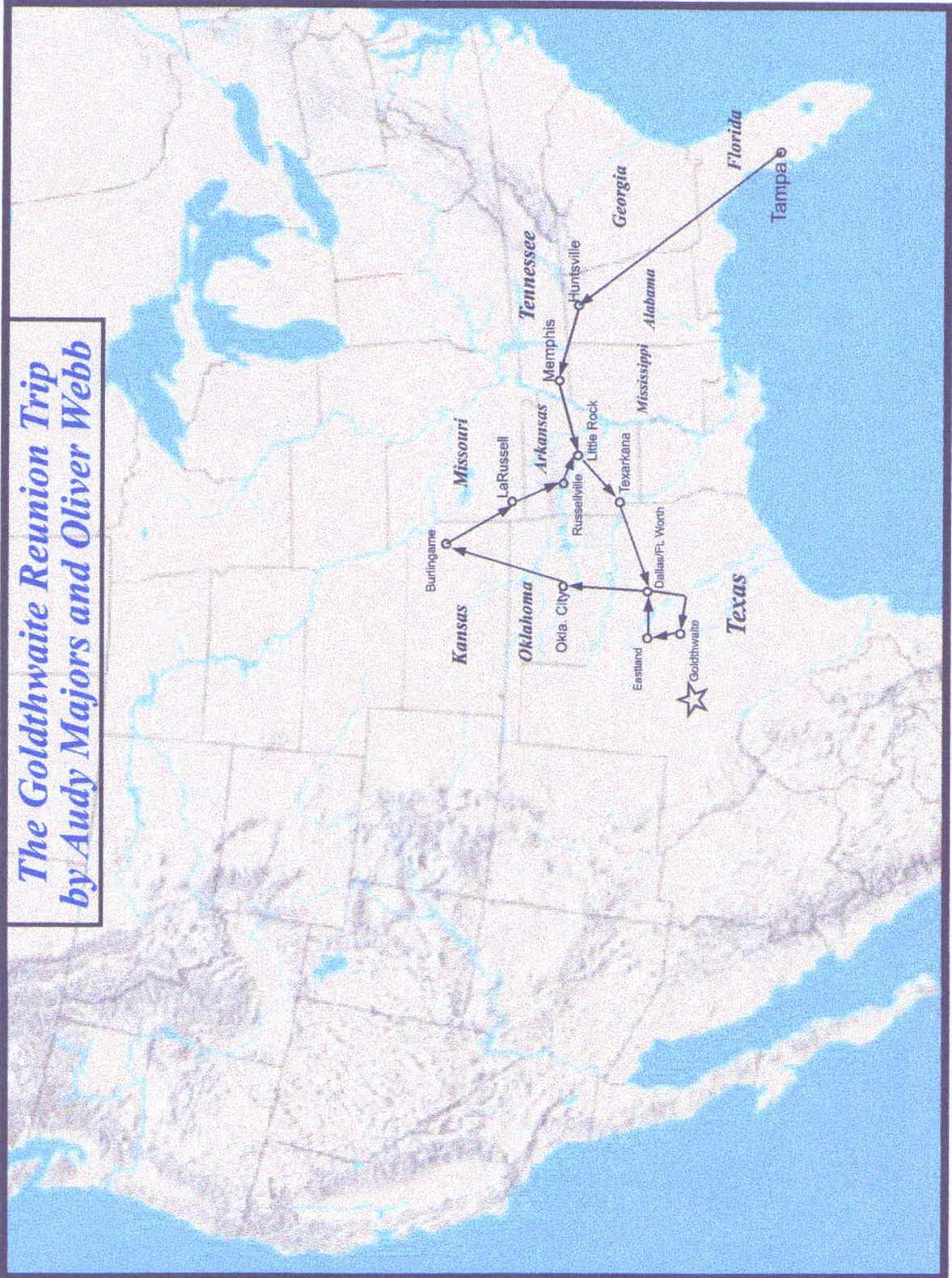




# THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION



*The Goldthwaite Reunion Trip  
by Audy Majors and Oliver Webb*



## *The Texas Reunion and Other Stops -*

It was such a great trip I wanted to catch your eye when you opened this issue — and unless I miss my guess that color map probably did it! I'll have more to say about that in *The Historian's Corner*. For now, let's get on with the trip.

### **Tuesday September 7 -**

I left Tampa and drove to Audy Major's house in Huntsville, Alabama arriving late afternoon. As usual, Audy and Sandy were waiting and welcomed me to my "home away from home."

### **Wednesday September 8 -**

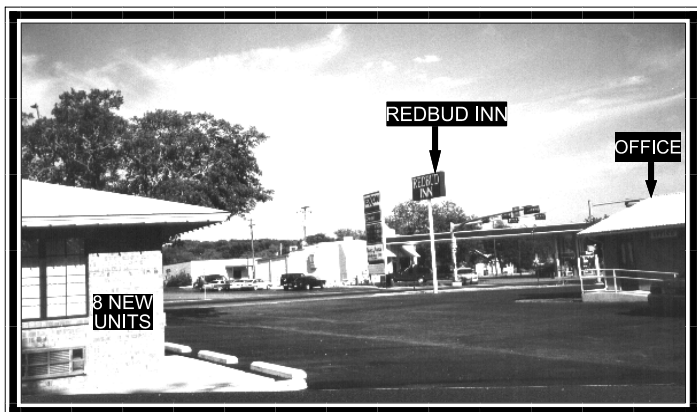
This day was spent in Huntsville resting up from my non-stop drive to Huntsville and to running around with Audy making last minute preparations for our trip. We turned in early to get a good nights rest knowing we were really going to be busy for several days.

### **Thursday September 9 -**

Both of us were eager to get on the road so we were up early and pulled out of Huntsville about 7 AM. And just as we did last year, we left in Audy's Cadillac with him doing the driving and me with a feeling of confidence in his driving. Audy had been doing some thinking about our route based on our trip last year and took a little different route from Huntsville to Memphis which proved to be easier and a little faster.

Before we knew it, we had passed through Memphis heading toward Little Rock, Arkansas. The traffic seemed a little lighter than last year and we were really making good time arriving in Little Rock much sooner than expected. We stopped, had a good lunch and got back on the road with very little loss of time.

Passing on through Texarkana and across the Texas state line, I commented about the good time we were making. Audy agreed and asked me how many miles we had to Goldthwaite. I picked up the map and gave him an estimate knowing what he was thinking. When we started, it never dawned on either of us that we might drive straight through to Goldthwaite in one day. (Well, I have to speak for myself about that because Sandy, Audy's wife, told me before we left that Audy would have me in Goldthwaite that night!) As we continued making such good time with relatively light traffic and no construction slow-downs to speak of, it became more and more apparent we just might go on. By the time we went around Dallas/Ft. Worth and headed south toward Waco, the die was cast and we were committed to making it into Goldthwaite—and we did! And the same as last year, we were again staying at the Redbud Inn in Goldthwaite although I had made the reservations beginning Friday night and here we were getting in on Thursday night.



## *The Burkett Family*

### **Original Historian**

*StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes*

*October 8, 1907 - June 18, 1996*



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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. However, the impetus to continue her work began with a suggestion in 1992 by Gentry J.B. Burkett to have a family reunion in Huntsville, Alabama which was carried out by the efforts of Audy Majors. Over the years, Audy has continued his efforts toward the location and preservation of family information and artifacts.

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But luck was still with us and they had a vacancy. We discovered that since last year they had built a separate building with eight (8) new units and assigned us to one of them. Very nice! We had stopped at a Dairy Queen and grabbed a hot dog and shake so all we had to do was unload the car and fall in bed. Which we did and I must say that, not unexpectedly, Audy beat me to sleep since he had been driving all day.

#### Friday September 10 -

We woke up Friday morning, had a good shower and headed out to Oliver's for breakfast. (Those of you who read last year's issue will recall I tried to talk the restaurant folks into giving us a discount since my name was Oliver. It didn't work.) Upon being seated and getting a cup of coffee, I explained that we were back again this year and I was still looking for a discount. You guessed it. It didn't work this year either but the waitress again got a kick out of it and said that was why she put us off in a corner! What the heck! Nothing ventured, nothing gained.

During breakfast we had decided we would head back out to the Williams Ranch Cemetery and also the Oakview Cemetery in Mullin — which we did. Last year when Sid Huggins, Audy and I went to these cemeteries it was raining a slight mist but this day was simply beautiful. Below is Audy at the gate of the Williams Ranch cemetery and it's a shame it isn't in color so you could see the blue sky.

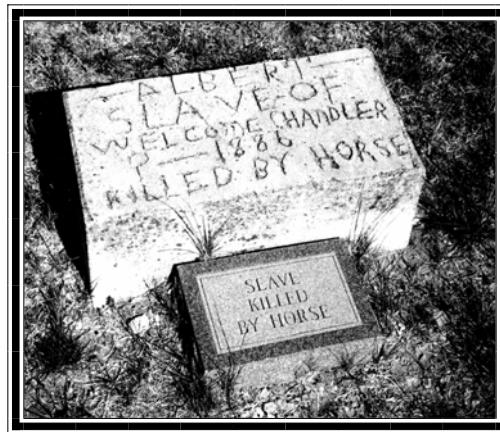
Let me interrupt myself right here and tell you that



watching Audy Majors in a cemetery is like watching a fine bird dog cover a field! He moves fast, has a keen eye and good family recall. More times than I can remember, I have heard him yell, "Oliver, come over here." Frankly, he's better than I am because more than once he has picked up on something I was confused or in doubt about. And this wasn't the first time I noticed that talent of his. It's just the first time I have written about it.

One specific question I wanted to get answered was about the man referred to by the Joseph Lafayette Burkett family as Negro Albert. I had somehow gotten myself confused over whether or not his grave had been moved to Oakview in Mullin or if it was still there at Williams Ranch. Turns out it was still there at Williams Ranch. One of the things that confused me was while reviewing my pictures after I got home last year I saw the new marker which had

been added. There is some guessing here but probably Edgar Lorenza Burkett added this new marker.



Leaving the Williams Ranch Cemetery we headed back to Mullin and the Oakview Cemetery. There we visited the graves of several relatives including that of Helen Mayr who had died August 14, just days before this reunion. I have written in previous issues about the amount of work Helen did on our family history and we shall always remember those contributions she made.

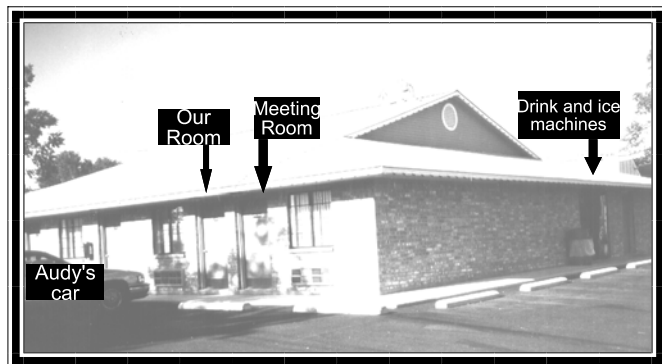
This was my third trip to both the Williams Ranch and Oakview Cemeteries and this may sound a little odd to some folks but I have come to feel very comfortable and at home when I visit either one. I know where our relatives graves are and I visit and pause at each one. The feeling is hard to describe but I'm sure many of you have had the same feeling.

Leaving Oakview, Audy said, "Where do you want to go next?" I told him LaJuana Ivy lived there in Mullin and suggested we call her. We drove back to the Cafe in Mullin where I called LaJuana from an outside paystation and, fortunately, they were home. This was around 11 AM and she said, "Come on out and we'll feed you some soup for lunch." (LaJuana is a daughter of Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin and Thomas Goodwin and a granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett.) Turns out that calling her was one of the best suggestions I've made in a long time! Read on.

We got a very warm welcome upon arrival and sat down to talk with LaJuana and husband Tate Ivy. In addition to hunting, Audy had some other things in common with Tate and they had a rousing discussion about them. Then LaJuana got up and brought out her boxes of photo's and that's when the fun really started. You will see some of those later in this issue. Well, we then had lunch which was excellent soup *made with venison* — and plentiful. I guarantee if we had slowed down any at all I would have had to take a nap — I was stuffed! But we didn't. Audy and Tate left for Tate to show Audy one of his deer stands — Audy is a big deer hunter back in Alabama. I begged off because of my bum knee. LaJuana and I continued going through and talking about her photo's and other family items. By the time Tate and Audy returned and we continued our talking, it was time for us to leave — we must have been there for three (3) hours. But before leaving, LaJauana told us a family member was managing the Redbud Inn where we were staying. It was the wife of Danny Beck, a nephew of

LaJuana and a son of Nelda Berylene Goodwin and Don Beck.

When we got back to the motel, I went to the office and introduced myself to Mrs. Beck. She was extremely friendly and told us other family members were coming in and that Joe Burkett of Angleton, Texas had already checked in. I told her I had noticed a Meeting Room right next to our room and asked her how much it cost to use it. She grinned and said, "For Burketts, there is no charge!" She gave me the key



and I went over and turned on the air conditioning. What a great setup with plenty of chairs and tables where we could spread out our ring binders and lay out pictures, etc. Just around the corner was the ice and drink machines — very convenient!

Audy had gone to our room so I next went around the corner and knocked on the door of Joe Burkett's room. He answered and I went in and introduced myself to Joe and his wife, Lorene. Joe told me that his brother, Jim Mac Burkett and his wife were also coming as was their sister, Katie and her husband, Al Allen. I had anticipated that Jim might come because we had been communicating via email but was especially delighted to learn about his brother and sister being there. We talked for a few minutes with me telling Joe and his wife where we had been. I then went around to our room and told Audy about these relatives and it pleased him as well.

I mentioned earlier they had built eight (8) new units — four (4) on each side. Joe Burkett, Jim Mac Burkett, Katie Burkett Allen and their spouses were all on the other side. (Joe, Jim Mac and Katie are children of John Burkett, grandchildren of George Washington Burkett, great grandchildren of Jacob Lorenza Burkett and 2nd great grandchildren of Henry Burkett, Sr. Jim Mac and Katie live in O'Donnell, Texas and Joe lives in Angleton, Texas.) On the same side as Audy and I were Juanelle Curtis, her son, Burkett, and Sharon Fleming. Neither Burkett or Sharon were at the reunion last year so this was the first time for me and Audy to meet them. I had communicated with Sharon via email on the net so I was expecting her. Sharon designed, printed, and mailed out the announcements for last year and this year.

Friday evening we put the meeting room to use and all gathered there to look at photo's, get acquainted with each other, and talk about the family. I think we all enjoyed it but, for me and Audy, it was a bonus getting to meet the "West Texas bunch." I call them that because Joe, Jim Mac and Katie and their kinfolk have their reunion in July in O'Donnell which is over near the New Mexico state line and,

therefore, west Texas. Although I think we all would have liked to talk longer, we called it a night around 9:30 since most had driven that day and we had a big day coming up plus some had to drive back Saturday.

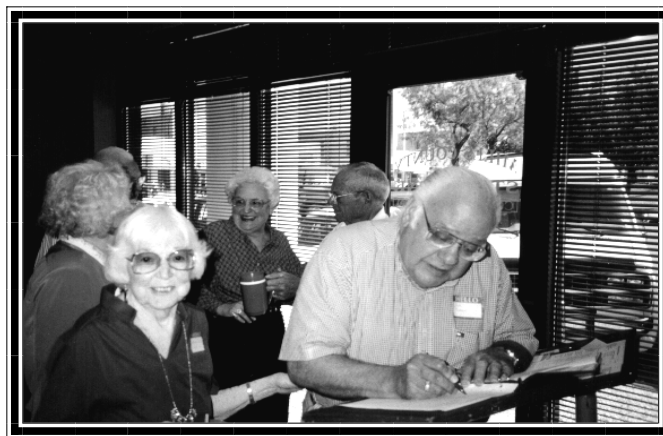
#### Saturday September 11 -

The day dawned bright and clear — another great day in the making. Most everybody headed out to Oliver's for an early breakfast (I didn't ask for a discount this time) and then back to the motel to gather up our things and head over to the bank.



*Mills County State Bank  
Goldthwaite, Texas*

Upon arriving at the Bank we found some folks already there setting up the tables, chairs, registration stand, etc. Then, as the folks started trickling in, the howdy's began with many of the folks not having seen each other for a year. Audy and I really felt at home from having been there the previous year and met most of them. Doye Fannin took over as Chair Person and we were watching and making sure everybody signed the register.



*Juanelle Burkett Curtis, daughter of Edgar Lorenza Burkett, looking on as Don Burkett, son of Lee Burkett, signs in.*

*1999 Goldthwaite, Texas Reunion*

Audy set up his camcorder and others were not only bringing in delicious looking food (I spotted some Pecan pies!) but also breaking out their cameras. Audy also had his 35 mm camera and I had mine with plenty of film. Some of you who read about last years reunion will recall what happened to Sid Huggins. He took about 4 rolls of pictures only to discover when he got back home that his camera wasn't working properly and none of them turned out! He was really upset about that.

As the morning passed with everyone talking and sharing pictures and "what's happened since we last talked?"

experiences, I kept watching the door for Dorothy Alston and her husband. Dot had emailed me that she expected to be there for the first time. She is the daughter of Joseph Washington Burkett, Sr., a granddaughter of James Henry Burkett, and a great granddaughter of Jacob Lorenza Burkett. Well, a little after 11 she and husband Gaston Alford arrived. Like so many others, Dot also had her camera and wasted no time introducing herself and her husband to some relatives she had never met. Audy and I had hoped that Dot's brother, Joe W. Burkett, Jr. and his wife Pearl, just might be there as well but, unfortunately, they were unable to make it. Audy, Sid, and I had visited with them in their home in Kerrville last year following the reunion.

Shortly after Dot arrived, I looked up and Jim Mac Burkett and brother Joe were coming back in the door carrying cases which, in my infinite wisdom, I immediately recognized as a guitar case and a fiddle case! I said, "Audy, do you see what I see?" He said, "I certainly do. Looks like we are going to get some music." Sure enough, Jim and Joe set up and began to play! I was immediately reminded of a



commercial I see on TV about PGA golfers where they say, "Those guys are good!" I then remembered there were five (5) of these brothers and they used to have a band years ago but only Jim and Joe are left. I looked around and noticed others doing the same thing I was — still talking but with an ear cocked toward the music because it was smooth and the tunes they were playing were old standards recognizable by all except the youngest. Totally unexpected but most enjoyable!! Thanks, Jim and Joe!! I guarantee we all enjoyed it very much!

By now it's eating time and before forgetting to do so, I must add my "Thank you" to the folks at the Mills County State Bank for allowing the use of such excellent facilities. I know our Goldthwaite folks expressed their appreciation but I wanted to add ours on behalf of Audy and myself. Across the rear of the room is the kitchen with a serving counter for the main courses and along the left wall is another table which was set up for desserts. (That's where I had selfishly kept watch to make sure the Pecan Pies were placed. I definitely wanted a slice of that pie! And I got it — delicious!)

Shown below are some of the relatives partaking of that delicious food which folks had worked hard to prepare. The

arrow is pointing toward two (2) bricks brought by Audy and which I'll have more to say about later.

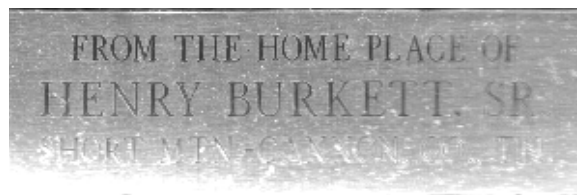
Not long after the below was taken, Jim and Joe played a



few more minutes for us which was also appreciated. Great playing, cousins!

As everybody began to get full and slow down, Doye Fannin took over as MC. (Doye is a daughter of Lee Pyeatt Burkett and a granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett.) Along with help from Juanelle Burkett Curtis, Doye announced they had some nice prizes to give away for such things as who came the farthest, etc. I won that one! Doye discussed past reunions and talked about the future reunions. In doing so, she asked for any comments as to what should be done. Several made their comments and I had to say what I felt even though it was their reunion. Rather than interrupt the continuity of the reunion, I feel my comments are important enough to be the subject of a separate article.

Following this, Doye announced that Audy had a couple of prizes to give away — bricks from an old homeplace of Henry Burkett, Sr. in Tennessee. Later in this issue you will see a picture — courtesy of Joe Burkett (the fiddle player) — showing the remains of the fireplace these bricks came from.. These bricks were the same as one Audy had sent Helen Mayr just before her death and which I wrote about in the last issue. Audy coated these bricks with an epoxy, glued a soft piece of cloth on the bottom to prevent scratching any furniture, and attached a plate identifying where it came from. These bricks were hand made and mixed in with the clay are particles of what we were told is coal. As you might expect, the bricks are not perfectly square. I had hoped to include a copy of the plate but due to this unevenness, the scanner couldn't pick it all up but the below will give you an idea of the quality of the plate.



*FROM THE HOME PLACE OF  
HENRY BURKETT, SR.  
SHORT MTN.-CANNON COUNTY, TN*





The above is a cake in remembrance of Helen Mayr who contributed so much to our family history and who helped organize previous reunions. I have taken the time to publish it in color because black and white just did not do it justice. It was brought by Doye Fannin.

As always at every reunion, the day passes almost before you know it and the time comes for folks to head for home. Audy and I were staying there in Golthwaite for one more night. We were heading up to Eastland and originally planned to go on up there after the reunion but no rooms were available within fifty (50) miles — bird season! As for the rest of the folks at the Redbud Inn with us, Sharon Fleming had to head on back; Burkett Curtis and mother Juanelle decided they would head on out; and Jim Mac had to get back for a church meeting — at least I think that's what I remember. However, Joe, Katie and their spouses stayed over and went out to both cemeteries that afternoon — Williams Ranch and Oakview.

#### Sunday September 12 -

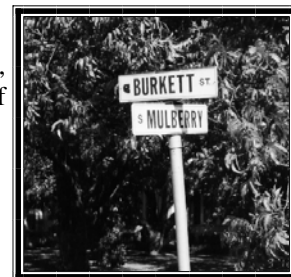
This day also dawned bright and clear. We could not have asked for better. Audy and I got up, packed, checked out of the motel and headed for our favorite spot — Oliver's. Believe me, those folks put out a good breakfast!! But I had long since given up any hope of ever getting a discount although I still feel I should get it! When we got there, who should drive up about the same time but Joe, Katie and spouses. They were given the preferred front booth and the waitress put Audy and myself where she normally did — the back booth! No fair! She said we were too rowdy — but grinned when she said it and gave us awfully good service. Good folks there and we'll look forward to seeing them again next year. Audy and I finished our breakfast, said our goodbyes to Joe, Katie, and their spouses and hit the road for Eastland.

To summarize, the weather was excellent, our visit with LaJauana and Tate Ivey simply delightful, the reunion extremely enjoyable with some very pleasant surprises, the Redbud Inn rooms were great, the Meeting Room there at the Redbud very convenient and handy, and, finally, the food at Oliver's was very good. *Plus*, I picked up a lot of photos and you will see some of them later in this issue. All in all, I just don't believe it could have been any better for Audy and myself. It was with a very contented feeling that we turned out on the highway to Eastland.

#### Arrival in Eastland -

We had a couple of objectives in mind for our visit to Eastland. The first revolved around the Burkett House which I wrote about in Volume 1 1999. This was the house built by Joseph (Joe) Washington Burkett, Sr. and his wife, Fanny Pullig Burkett, on property they purchased in 1918. I had been in touch with Mr. Charles Walker in reference to securing some Burkett pecans and, during that contact, mentioned that we would also like to visit the Burkett House and the cemetery. Mr. Walker volunteered to get in touch with Mrs. Kim Lowrance who, along with her husband Randy, is the current owner. Mr. Walker had done that and we were to meet Mrs. Lowrance at the home after church services and Mr. Walker was to also contact us there at the house. You may recall this house had been completely remodeled by Mr. and Mrs. Lowrance and designated a Texas Historical Site.

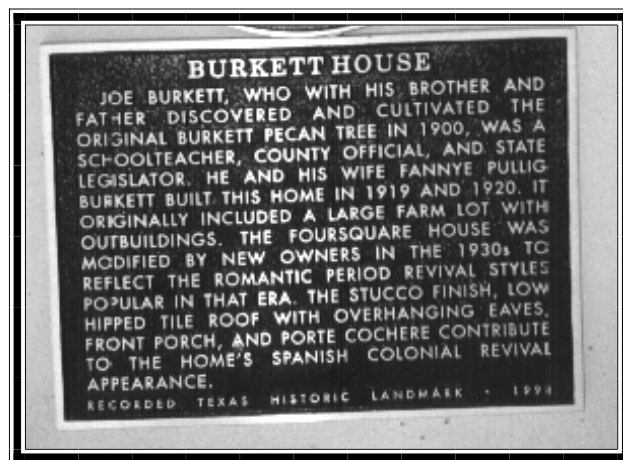
We arrived just minutes early and were sitting there when Mrs. Lowrance and her family drove in from church. However, before they arrived, Audy had made a couple of pictures.



As you can guess from the photo, the house is on the corner of Burkett and Mulberry.



Here is the house with the arrow pointing to the Texas Historical Site Marker on the front porch and below is the plaque.





Kim Lowrance and Oliver Webb on the porch of the Burkett House in Eastland, Texas September 12, 1999. Note the Texas Historical Site plaque between us.



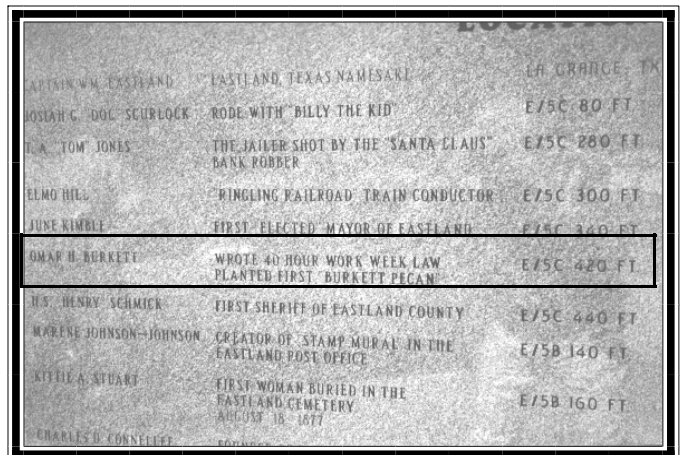
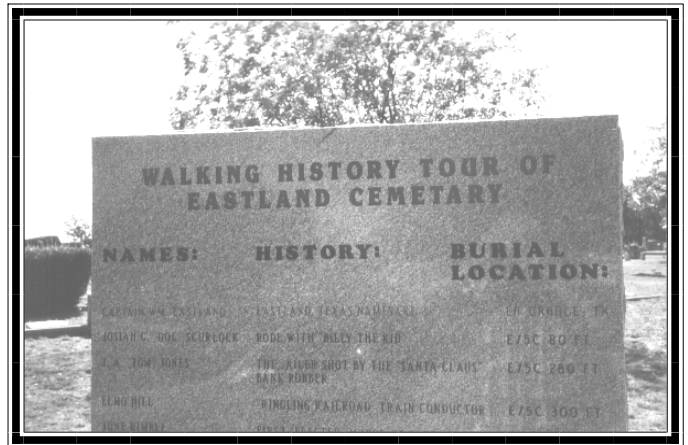
Oliver Webb and Audy Majors on the front porch of the Burkett House Eastland, Texas September 12, 1999.

As Kim and her family arrived home from church, she spotted us sitting in Audy's car. We got out and although Kim knew who was coming, she didn't know who was who so Audy and I introduced ourselves. She greeted us with a friendliness which we came to realize was her personality — a very hospitable person. She asked what we wanted to do first and we told her we needed to contact Charles Walker who had indicated he wanted to go the cemetery with us. We

went inside the house to use the phone and Audy and I were amazed at the quality of the interior renovations. We tried to call Charles for a while and then decided something had happened so we decided to go on to the cemetery.

[ But before talking about the cemetery visit let me pause and give some history on the Burkett family who built and occupied this house. Joseph (Joe) Washington Burkett, Sr. was a son of James Henry Burkett and a grandson of Jacob Lorenza Burkett. Joe married Frances Newell Pullig in 1906 and they had six (6) children — Lasca (1908); Leslie (1910); Joseph (Joe) Washington Burkett, Jr. (1912); Prentiss (1915); Margaret Inez (1918); Dorothy Jean (1920). Remembering the plaque says the house was built in 1919 and 1920, you can see all the children had already been born by that time except for Dorothy Jean (Dot) who was born in the house July 4, 1920. ]

With Audy driving and Kim directing, we took off to the cemetery. On the way, Kim explained that the cemetery had a laid-out Walking History Tour with a donated monument at the entrance listing important people buried in the cemetery and giving directions to their graves. Upon entering the cemetery, Audy stopped so we could get pictures of the directory monument. I apologize for the quality of the pictures but, for some reason, I couldn't do better. In the photo below, the words at the top "WALKING HISTORY TOUR OF EASTLAND CEMETARY" are in red and, while they look good in the picture, just didn't come out all that good with my equipment. The same applies to some of the other pictures



OMAR H. BURKETT WROTE 40 HOUR WORK WEEK LAW E/5C 420FT.

based on the type of stone used in the marker and the sun direction — but at least we have them.

In the photo at the bottom of the previous page, the E5C 420 FT refers to the location in the cemetery and the distance from the Directory monument to the grave.

Following Kim's lead, we went on around to the marker for Omar Burkett shown below.



*This marker is very pretty of a pink flecked material but, again, just does not come out too good. The inscription for Omar under his name reads "Wrote Texas 40 hour work week law Always ready to help his fellow man."*



*This sign is part of the cemetery information for the Walking History Tour.*



Another member of the Burkett family identified as part of the Walking History Tour is Margaret "Flamin' Mamie" Burkett Ellison and this is the sign for her marker. She is also listed on the monument at the cemetery entrance. Margaret made quite a name for herself in the coaching profession and set several records in the process.

Still another Burkett buried in this section is the wife of Joe Burkett, Sr. who worked with him in building the Burkett House.



*Fannye Pullig Burkett  
Nov 21 1887  
July 2 1976*

After perhaps a half hour, we left the cemetery and returned to Kim's house wondering what happened to Charles Walker. I had made several calls to his house and knew from having talked with him before the trip that he had Call Waiting and would be able to recognize the calls were coming from Kim's phone. We arrived back only to find no calls so I called a few more times in between continuing our conversation with Kim. She took Audy on a tour of the upstairs while I waited — again begged off due to my bad knee. Finally, Audy pointed out we needed to be on the road for Burlingame, Kansas so we said our good bye and thanks to Kim for her hospitality. (After getting back home, I learned we missed Charles Walker by maybe 10 minutes — he called Kim — and his wife had made a Burkett Pecan pie for me and Audy so we missed that too! Turns out he had to stay at church for an urgent and unscheduled meeting after the regular services. I was sorry to miss meeting him because he had really been helpful. I had called him Saturday afternoon from Goldthwaite to tell him we were going to have to stay there Saturday night since we could not get a motel room in Eastland due to bird hunting season. He opened his back door, held the phone out the door and said, "What does that sound like?" I said it sounded like a war going on — I could easily hear the shotguns and he said it had been going on for days. Anyway, I left a framed picture of James Henry Burkett and wife Samantha with Kim for Charles to present to the the Pecan Association he belonged to. This was the same picture I published on the front page of Volume 1 1999.)

The good weather was continuing as Audy and I headed



east toward Dallas heading up to Burlingame, Kansas. We hit the bypass around Dallas and turned north toward Oklahoma City and continued making good time as we had for the entire trip so far. We made it into Kansas where we stopped for the night about 100 miles from Burlingame.

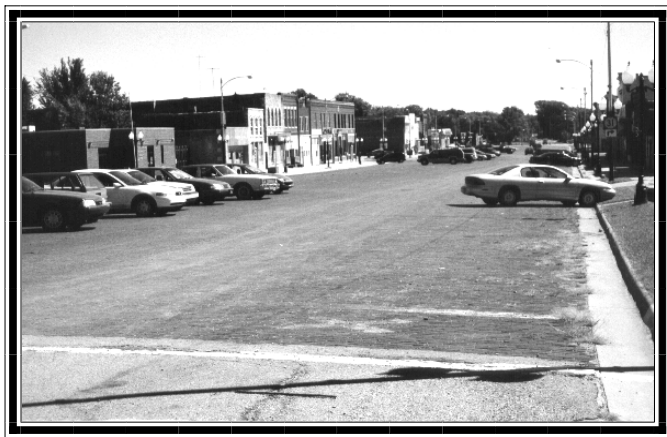
You will recall we were going there to check on our second great granduncle, George Washington Burkett. The second great grandfather for me and Audy was John Burkett, a brother to George Washington Burkett. In Volume 2 1999, I had written about how I learned from a non-relative, Linda Fagan, that George and his wife were buried there and Linda had sent me copies of their obituaries from which I hoped to find out about any descendants who might still be out there.

#### Monday September 13 -

We got up and found another beautiful day. Went into the restaurant there at the motel and had breakfast which I can only rate as passable — certainly not on a par with Oliver's back in Goldthwaite.

Shortly after leaving the motel, we were on the Kansas Turnpike between Wichita and Topeka, Kansas. Burlingame is southwest of Topeka and just a few miles east of the Turnpike. We took the Osage City exit off the Turnpike and then turned north to Burlingame arriving there about mid-morning. As we approached Burlingame we passed a cemetery and I wondered if that was the one where our kinfolk were buried but we continued on into town to find out.

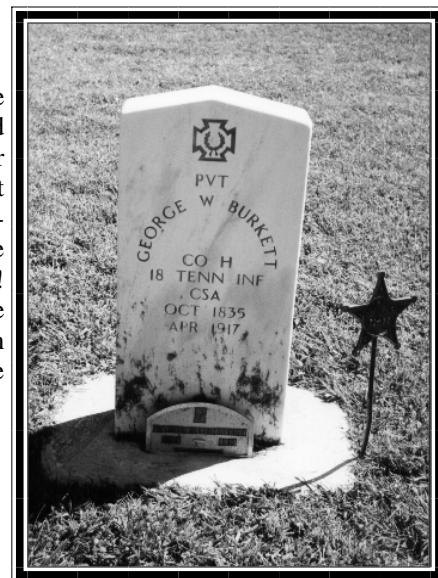
In Volume 2 1999, I had included a picture of the street in Burlingame mentioning that the main street, which was part of the Santa Fe trail, was built 130 feet wide to permit the oxen wagons to make a U-turn. Below is a picture taken by Audy which confirms it is still 130 feet wide!



After talking with some folks, we decided that was the cemetery we were searching for so we headed back out to it. We drove in, parked about 100 feet from the entrance and started walking and looking. We weren't having too much luck but I noticed a man had driven in and parked under a tree on the next road over. I went over to him and said, "You wouldn't happen to know if somebody has a layout of the cemetery, would you?" His response was, "Yes, I do." Turns out he worked there. We went up to the maintenance building and he produced not only a layout but a computer listing of the folks buried there. Well, hot dog! He showed me where

George Washington was buried and said he would meet me there. I walked out and yelled at Audy who was on the far side by now. We both followed the man and met him where he had said the graves were. The information said that George had bought 12 lots so we expected to immediately see some Burkett markers — but we didn't! We started looking at the names on markers in the vicinity and then looking at the records trying to determine that we were in the right location. It seemed we were but something just didn't seem right. So Audy started out on his proven method of roaming a cemetery and shortly I heard him holler, "Oliver, come over here." He had located a marker for George W. Burkett but it sure didn't seem to be where the records showed. Nor were there any other Burkett markers adjacent to this one although the records showed George's wife, Lucinda, was right next to him. Now, I'm really confused. And Audy can't believe there were no other markers. Here is the marker Audy found.

Looking at the dates though seemed to prove this was our George Burkett but we were really dumb-founded there were no other markers! Look at the picture below and you can see what we were looking at.



The arrow is pointing to the front of the marker for George and you can see all the empty space around it. Talk about confusion and disappointment! We had encountered this before for relatives who died in the 1800's but felt that there should be something for folks who died in the 1900's. See the map on the next page.

Osage Cemetery  
Burlingame, Kansas

EAST

A daughter of George & Lucinda Burkett

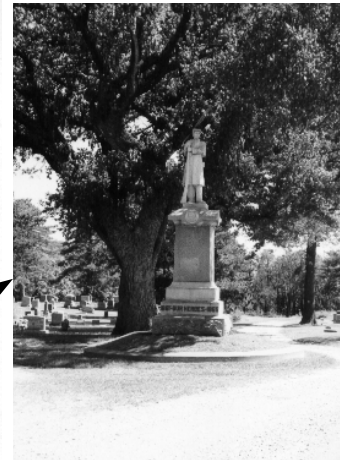
Lot 432 Space 1  
Jennie Burkett Gabler  
Lot 432 Space 2  
Peter Gabler

A daughter of  
George & Lucinda

Lot 275 Space 10  
Mettie Burkett Wells  
Lot 275 Space 6  
Edwin A. Wells

Lot 152 Space 3  
Walter Burkett  
Lot 152 Space 9  
Charles Ray Burkett

Sons of George &  
Lucinda Burkett



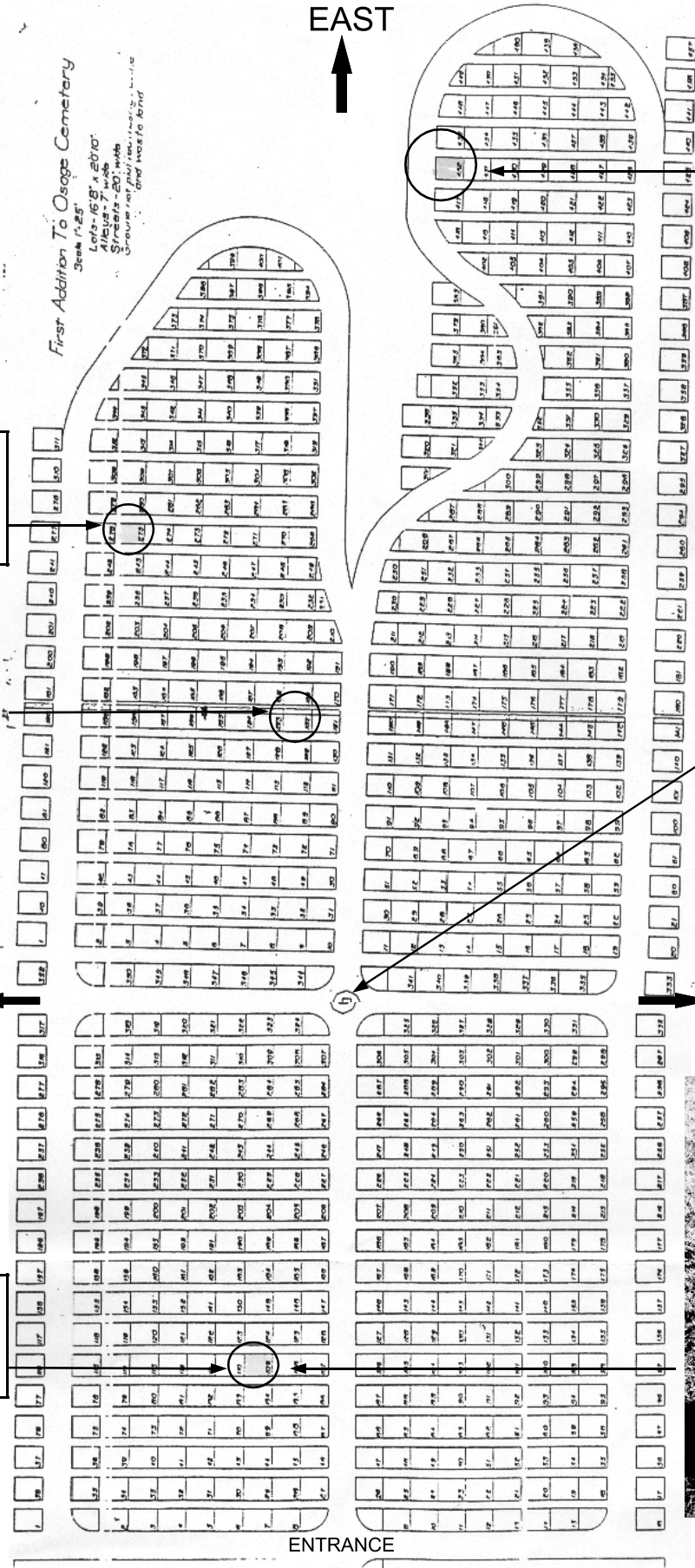
NORTH

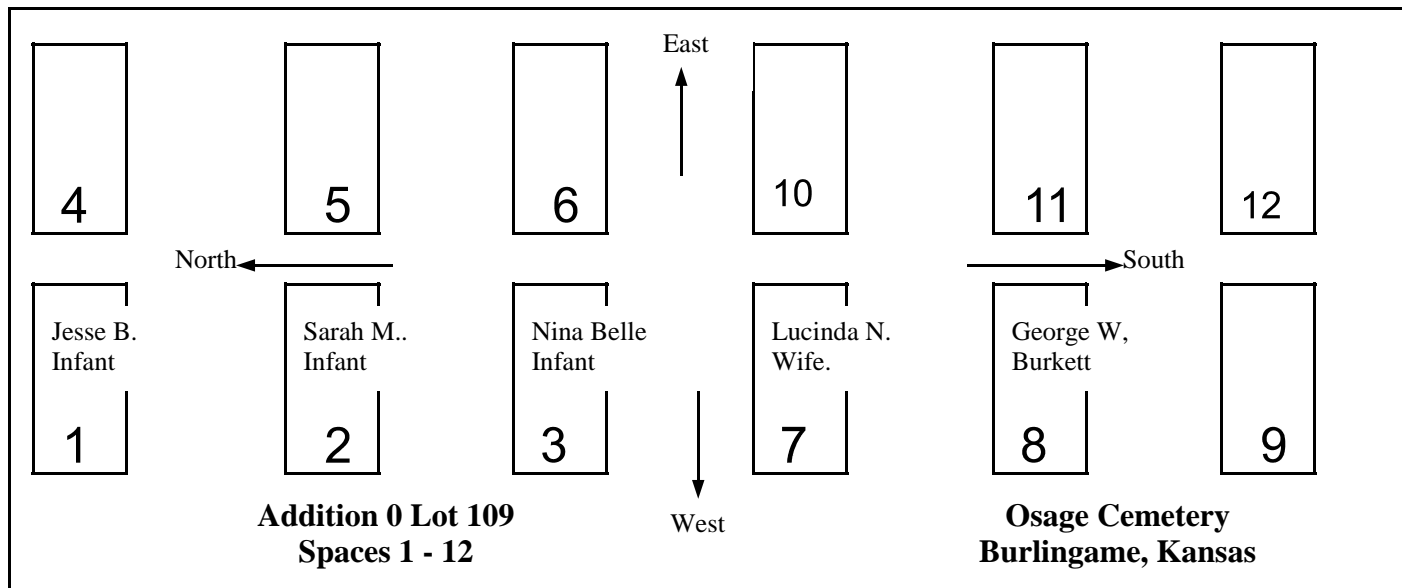
SOUTH

Lot 109 Spaces 1-12  
George Washington  
Burkett, wife, & 3 infants  
(See layout, next page)



ENTRANCE





The above is how the Lot of 12 spaces owned by George W. Burkett was laid out BUT we didn't know that when we were out there. However, there were still no markers on the other side of the one for George which is what the above shows. [I got this information after I returned home and got back in touch with Linda Fagan. She started calling around and found out the layout. Furthermore, she told me the grave spaces were much smaller then than now because, in many cases, they didn't even use caskets but wrapped the bodies in cloth. When they did use caskets they were much smaller than now.]

You will notice on the cemetery layout on the previous page I make reference to Mettie Burkett Wells, one of the daughters of George and Lucinda Burkett. I'll have more to say about that in a later article which will outline information I learned after I got home.

Audy and I finally grew tired of searching the cemetery and went back to town. It was about noon and we decided to eat a bite before heading out on the road again. We went to the Bell Mine # 17 restaurant on the main street. The name came from the fact there used to be a lot of coal mines there until folks began to switch over to gas. We got to talking to the waitress and she brought the owner over who sat down and talked with us for a while about our family search. She suggested we stop off at the Newspaper which was just down the street. We learned she and her husband also owned a Bed and Breakfast there in Burlingame shown below.



Primrose Garden Inn

Burlingame, Kansas

So we finished our lunch and went down to the Newspaper office and spoke to the owner who tried but could not help us.

We left Burlingame headed for LaRussell, Missouri. To get there we had to go back through Osage City and I asked Audy to stop while I called Linda Fagan. (Remember she was the one who sent me the obituaries.) We pulled over to a pay phone and I called Linda and found her at home but a little under the weather. She was delighted that we were out there and that she had been so much help.

After talking with Linda, we headed on across the state line into Missouri and turned south toward LaRussell to visit Erma Burkett Whitehead. Erma had attended the Huntsville reunion in 1997 along with daughter Patricia and her husband, Rodney Guinn, and Erma's sister, Annalea Burkett Teeters who lives across the state in Cape Girardeau, Missouri.

Before beginning our visit and to refresh your memory, let me outline where Erma is on our family tree. Henry Isaac Burkett (referred to by us as Henry, Jr.) moved to LaRussell with his wife and three (3) sons about 1853. He died there from diabetes. His wife, Nancy Evans Burkett, returned to Tennessee with their sons to be near her parents. The sons were James Edward, Isaac Evans, and Robert. James Edward married Angelina Brown and they had five (5) children born to them in Tennessee. James Edward Burkett moved his family to LaRussell about 1900.

One of those children was Horace Evans Burkett who was about seven (7) years old at the time they moved. Horace married Clara Brinkman January 3, 1918 and they had four (4) children — Erma, James William, Annalea, and Betty. Erma married Fred Whitehead December 24, 1939 and they had four (4) children — Patricia, Fred, Larry, and Linda.

So Erma's line runs as follows:

- ☐ Henry Burkett, Sr.
- ☐ Henry Isaac Burkett (we call him Jr.)
- ☐ James Edward Burkett
- ☐ Horace Evans Burkett
- ☐ Erma

We arrived, checked into the motel and I called Erma to let her know we were there and asked what time we should



come over the next morning. She told me to come on anytime — she was an early riser.

**Tuesday September 14 -**

And still another great day! Audy and I can't get over the excellent weather we have had all the way. We got a fairly early start heading over to Erma's a little after 8 o'clock. Following her directions it was an easy trip to her house. As we entered the driveway, Audy commented, "There ought to be some deer in this country." Later we found out from Erma that there were deer there.

We rang the doorbell and looked around while waiting for Erma — nice country. She came to the door and greeted us with a big old hug and said, "Come on in." I want to stop here and tell you that Erma had an all day trip to Kansas City planned for this day but cancelled it when I told her our schedule. Thank you, Erma. We really appreciate you doing that. We went in, sat down and gave Erma a rundown on where all we had been and what we had done since we left Huntsville. After talking a while, Erma asked what we would like to do. We said we would like to visit the cemetery so away we went.



*Angelina Brown Burkett*      *James Edward Burkett*  
 June 20, 1859 - July 10, 1958    Dec 28, 1848 - Feb 12, 1939  
 Grandparents of Erma Burkett Whitehead



*Clara Brinkman Burkett*      *Horace Evans Burkett*  
 July 26, 1895 - June 2, 1980    Jan 3, 1893 - May 18, 1980  
 Parents of Erma Burkett Whitehead

I did not realize until posting the above dates that, as

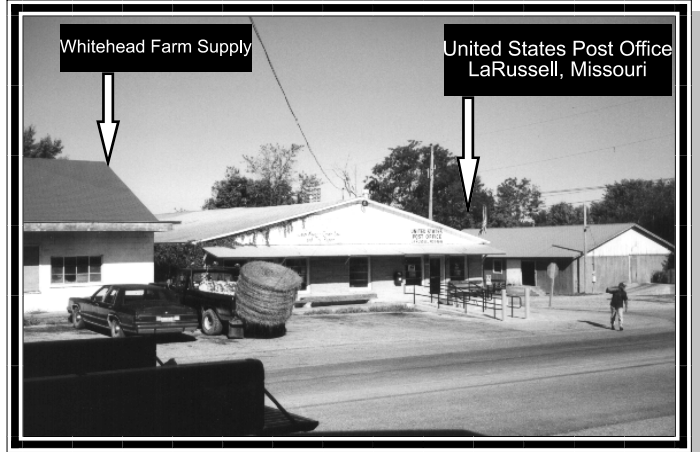
often happens, Erma's parents died within a couple of weeks of each other.

Others buried there in the Harvey Cemetery is a brother of Erma's, James William, and two Uncles, Thomas Bard Burkett and William Henry Burkett. Thomas died as a young man of only 20 in a lumber mill accident.

Leaving the cemetery we headed over to the Whitehead Farm Supply business operated now by one of Erma's sons, Fred. There are two (2) buildings involved — one across the street from the other.



The above shows one of the buildings and the picture below only shows one corner of the building across the street.



Erma took us in both buildings and introduced us all around. We went first to the building in the top photo and found out that her son, Fred, was across the street so, after meeting those folks in that building, we went across the street to the above building and met Fred. After visiting with Fred and meeting some of his customers and neighbors, we left and went just around the corner to visit Patricia Guinn, Erma's daughter. Rodney, Patricia's husband, was at work so we didn't get to see him. We sat and talked with Patricia telling her where we had been, what we had done, and what we hoped to still accomplish on the trip by stopping in Russellville, Arkansas. They were disappointed that Sid Huggins wasn't able to be with us this trip but understood about him selling his house and he had to be there for that.

By now, we are well up into the morning so we

reluctantly said goodbye to Patricia. But before leaving we had to take some pictures shown below.



*L to R - Patricia Guinn, Audy Majors, Erma Whitehead*

I don't know who wanted that Ford Thunderbird more — me or Audy! It was in excellent condition.

Now here is something else Audy would like to have — an old gas pump. It sits just in front of the Thunderbird in the above photo. For the benefit of our younger relatives who have never seen one of these, the arrow points to a lever which you had to move back and forth to pump gas up into the clear container at the top. Not clearly visible is a marker which



shows the number of gallons. The gas is fed by gravity from the upper tank through the hose on the left side of the pump into the car and the number of gallons is determined by reading the marker. Not exactly an entirely accurate method but that's the way it was!

***(Warning to Rodney and Patricia: If you hear that Audy and I are in the vicinity better lock up both the car and pump!)***

After leaving Patricia's, we drove Erma home and bid our goodbye's without going in because we needed to get on the road to Russellville, Arkansas. There we were to meet David Bunton, a Gilley descendant, who had information on another son of Henry and Polly Burkett, James Burkett and his wife, Mary Ann Gilley Burkett.

#### **Mid-afternoon arrival in Russellville -**

Again meeting little traffic, we arrived in Russellville on schedule. I had talked with David giving him an approximate

time when we would be there and he gave me directions as to where to stop and call him when we arrived. He explained it was too confusing to give me directions and that he would meet and lead us over to his mother's house. We called and David arrived within ten (10) minutes to lead us to his mother's house. Mrs. Bunton proved to be a most hospitable person offering us cokes, etc.

We settled down and began our conversation about families with David explaining his connection with the Gilley's and how he ran across the information he had about James Burkett. For now, let me stop and establish what we knew about James, which was actually very little.

James was the eighth of eleven (11) children born to Henry and Polly Burkett. James was born about 1839 and married Mary Ann Gilley November 17, 1856 in Cannon County, Tennessee. They had four (4) children born to them in Tennessee: Sarah, Jacob, Cordelia, and Clementine.

For a long time, we did not know what happened to James and his family. They were in the 1860 Cannon County, Tennessee census and in the July 1870 Census for Wilson County, Tennessee showing they lived in Shop Springs but we could not locate them after that. Finally, I posted an inquiry on a Tennessee internet site and learned from another Gilley descendant that they were on the 1880 census for Madison County, Arkansas. I then posted an inquiry on an Arkansas internet site and that is where David picked it up. In searching for his Gilley ancestors, David had come across a Civil War Veteran's Survey authorized and conducted by the State of Arkansas and which James Burkett had completed. It was these documents we were anxious to see. David had also told me he thought he had a letter from one of the descendants. Unfortunately, as of now, he has been unable to locate that letter.

Getting back to our visit with David and his mother and after we had been talking for quite a while, I think David sensed I was getting anxious to look at the information he had so he got up and went into another room where there was a copy machine. He returned with the copies but sat down without handing the copies to me. However, he had a grin on his face and I realized he was having fun holding back since he now realized from our conversation that he had important information we did not have. But finally, he got up and handed the copies to me.

Well, I have to tell you I got excited just looking at the first page because one of the first things I saw was the birthplace for Henry Burkett, Jame's father. But as I read further, I realized there were mistakes — or at least there were discrepancies between what James said and what we have learned from other documents.

On the next page I have reproduced that first page and, in the left hand column, added some clarifying comments. One of the things that occurred to me was that James was 73 years old when he answered this survey and it was just possible his memory was faulty in some respects. His wife, Mary Ann, had died about two (2) years before the survey so she was not there to help him. However, I have been told — and it has been my experience — that when these mistakes do happen, they most often happen with dates and not with names. So read on.



# ARKANSAS HISTORY COMMISSION

## BIOGRAPHICAL MEMORANDA

(Collected in Pursuance of Act No. 363, Acts 1911.)

EXERCISE GREAT CARE SHOULD BE EXERCISED IN FILLING THE BLANKS WHICH FOLLOW. DATA SHOULD BE FULL AND ACCURATE. THE FACTS GIVEN WILL FORM THE BASIS FOR SKETCHES, AND IF WANTING IN DETAIL OR IF CARELESSLY PREPARED, THE SKETCHES WILL BE CORRESPONDINGLY DEFICIENT. COLLECT ALL DATA AND EXAMINE BLANK CAREFULLY BEFORE ATTEMPTING TO FILL. ATTACH SHEETS OF THIS SIZE FOR ADDITIONAL DATA.

[Burkett]

1. FULL NAME (DO NOT USE INITIALS): Lumen Burkett

Ralph, Arkansas

2. PRESENT P. O. (GIVE LAST ADDRESS, WITH DATE OF DEATH IF DEAD): Ralph

We have his birth year as 1839 instead of 1830 and it's Jacksboro, not Jacks Burror, TN which is about 25 miles NW of Knoxville

3. EXACT DATE AND PLACE OF BIRTH: ON Jan 17 1830 Jacks Burror.

IN THE COUNTY OF Warren County STATE OF Tennessee

It's Guilford County, NC not Gilford County.

4. FULL NAME OF THE SUBJECT'S FATHER: Henry Burkett BORN AT

IN THE COUNTY OF Gilford County STATE OF N.C.

HE LIVED AT Jacks Burror Tennessee from

Give also any particulars concerning him, as official Position, War services, etc., books written by, etc

1832 till 1836 then in Decalb. County till his Death.

We have documentation proving Henry's death in 1875 and not 1877

1877

This is what he remembers his g'fathers name was but did not remember g'mother nor where they lived.

HE WAS THE SON OF

Membrance Burkett AND HIS WIFE ?

Full name

Full name

WHO LIVED AT ?

This is what he says his mother's full name was -- Magdalene ?

5. MAIDEN NAME IN FULL OF THE SUBJECT'S MOTHER: Mary Magdalene Epley SHE WAS

THE DAUGHTER OF George Epley AND HIS WIFE ?

Full name

Full name

WHO LIVED AT in N.C.

Obvious and proven error here - Mary's parents were Daniel Epley, Sr. and Catherine Keebler. George was a brother to Mary.

6. REMARKS ON ANCESTRY. GIVE HERE ANY AND ALL FACTS POSSIBLE IN REFERENCE TO YOUR PARENTS, GRANDPARENTS, GREAT-GRANDPARENTS, ETC., NOT INCLUDED IN THE FOREGOING, AS WHERE THEY LIVED, OFFICES HELD, REVOLUTIONARY OR OTHER WAR SERVICE; WHAT COUNTRY THE FAMILY CAME FROM TO AMERICA, WHERE FIRST SETTLED, COUNTY AND STATE; ALWAYS GIVING FULL NAMES (IF POSSIBLE) AND NEVER REFERRING TO AN ANCESTOR SIMPLY AS SUCH WITHOUT GIVING THE NAME. IT IS DESIRABLE TO INCLUDE EVERY FACT POSSIBLE, AND TO THAT END THE FULL AND EXACT RECORD FROM OLD BIBLES SHOULD BE APPENDED ON SEPARATE SHEETS OF THIS SIZE, THUS PRESERVING THE FACTS FROM LOSS:

If you read the above instructions for this section, you can see why we had hoped to find some information listed here. But, as you can see, it is blank. Any of it it would have been helpful but it would have been really helpful if he had listed the country his ancestors came from. Apparently, he either had never known or had forgotten.

Ralph  
Memorandum

Do Not Write in this Margin.



From here on I will only include excerpts since there were many sections with no information.

7. EARLY EDUCATION—WHERE OBTAINED, INCIDENTS, NAMES OF TEACHERS: *in Country*

*School. Bob Patterson. Wm Kempf.  
S.D. Holt. G.W. Smith.  
Joseph Perriman*

The above indicates he had some schooling but we have no records where he was called upon to sign his name so we do not know if he could read or write.

10. PROFESSION OR OCCUPATION—DATE ENTERED UPON, WHERE PRACTICED, AND INCIDENTS OF:

*Farming from 1841 till  
present time 1912.*

Not attempting to be funny but, if he started farming in 1841, he started at a very young age since he was only two (2) years old! I think this was just another mental error which the person conducting the interview should have picked up.

13. POLITICAL PARTY—OFFICIAL POSITION, COMMITTEE WORK IN, ETC.:

*Democrat all my life.*

14. CHURCH CONNECTION—WITH OFFICIAL POSITION, IF ANY:

*Methodist South ~~then~~ from 1849  
till 1908 then joined C.M.  
Church of which I am a member  
now.*

17. MAIDEN NAME IN FULL OF THE SUBJECT'S WIFE, WITH DATE AND PLACE OF MARRIAGE:

Mary Gilley. Married in Cannon County Tenn. Feb 7th 1850

SHE WAS THE DAUGHTER OF Ned Gilley AND HIS

WIFE Mary Collins WHO LIVED AT Short mts. Tenn.

GIVE ALSO OTHER AND FULL PARTICULARS OF WIFE'S ANCESTRY, AS FAR AS POSSIBLE:

?

In the above, we again see some errors. He states his marriage date was Feb 7, 1850 but the official records indicate it was Nov 17, 1856. His wife, Mary Ann Gilley, was born in January 1937 based on census data and on the Gilley descendants records so she would have only been 13 years old if they had been married in 1850. He did remember his mother-in-law correctly as Mary Collins and his father-in-law was Edward Gilley probably known as Ned. But notice he had no additional information to offer about his wife's ancestors.

18. FULL LIST OF THE CHILDREN (IF ANY) OF THE SUBJECT OF THIS SKETCH, WITH FULL NAMES OF HUSBANDS AND WIVES OF EACH, IN CASE OF MARRIAGE, WITH PRESENT PLACE OF RESIDENCE AND P. O., NUMBERING THEM IN REGULAR ORDER, VIZ:

- (1) Sarah Burkett. Dead
- 2 J. F. Burkett.  p.o. unknown
- 3 Mary Waterfield.  " "
- 4 Delia Burkett.  " Ralph Ark
- 5 Riley Reed.  Dead
- 6 Clementine Burkett " " Yellville Ark
- 7 Nancy Tennessee " " Free St
- 8 R. L. Burkett.  " " Tomahawk
- 9 Mary Mc Nare.  " "

ite on this Margin.

The above instructions say to list the children and their husbands or wives. Using that as a guideline and knowing the children born in Tennessee were Sarah, Jacob, Cordelia (Delia), and Clementine, I believe it shows that J.F. (Jacob) Burkett married Mary Waterfield; Cordelia (Delia) Burkett married Riley Reed; and R.L. Burkett married Mary McNare. It further gives us the names of the children born in Arkansas — Nancy Tennessee Burkett and R.L. (Robert) Burkett. It also shows that Sarah Burkett was already dead at the time of this survey (August 12, 1912); he did not know where his oldest son, Jacob, was living (P.O. Unknown); and that Delia's husband, Riley Reed had also died. The towns of Ralph, Yellville, and Tomahawk are all within a few miles of each other up near the Missouri border. I cannot determine what the P.O. address is for Nancy Tennessee.

I have two (2) more pages but they contain only the details of his service during the Civil War and do not provide us with any more details about the family. However, at one point, he is asked to list the soldiers he remembers and he lists four (4) Gilley's: Jack Gilley, a brother-in-law; Ned Gilley, his father-in-law; Amos Gilley, a brother-in-law; and a Bob Gilley, possibly a brother to Ned Gilley. Amos Gilley died in March 1897 and is buried in the Jefferson Hall Cemetery 6 miles south of Yellville toward Ralph, Arkansas. ( In 1994 enroute to my first trip to Texas, I detoured up to see Branson, Missouri and Mountain Home, Arkansas. Looking back at the route I followed, I passed right through Yellville and Ralph, Arkansas and probably passed the Jefferson Hall Cemetery. But I obviously knew none of this at that time.)

As for his age, I am really confused about that. The 1850 Cannon County Tennessee census shows James living at home with his parents and lists his age as 11 which means he was born in 1839. I have been basing everything on this being pretty accurate. However, from his Confederate Pension Records as provided by David Bunton, James states on June 15, 1901 that he is 65 years old which would mean he was born in 1836. In another part of his Pension records on July 27, 1908, a Physician, J. I. Thompson, states James is 74 years old which would make his birth year 1834. On page 1 of this Survey, you will recall James gave his birth date as January 17, 1830. But we have it fairly well documented that his brother Jacob Burkett was born March 15, 1830 so that would rule out 1830. My final answer — I just frankly don't know for sure. However, the Genealogist rule is to go with the document closest to the event (his birth) which would be the 1850 Census showing him to be 11 years old and thereby making his birth year 1839. For now, I will list James birth as being January 17, 1839.

Back on Page 15, I stated we did not know if James could read or write. However, looking back through some of the information provided by David Bunton, I find that James made his mark ("x") on one of the Confederate Pension documents so that pretty well establishes that he could not read or write.

As far as descendants, the possibility looks fairly slim. From what we know right now, only three (3) of his children married and we have no records at this time as to whether or not they had children. I need to find the Arkansas Census records for 1890, 1900, and 1910 to see what they might reveal.

We did learn that Henry Burkett, Sr. was born in Guilford, N.C. and that his father's name was Memberance. At this point, I believe that to be correct since, as I previously said, memory errors tend to occur with dates but not with names and places.

Our thanks to David Bunton for providing this information.

#### **Tuesday Late afternoon - Headed for Huntsville!**

We left Russellville and headed for Huntsville feeling pretty darn good about what we had accomplished during this trip. We stopped the other side of Little Rock to spend the night although I believe Audy might have driven on through to get back to that new grandson!

#### **Wednesday Afternoon -Huntsville**

We arrived back to find the family anxious to hear about the trip. All in all just an excellent trip during which we enjoyed visiting with our relatives and learning new information.

#### **Thursday - Huntsville**

I have to admit this was a lazy day for both of us. I spent part of the day organizing my gear since I was heading back to Tampa Friday morning. But we were also looking forward to an evening at a cousin's house. Danny Banks had invited us up for dinner and he bbq'd some pork ribs using a "secret family recipe" and they were delicious. After stuffing ourselves and saying thanks to Danny, we headed on back to Audy's fairly early so I could get a good night's sleep and an early morning start for Tampa.

#### **Friday - Enroute to Tampa**

As planned and with Audy's help, I got an early start out of Huntsville arriving back in Tampa about 6:30 PM Tampa time. As the saying goes, "It's good to go but it's good to get back home!" I will confess to really being lazy because I only unloaded my pajamas and shaving kit! But what a trip! I'll have more so keep on reading. ■

### ***My Comments at the Reunion -***

During the comment portion of the reunion, I simply had to voice my opinion about the descendants of Joesph Lafayette Burkett. Of all the branches of our family known to me at this time, this group has done more to preserve and record information about our family than any other. They have collected and kept photo's and recollections. They have met and exchanged memories and recorded them in the process. They have typed them and made copies including the publishing of a professionally bound book more than an inch thick. The front cover of that book is shown below.



In the Introduction section of the book, here is a portion of what they had to say. "On a cool September weekend in



1995, the three of us met at Enza Dell's house in Stephenville, Texas. We were well supplied with tape recorders, tapes, memories and a desire to "talk." We take full responsibility and do apologize for mistakes or inaccuracies as presented here. We record these events as we remember them and are the first to admit one event can be remembered three different ways and probably none of the versions are totally correct so as you read a story and think, "My Mother told it this way," that's okay, that's the way she remembered it."

Verna Bess Collins  
Enza Dell Wilson  
Floretta Chambers

(All three are daughters of George Newton Burkett and granddaughters of Joseph Lafayette Burkett.)

I have now read the entire book, at times reading so late that I would fall asleep and have the book hit me in the face —

couldn't lay it down! Many thanks for giving me a copy. I can assure you that you will be seeing information from that book in future issues of the Newsletter.

My congratulations not only to the above three relatives but to all the rest who have contributed with their photo's and recollections. What you have accomplished will be appreciated by a lot of descendants for many years to come. ■

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## ***Burlingame, Kansas and Mettie Burkett Wells -***

After getting back to Tampa, I sat down to review what we learned about George Washington Burkett during our visit to Burlingame. I told you about visiting the newspaper office and, although he couldn't help very much, he did give me a copy of the Burketts buried in Osage Cemetery. Using that copy and the obituaries that Linda Fagan had provided, I was able to locate the graves as shown on the cemetery map. Although a little discouraged, we've run into brick walls before so I started looking on the Internet at the telephone white pages listings for Burketts, Gablers and Wells in and around Burlingame. Here I got lucky and found a Robert Wells in Burlingame. I called and, sure enough, he was related. However, he told me I needed to talk to his father who lives in Overbrook, Kansas just north of Burlingame. I called and spoke with John 'Jack' Wells. We had a most interesting conversation and he seemed glad to hear from me. However, he did not know too much himself but told me about a cousin who had done some work on the Burketts. I put together a package and mailed it to him. He has referred this package to the cousin so I am now waiting to hear from her. Perhaps I'll have some interesting information for the next issue.

Still more information was provided by Linda Fagan. I had emailed her about what we had learned and she called the Funeral Home and the Director recalled that a Don Bailey had contacted him about a marker for George Washington Burkett. Linda went by the cemetery and looked at the marker. She then sent another email pointing out that the marker looked

very new and she didn't think it could be more than a couple of years old. Looking back at my picture of the marker, I had to agree with her. I again went to the telephone white pages on the internet and found a Don Bailey in Osage City. I called and he confirmed it was his father who had the marker placed within the past two to three years but his father was not related to the Burketts. I had hoped to speak with his father to thank him but have been unable to reach him at this time. I have learned there are individuals around the country, such as members of the American Legion and/or the VFW, who make a point of checking for veterans without markers and who then apply to the government to have a marker placed on the grave. Hopefully, I will be able to contact Mr. Bailey and learn what led him to do this. ■

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## ***Bricks for the Goldthwaite reunion -***

Back on page 5, I included a picture which shows two (2) bricks taken out there by Audy Majors and given away as door prizes. Below are pictures of the chimney those bricks came from. This is the remains of a house once owned by Henry Burkett Sr. off Highway 146 (Short Mountain Road) behind the Church of Christ which is the cemetery where he is supposed to be buried.



*Both of these photo's were provided by Joe Burkett of Angleton, Texas and taken during a trip to Tennessee in 1978.*

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***The real art of conversation is not only to say the right thing at the right time, but also to leave unsaid the wrong thing at the tempting moment.***

## Wes and Jewel Parker -

I have included a lot of information in previous Newsletters, including photo's, which were provided by Wes Parker. Now I am able to bring you a picture of Wes and his wife Jewel. Wes is a great grandson of Martha Jane Burkett and a second great grandson of Henry Burkett Sr. They live in California and I have previously mentioned the Website which Wes has worked long and hard at and which I recommended



you visit. Again, here is that address and I recommend you take the time to visit it and make sure you sign the guest book to let Wes know you were there.

[www.geocities.com/heartland/lane/5591](http://www.geocities.com/heartland/lane/5591)

Thanks for all your help, Wes. ■

## Another New Baby! -

Well, it's new to us simply because of the lag time in getting out the Newsletter. But we welcome Sarah Elizabeth Bond, born August 19, 1999, and weighed in at 7 lbs 8 oz, nineteen inches long (she can't stand yet!) and *very* healthy. This comes from Patsy Coleman Smart, Sarah's great grandmother. Patsy is a granddaughter of George Newton Burkett, a great granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett, a second great granddaughter of Jacob Lorenza Burkett and a third great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr. so if I have my facts straight, Sarah is a 6th great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr !! ■

## Things Some of our Ancestors Never Experienced -

Carbonated water — also called soda water — was being made in the United States by 1807. Within the next twenty (20) years soda water was being flavored with lemon and ginger. Ginger ale was marketed in 1871. Charles Hires began making his root beer in 1876 and the drink now called Dr. Pepper was first made in Waco, Texas in 1885. Then in 1886, an Atlanta pharmacist came up with a syrup that was soon dubbed Coca-Cola. The pharmacist used his syrup as a

patent medicine, claiming that it cured headaches, indigestion, and other ailments. By 1888 the syrup was in the possession of another local pharmacist, Asa Briggs Candler. It was Candler who built the Coca-Cola Company into a worldwide enterprise. By 1895 Coca-Cola was sold in every state and bottling began in 1899. ■

## Huntsville, Alabama Reunion '99 -

I couldn't let another issue go by without including at least one picture of the baskets made and donated by Verdie Andrews. Verdie is the husband of Kathleen Majors, one of my first cousins and, like me, a third great grandchild of Henry Burkett, Sr.



Folks, this is genuine talent. The above picture does not begin to do justice to the workmanship required to produce one of these. And he brings several each year of various sizes and shapes which are given away as door prizes.

Thanks, Verdie. I guarantee all of us appreciate your generosity and the work you put into these. ■

## Sisters Birdie and Gladys -

Birdie and Gladys were daughters of Joseph Lafayette Burkett. Looks to me like they are dressed for some type of school activity. I don't know the year but just guessing that Birdie is about 18 the year would have been 1916.



Birdie Burkett Chambers  
1898 - 1981

(These pictures were loaned to me by LaJuana Ivy)



Gladys Burkett Hodges  
1904 - 1991

*The  
Historian's  
Corner -  
Oliver Webb*



What a Year! The Huntsville and Goldthwaite Reunions — the visit to the Burkett House in Eastland; Burlingame, Kansas; visiting with relatives in LaRussell, Missouri; and stopping off in Russellville, Arkansas to pick up information. Also, a lot of information and photo's was contributed this year; so much so that I have not had time to enter it all into the computer.

But there's a downside to it all. I get somewhere and get to enjoying it so much I don't want to leave! I still believe our Burketts are some of the finest people on this earth. They made Audy and me feel so welcome the only way we would leave was by remembering all the other places we had to visit. Thanks to all of you for your kindness and hospitality!

This year brought some other good news and bad news. The bad news was that my computer not only ran out of memory but was not Y2K compliant — so I had to buy a new one. Plus some of my software had to be upgraded as well so between hardware and software it set me back more than a few hundred bucks. But the good news is that I really enjoy the new computer and software since it is so much faster plus I can have several tasks going on at the same time which saves me a lot of time.

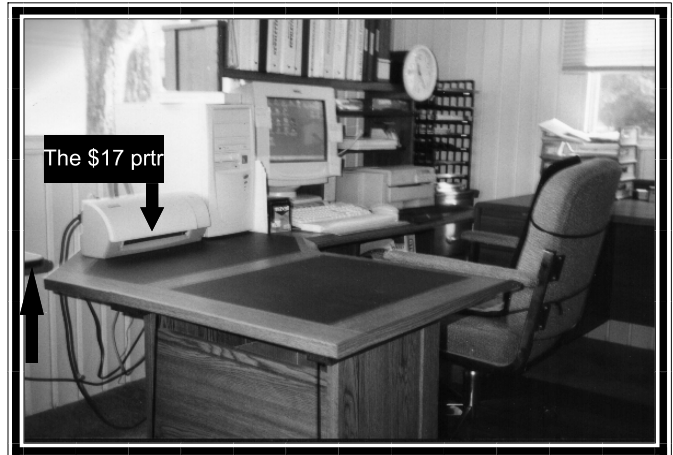
On the subject of computers, the first page of this Newsletter which is in color is the result of a gift from my youngest son. He saw a demo model on sale for \$17.00 which included an almost full cartridge — and they cost \$35.00 — so he bought it and brought it over. But as you might imagine for 17 bucks, it's slow and the cartridges are expensive so you won't see much more produced from it.

This year also saw me have to add to my setup for handling all the family info. I had to buy a 6 foot folding table and move my dot matrix printers to it in order to have enough room to work.

In the next column is a picture of my layout now so you can get an idea of me sitting here pounding away at the keyboard! I have also bought some new storage boxes to rearrange how I have sorted all the information about the family. I am *hoping* — got my fingers crossed — to get back to work on the family book and on collecting the Newsletters into some type of bound book.

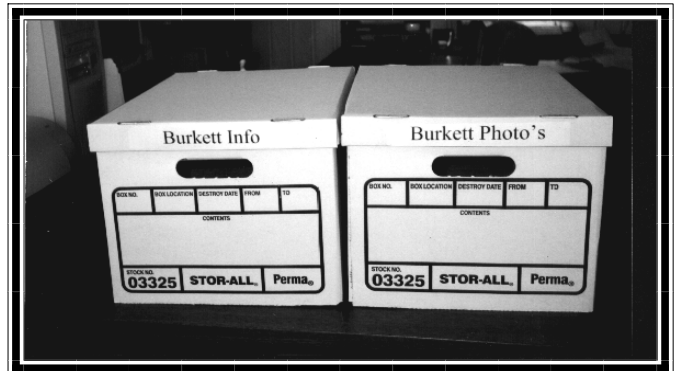
As for you computer purists, yes, I know the cables are

showing in the photo below but I had just connected that 17 dollar printer and they are now out of sight!!



Just barely showing with the arrow pointing to it is one corner of the folding table. Over to my right is a full size desk and over my right shoulder is a 5-shelf full size bookshelf. So you can see I have a pretty good layout for doing my work.

Below are two of the boxes I am setting up for storage but don't think for one minute that these two will hold everything! I have more boxes, just not in the picture.



I had hoped to get this out so you would have it in early December and I could wish everybody a Happy Holiday Season. But I didn't so now all I can do is say I hope everybody had Happy Holiday's.

That's all for this issue. I have many more pictures and information which I will share with you in the next issue. ■

### ***Latest Information on Burkett Pens -***

I have just received an email from Dorthy Watson who has been our contact for Pens and boxes. Kenn's Penns was the first firm authorized by the Commission to produce these pens but it turned out they were not living up to their agreement so the Historical Commission cancelled the contract. Now, according to Dorthy, Kenn's Penns not only did not return all of the wood but have been advertising them via a Web site. The Police have talked with them and they promised to return the wood. If any of you bought a pen directly from Kenn's Penns, please contact me. ■