Franklin Watson — and it is this group I am referring to as the "other" Watson's. I refer to them as the "other" Watson's only because I have already written about the descendants of JoAnna Burkett Watson. Now that I have cleared that up, let's take a look at these Watson's.

But before I proceed, let me give credit for this information to Leona Frances Watson who married Cecil Ernest Billings and currently lives in McMinnville, TN. As I have already stated, the information was sent to me via FAX by Russell Watson but he identified Leona Frances Watson as the person responsible for it. She had to have worked hard and long to compile all this data and I want to express our appreciation for sharing it with us.

Julie Ann Burkett and John Franklin Watson had four children — Frank Lee, Charles Lewis, E.J. , and Jessie Nelson Watson. E.J. Watson died when less than one year old.

Frank Lee Watson married Eula Elizabeth Bond and they had seventeen (17) children — one of whom was Leona Frances mentioned above as the compiler of this information on the Frank Lee Watson family. It is this family group that makes up the 253 relatives I referred to above. Their children consisted of 5 daughters and 12 sons as follows :

John Lee Watson	Virgie Mai Watson
James Augusta Watson	Charles Loring Watson
Leona Frances Watson	Anna Mourine Watson
Paul Franklin Watson	Aaron Lee Watson
George Watson	David Ezekiel Watson
Lillard B. Watson	Morris Vinson Watson
Dorris EmmaGean Watson	Evelyn Rebeckah Watson
Frank Lee Watson, Jr.	James Charles Watson
Johnny Edward Watson	

Frank Lee Watson became a well known and respected Minister. But being a Minister did not spare them from grief and heartache. Their first son, John Lee Watson, died the day he was born. Another son, Charles Loring Watson, died November 22, 1942 at the age of 19. I do not know the cause

of his death but wonder if it was connected with World War II which started the previous December when he was already 18 and eligible for military service. Still another son, George Watson, died at the age of only 4 days and son Lillard B. Watson died at the approximate age of 3 months in 1934. A daughter, Dorris EmmaGean Watson, died at the age of about 4 months in 1936. So of the 17 children, they lost 4 either at birth or a very young age and one at the age of 19.

I would like to have included a picture of Reverend Frank Lee Watson and his wife, Eula Elizabeth Bond, but, unfortunately, the FAX quality would not hold up under scanning to do them justice. They must have been loved and respected by their children because here is what was written about the compiled record - "*We lovingly dedicate this record to Frank Lee and Eula Elizabeth Bond Watson, ("Mom and Dad"), who reared us with love and discipline . . . who taught us Christian values, integrity, and ethics. We love you and miss you.*" They married March 2, 1919 and had been married more than 55 years when Eula Elizabeth Bond Watson died in 1974 in Warren County, Tennessee. Reverend Watson lived about 3 years after his wife's death and died in 1977 in Madison County, Tennessee.

Charles Lewis Watson, a brother of Frank Lee, married JoAnn Patterson and they had five daughters. Jessie Nelson Watson, also a brother of Frank Lee, married Beadil Vanatta and they had three sons and one daughter. The information in this paragraph comes from another source and was not included in that prepared by Leona Frances Watson Billings. At this time I am lacking information about these families but have sent off some letters asking for help on these.

John Franklin Watson, the father of Frank Lee, Charles Lewis, and Jessie Nelson, died in June of 1907 when he was only 29 leaving his wife, Julie Ann Burkett Watson, with three young boys who were only about 8, 6, and 2. I do not know the cause of his death. In July of 1909, Julie Ann married Ezekial Oliver Underhill who, by this marriage, accepted the responsibility of raising these boys. (See the next article for a continuation of this family.) ■

News from Laura Eula Underhill Miller Bain -

I had wondered for some time about information concerning Julie Ann Burkett Watson's marriage to Ezekial Oliver Underhill and knew they had two children but did not know anything about them. While talking with Laura Burkett Durham one day, I brought up this subject and Laura said, "Why Laura Eula lives in Smithville." She gave me Laura's address, I wrote her and we began a correspondence which produced a lot of information.

As stated above, when Julie Ann married Ezekial Oliver Underhill, she already had the three boys - Frank Lee Watson who was now about 10; Charles Lewis Watson who was about 8, and Jessie Nelson Watson who was about 4. In 1910, Julie Ann had a son, William Ernest Underhill, and in 1914, a daughter, Laura Eula Underhill. With the birth of

Laura Eula, this gave them a family of 5 ranging in age from about 15 (Frank Lee) to 1 (Laura Eula). I have some pictures of all 5 but before I get to them I want to share with you some of the information I got from Laura Eula.

During a conversation a couple of years ago, Laura Belle Burkett Durham mentioned that only family members referred to her as Laura Belle. At that time I wasn't alert enough to ask her why. Now that I have contacted Laura Eula, she pointed out in her letter that the family called them Laura Eula and Laura Belle. Laura Belle's father, Tolbert Burkett, was a brother of Laura Eula's mother, Julie Ann Burkett Underhill, so that made them first cousins and made it necessary for the family to use their second names to distinguish between them.

Laura Eula explained that she was only able to get a fifth grade education and asked that I forgive her mistakes in her letters. Well, she may have made mistakes in spelling and grammar but I know people who were supposed to have gotten a much better education but who really are not as *educated* as Laura Eula. She may not agree with me but I think she is a natural born story teller and it was a real pleasure reading her letters — but let me continue.

Her daddy, Ezekial Oliver Underhill, owned 100 acres at least part of which he rented out to folks to grow corn and wheat which was used by Laura's family to make bread and feed the live stock. (Let me digress for just a minute to point out that Laura Eula and Laura Belle were my mother's first cousins because their mother (Julie Ann) and daddy (Tolbert Burkett) respectively were sister and brother to Almon Lee, my mother's daddy and my grandfather. Therefore, Laura Eula's daddy was Uncle Ezekial or Uncle Oliver to my mother. I'm not sure as to which name he went by. But anyway, I always knew my first name of Marvin came from my daddy, Elgie Marvin Webb, but never knew where the Oliver came from. Now, I strongly suspect it came from this Uncle of Mother's.) Now, back to the farm.

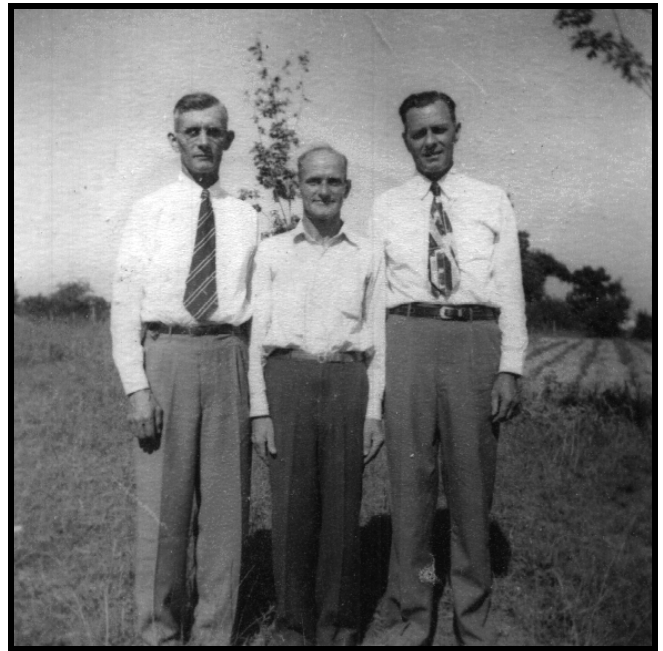
Laura Eula tells me they didn't eat eggs back then — they saved every one and sold them to have money to buy groceries when the covered wagon peddler came along. They would buy coffee, sugar, salt, baking powder, baking soda, *coal oil for the lamp*, and maybe a box of snuff for her mama, Julie Ann. (Yes, a lot of women back in those days used to "dip snuff.") I used italics for the coal oil because it is hard for us today to realize that electricity hasn't always been around. Laura Eula writes that she also used to pick blackberries and could get 10 cents a gallon for them and when she could pick as many as 5 gallons and got 50 cents she felt like she had made her some real money! If you have ever picked blackberries, you know how much work it took to pick 5 gallons — and, if you haven't, it is impossible to describe to you what it was like. Picking blackberries is just one of those things you have to do in order to understand.

And here is a story I just love! Laura Eula remembers when her grandmother Rebecca Caroline Rigsby Burkett would come to stay with them. It seems that her grandmother would stay awhile with each of the children. Well, Laura

Eula's mother had geese and the male goose did not like her grandmother. So when the grandmother had to go outside, Laura Eula would have to take a broom and go outside with her grandmother (or Ma Burkett as she called her) and keep that old goose off her! Laura Eula was just a small girl but she kept that old goose off her grandmother with that broom! Can't you picture that old goose running at Ma Burkett and a little girl swinging that broom at the goose?!

I have previously described how little visiting took place given the lack of transportation, roads, the distance between families, and the amount of work folks had to do. The same was true about Laura Eula's family. They would sometimes see Uncle Tolbert and Uncle Audd (Almon Lee) when they visited Aunt Dollie Wood or Aunt Lizzie Elrod. They would go in their buggy and stop at Oak Grove until church was over and then on to the Aunt's house. While there, they would pitch horseshoes and play ball among other games but about the time they really got to enjoying themselves the parents would say it's time to go home. They had their evening work to do — feeding, milking the cow, feeding chickens, gathering in the eggs, and carrying in wood for the fire. Then it was supper time and bed time. Laura Eula remembers that their time on the road seemed as long or longer than their visiting time.

Now let's take a look at the pictures Laura Eula sent me.



Left to right - Frank Lee Watson, Charles Lewis Watson, and Jessie Nelson Watson (I know that is Frank Lee on the left but if I have reversed the other two somebody let me know.)

Looking back at what I have written about the farm and the way they lived makes me realize that with Frank Lee Watson being the oldest boy he had to have worked hard to help his stepfather Ezekial Underhill. I am sure the other boys worked hard for their age and size but Frank Lee probably did the hardest and heaviest when they were younger.

While I have a great deal of information about Frank Lee Watson, I know very little about Charles Lewis Watson or Jessie Nelson Watson. I am hoping that some of their descendants who read this will help me. If they will contact me, I will send what I have and they can add to it. If you are a new reader of this newsletter, I am preparing a book about the Burkett's and would really like to have as much information as I can get about *all of the Burkett's and their descendants*. Some folks think I may not be interested because their name is Watson or Elrod or something else but that's not true. Watson's are just as much descended from Julie Ann Burkett as they are from John Franklin Watson, to use one example. So please take the time and let me hear from you and send *any* pictures you may have.

Now here is another picture.

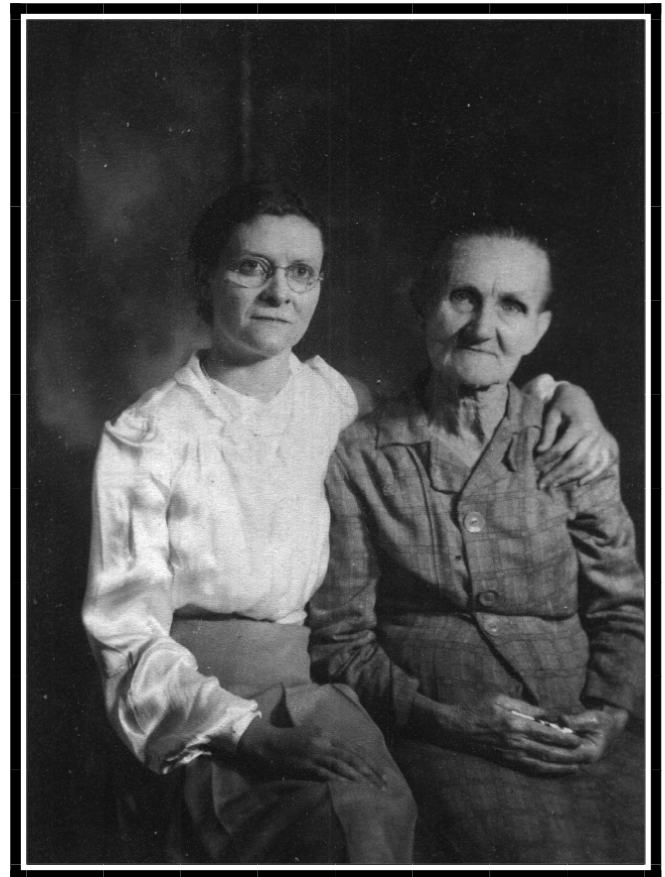


Left to right - Julie Ann Burkett Watson Underhill, William Ernest 'Ernest' Underhill, Laura Eula Underhill Miller Bain. Looking at the truck in the background I would guess this was made in the late 1930's or very early 1940's.

In 1928 when Laura Eula was only 14 years old, she married Odis P. Miller who was only 17. Laura Eula writes that they were just children but had always been sweethearts. Odis' daddy owned 50 acres next to the 100 acres owned by Laura Eula's daddy. Odis was only 12 when his daddy died. His daddy asked Odis to take care of his mother, a younger brother who was then only 5 years old and a sister. Odis did that and never moved from that farm his entire life. When he and Laura Eula married, they lived right there raising corn, hay, tobacco, sweet and irish potatoes, hogs, chickens and

cows. Their two daughters and two sons were born there. The children's names were John Ezekial Miller, Pauline Miller, Bobby Miller, and Wanda Ann Miller. When Odis' mother died in 1944, he bought their part of the farm. With the help of their two sons, Odis cut and sold logs to pay his brother and sister for their share of the farm.

Laura Eula's father, Ezekial Oliver Underhill, died in March of 1935. I'm guessing at this but, as was the practice in those days, the mother, Julie Ann Burkett Watson Underhill, probably lived with each of her children from time to time. Below is a picture made in the early 1940's.



Laura Eula Underhill Miller and mother Julie Ann Burkett Watson Underhill

The original farm house was built by Odis' daddy and consisted of two rooms with a hall between the rooms. It was a big log house built with logs hewed out by a broad axe. Odis added three rooms — a kitchen and two bedrooms. When electricity came, he added a bathroom with inside water. The oldest son, John E., built nice kitchen cabinets around the wall and then built cabinets for his house. With those two jobs behind him, he became a regular cabinet maker. Odis continued working on the house but died before he got the outside logs covered over like he wanted to.

After Odis died, Laura Eula lived alone until one night when someone came and tried to get her to come out and show them her three ponies. She had to threaten to shoot them to get them to leave. She was afraid after that and sold the house. Laura says she has been back by the house and the

people who bought it have fixed it up so nice you would never believe it was way over 100 years old. She also says you would never know it was a log house by just looking at it.

For the birthday of her mother, Julie Ann Burkett Watson Underhill, Laura always set the birthday dinner at her house. They lived just off the highway with room for everyone to park and had large walnut shade trees. Laura says that she remembers her Aunt Lizzie Burkett Newby and some of her family would come in the evening after they went to church. Laura points out they were poor people but loved each other and their kin folks plus their neighbors. Everyone was always welcome and they knew it.

After selling the farm house, she bought a mobile home and married Buddy Bain. They moved around quite a bit but after Buddy died in 1988, she moved to her present address in 1989 and has been there ever since.

Recently, there has been a lot of stories on TV and in newspapers about the role faith and prayer play in the healing process. I believe the following told to me by Laura Eula is a good example of why this interest is taking place on the part of Doctors. I repeat this not to make Laura self-conscious but because it so closely follows other stories I have heard or read. Also, I don't think she will mind my telling it.

In 1952, Laura Eula came down with TB in both lungs and was taken to the TB hospital in Nashville. The Doctors gave her only three months to live. She writes that this was hard on Odis, Bobby and Wanda. John E. was in the Army and Pauline had married so those still at home had to keep house, milk the cows, and do all the other things required on a farm.

One night Laura was praying and asked to be healed. Later the Doctor who had x-rayed her lungs came and sat down beside her. He asked if she knew the one who had scars on his hands and feet (Jesus). She said she did. The Doctor then told her they could now find only scars on her lungs where the TB had been and she could go home. She had been in the hospital *less than three months*.

So it was 45 years ago that she was given only three months to live and she is still with us having outlived two husbands, three of her children, a brother, and three half-brothers. She was 83 years of age March 21, 1997.



Left to right - Laura Eula Underhill Miller Bain and her children John E. Miller, Pauline Miller Burtron, Bobby Miller, and Wanda Miller Jones Photo made in 1986



Laura Eula Underhill Miller Bain with great great grand-daughters from left to right - Kimberly Dawn Wade, Emily Ann Wade, and Lauraly Deen Wade. Photo made in 1996

Just a couple of comments by me about these photo's. Look back at the picture of Laura Eula and her mother Julie Ann on page 12. To me, Laura is a dead-ringer for how I remember my Aunt Ara Burkett Chisholm who was Laura's first cousin. I would be interested in comments from others who knew Aunt Ara and especially from her children, Herman and Loretta.

In the above picture, if that little one in the middle, Emily Ann Wade, isn't her great great grandmother then I'm a monkey's uncle!

Thanks, Laura, for the information you worked so hard on. I know many of our relatives will be interested in reading what you have provided. I will be asking you to recall some more memories as soon as I can get around to it. ■

William Ernest Underhill -

Ernest, as he was known, was the older brother of Laura Eula. He was born July 16, 1910. He married Belle Vanatta October 1, 1927 and they had four (4) children — all boys.

Loyd Eugene Underhill married Dorothy Jean Cantrell and they had three children — Charlotte, Ricky, and Tammy.

Dixie Louis Underhill married Naomi Bratcher and they also had three children — Glenn, Cathy, and Kelvin.

William Harold Underhill married Allison Revett and they had one son — William Harold Underhill, Jr.

Beacher Izear Underhill married Jeanette C. Fields and they had one daughter — Julia.

This is about all of the information I have on Ernest Underhill and his descendants. I am hoping somebody out there will decide to help me by providing whatever they might have in the way of information and/or pictures of any of the descendants. It may not seem important at this time but I can guarantee that relatives several years from now will enjoy reading and looking at pictures. Think about it. ■



Burkett Babies -

A big welcome to new family member Griffin Patterson Peek born February 12, 1997 to parents Barbara Ann Patterson Peek and Ricky Peek. Griffin's grandparents are Loretta Chisholm Patterson and Carlos Patterson. All of them live in Huntsville. (Loretta is the daughter of Ara Burkett Chisholm and Jack Chisholm, and the granddaughter of Almon Lee and Nancy Bogle Burkett.)

Also a big welcome for the next new family member, Madison Colleen Howell, who weighed in at 5 pounds 10 ounces and who was born September 12, 1997 to proud parents Scott and Christy Howell. Scott's parents are Talmadge and Karen Majors Howell of Lacey's Springs, Alabama. (Karen is the daughter of Marjorie Beard Majors and the late Almon Majors, Sr., and the granddaughter of Ova Burkett Majors and Ben Majors, both of whom are deceased.) ■

The Historian's Corner

Oliver Webb



Yes, this issue is *very, very late* and I apologize but it seems when you have computer problems they come in bunches. Without going into a lot of detail, let me just mention that my laser printer quit on me and I had to send it off for repairs. When I got it back, it worked fine for printing but not for pictures so back it went again. All of this took quite a bit of time. I continued working at writing the Newsletter but then I had a glitch in the computer itself and had to go back and reconstruct a lot of what I had already done. By this time the holidays had come along and that slowed me down as well. Everything seems to be working okay now so we'll just cross our fingers and hope there are no more problems.

Basil Banks got a surprise on his 80th birthday. He was lured away from his house and granddaughter Page Ann Banks slipped in and decorated it while Basil and wife Mildred were away. Was he surprised!! And a whole bunch of relatives attended.

Martha Watson Coppinger listed another nickname for her grandmother JoAnna Burkett Watson which I did not know about. It is "Johnnie". Just seems the more relatives I am able to communicate with, the more I learn about other

relatives.

And speaking of names, I am not sure I have been spelling some other names correctly. For example, some of our relatives spell Julie Ann Burkett Watson Underhill as "JULIE" and others spell it "JULIA". Any comments from relatives about which is correct? And I have seen Ezekial spelled as "EZEKIAL" and "EZEKIEL". Again, I have no idea as to which is correct. How about some help on this name also. ■

A frank discussion about the future of our Newsletter -

This is probably the toughest column I have ever written but it must be done. ***I have not received enough financial participation to continue publishing the Newsletter at its current number of copies.*** For those of you who are somewhat new to this Newsletter let me back up and give some history of it and my work on the family history.

This all began at the reunion in 1992 when I mentioned I had a computer and there were programs available for genealogical projects. Did anybody force me to undertake this work? The answer is no — I was not forced. Did I expect that everyone would have the same interest as I did? Again, the answer is no, I did not expect that. The main reason is that I recognized the majority of our relatives were still working and/or still had children at home. However, I *did* think that if I did most of the work, folks would be willing to help with the cost of preparing and mailing the Newsletter.

After discussions with some of our relatives, I arrived at \$25.00 as being a fair amount for annual dues which would include the cost of the annual reunion and the Newsletter. This worked fine in the very beginning when the number of known relatives was relatively small and the Newsletter expense was correspondingly small with most recipients paying the \$25.00. As the number of located relatives has increased, the percentage of those contributing has decreased. Some of our relatives simply cannot afford this and we know who they are and understand their situation. However, this number is very low and we felt they should continue to receive our Newsletter even if they couldn't afford to pay.

I have been told that some of our relatives felt that I was making money from this activity. This is far from the truth. I have a computer program for tracking all monies received and for expenses charged against these funds. These funds have been used ***solely*** for the preparation and mailing of our Newsletter, for correspondence with relatives, the expenses of our annual reunion, and miscellaneous expenses. I have personally paid for all the computer components including a laser printer and a scanner for photo's. I have also paid for the various software programs I experimented with until I found one which I felt did a good job. I can tell you that the computer and software expenses have been in the hundreds of dollars not counting the initial cost of the computer. Computer and software upgrades over the past five (5) years have also cost an additional several hundred dollars. In addition, I made

lengthy trip — both mileage and timewise — in 1994 when I went out through Texas seeking relative information. This trip cost me a few hundred dollars. I have also had some pretty sizeable phone bills which resulted from my efforts to locate relatives and/or get additional information from them. *None of these expenses were ever charged against the funds I received from dues paid.*

What has been charged against the annual dues was the actual expenses for the Newsletter; the reunion; correspondence, including postage, with relatives; and two genealogy books for \$44.00. Included in the Newsletter expense was paper, envelopes, paper clips, toner for the printer (which is expensive and especially since I started including pictures in the Newsletter), tape, and postage. Beginning last year, I have charged \$19.95 per month which is what it cost to be on the Internet which I use to research our relatives and to communicate with others to expand knowledge about our family.

So what's the problem? Well, the problem is that with the mailing of this issue of the Newsletter, I will be in the hole over \$450.00 just for those expenses listed in the above paragraph. Without mentioning their names, I would be in the hole several hundred more dollars without the assistance of three cousins.

So what's the solution? I'm not sure at this point there is one. I'm not even sure there is enough interest for me to continue. Believe me, it takes a lot of work and a lot of hours to put together this Newsletter, print it, collate all of the pages, address the envelopes, apply postage, seal the envelopes and take them to the post office. (Another expense I have never charged for is the gas expense of going to the post office and to the Office supply house.) When I first started, I would make and print one copy of the Newsletter and take it to Kinko's for however many copies I needed. However, when I started with the photo's, it became

apparent that the quality was just not as good as when I printed them on my laser printer plus I could buy the paper and print them cheaper since I would be doing all the labor.


For this issue, I will be mailing 115 copies. To accomplish that, I first write all of the pages on the computer. Then I print 115 copies of page 1. Next I turn those pages over, put them back into the printer and print page 2 on the back of page 1. I then continue doing that until all pages are printed front and rear. The next thing is that I now have 115 copies of each page printed front and rear but I still have to manually assemble each person's copy. If there are 20 pages then I have 10 sheets for each person's copy or a total of 1,150 sheets. After assembling, they have to be inserted into envelopes, the envelope sealed and postage added.

Am I complaining? Not at all. I am simply responding to those who thought I was making money from all of this plus making my position clear that if there isn't enough interest to support me then I don't need to continue with all of this work.

Another point about our annual dues is that some relatives pointed out they would probably never be able to attend a reunion and therefore didn't feel they should have to help pay for it.

So here is what I am proposing. Dues will be reduced to \$15.00 per year. Hopefully, this will cover the cost of the Newsletter, correspondence to relatives, and the monthly Internet expense. The reunion expense will be covered by contributions from those of us who attend.

I need to know now before I start work on the next issue as to what the level of interest is and I have included a form below and ask that you complete and return it to me promptly if you are interested in receiving future copies of the Newsletter. I would like to hear from you as soon as possible.



**1998 MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION
FOR
THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION**

(YOUR CHECK WILL BE RETURNED IF ENOUGH FUNDS ARE NOT RECEIVED TO CONTINUE THE NEWSLETTER)

Renewal \$15.00

I would like to join. Here is my check for \$15.00

I can't afford a full membership but here is my donation of \$_____.

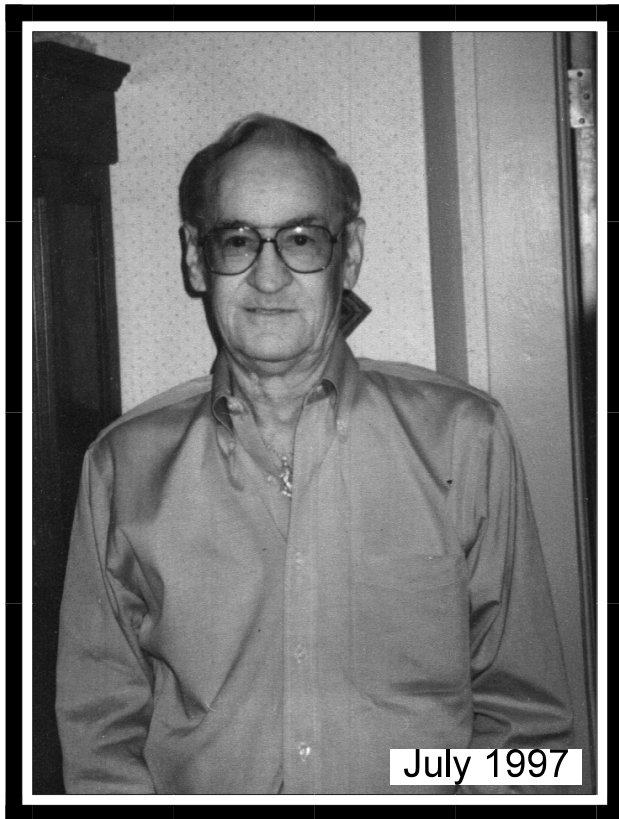
I can't afford it at this time but would like to continue receiving the Newsletter.

Name: _____

Street: _____

City: _____ State: _____ ZIP: _____

Make check payable to M.O. Webb and mail to:
 The Burkett Family
 c/o M.O. Webb
 15439 Lakeshore Villas Drive #77
 Tampa, FL 33613-1326



Herbert Lee Majors

*Born November 2, 1928
in
Huntsville, Alabama*

*Died December 25, 1997
in
Huntsville, Alabama*

My Cousin Herbert -

by

Oliver Webb

The family knew him as Herbert but, as often happened when we grew up and moved away or served in the military, we became known by another part of our name and Herbert became known as Lee to many people. But he remained Herbert to most of the family.

Along with many of his cousins, Herbert Lee was born in the cotton mill community known as Dallas Village in Huntsville. His mother was Ova Burkett Trapp Majors and his father was Benjamin Franklin Majors. The grandparents on his mother's side were Almon Lee Burkett and Nancy Caldonia Bogle Burkett.

During his "growing-up years", Dallas Village was what could be called one of those "sleepy southern communities." TV did not exist - radio was becoming popular but just barely affordable. And the living was slow and easy because nobody had much money and there were few cars. The summer days were spent getting in out of the sun during the hot part of the day. Seldom did you see much outdoor activity during these hours. And air conditioning was not even thought of except when the "picture shows" installed it to get more people

to attend the picture shows — we had not begun to call them movies. Picture shows were also shown at the Dallas Village YMCA and cost ten cents. They were shown in the basketball court (indoors) and most kids lay on the floor in front of the screen and looked up at the screen. That's where Herbert became acquainted with the cowboy stars like Buck Jones, Hoot Gibson, Tim McCoy, Ken Maynard and Tom Mix. All of us boys really liked those pearl handled pistols almost all of the cowboys wore in those days!!

One of our cousins, John Almon Carroll, lived in Birmingham but came to visit Dallas Village each summer for several years. Herbert was 1 ½ years older than John but that was close enough that they spent a lot of time together. I was a little over two years older than Herbert and we moved away from Dallas Village when I was not quite 11 years old which meant Herbert was less than 9. So I didn't spend that much time with him although I always saw him during my summer visits which were never as long as John Almon got to stay.

During one of our summer visits, somebody (and I still don't know who) had the foresight to get a camera and take some pictures. One of those which includes Herbert is on the next page.



Left to right - front row twins Audy and Almon Majors (or Almon and Audy), second row 'JoAnn' Webb, Nancy Majors third row 'Martha' Majors, Herbert Lee Majors, Loretta Chisholm.

I placed marks around my sister's name of JoAnn because that was what she was called by relatives although her name was really Joan. The marks around Martha's name is because she has been known all her life as Martha although her name is really Mary Elizabeth.

Since I don't know when the picture was made, I am guessing at ages in the above picture by guessing that Audy and Almon were about 4 so that would have made my sister and Nancy about 6; Martha who is shielding her eyes from the sun would have been about 9; Herbert would have been about 11; and Loretta close to 10. I have no idea as to where I was nor where Kathleen was when the picture was made but we would have been around 13. You will notice that Herbert was smart enough to stand back so that Loretta offered him some shade from the sun.

Herbert was an avid fisherman and a student of the Civil War. He not only visited some of the battlefields of the Civil War but studied in detail the battles which occurred there. I had several conversations over the years with him about that War and always found them interesting. I had hoped for more but it was not to be. I will miss you, my cousin.

From The Huntsville Times - December 26, 1997

H. Lee Majors

H. Lee Majors, 69, of Huntsville died Thursday at a local hospital. The funeral will be Saturday at noon at Spry Funeral Home with the Rev. Dean Olive officiating.

Burial will be in Maple Hill Cemetery.

Mr. Majors was a native and lifelong resident of Huntsville.

Survivors include his wife, Elizabeth R. Majors; seven sons, Bobby Estrada, William Majors, Alan Wade Majors, Dale Lee Majors, John Eric Majors and Len Majors, all of Huntsville; a brother, Audie Majors of Huntsville; four sisters, Mildred Banks and Martha Teague, both of Huntsville, Kathleen Andrews of Union Grove and Nancy Roberson of Athens; 11 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren.

Visitation will be today from 6 to 9 p.m. at Spry.

ORDER YOUR REUNION PICTURE NOW !

HERE'S WHAT YOU WILL RECEIVE :

1. A beautiful 8" x 10" color picture with the trees along the river as a background.
2. A black and white copy with each person numbered and identified similar to the partial example to the right except it will be much larger - appx 8" x 10".
3. A three page description of the kinship of each person in the photo.
4. A suggested framing and mat layout.
5. Two different titles for the photo with two copies of each for use in framing the picture.
6. An envelope for the identification pages which can be taped to the back of the picture after framing.

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------|
| 1. James Edward Latimer | 22. William Earl Bi |
| 2. Zachary Stephens | 23. Mildred Banks |
| 3. Elizabeth Majors | 24. Betty Watson |
| 4. Jacob Stephens | 25. Allie Watson L |
| 5. Herbert Lee Majors | 26. Martha Watson |
| 6. Vincent Vidaumi | 27. Glen Coppinger |
| 7. David Frey | 28. Carolyn Carrol |
| 8. Travis Frey | 29. Della Frey |
| 9. Caitlin Frey | 30. Alice Burkett |
| 10. Kathleen Andrews | 31. Ken Burkett |
| 11. Whitney Andrews | 32. Patricia Guinn |
| 12. Annalea Burkett Teeters | 33. Loretta Patters |
| 13. Erma Burkett Whitehead | 34. Martha Teagus |
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