



THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Return to Texas in 1969 -

As reported in the previous issue, four of our relatives left Texas on Thursday, June 19, 1969 for a trip to Tennessee to locate information about our ancestors, specifically Jacob Lorenza Burkett, his father Henry Burkett, Sr. and David Burkett, another son of Henry, Sr. Those relatives were Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin, who wrote about the trip; Mae Delle's brother, Edgar Lorenza Burkett, and a sister Gladys "Glad" with her husband Archie Hodges. The previous article covered the trip through 3:30 PM Tuesday, June 24, 1969 at which time they were leaving Murfreesboro headed back to Texas.

Now, on with Mae Delle's writings.

Tuesday June 24, 1969

When we left Texas it was in the back of our mind to come home by Arkansas and go to Cane Hill, Arkansas to see if we could find the graves of Henderson and Emeline Pyeatt, the parents of our mother Adela Catherine Pyeatt Burkett, and our grandparents. It's now 3:30 PM and we are headed out of Murfreesboro, Tennessee headed for Arkansas.

We stopped in LaVergna, Tennessee and talked to a lady named Burkett whose great grandfather's name was Henry Burkett. She did not know Jacob and we do not know if she is kin to us or not but we enjoyed talking to her.

It is 5 o'clock and we are in Nashville, Tennessee still seeing beautiful mountains. It is now 6:05 PM and we are in Clarksville, Tennessee still seeing small plots of land they call fields. We are now crossing the beautiful Cumberland River and see 2 boats coming up the river. It is a beautiful sight to see. On our right is the Red River which is not as pretty as the Cumberland. It is now 6:30 and we have just entered Kentucky. I see wheat, corn, and tobacco growing. The corn is higher than corn in Tennessee and the fields are some larger. We are seeing beautiful homes and cattle grazing, both red and black cattle. We are still seeing lots of Church of Christ buildings. We had found out Tennessee was a Church of Christ state. It is now 7:30 and we are in Hopkinsville, Kentucky. We are spending the night here. We have had supper and sitting in the room talking about where we have been and what we have seen.

Wednesday June 25, 1969

We had a good nights rest and a delicious breakfast at Jeff Davis' cafe — our cheapest breakfast since we left home. It is 8:15 AM as we are leaving Hopkinsville. As we drive along we see pretty old houses, beautiful new homes; crops look good here. Fields and fields of high corn, some of it beginning to tassel. We are also seeing white fences and pretty houses. The fine crops are beauty to the eye. We are still seeing magnolia trees in Kentucky. A magnolia tree in bloom is a beauty I haven't words to express.

From the back seat I hear a voice, sounds like Ed, saying, "I

guess I will go home, sell my property, and come back to Kentucky." We are now crossing again the Cumberland River and, at this place, it looks wider than the Mississippi River. It is time to say again, "Thanks, Hodges, for making it possible for me to see all this beauty."

Since I was a small girl, the poem "Trees" has always been a favorite of mine and all these beautiful trees make me want to get out, make a bow to every tree and recite this poem. We are again crossing the Tennessee River and it is wider at this place than the Mississippi River. We are beginning to see pine trees. I have never denied being a "Texas brag" but if the beautiful sights don't let up soon I could easily become a "Kentucky brag." We have just passed a place called "The Country Store." Next to the store is a shed and under the shed is a big carriage with a make believe white horse hitched — a trade mark. It is so pretty.

Another beautiful tree we have been seeing is the silver leaf poplar. We have seen the largest and prettiest barns, all built alike, and some are painted as pretty as the house they are by. They are different to any we have seen. They have a big opening up high with an extended roof from this opening and have just found out what this opening is for; we see people unloading hay from this opening. They did have this kind of barn in Tennessee. We have gotten so we are afraid to pass a lake or river as Arch has threatened for days to stop and go fishing. If he decides to do this, Ed, Glad and I will start on a foot looking at the beautiful country until he overtakes us.

We have just passed a Travelers Motel. In front was a big open white book (sign board) with a blue background. On the sign it said, "Don't judge a book by its cover, look inside." Not too long ago I was bragging about Kentucky being the cheapest breakfast we have had — here is the second verse. We have just bought the most expensive jug of ice since we left home.

It is now 10:30 and we are in the town of Paducah, Kentucky. Ed, Glad and I read signs all day long. One that Glad never fails to see is an antique sign. Neither does she say it in a low, kind, soft voice as is her natural voice. We stop at some of these places but most of the time Arch does not hear this loud yelling voice she uses when she sees an antique sign. It is nice having Ed with us — everything that Glad and I don't want to do — we make Ed. So far he hasn't sassed Glad or I either.

We are again crossing the Mississippi River. We see boats. The river is huge. A beautiful sight to behold. We are now in Cicero, Illinois for a very short while. It is 11:25 AM and we are now in Missouri. As we enter Missouri, we see a beautiful patch of corn. Crops look good. The fields are much larger than Tennessee. We keep seeing corn and more corn. It is 1 o'clock and we are eating lunch, Kentucky Fried Chicken, in Sibeston, Missouri. Crops also look good here. Corn, wheat and soy beans. We are now in Poplar Bluff, Missouri, home of "Silent

George.” It is now 2:30 PM and we are entering Arkansas. We have just crossed Eleven Point River. We are getting back into beautiful trees. We are at Henderson, Arkansas at Norfolk Lake and have just driven on a ferry boat to cross the lake. We are all scared but me most. There are 15 cars on the ferry we are on. I am so scared, think I will tell Ed, Glad and Arch I am sorry for all the mean things I have done to them. Although I am scared, this water looks beautiful. I see 2 other ferries besides the one we are on, going and coming with cars on them. Ed and Glad both have funny feelings in their head. I am beyond telling my feelings. Arch is squeezing the car wheel as hard as he can, trying to keep us on the right path. We are across the lake and safe. It is 6:05 PM.

We are now crossing the White River in Arkansas. Pretty river and bridge. We are staying in Flippin, Arkansas tonight. We got rooms with a kitchen. Glad and I went to the grocery store, bought groceries, cooked our supper and breakfast in our room. We all enjoyed 2 home cooked meals. All went to bed early.

Thursday June 26, 1999

We all had a good nights rest, a good home cooked breakfast. We are headed for Cane Hill, Arkansas to see if we can find Henderson and Emeline Pyeatt’s graves. In Tennessee and all day yesterday the cemeteries almost lap. Most of them are small and on hills. One man in Tennessee told us there were lots of family cemeteries in Tennessee. We are now passing thru a town called Pyatt in Arkansas. It is on Federal highway 62. We see pretty black cattle grazing in pastures. We are driving in the Ozark Mountains. It is beauty beyond description. A car has been following us a good long way. After she passed us she waved. We now see she is from Texas.

We are now in Marble, Arkansas; got cokes, and looked around in the “Old Country Store.” We have just crossed Onion Creek. We had a delicious meal in Fayetteville, Arkansas and, after lunch, we called Beulah Pyeatt Cruse, a cousin we met last summer when we were in Arkansas. She was nice to us and we had a real good visit with her. She let us have her Pyeatt history book to bring home with us so we can have a copy made. We are so delighted over this. We can hardly keep from screaming our loudest. We have got to return her book when we get a copy. We have left Fayetteville headed for Cane Hill. (*Note: The current map spells it as Canehill. However, a history of the Pyeatts also spells it as Cane Hill and I doubt that both writers would have been in error so I will continue with Cane Hill as being the correct spelling.*)

We are now discussing our brothers and sisters at home. We do so bad wish you could have been with us on this wonderful trip. Again I say, “Thanks to the Hodges.” This is a trip I will remember as long as I live. We arrived at Cane Hill cemetery and searched for Henderson and Emeline Pyeatts graves but did not find them. We then went up in town, visited an antique shop, saw so many things. We are all in a better humor with Arch as we have got to stop at several antique shops the last day or so. We enjoyed our visit at Cane Hill so much that we talked about what we had learned and what we saw that I could not write down as we traveled along but I did jot down the names of some towns and creeks as we passed — Natural Dam Post Office—Figure Five Town—Needmore Town—Old Jinny Lind Town—Angels Echo Farm—Fourchele Five Creek.

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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We see beautiful pine trees. The White Rock Mountains. The Ozark Mountains and lots of beautiful homes. We crossed the Arkansas River at 6:45 PM and are now in Mena, Arkansas staying at the Rose Garden Motel, same place we stayed last summer. It is 11:30. Everyone is in bed, so I better hit the hay. It is our plans to head for Texas, our beautiful Texas, tomorrow.

Friday June 27, 1969

Everyone had a good nights rest. We have had breakfast at Beeks Cafe, same place we ate when we were here last summer. We also had our cheapest meal since we left Texas. We are now leaving Mena, Arkansas, it is 8 o'clock.

To say the trip has been wonderful is putting it short of the wonder of it. Every minute of it has been a thrill. We have all stayed well and so many things to be thankful for. The people in every state has been so nice to us and wanted to help us. We have conscientious people all over this United States of ours. Along the highway as we have traveled along, we have seen the following signs over and over. "Prepare to meet thy God", "Get right with God", "What think ye of Christ?", "Behold I come quickly." As we stop for the night. it has been fun for me to look at all the cars and see what state they are from. As we go along the highway, if a Texas car passes a Texas car they honk and wave.

We see honeysuckle on the fences as we drive along. In Cove, Arkansas we see an old covered wagon by the side of the road. It is 9 o'clock and we have just crossed over into Oklahoma. The trees are still pretty tho. We have just passed Mountain Fork River.

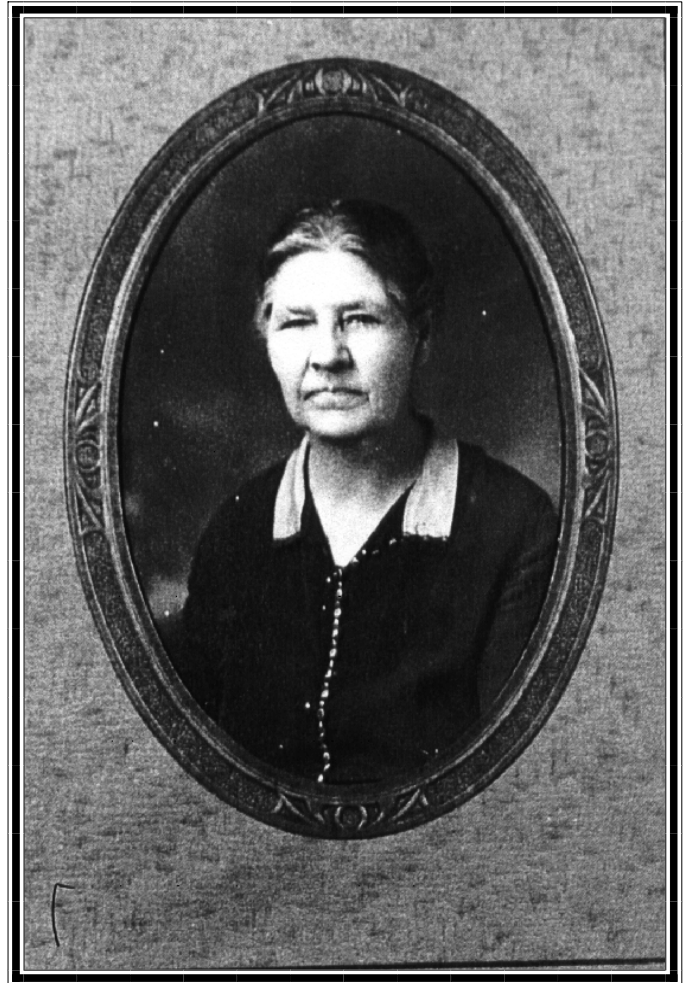
We are now in Idabel, Oklahoma and beginning to lose our pretty trees. The fields are getting large and we are seeing lumber mills. We have just crossed Raymond Gary Lake, real pretty. Here is another funny name, Kiamichi River. We have decided for sure we don't want to stay in Oklahoma tonight. We stopped for cokes in Hugo, Oklahoma; they are a dime here and we have paid 15 cents nearly all the time we have been gone.

Haven't heard from Ed the last few minutes, guess he is taking an old man's snooze. It is 11:40 AM and we are in Durant, Oklahoma. We see a stage coach here on the street; it says "Wells Fargo" and it is so cute. We will soon be to state line. Arch says when he gets there he is going to get out, dust his shoes, and wash his feet before going into Texas. We are now crossing Red River. Ed has just said, "Texas here we is." Arch screamed his loudest. Gladys says, "Beautiful Texas," and I say, "Texas, our Texas."

We are now in Denton, Texas and see the Texas Womans University. It is now 3:15 and, if all goes well with us, we will be home in a few hours. I do not have words to express what it has meant to me. For the sights I have seen, the beauty I have seen, the things I have learned, the association with a brother, and a sister, and an "Outlaw"(in-law meaning Archie Hodges) too. I will be forever grateful. We have thought and talked of each of our brothers and sisters at home and wished each of you could have been with us and enjoyed the things we have. I have tried to jot down things so you can enjoy the trip with us and when we get home I plan to write from our notes and send

it to each of you to read. As you all know, I am just old country me, and don't use fancy words but I believe you will enjoy reading it in my plain simple words. Again I say, "Hats off to the Hodges" for making this trip possible.

Counting Texas, we have been in eleven states on our trip and traveled 2,452 miles. We arrived at Bird's at 5:45 PM. (Bird's is sister Birdie Leona Burkett Chambers).



Adela "Della" Catherine Pyeatt Burkett

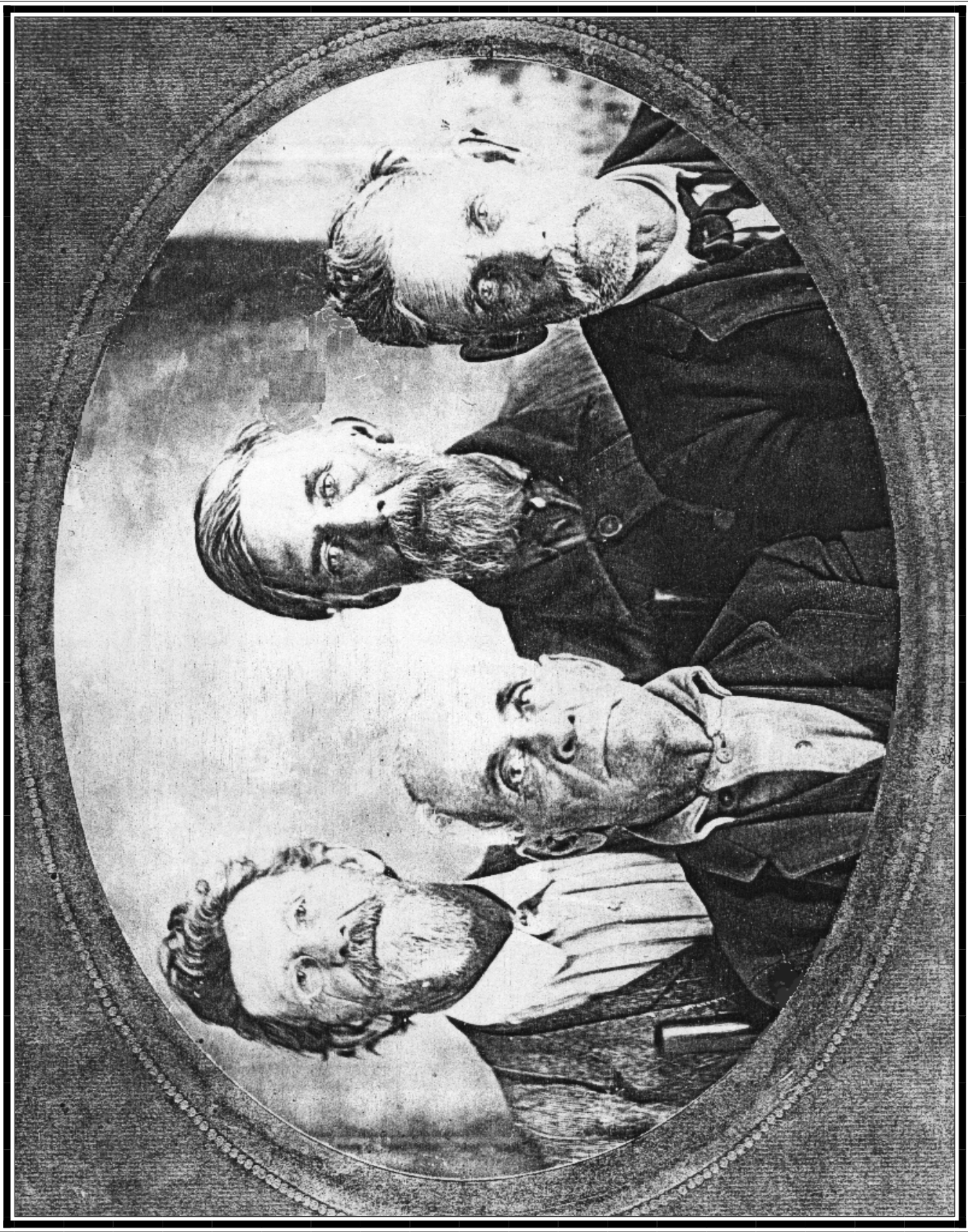
November 14, 1862 - June 11, 1937

Wife of Joseph Lafayette Burkett

Although I published the above picture in Volume 3 1998, I am including it again to help understand who the Pyeatts were that prompted the trip through Arkansas. Della was the mother of 3 of those making the trip and it was her parents grave they were trying to locate plus any information they could learn about the Pyeatts. And believe me they obtained some interesting history about the Pyeatts which, due to its length, will be included in the next issue. ■

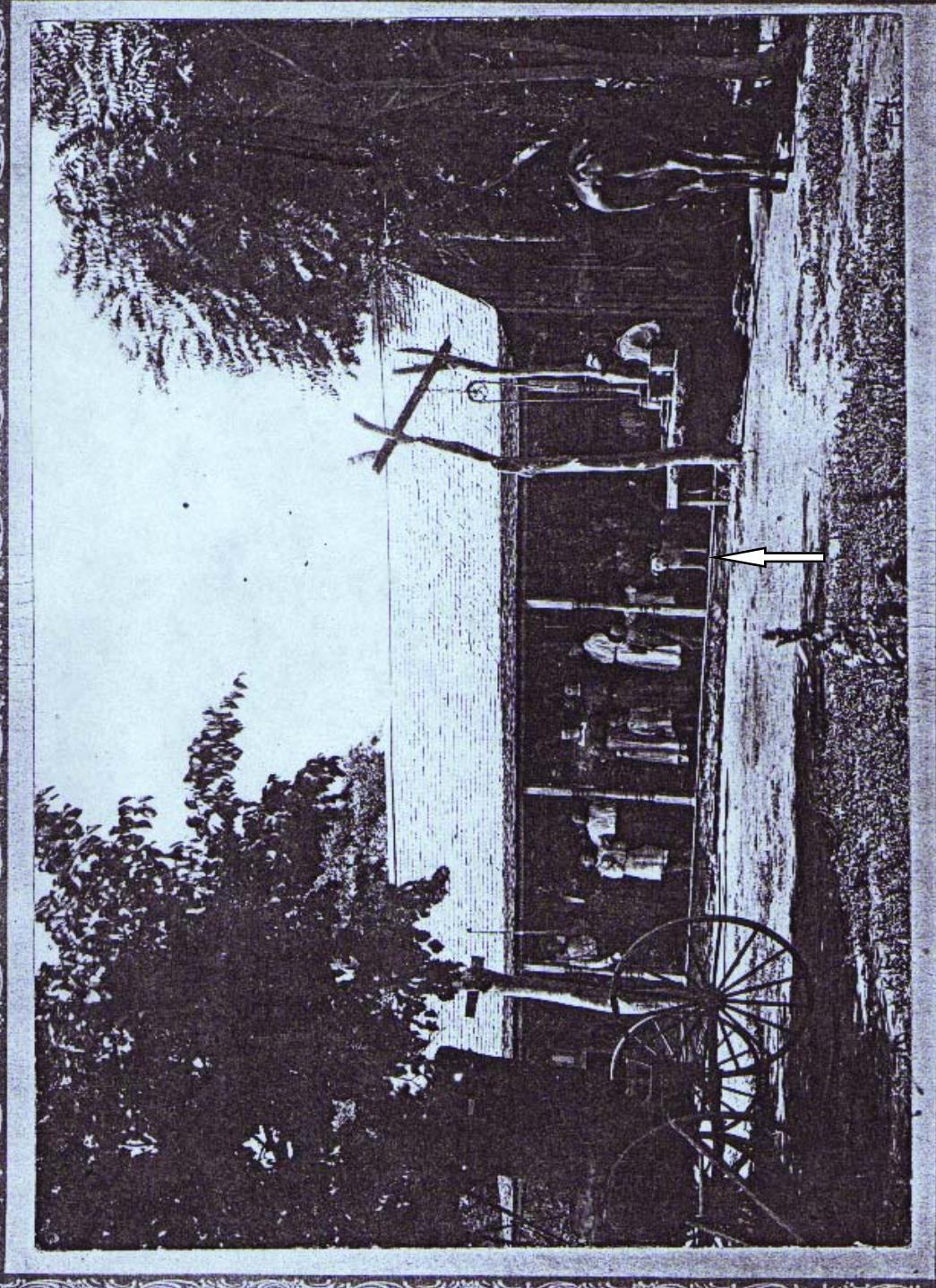
Joseph Lafayette Burkett & friends -

On the next page is the picture I promised of Joesph "Joe" Lafayette Burkett and friends.



From L to R - Unknown Bross, William L. Williams, Joseph Lafayette Burkett, Sam Shelton. The date is unknown. William L. Williams was a son of John Williams and Annie Epley Williams. This photo was provided by Debbie Lloyd of Kaysville, Utah.

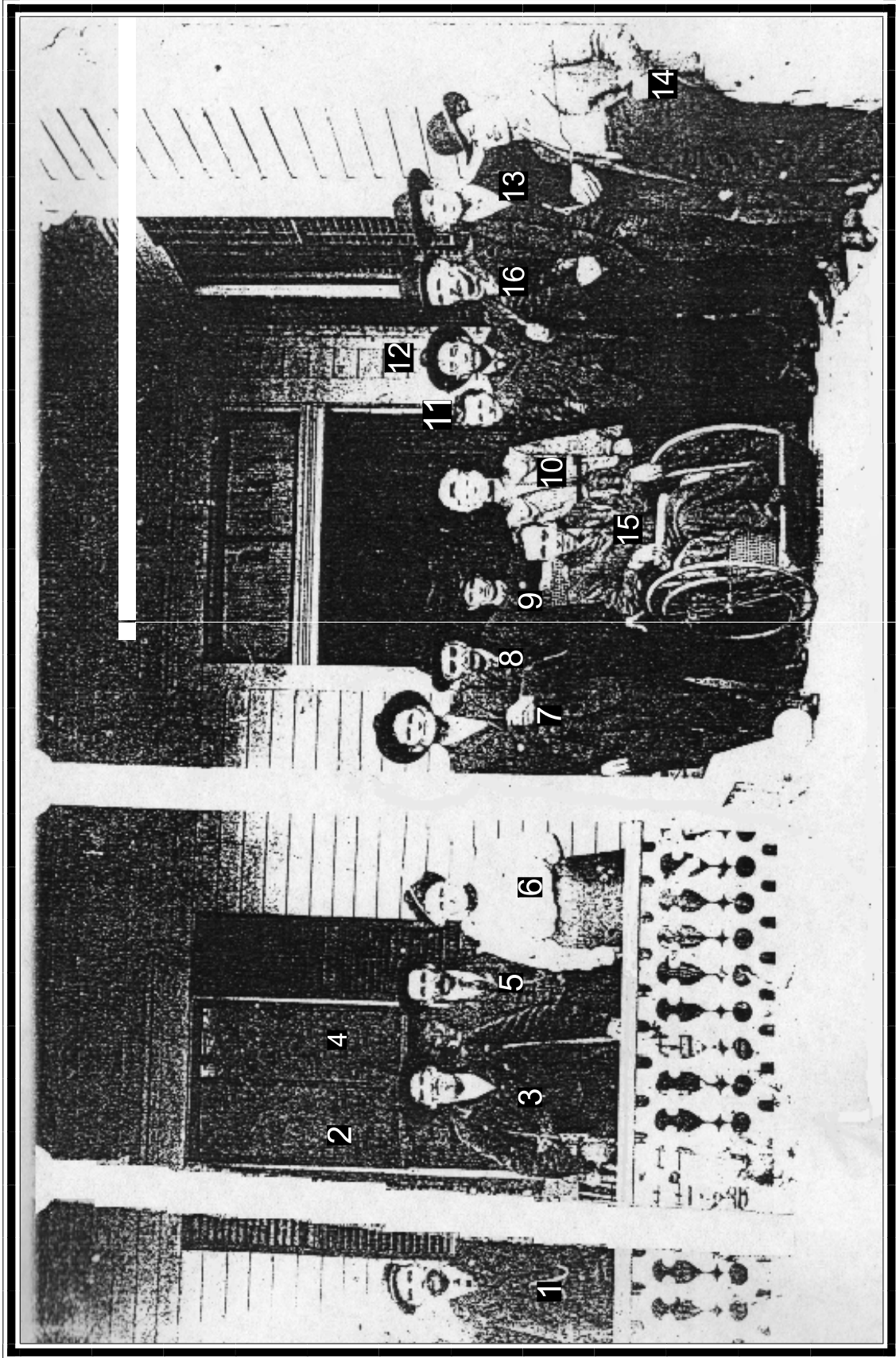
Williams Ranch Homestead



It is believed this was the homestead of William L. Williams and this photo was also provided by Debbie Lloyd. I've written before about families and their dogs. Now here is another family pet indicated by the arrow. And I'm sure you haven't missed the well in the front yard. Can you picture yourself having to get your water from this well on a cold or rainy day and carry it inside? We have no identification of any of the individuals.

The Daniel Epley, Sr. Family - Early 1840's

This is the first copy I received of this photo. The identities shown below are those made by various family members as the picture was passed around. The copy on the next page is one given to me by Cinda Flanary and is exceptional considering it was made *more than 154 years ago!* On the pages following that copy is my attempt at identifying the individuals since we know there are some errors in what is shown below.



Left to Right - (1) Daniel Epley (son), (2) Unknown female (3) Daniel Epley (father) (4) Unknown female (5) John Epley (6) Catherine Keebler Epley (mother) (7) George Epley (8) Unknown male (9) Anna Epley (10) Mary 'Polly' Epley (11) Susannah Epley (12) Unknown male (13) David Epley (14) William Epley (15) Unknown male (16) Henry Burkett



THE DANIEL EPLEY, SR. FAMILY

L to R (ages in 1844 in parenthesis): 1. Daniel Epley, Jr. (38); 2. Sally Alice Brown Epley, wife of Daniel, Jr.; 3. Daniel Epley, Sr. (70); 4. Mary Spangler Epley, wife of John Epley; 5. John Epley (37); 6. Sarah Epley Moore (36); 7. Andrew Moore, husband of Sarah Epley; 8. John Williams, husband of Annie Epley; 9. Annie Epley Williams (34); 10. Mary Polly Epley Burkett (44); 11. Susannah Epley Derryberry (34) twin sister to Annie; 12. Jerrimah (Jerrymiah) Derryberry, husband of Susannah Epley; 13. Henry Burkett, husband of Mary Epley; 14. George Epley (31); 15. David Epley (22); 16. Unknown

THE DANIEL EPLEY, SR. FAMILY AND PHOTO

Identification of Individuals -

- by Oliver Webb

This article is intended to accompany the photo of the Daniel Epley, Sr. family taken on the front porch of a house about 1844 in either Warren or Cannon County, Tennessee.

This photo first came to my attention with a copy sent to me by Debbie Lloyd. Since it had been copied (and possibly recopied) the quality was not that good. This is the photo on page 6 and can be identified by the poor quality and by the straight border lines. At the bottom of the photo was written what was believed to be the identity of individuals after the photo had been passed around to various relatives.

Debbie provided me with the address of Cinda Flanary who had the original and who, after a phone call, provided a much better quality photo which is on page 7 and is identifiable by the improved quality and the vine border.

After phone conversations with Cinda and Gina Burkett Hyche, one of my cousins in Jasper, Alabama, I undertook the project of trying to identify them with some degree of accuracy.

I had already learned that the earliest possible date when photographers were making their rounds and making photo's such as this was the early 1840's. Also, Daniel Epley, Sr. died in August 1845 so the photo was made before then. Therefore, **just for estimating purposes**, I chose approx. 1844 as the date when it was made.

In the photo on page 6 which had been passed around, one of the first things that became obvious was that the person identified as number 6, Catherine Keebler, was incorrect since she died in 1836. One of the next obvious errors was the individual identified as number 16, Henry Burkett, was also incorrect since Henry would have been 50 years old in 1844 and the individual in the wheel chair is not only obviously much younger than that but is also crippled. (Note that he doesn't even have on shoes, only socks. This is more obvious in the photo on page 7.)

The next thing was to try to figure out how the photographer might have had the people line up. By writing down the birth dates of the 8 children, it seemed possible that the children were arranged in order of birth from left to right except for Mary 'Polly' Epley who was the oldest.

Since that could not be Catherine Keebler as number 6, I started looking and quickly realized that daughter Sarah was the only child not shown in the first copy, page 6, which had been passed around to relatives. Looking at birth and marriage dates, it became obvious (at least to me) that number 6 had to be Sarah.

Early on, my thinking was that this was all Epley's in the photo. However, after talking with Cinda, she pointed out that the person identified as number 11 Susannah, had her hand on the arm of number 12 and that number 8 resembled John Williams.

I then switched to the **thought** that the photo included the children of Daniel Epley, Sr. **and their spouses**. This then

with the vine border) and you could see the two individuals inside the house looking out the window over the shoulders of Daniel, Sr. I then **surmised** that the faces in the window were the wives of Daniel, Jr. and John respectively and the individual previously identified as number 7, George Epley, was **probably** Andrew Moore, the husband of Sarah. Then moving to number 8, and I have seen a poor quality photo of John Williams, it appeared to be John and just behind him stood his wife Anna (Annie). Moving over to number 10 and comparing her with previous photo's, it seemed clear to me this had to be Mary 'Polly' Epley standing beside the wheel chair. Looking at number 11 who had been identified as Susannah, a twin to Annie, and who has her hand on the arm of the man in front of her, number 12, leads me to **conclude** this was her husband, Jeremiah (Jerrymiah) Derryberry.

The next individual is number 13. By comparing photo's taken when Henry Burkett and Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett are older, and based on the assumption that this photo includes spouses, I **concluded** this is Henry Burkett, husband of Polly. (His cheeks are almost a dead giveaway.)

This then left George, age 31, and David, age 22. I originally decided that number 14 looked younger and, therefore, was David and that George was number 15. However, this flies in the face of the possibility that the photographer had them line up according to age so I changed my thinking and concluded that number 14 is George, age 31, and number 15, age 22, is David. (Also, see photo and comments on Page 16.)

This left number 16, the individual in the wheel chair. Since Polly, number 10, was the oldest, this goes against the children lining up according to age **unless there was some reason for Polly to stand next to the wheel chair**. Could he be an unknown child of Henry and Polly? From time to time in our research, the name Nathaniel popped up as a son of Henry and Polly Burkett, primarily in the writings of Stella B. Jaynes, our original historian. However, we have never been able to locate this individual on any census or other records. Also, several of the others had children and they are not in the photo so why would Henry and Polly have one of their children?

Checking further however, I found something which appears a little peculiar. In the 1830 census of Warren County as published by John Epley of Indiana, there is a male age 15 - 20 listed under Daniel Epley, Jr. Extending this individual to

1844, the estimated date of the photo, would place this individual in the range of 29 - 34 and looking at this photo would seem to be about the age of the individual in the wheel chair. **However, Daniel Epley, Jr. and Sally Alice Brown had married March 29, 1823 and could not have had a son of that age.** So who was this male? Was he a son of one of the 8 children and included simply because he was crippled **or could he be another son of Daniel Epley, Sr. and living with the oldest brother because his parents were physically unable to**

take care of him? This is the question. Does anybody have any thoughts or information about this individual?

This concludes my reasoning as to the identities of the individuals. All the spouses of those who were married by 1844 are included and identified. George and David had not yet married based on my information.

Any thoughts, comments, or facts about the photo will be appreciated. My thanks to Debbie for the original copy and to Cinda for the improved copy.

P.S.

On the left side of the photo's, that's a tree trunk with the branches trimmed off. I couldn't make out what it was in the copy on page 6.

PLEASE NOTE:

Most of this is based on assumptions and conclusions. It should not be accepted that these individuals are all positively identified. I am comfortable with the following as being correct:

Daniel Epley, Sr. (3)
 John Williams (8)
 Annie Epley Williams (9)
 Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett (10)
 Susannah Epley Derryberry (11)
 Jeremiah Derryberry (12)
 Henry Burkett (13)
 George Epley (14)
 David Epley (15)

These cautions against accepting all of these identifications as being accurate are because, as Debbie Lloyd pointed out and I agree, there is a tendency to accept as factual anything that appears in print. ■

George Washington Burkett, the son of Henry Burkett, Sr. -

The reason for being so specific in identifying this George Washington Burkett as being the son of Henry, Sr. is to avoid confusion because one of his brothers, Jacob Lorenza Burkett, also had a son by that name. See article, Page 15, this issue.

For probably two years or more, we had wondered what happened to George W. Burkett. Where did he go? We could no longer find him on Tennessee census records but we did find that he was in Tennessee October 27, 1886 and December 29, 1887 at which times he collected payments from his father's estate.

Then in January of this year, I received a clue that he went to Osage County, Kansas. I posted an inquiry on the Internet and in early February received an answer from Linda Fagan, an Osage County, KS resident but not related to us. Linda grew up there and is interested in folks who lived there so she looked in one of her books, *Osage County Kansas Cemeteries*, and found both George W. and his wife, Lucinda N. listed in the Burlingame, Kansas Cemetery.

Linda continued with her research and found the obituary for Lucinda N. Derryberry Burkett as follows:

Osage County Chronicle (Microfilm Roll 213)
 Burlingame, Kansas Page 4, column 3 & 4

March 29, 1917

Death of Mrs. George W. Burkett

Mrs. George W. Burkett died at her home southwest of town Tuesday afternoon. Lucinda N. Derryberry was born July 5, 1840 at Woodbury, Cannon County, Tenn., and died March 27, 1917, age 76 years, 8 months and 22 days. She was united in marriage Sept. 29, 1859 to George W. Burkett of Woodbury, Tenn., and to this union were born ten children, five boys and five girls, of whom six are living. They are Mrs. J.W. Skinner of Sunnyside, Washington; Mrs. Peter Gabler, Mrs. E.A. Wells and Walter Burkett of Burlingame; James H. Burkett of Ziegler, Illinois, and Oral Burkett of Osage City. Two sons and two daughters have gone on before. The family settled in Kansas in March, 1870. Besides these children the husband, 83 years old, and a number of grandchildren survive and mourn her.

Mrs. Burkett was converted in her early life and was baptised and united with the Baptist church, living a Christian life. During the Civil War, she changed her membership to the M.E. Church, of which she was a member at her death.

The funeral was held at the home this afternoon at two o'clock. A quartet rendered two songs, "Saved by Grace" and "Nearer My God to Thee" and Rev. Mr. Quilliam sang a solo, accompanied with guitar, entitled "In a Lonely Graveyard."

"Mother dear, 'tis hard to leave you,
 All alone this world to
 trod,
 But I know that
 Heaven's blessings,
 Will be with us and thy
 God."
 "I am going home to mother when
 my pilgrim race
 is run,
 I have promised I would
 meet her
 in the sky
 When my Master's work
 is finished,
 at the setting
 of the sun
 I am going home to
 mother by and
 by."

Card of Thanks

We wish to thank the kind neighbors and friends for their help and sympathy during the sickness and death of our wife and mother, also for the beautiful floral offerings.

G. W. Burkett and Family

Then Linda discovered that George W. Burkett died less than a month after his wife and provided a copy of his obituary as follows:

Burlingame Enterprise (Microfilm Roll B 130)
Burlingame, Kansas Page 4 column 3

April 26, 1917

Geo. W. Burkett

The death of G. W. Burkett occurred at his home near the cemetery on Saturday, April 21, aged eighty-two years. His death follows that of his aged companion in life by a little more than three weeks, and his children now mourn the death of both parents.

George Washington Burkett was born in Woodbury, Cannon County, Tennessee on October 4, 1834. His marriage to Lucinda N. Derrynerry occurred on September 29, 1859, their wedded life covering a period of more than fifty-seven years. He came to this community in March 1870, where he lived a respected and industrious life. He was converted in early life and joined the Methodist church.

Of a family of ten children, six survive: Mrs. J.W. Skinner of Sunnyside, Wash.; James of Ziegler, Ill.; and Mrs. Peter Gabler, Mrs Ed Wells, Walter and Oral Burkett of this place.

Mr. Burkett was a veteran of the Confederate army in the Civil War, and at his funeral several of the pallbearers were members of the G. A. R. Funereal services were held at his home on Sunday afternoon at 3 o'clock, Rev. Quilliam of the Baptist church officiating.

Then Linda discovered the following article in the Osage County Chronicle (Microfilm Roll 213).

Burlingame Kansas Page 1 Column 1 and 2

April 26, 1917

**OLD TIMER GONE
GEORGE WASHINGTON BURKETT, OCTO-
GENARIAN, FOLLOWS WIFE AFTER BRIEF PARTING**

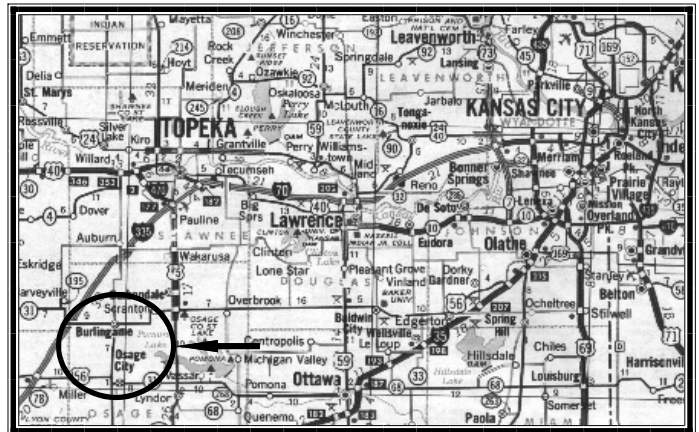
Less than a month ago, the Chronicle reported the death of the aged wife of George W. Burkett of Dragoon township and this week regrets to announce the death of Mr. Burkett, which occurred on Saturday of last week at his home half a mile west of the cemetery. Mr. Burkett, a fine old gentleman and for about a half century resident here, was born in Tennessee and was 82 years of age. During the Civil War he was in the Confederate Army and came west at the close of the strife. One son resides in Illinois, two others, Oral and Walter, live here, and he also has two daughters residing here, Mrs. Peter Gabler and Mrs. Edward Wells.

The funeral occurred on Sunday. Rev. Quilliam officiating, and the interment being in the Burlingame cemetery beside the

wife from whom he was separated for so short a time.

From an obituary notice received at a later hour of the late George Washington Burkett, we glean the following facts. He was born at Woodbury, Cannon County, Tenn., Oct 4, 1834 and died April 21, 1917, aged 82 years, 6 months and 17 days. On Sept. 29, 1859, he married Lucinda N. Derryberry, who died March 27, 1917. The family came to Kansas in March 1870. Mr. Burkett, converted in early life, united with the M.E. church and lived a consistent christian. The surviving children of ten born to them are: Mrs. J. Skinner of Sunnyside, Wash., James H. Burkett of Ziegler, Illinois, and Mrs. Peter Gabler, Mrs. E.A. Wells, and Walter and Oral Burkett, all of Burlingame.

As of now, we have been unable to locate any of their descendants but are still looking. Why did they move to Kansas? That's another question we don't have an answer for at this time. It may have been because land could be obtained free and it may have been because members of the church back in Tennessee had moved out to Kansas and came back and told them about it. Below is a map showing Burlingame.

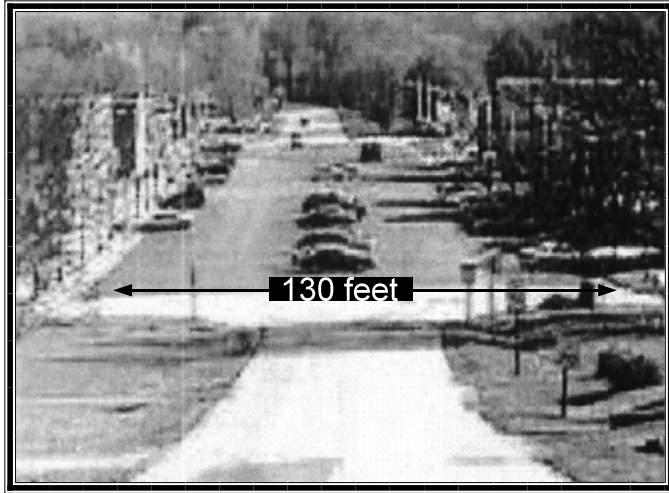


Burlingame was founded in 1854 at the site where the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe railroad crosses the Santa Fe Trail. Today, it is still a small community with a population of 1,074; the population in 1910 was 1,422. It is in the center of a prosperous farming community. The rolling terrain and sufficient rainfall produce many tree-lined streams and creeks. Burlingame is the oldest surviving city in Osage County and was founded by settlers from Pennsylvania and originally called Council City. In 1857 the name was changed to Burlingame.

(Keep in mind that George and family moved to Burlingame in March of 1870.) In the first year of operation *in 1869* of the Santa Fe Railway from Topeka to Burlingame, it carried 33,628 passengers, hauled 98,917 tons of freight, had two locomotives, two coaches, one baggage car, and 36 freight cars. When the Atchison, Topeka & Santa Fe R.R. reached Burlingame in 1869, the event was duly celebrated by an excursion from Topeka on October 4. *(Who knows? Perhaps George and family even rode the train from Topeka to Burlingame.)* **By the end of 1870**, the Santa Fe had completed tracks through Osage County.

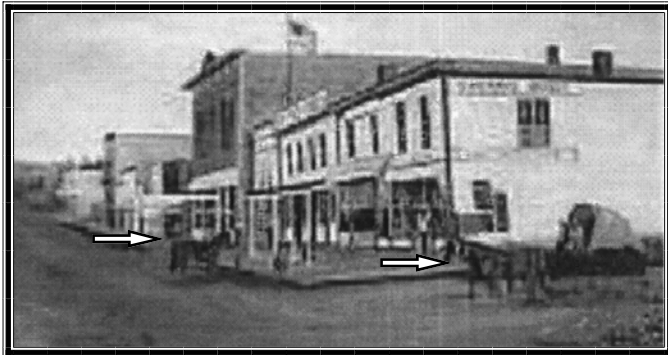
Two destructive fires have occurred, one in 1873 and the other in 1883 the latter causing a property loss of \$10,000. *(George and family would have witnessed both of these.)*

When the town was laid out, the main street was made 130 feet wide to accommodate the Santa Fe Trail which went down the main street, allowing the large oxen teams pulling covered wagons to make a "U-Turn". See picture below.

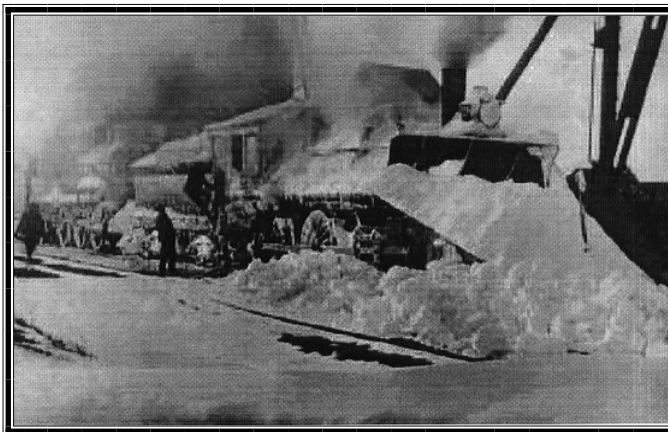


The street was covered with brick and concrete in 1922.

Now here is a view as the street must have appeared during a majority of the time when George and family were living there.



Notice the horse tied to the rack and also the wagon on the right side of the picture. Also notice how wide the wooden sidewalk was. And if you wondered about the winters, below is a picture made in Kansas showing a locomotive snowplow. If you look closely, that's a second locomotive pushing. ■



Jeremiah M. Burkett, son of Andrew J. Burkett -

Jeremiah Burkett was another among our family about whom we were confused for some time. He was listed in the *Final Settlement* of the estate of Henry Burkett, Sr. but we didn't know who he was — until Gina Burkett Hyche discovered he was a son of Andrew J. Burkett and a grandson of Henry, Sr. This was outlined in Volume 2 1998 and included the Guardianship papers. Gina also located Jeremiah in the 1870 Tennessee census at the home of Elizabeth Derryberry Bush, his mother's sister, and therefore, his Aunt. But we could not find him after that date. Jeremiah was born about 1858 and would have been about 12 at the time of the 1870 census.

In reviewing the *Final Settlement* of Henry Sr.'s estate as filed in July of 1888, we noticed that Jeremiah *and his Uncle George Washington Burkett* received their settlements on the same dates and in the same amounts as follows: October 27, 1886 \$61.90; December 29, 1887 \$71.29. Since we could no longer locate Jeremiah in Tennessee after 1870, we now began to suspect that Jeremiah had moved to wherever his Uncle George was living and returned with him on the above dates to collect their inheritance. This suspicion turned out to be correct.

In researching George Washington Burkett as outlined in the previous article, Linda Fagan looked through marriages of Osage County, Kansas and, sure enough, there was Jeremiah listed as having married Hattie Kinner September 27, 1883 at which time he would have been about 25 since he was born about 1858.

Do we know exactly when Jeremiah moved to Kansas? No, we don't. But remember we could not find him on the 1880 census for Tennessee so let's just guess he moved to Kansas before 1880. If we can find the 1880 census for Kansas, we may be able to find Jeremiah which would at least prove he was there before the 1880 census was taken.

So the search is on for that census and also to see if later census figures show any children and, if so, to see if we can locate any descendants. ■

Recollections of Pioneer Days -

written in 1900 by Nancy Davis Wisner (not a relative)

To give you an idea of what life was like in Kansas and other prairie states, I found this article and thought I would include some excerpts. The author was born in 1831 which made her about the same age as George Washington Burkett.

I was about grown before I ever saw a match for starting fires. If we got out of fire at home, we would have to go to a neighbor and borrow fire. I never saw a cook stove until I was twelve, and never saw any candy, raisins, gingerbread, nor any such goodies until I was about twelve; but we had something I think was far better. It was maple syrup. We always planned to be at home at the "stirring off" time.

But the greatest difference in those days and now is the way girls were brought up. They did not get much schooling, and when we did go to school, everyone had a different book to recite from. I had the New Testament. We never went to picnics

or parties, for there were none. We went to singing schools and spelling schools once in a while, but we never spent much time visiting. We girls, if we had time to or wanted to do something for ourselves, would go out and break the flax, hatchel it, and spin and weave it into cloth to take to town to sell. We would go horseback with a roll of cloth ahead of us. And there was no end to the amount of woolen goods we spun and wove. We wore home-made dresses and coarse shoes to church in winter, and we never had nervous prostration nor any of those diseases so common among women now. (1900)

When we married, we went to town and bought pots and kettles and frying pans (for nobody but those pretty well-off folks had stoves to cook on), and a few dishes, bedsteads, table and chairs. We cooked in the fireplace and did not even have the old crane that I had been used to at my father's. Sometimes my pots would upset, sending the ashes into everything. I won't tell you how many times my peas were upset and spilled into the ashes, and each time I would have to wash and wash and put them on again.

..... We bought land when we had three young children, the youngest about one year old. There was no house on the land but there was a crop of sod corn on part of it and plenty of vegetables. We sold \$25 worth of sod corn. There was an old stable, in which horses had been kept all summer. We cleaned it out pretty thoroughly and dug it out with a hoe. It was just logs laid up and had a roof on it. We put poles across them and that was our bedstead. We cooked outdoors.

Then I had my first introduction to rattlesnakes. I was sitting in the door, and the children were playing just outside when I heard that horrible rattle. I did not have to be told what it was. I grabbed the children into the house and put them up on the bed, and took hold of a board, as it was all I could get hold of. By the time I had done that it was inside the house and running across the floor. I kept striking at it and missing it for quite a while; I felt I must kill it or some of us would be bitten. At last I killed it, although I nearly killed myself. Then I told the children that I would never live in a place where the rattlesnakes came into the house, that we would get to the timber where their father was and tell him so. Well, we had not gone a hundred yards when we saw another one, stretched out sunning itself, so we passed by on the other side, but had not crossed the field until we saw the third one, all of them large. The one I killed had seven rattles; that is large as they generally are on the prairies. Although that was our first sight of a rattlesnake, it was not our last. For a number of years, they were plentiful. They were round about us, sometimes under our feet, sometimes gathered up in a bundle of something we were handling, sometimes in our houses. The strangest part of it was that none of us were ever bitten.

We moved to Kansas in the spring of 1857. We had a hard trip and when we arrived there was no grass, for it was late spring, and we could get but little grain for our horses, but they were good rustlers and managed to live. There was plenty of land and plenty of Indians. The Osage tribe was nearest us and the most numerous. (*Remember Osage County was where George Washington Burkett lived.*)

When we had been here for three years there was a famine.

It did not rain the whole summer of 1859 nor all the summer of 1860, only small showers, just enough to lay the dust, but we lived. I do not want to tell you how we fought droughts, chinch bugs, and grasshoppers until 1861. Then came what was worse than anything else, the dreadful Civil War, which tried men's souls and showed the stuff the women of Kansas were made of. The most of the men went to war, so the women had to do all the homework, both outdoors and in the house.

After their father enlisted in the army in 1863, the children and I, in the spring of 1864, ploughed and cultivated a crop of corn, but got nothing but fodder, for it was too dry for corn. In the spring of 1865, we went to Iowa to friends to stay until the war closed. Then after it was over, we came back to Kansas and bought the farm that we now live on and which we expect to die on.

We were in debt \$1,000 for the farm which caused much deprivation and hardship. Especially was it hard on the older children, who were then just the age to want nice clothes and such things worse than they ever do afterwards. When I look back over it, I cannot see where I could have bettered it, considering what we had to contend with — droughts, bugs, grasshoppers, and war, but we lived through it all and now we are thankful that it as well as it is. ■

If you compare our living conditions today with what she described, I don't think anyone will doubt how easy we have it!

James Burkett, another son of Henry Burkett, Sr. -

James was another child about whom we knew little — and didn't even know where he had moved. However, we did have a note in some of StellaB's writings that he may have moved to Arkansas. James had married Mary A. Gilley in Cannon County, Tennessee January 17, 1856 and they are listed in the 1870 Tennessee census for Wilson County.

Following up on this clue that the family might have moved to Arkansas, I posted an inquiry on the Internet. From this inquiry I received a response from Judd Eschliman of Murfreesboro, Tennessee, a Gilley descendant, that the family had moved to Arkansas and were listed in the 1880 census for Madison County, Arkansas. I got a surprise when I looked at an Arkansas map because I found that the county seat for Madison County, Arkansas was Huntsville! The reason for the surprise is that I was born in Huntsville, Madison County, **Alabama** and we have a lot of relatives who live there today!! See the Arkansas map below (northwest corner) and also notice that to the east of Huntsville is a town named Alabam.(no "a")



I left the inquiry about James Burkett and his wife Mary A. Gilley on the Arkansas site and bingo! I got another response from a David Bunton who lives in Russellville, Arkansas but who is now in Scotland. David is a Gilley descendant and tells me he has a declaration made by James Burkett around the turn of the century an old soldiers census which was sporadically made ... of ex-soldiers in Arkansas and parts of it ask about the family heritage. James gave what he could remember about his ancestors on those documents. David tells me he also has some more on descendants and he THINKS even a letter from one. **However**, he does not have these files with him in Scotland and will not be returning to Arkansas until September! So we'll just have to be patient and wait. ■

Frances Josephine Burkett McCall, a daughter of Jacob Lorenza Burkett -

We continue to receive pictures for which we are very grateful. These pictures go far toward "fleshing out" our history by putting faces to the names. Here is a picture of Frances and her husband.



John Edward McCall (1855 - 1940) and
Frances Josephine Burkett (1845 - 1953)

Photo provided by Bill Huckaby

To help refresh your memory, Jacob Lorenza left Tennessee for Texas with seven children in 1865 and arrived in Burnet, Texas on December 25, 1865. Frances was the youngest having been born May 17, 1865 and was less than one year old when they arrived.

Frances married John McCall in March 23, 1882 in Llano

County, Texas. The family moved from Sweetwater, Nolan County, Texas to the Verde Valley area of Arizona arriving between March 1890 and January 1892. Four children arrived with the family and six more were born in the Verde Valley.

Those born in Texas were:

Robert Leonard McCall	May 16, 1883
Leona Alyce McCall	May 7, 1885
Alice L. McCall	Oct 7, 1887
Aldeelida Emily McCall	March 18, 1890

Those born in Arizona were:

Ida Ernatine McCall	Jan 10, 1892
Laura Estelle McCall	July 25, 1895
Hazel Rae McCall	Janu 1, 1897
Leva May McCall	Aug 10, 1901)
Myrtle Mae McCall	Aug 10, 1901) TWINS
Joseph Leroy McCall	March 19, 1904

In the 1900 census, the family was listed in the Upper Verde Precinct, Yavapai County. (Prescott, Arizona is the County seat for Yavapai County.)

The second child of John and Frances McCall was Leona Alyce McCall, who married George Washington Huckaby. They had four children, one of whom was William Horner Huckaby. William married Laweeda Mae Nance and one of their sons was William Arthur "Bill" Huckaby who not only provided this photo but has provided much information and help in the past. Cousin Bill, who lives in North Highlands, California, tells me he has purchased a scanner and, as time permits, will be sending other photo's which we will also appreciate. ■

William Henry Young, a Son of Martha Jane Burkett and Grandson of Henry Burkett, Sr. -

Articles in past Newsletters have revealed that Jacob Lorenza Burkett returned to Tennessee from Texas when his father, Henry, Sr., died in 1875 and, when he went back to Texas, brought his mother and two sisters with him. The two sisters were Mary C.E. Burkett Brown and Martha Jane Burkett Young.

Martha Jane had married William A. Young December 18, 1864 in Cannon County, Tennessee. They had five (5) children by the time they left Tennessee for Texas. The children were as follows:

Eupha A. Young	1866
Mary Frances Young	Dec 18, 1867
Elizabeth Young	1870
Robert James Young	Oct 1873
William Henry Young	June 20, 1875

The youngest of these, William Henry Young, was only months old when they moved to Texas.

In the 1880 Texas census, they are shown as living in Lampasas County, Texas where another son, Thomas C. Young, was born and Martha Jane's mother was listed as living with them. Martha Jane's mother, Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett, died in 1884 and is buried in the Williams Ranch cemetery.

Legend has it that the Youngs moved to Oklahoma in the 1890's. It is known they homesteaded 160 acres in Harmon County, Oklahoma. This was covered in Newsletter Volume 4 1998 on pages 9 and 10 along with a picture of William A. "Billy" Young at hog killing time.

A story is told about their second child, Mary Frances Young, who had married Andrew Smith. It seems she and Andrew lived on a farm in the Blanket Springs community of Mills County, Texas. One day while Mary and Andrew were hauling a large tub of eggs in a wagon to the town of Mullin, they passed by a tree where a dead man was hanging. With great fright, they ran their horses 3 or 4 miles breaking all of the eggs. They stopped at the home of Mary's cousin, Joe Burkett, and gladly accepted an invitation to spend the night.

Another story is about their daughter, Elizabeth. According to StellaB 'Nita' Jaynes, the Young family lived fairly close to her mother's childhood home in Mills County in 1889. When Nita's grandmother, Della Catherine Burkett, was sick, Elizabeth Young, a very beautiful girl of about 19 years old, helped take care of her and did some housework. Nita's mother, who was only six (6) years old at the time, remembered Elizabeth's kind, lovable ways, her expressive blue eyes and pretty thick light brown hair. After the family moved to Oklahoma, Elizabeth fell in love with a boy who was not wealthy enough to please her mother. Martha Jane wanted Elizabeth to marry a rich Indian. According to the story told by Nita, Elizabeth died soon of a broken heart and Nita did not know if Elizabeth ever married.

Now here is a picture of William Henry Young. He married



Maggie Lee Rippetoe May 10, 1903 in Greer County, Oklahoma. They had twelve (12) children — six sons and six daughters as follows:

William Medford Young	April 25, 1904
Rex Raymond Young	Sept 16, 1905
Alma Leona Young	June 16, 1907
Oma Alzadie Young	Feb 10, 1909
Leamon Everett Young	Nov 19, 1910
Henry Thurston Young	Sept 4, 1912
Esther Versie Young	May 14, 1914
Imon Lafayette Young	April 10, 1917
Zennie Orena Mae Young	Oct 4, 1919
Tennie Norene Young	Jan 5, 1922
Ira Joseph Young	Jan 21, 1924)
Irene Joice Young	Jan 21, 1924) TWINS

On the previous page, twins were born to Frances Burkett McCall and John Edward McCall. They were Leva May McCall and Myrtle Mae McCall. Sadly, Leva May died the same day. Now here is another set of twins as shown above — Ira Joseph Young and Irene Joice Young. Although Irene Joice survived birth, she died less than one year later on December 23, 1924.

The first daughter born to William Henry Young and wife Maggie Lee Rippetoe was Alma Leona Young who married Charlie Henry Parker. They had four (4) children, one of whom was Wes Parker of Fresno, California who provided this picture of his grandfather and provided most of the information about the family. ■

Wes Parker's Home Page on the Internet -

For those of you with computers and who are able to access the Net, you are invited to visit a Home Page being constructed by Wes Parker at the following address:

www.geocities.com/heartland/lane/5591

Be sure to sign the guestbook to let Wes know you were there. Wes and I are third cousins, once removed. ■

James Henry Burkett's Will -

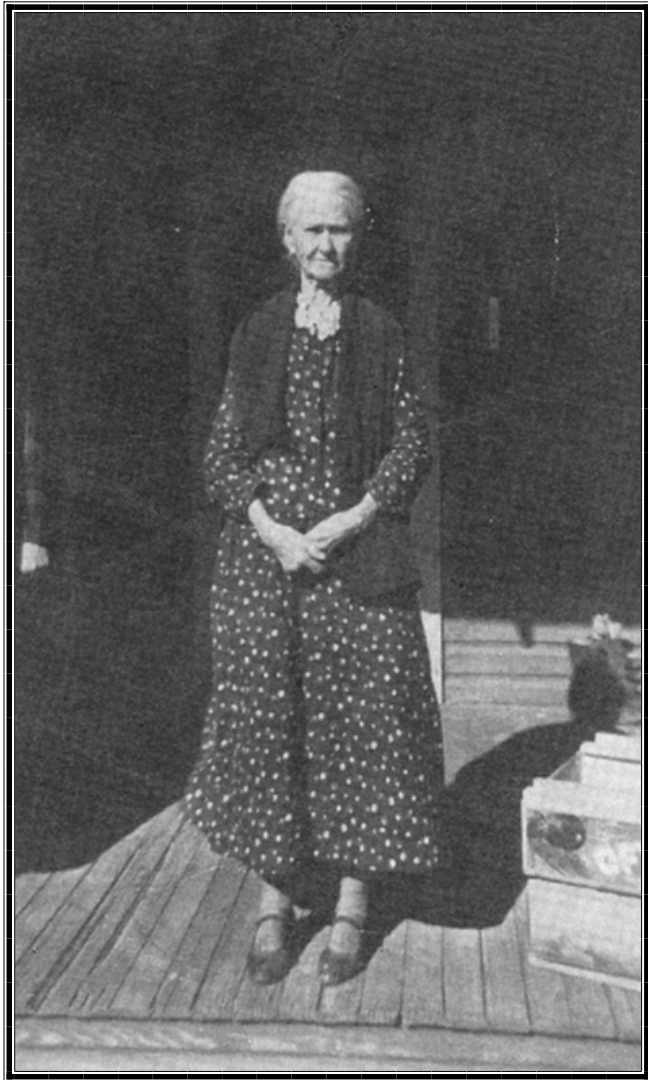
On page 6 of Volume 3 1998 and in writing about our Texas visit and the visit to the old homeplace and orchard of James Henry Burkett, I quoted a woman who lived on the property in Clyde, Texas. This woman said she had heard there was a provision in the Will that the property could not be sold for a period of 99 years.

Thanks to Kaye Burkett Johnston, we now have a copy of that Will and can tell you there is no such provision. The property was left to daughter Iru Jackson with a provision that the state could take over the property by establishing a research center there within a period of one year from the time of his death. This did not happen.

Another discussion took place in which county authorities wanted to purchase the property and establish a historical site

but they were unable to come up with the necessary funding.

Now here is another picture not previously printed of Samantha Victoria McAdams Burkett standing on the porch of their house in Clyde, Texas which was visited by me, Audy Majors, and Sid Huggins last year .



*Samantha Victoria McAdams Burkett
1847 - 1940*

Date of picture is unknown

Picture provided by Kaye Burkett Johnston

Note that Samantha was 93 years old when she died

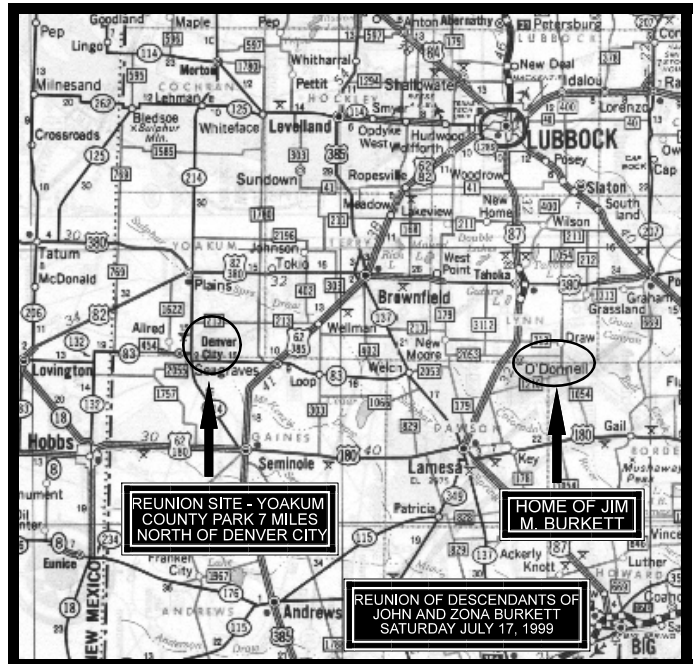
Descendants of George Washington Burkett, the son of Jacob Lorenza Burkett -

Back on page 9 I wrote about George Washington Burkett, the son of Henry Burkett, Sr., and emphasized that relationship to avoid confusion with this George Washington Burkett, the son of Jacob Lorenza Burkett. Please accept my apologies if you feel I have perhaps overdone this distinction. However, I work with the family on a daily basis and know how easy

it is to get confused about family members. Now for the story.

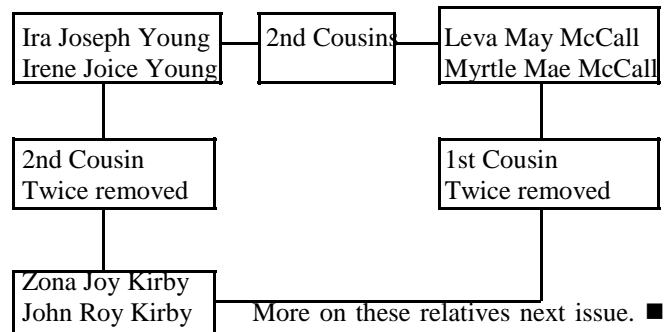
In early May, I received an email message from Cousin Bill Huckaby in California. In this message he told me he had made contact with some descendants of George Washington Burkett and gave me the information.

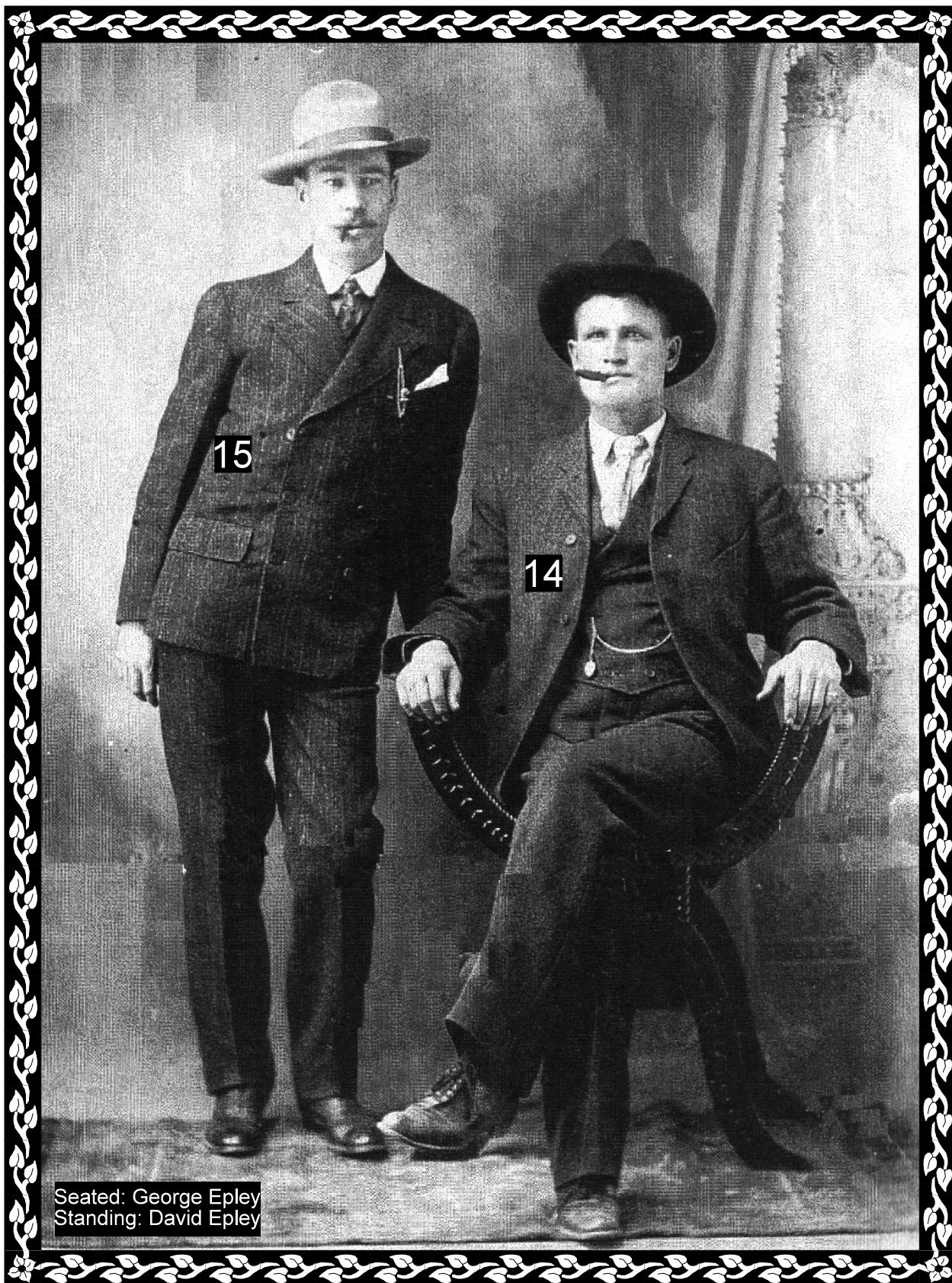
This contact was with Mr. Jim Mac Burkett of O'Donnell, Texas. I later contacted Mr. Burkett and he tells me they also have a reunion. Below is a map which gives the information about that reunion.



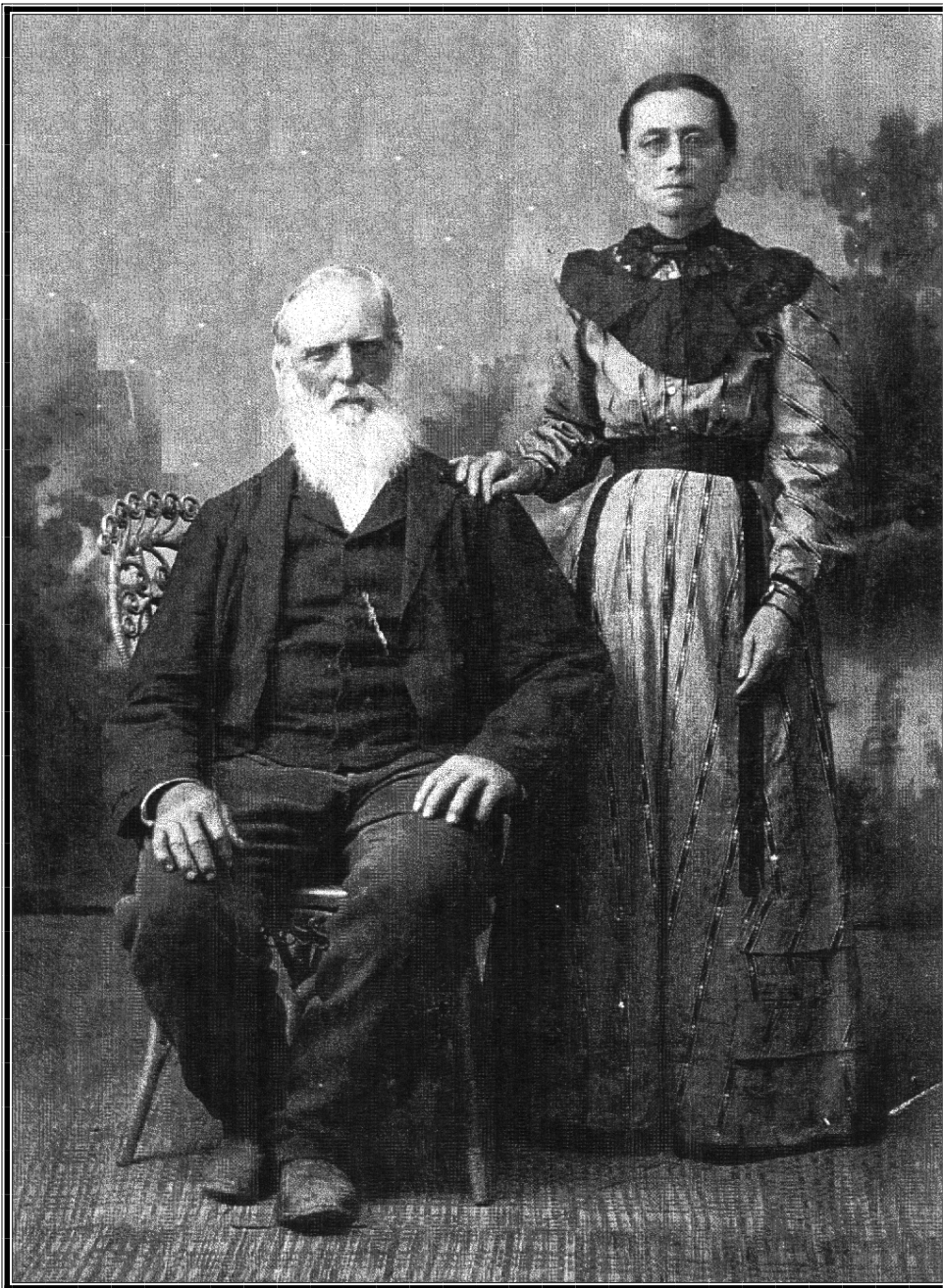
Although I have entitled this article “Descendants of George Washington Burkett”, and that is technically correct, it really is about the descendants of John and wife Zona Burkett. John is a son of George Washington Burkett and was shown in the photo’s in Volume 3 1998, pages 15 and 16. I will have more information about these relatives in the next issue but want to point out one thing now. John and Zona’s daughter, Cortez, who married Ewel Oscar Kirby, had twins, Zona Joy Kirby and John Roy Kirby, born April 7, 1931. I make special mention of this because here on **three (3) consecutive pages I have reported twins**; page 13 were twins born to Frances Burkett McCall and John McCall; page 14 were twins born to William Henry Young (a son of Martha Jane Burkett Young and William A. Young) and Maggie Lee Rippetoe; and now this set of twins.

Here is how they were related:





Here is another picture provided by Cinda Flanary which connects back to the Epley Family picture on Page 7. The individuals in the above picture are definitely the ones numbered 14 and 15 in that picture on Page 7. I had speculated that the photographer had lined them up according to age but I wasn't too sure. However, looking at the above picture, I now believe the one seated is the older of the two so he would be George as I had guessed and the one standing would be David. Unless proven otherwise, I am going to accept this as being a correct identification. (I have placed the numbers in the above corresponding to the numbers on Page 7.)



John Dan Chesser March 20, 1842 - February 24, 1914
Elizabeth Caroline Epley September 3, 1842 - April 20, 1924

Chesser Valley -

Elizabeth Caroline Epley was a daughter of John Epley and a granddaughter of Daniel Epley, Sr. (John is number 5 in the picture on page 7 and Daniel Sr. is number 3 — or at least that's what I think.) She was also a niece of Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett and Henry Burkett, Sr.

Elizabeth's parents, John and Mary Spangler Epley, both died in 1852, less than a month apart; John died September 7 and Mary died October 2. They were living in Hickory County, Missouri at the time. Family legend has it that Elizabeth and sister, Louisia, were taken back to Tennessee to live with relatives. Family legend has it that they were unhappy with

these relatives and, when a Williams wagon train was being made up to go to Texas, a friend slipped them out a window during the middle of a cold night. Legend has it that Elizabeth came out with no shoes and rode all night on horseback causing her feet to freeze. For a long time it was thought she would lose her feet.

When they arrived in Texas about 1857, an Aunt, Annie Epley Williams, and her husband John Williams, took care of the girls until they married. Elizabeth was about 15 and Louisia was about 9 when they arrived.

Elizabeth and John Chesser married in 1860 when both were 18 years old. They were married at the home of her Aunt and Uncle, Mr. and Mrs. John Williams of Williams Ranch.

Soon after John Dan and Elizabeth were married, John Dan and George Williams walked from Williams Ranch to the area which would later become Chesser Valley and George showed John Dan a section of land he had staked out for himself. He then helped John Dan stake out a section.

At that time, John Dan had no money. He took his bride and went from Williams Ranch to Burnet, Texas and soon got a job carrying the mail by ox wagon from Burnet to Fredericksburg. (*Using a current map and following current roads, it is approximately 60 miles between those two (2) towns.*) The Chessers lived in a one-room rock house in Fredericksburg which later became the post office.

During the War Between the States, John Dan served on the frontier as a ranger, helping to fight the Indians. His wife would not see him for weeks at a time.

Chesser's great-grandson, Major Robert W. Casey of Colorado City, Colorado, has the gun Chesser used in fighting the Indians and Norman Chesser of Brownwood, another great-grandson, has an old bullet mold.

After the close of the War in 1865, the Chessers returned to the land Chesser had surveyed in what became Chesser Valley and built a log cabin. They brought with them a son, John Shirrell Chesser, who had been born in 1863 in Burnet County.

A daughter was born to them in this one-room cabin. At the age of 16 she married Felix Johnston. Mrs. Johnston recalled the bloody Indian raids and the terror of mob violence along the valley. She recalled and told of the killing and scalping of John Morris and how Bill Morris, a brother to John Morris, came for John Dan Chesser to help him bring John's body from the woods. Chesser worked most of the night making a casket

for the scalped man. This was one of the first graves in Williams Ranch Cemetery.

As the years passed, other families moved into Chesser Valley and the Chesser family itself built a home for their 11 children. In 1880 Chesser Valley built its first school and John Shirrell Chesser was one of the first teachers when he was only 19.

Families in the Valley had events of different kinds such as square dancing, corn husking, candy pulling, horseshoe tournaments, and camp meetings. Preachers of all denominations would preach and the local preachers made their headquarters at the Chessers. Mr. and Mrs. Chesser established a family altar and all under the roof at the Chesser home would listen to John Dan Chesser as he read the scripture.

John Dan bought a piano and guitar which most of the children learned to play and furnished more entertainment for the Valley residents.

People came from miles around to use the Chesser blacksmith shop. Caskets were also made in the shop with the women making the shrouds.

As the years passed, families grew older and the children began to leave the Valley. In 1900, the Chessers moved to Mullin where they both died, John Dan in 1914 and Elizabeth in 1924. ■

Correction on cost of Pecan Tree Pens and Boxes -

The information I provided about these mementoes was not clear. If only a pen is purchased, the shipping cost is \$3.20. If only a box is purchased, the shipping cost is also \$3.20. But if both are purchased at the same time, the shipping cost is not \$3.20 each but only \$3.20 for both. My apologies. ■

The Magic of Computers -



Not all photo's are received in excellent condition. However, by use of the computer it is possible to repair many of the cracks and blemishes.

Look back at the photo on Page 16 and compare it to this smaller version. Note the tear in the upper left corner and the crack across the lower center. Also note that the black dot on the forehead of George has been removed. It's magic! ■

A Call from Sears ! -

Back in Volume 3 1998 on page 6, I wrote about the Burkett Pecan trees being sold through Sears catalogs — or so our legend says. I wrote a letter to Sears National Public Relations Department and asked them for a copy of this ad, if it existed and if they still had a catalog that old.

On Tuesday, May 25, I received a phone call from Sears Public Relations telling me they have referred my request to their archives department. The gentleman who called said they were always happy to cooperate with a request like mine and the archives department would find it if it existed. He also said they had scheduled a follow-up call to me in three (3) weeks to make certain I had heard from the archives department. In closing, he said it was a very interesting request and that he had no idea Pecan trees had been sold via the catalog but that there had been many interesting things sold back then so he didn't doubt it. I thanked him for their help and told him I would be looking forward to hearing from the archives department. Let's hope they can find it and get a copy to me. ■

A Texas Resolution -

H. S. R. No 21

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, We have with us now a proper person for office of Mascot of the House of Representatives of the Forty-seventh Legislature; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That Mary Katharine Burkett, two and one-half year old daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert W. Burkett, who once served as Page in the House of Representatives, and granddaughter of one of our distinguished Members, Omar Burkett, of Eastland County, Texas, be hereby officially named by this House as Mascot of the House of Representatives of the Forty-seventh Legislature of the State of Texas; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the said Mary Katharine Burkett have her picture made and placed in the official group of this Body.

signed by: Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that H. S. R. No. 21 was adopted by the House on January 15, 1941. _____

signed by: Chief Clerk of the House

That picture hangs today in a collage of other Mascots in the Texas House of Representatives. Mary Katharine "Kaye" Burkett Johnston provided the special insert section on her grandfather, Omar Burkett, which appeared in Volume 1 1999.

In the 1840 Presidential election, Martin Van Buren was given the nickname "Old Kinderhook" after his birthplace in Columbia County, New York. His supporters formed a club called The O.K. Club and "O.K." became a rallying cry. Van Buren lost but "O.K." won and is the most widely used word in America.

Another Texas Resolution -

H. S. R. No. 145

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS , The pecan tree is the State tree of Texas, having been closely associated with the history of the State and with the lives of its leaders; and _____

WHEREAS , In addition, the pecan tree has considerable commercial significance, since Texas has for several years been the leading pecan-producing State in the Nation; and _____

WHEREAS , Much of the success of commercial pecan-growing in the State can be attributed to the development and improvement of new varieties; and _____

WHEREAS , One of the best-known of the improved varieties is the Burkett papershell, developed by the late J.H. Burkett when, in the spring of 1900, he grafted fertile budwood from a tree producing these outstanding pecans onto a small native pecan tree and _____

WHEREAS , Although the parent tree was destroyed a few years after the discovery, the tree onto which the buds were grafted flourished and has produced 58 consecutive crops to date and is heavily fruited again this year; and _____

WHEREAS , Mr. Burkett shared his discovery unselfishly, giving practically all of the budwood from this variety to others in the industry; and _____

WHEREAS , Despite the fact that he was urged repeatedly to copyright the variety, he declined to do so, refusing to seek financial gain and considering the satisfaction of the work sufficient compensation for his efforts; and _____

WHEREAS , Omar Burkett, the son of J. H. Burkett, is a former Member of the Legislature, has a great interest in Texas, and has contributed much to the promotion of the Burkett Pecan and the State of Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED , That the House of Representatives of the State of Texas hereby pays tribute to the life of J.H. Burkett and to the magnificent and unselfish contribution in the development of the Burkett papershell pecan tree, which will remain for years to come a living memorial to him. _____

signed by: Speaker of the House

I hereby certify that H. S. R. No. 145 was unanimously adopted by a rising vote of the House on June 16, 1959. _____

signed by: Chief Clerk of the House

Copies of this Resolution and the one on the preceding page were provided by Kaye Burkett Johnston. ■

Coming in the Next Issue -

The Pyeatts - How and Why they came to this country.

The West Texas Burketts - Descendants of John and Zona.

Dave Epley Photo - A previously unpublished photo.

George Epley Tennessee Land - A Survey of 500 acres.

The Children of Henry and Polly Burkett - An update of what we have learned — and it's a lot!

Texas First Families - Certificates and how to get them ■

The Historian's

Corner -

Oliver Webb



This has been an interesting issue for me because of the location of “new” relatives and the number of old photo’s we have received and included in this issue. These photo’s and the information we continue to receive helps in the “fleshing out” of our relatives giving us additional understanding of where they lived, how they lived, and the conditions they lived under.

One of the items in this issue that aroused my curiosity — and that’s all it is—was back on page 9 and 10 in the obituaries for George Washington Burkett and his wife, Lucinda N. Derryberry Burkett. Both obituaries refer to them as having joined the Methodist Church but then states that Reverend Quilliam *of the Baptist Church* officiated at their funeral. The obituary for Mrs. Burkett does state on page 9 that she “was converted in her early life and was baptised and united with the Baptist Church During the Civil War, she changed her membership to the M.E. Church, of which she was a member at her death.” Just curious.

In my attempts to identify the relatives in the Daniel Epley, Sr. family photo on page 7, I sent a copy of it and my deductions to four (4) Epley family members who I knew had been fairly active in the Epley family history. I’m sorry to say I have not received an answer from any of them so we may never get any further with identifications than what is in this issue.

To protect our family data, I started some time ago to send backup copies to others who had computers and genealogy programs. I started first with Susan and Mickey Campbell but have since sent copies to several folks. The purpose of this was to preserve the bulk of our information in case I should suffer a catastrophe such as a fire, tornado, etc. which destroys my computer. Too many years and too many hours of work have gone into collecting this information to run the risk of losing it.

To have a written record of who has this information, I am listing below the name and address for those who have this data.

Jim M. Burkett
RR 1
O’Donnell, Texas 79351

Susan and Mickey Campbell
29 West Road
Fayetteville, TN 37334

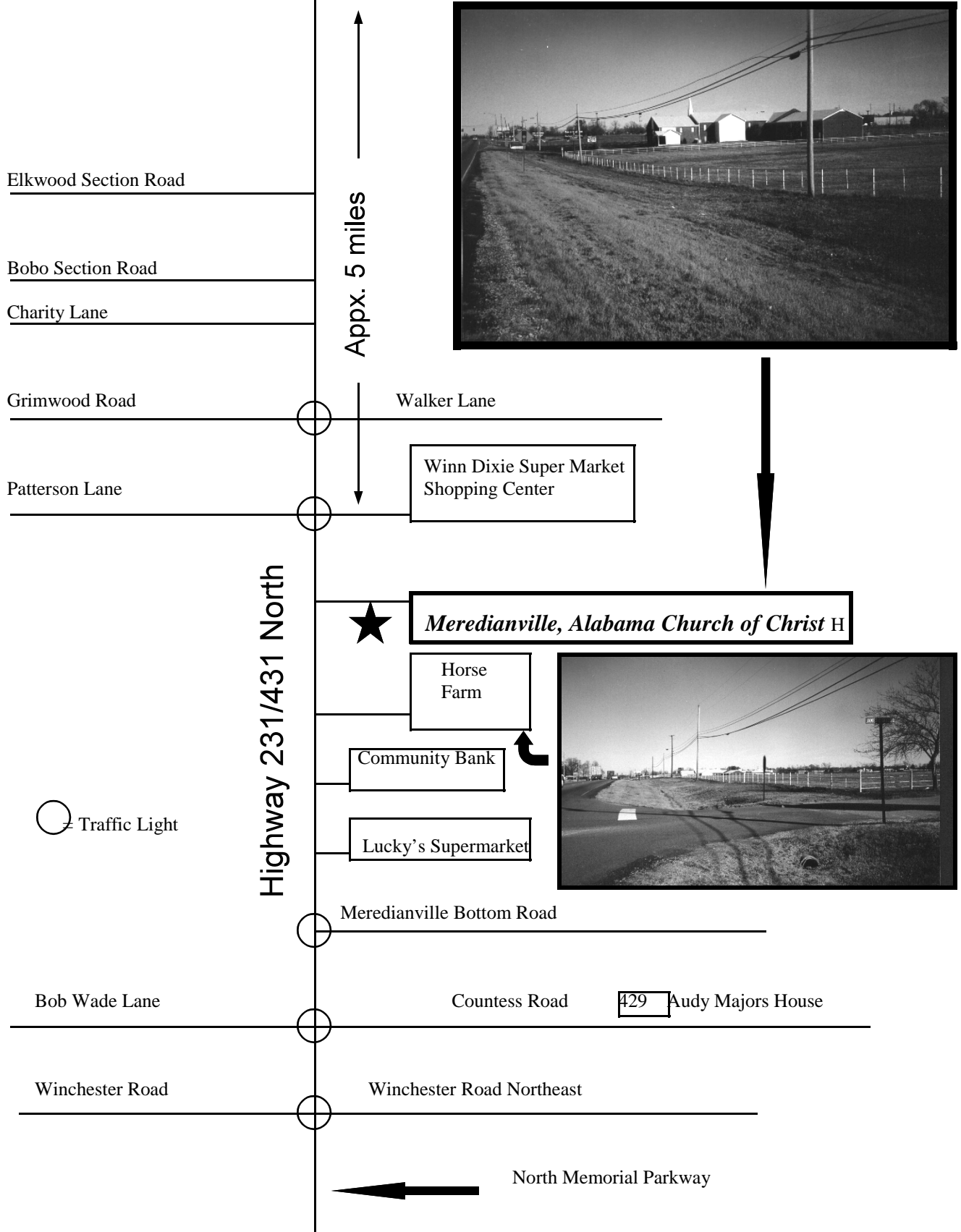
Doye Burkett Fannin
1313 Hawk Trail
Copperas Cove, Texas 76522

Bill Huckaby
4700 Roseville Road Suite 207
North Highlands, CA 95660

Gina Burkett Hyche
270 Gregory Road
Jasper, AL 35503

Wes Parker
4220 N. Millbrook Avenue
Fresno, CA 93726

Tennessee State Line



HUNTSVILLE, ALA

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