



THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION

Tough Times in Texas -

The years prior to and even after the arrival in Texas of John Williams and his wife, Annie Epley Williams, were tough ones. For a time, the survival of the settlements was even in question because of Indians. Here are three letters written to the then Governor of Texas, H.R. Runnels, outlining some of those Indian problems..

October 25, 1858

San Saba

To His Excellency H. R. Runnels

Sir:

On Saturday the 16th inst. I set out from this place with ten men to scout for Indians. We went East of Camp Colorado on the divide between Pecan Bayou and the Colorado. On Thursday 21st inst. we struck an Indian trail on Clear Creek about thirty five miles north of this place. We followed the trail and at about ten miles found parts of two cows killed by the Indians - about half of each had been taken away. Following on about ten miles on Friday we reached the late residence of Joshua Jackson. It was deserted. Two miles further we found the bodies of Joshua Jackson, Mrs. Jackson, their daughter, aged about 16 years, and a little boy aged about seven years. They had been murdered by the Indians on Thursday about ten o'clock. The bodies we ourselves buried. Two sons who escaped tell us that two of the family are still missing - probably carried off by the Indians; a daughter aged about eleven and a boy about nine years of age.

Since that time my men have been on the outskirts of the settlements being unable to go in pursuit for want of supplies. The supplies having just come, we will pursue the Indians tomorrow with about sixty men - will be in active service from this time.

We have reliable information that another company of Indians is in the settlements; the trail was followed down Pecan Bayou from near Camp Colorado by Carter Mays and sixteen men. A few days ago these Indians pursued a Mr. Adams, captured his horse, which he abandoned for a thicket to save his life.

The settlers are abandoning Pecan Bayou from below Chandlers to the Colorado to Queen's settlement, about eight miles above the mouth of San Saba. The people will retreat still further unless immediate protection is afforded.

It would be too tedious to give all the rumors afloat (many which seem authentic). We will keep you advised of the movements of the company.

Respectfully
Captain John Williams
By Lieut. D/C. Cowan

Affadavit sent to Governor Runnels by B.S. Whitaker

The State of Texas
County of Lampasas

Be it remembered that on this day personally appeared before the undersigned authority, William Windham and Joseph Willis, both citizens of Brown County, Texas, who after being sworn (illegible) and says that on Thursday last in said county of Brown, a party of Indians supposed to be about twenty in number attacked the family of Joshua Jackson who were out gathering pecans, consisting of the old man and his wife, two sons and two daughters, all missing. The old lady and one of the boys I saw killed at the wagon. We have been informed and believe it to be true that the old man was afterwards found dead about 150 yards from the wagon. The trail was followed about one half mile to the river and found on said trail a stocking belonging to one of the little girls with spots of blood on it. We have every reason to believe that the whole family has been murdered save the little girls, who have been carried into a captivity a thousand fold worse than death itself.

On this 25th day of October personally appeared before me B.S. Whitaker Notary Public for Lampasas County, William Windham & Jasper Willis who before me make oath that the facts stated in the foregoing statement were true testimony. Whereby I have herewith set my hand and seal of office at said office this 25th day of October AD 1858.

Letter from H. Ryan to H.R. Runnels

_____ Lampasas 30th Oct. 1858

My Dear Sir,

Today I arrived home and found our people much more alarmed than when I left — Large numbers have moved on into the counties below this, a number of families have been persuaded to stop here, and every house in town is full — all free of rent. We understand that what families are above this are fortified, none daring to attend to their business.

One of the young ladies that was supposed to have been taken into captivity has been found murdered. One of her breasts was cut off and her person otherwise butchered.

The company that left on Monday in pursuit of these Indians followed their trail from within twelve miles of this place along the dividing ridge or range of mountains between the cowhouse and Leon on the one side of Lampasas and Pecan Bayou on the other. Near Pecan the trail divided, one keeping on out of the settlements the other turning down the Pecan, the party that pursued the one leading from the settlements pursued it until they met a company that had went out from Cora¹ on the information given them by the mail rider of a party of Indians leaving the settlements with a drove of horses. They had went out armed with Pistols only -, and overtook four Indians they killed one, wounding two others badly and captured about thirty five

horses, also found upon and within the Indians some clothing recognized as having belonged to Mr. Jackson and family. Those that pursued the trail down the Pecan were unable to find them. They think they divided and are yet in the county hunting more horses.

This is the best information I can get in the alarm and confusion to this place at present; I hope someone that has been out will inform you more fully. I shall start on Tuesday morning for Camp Colorado, and will be out some days in the country.

Your letter was read to the citizens they seemed disappointed that I will not get a company.

Your Friend &
Obedient Servant
Hillary Ryan

¹ Probably supposed to be Coryell County

Letter from D.C. Cowan To H.R. Runnels

Nov 7, 1858

Governor H.R. Runnels _____

Dear Sir

I left Capt. John Williams Camp on the 3 inst. for the purpose of forwarding supplies. By his instruction I give you the following since our leave on Monday evening 25th Oct. Lieutenant G. P. Cowan started with twelve men in pursuit of Mr. Jacksons two children that was carried off by the Indians and found them on the divide between the head of North Leon and Pecan waters. The children were deserted by the Indians the evening before my brother found them. They the children say they had not had anything to eat for eight days. The company being too small to divide, Humanity dictated the children should be brought in - they are doing well. Two men Mr. Hutchinson and Mr. Wood were attacked by Indians on the 30th of last month between the San Saba and Colorado, wounded both their horses and slightly wounded Mr. Hutchinson. We have been kept on the run so that we have not got our horses all shod yet, but think in a short time if volunteers still come in as they have for a few days we will drive the redskins out of the settlements. I think the worst is over here until the next light moon when we may look for them down thicker than ever. If we could by any means be furnished with what six shooters we lack in the company we could drive and perhaps keep them out. Please let us hear from you for one more scare and my family will be outside again. All we ask of you at the present is if through your influence we could get six shooters, it would facilitate our interest and enable us to protect this frontier more successfully (sic). We will keep you advised of our movements by other companys no matter how they are raised so they are effective we wish to cooperate with them.

Your Humble Servant
D.C. Cowan, 1st Lieut.
Capt. John Williams Compy.

Comments on the preceeding Letters-

Very graphic in their detail about the brutality of the frontier, these letters provide a clear picture of the toughness required to survive and of the heartache which must have been suffered by those whose relatives became victims of frontier life.

Was the Capt. John Williams in charge of this company the

The Burkett Family

Original Historian

StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes

October 8, 1907 - June 18, 1996



This is a private and non-profit publication by the Burkett Family for the sole use of Burkett Family members and relatives. Reproduction in whole or in part is prohibited by other than Burkett Family members without written permission.

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.

Current Historian and Editor

Marvin Oliver Webb

Alabama Reunion Manager

Audy Majors

For information, write to:

The Burkett Family
c/o Oliver Webb
15439 Lakeshore Villas Drive # 77
Tampa, FL 33613-1326

Or Contact Us:

By phone 813/961-1679

By FAX 813/961-1679

By Email hickeywebb@aol.com

husband of Annie Epley Williams and brother-in-law of Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett? I don't know at this time. It is entirely possible since he was there at the time and the activity took place very near the Williams Ranch community.

Did the Governor provide the requested six shooters? I don't have the answer for that question either. These letters were provided by StellaB Jaynes without any explanation. ■

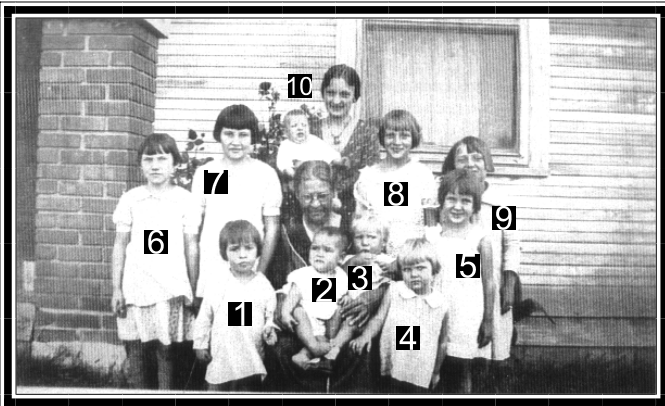
More Texas Photo's -

Through the courtesy of Doye Burkett Fannin, here are several previously unpublished photo's of Joseph Lafayette Burkett descendants. .

Mullin, Texas about 1932

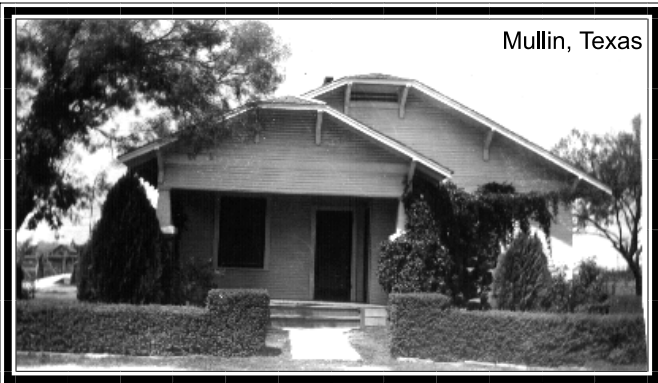
Grandmother and Granddaughters

Seated is Grandmother Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett, wife of Joseph Lafayette Burkett. Behind each child's name I have identified their Burkett parent in parenthesis. 1. Berylene Goodwin (Mae Delle) 2. Nelda Hodges (Gladys) 3. Verna Bess Burkett (George) 4. Helen Hodges (Gladys) 5. Enza Dell Burkett (George) 6. Della



Lou (Mae Delle) 7. LaJuana (Mae Delle) 8. Floretta (George) 9. Estelle (George) 10. Leona (George) holding daughter Patsy

If I'm not mistaken, the above picture of granddaughters was made at this house although it was much different in 1932. First occupied by Joseph Lafayette and family, it was next the residence of Birdie and later remodeled to its present two-story structure.



Feeding the chickens

Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett

Mullin, TX

Date unknown



About

1926

Left to right front row - Katherine Burkett (George); Floretta Burkett (George); Estelle Burkett (George); Johnny Burkett (Joseph

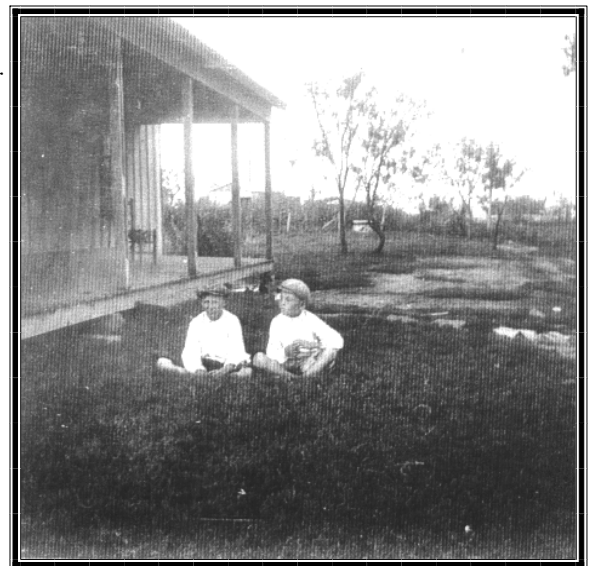


Lafayette);

Back row l to r - Gladys (Joseph Lafayette); Chlotilde (George)

L to R - Edgar & Lee Burkett

Date is not known



Mae Delle and
Birdie - daughters
of Joseph
Lafayette Burkett

Date is unknown



The Family of Lee Pyeatt Burkett -

Lee was a son of Joseph and Della Burkett, He was born September 7, 1895 in Mullin, Texas where he completed both grade and high school. After completing high school, he attended Southwest State Teachers College at San Marcos, Texas graduating in 1916. In 1917, he accepted a teaching position in Fairview, Texas where he taught one year before enlisting in the Army in 1918. He served in France in WWI with the 111th Medical Company, 36th Infantry Division. Following his discharge from military service in 1919, he returned to the teaching profession and held teaching, principal, and superintendant positions in various locations in Texas including the towns of Bend, Locker, Calf Creek, Bethel and others. Finally, in 1934, he quit the profession when the great depression left governments at municipal, county, and state levels unable to pay teacher salaries. For a time he tried to make a living buying and selling/trading livestock but this proved to be unprofitable since no one had money. He then moved from Bend, Texas to Stephenville, Texas where he opened, in turn, a shoe repair shop which he later sold, a used goods store, and finally a laundrymat. The latter business grew and became profitable with his wife and children doing most of the work there while he managed the used goods business. In 1941, following the U.S. declaration of war with the axis powers, he applied for a firefighter position with the U.S. Civil Service at Camp Bowie (near Brownwood, Texas) and was accepted. He sold the laundry, closed down the second hand store, and moved his family to Brownwood, Texas. In June 1942, he was promoted to Assistant Fire Chief and

transferred to Bergstrom Army Air Base, Austin, Texas. His family followed him in late fall of that year. In 1946, he left the U.S. Civil Service and he and his son Jack began a contracting partnership in the home construction business in Austin. They later dissolved the partnership and continued in the business separately. In 1957, after suffering a light stroke caused by a brain tumor, Lee quit the home construction business and worked for a time with the Pharr Detective Agency in Austin as a security guard. He retired in 1958 after surgery for the brain tumor.

Lee had married Rubye Pearl Lewis August 4, 1920 and they had four children; Doye (1924), Jack (1926), Donald (1930), and June (1932).

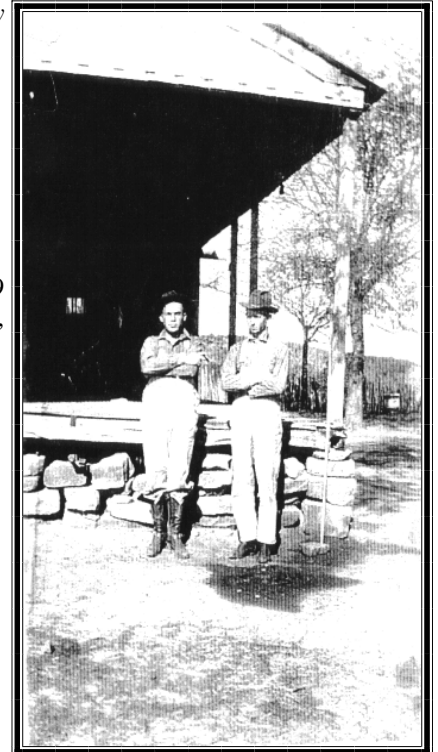
Here is Lee and Rubye in June 1920. They married in



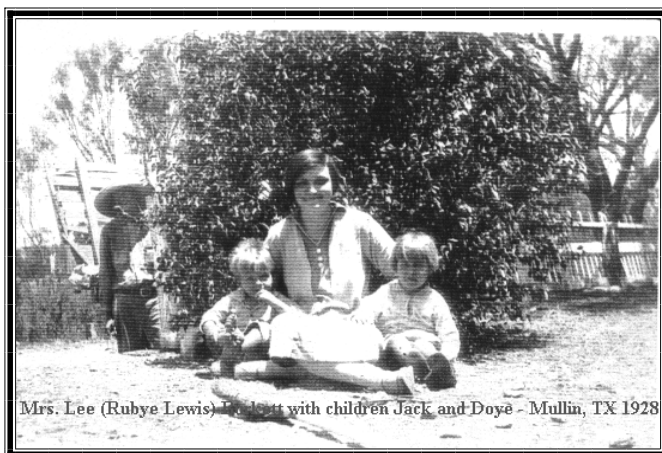
*August.
Notice the sun
bonnet worn by
Rubye.*

Here is Lee in 1919
with Henry Morris,
an Uncle of Rubye's

Place is unknown



Rubye Pearl Lewis
with Shep
1918
Bend, Texas



Mrs. Lee (Rubye Lewis) Burkett with children Jack and Doye - Mullin, TX 1928

Children of Lee and
Rubye Burkett
1936/37
L to R Front -
June, Don
L to R Rear -
Jack, Doye
Stephenville, Texas



Left to Right -
June, Rubye, Don and
Doye
Year and location is
unknown.

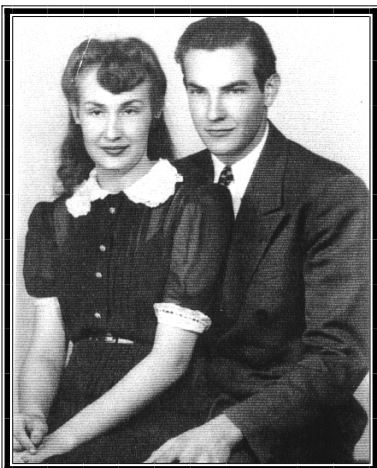


February 1944
Austin, Texas

Jack Burkett with
niece Delores Fannin,
daughter of Doye and
Bob Fannin



Superintendant Lee
Burkett with three of
the teachers at the



←
Doye and Jack

Picture taken the day
before Jack left for the
Navy in Spring 1943.



school in Bend, Texas. Lee assisted in securing state funds to build a new school.

Rubye grew up and attended school in Bend, Texas. She also attended Southwest State Teachers College at San Marcos, Texas and received her teaching certificate. After graduation and on into the early years of her marriage, she taught school. She quit teaching at the completion of the school year 1923/24



because she would be giving birth to her first child, Doye, in August of that year. Rubye played the piano and was in great demand before her marriage playing at church, with a family band, and at local parties and dances.

The Doye Burkett Fannin Family -

Doye married Robert (Bob) Wilson Fannin October 5, 1942 and they had three children; Delores (1943), Robert Jr. (1947), and Darryl (1951).

To the right is Doye with her car in 1941. She jokingly refers to it as the car "that captured Bob Fannin." Or was she joking?!



Bob and Doye. Taken in the city park of Brownwood, Texas in June 1942 on the day they became engaged.

Bob and Doye

May 1946

Austin, Texas

with daughter Delores



Below during Christmas 1988 - From left to Right - Bob Jr.,



1952 - Doye and the children on board the ship U.S.S. America enroute to join Bob who was in the army and stationed in Germany. From left to right - Darryl, Doye, Bob, Jr. and Delores. During this trip the baby, Darryl, became seriously ill several days before the ship docked at Brennerhaven, Germany. Immediately upon reaching port, he was admitted to the hospital in a comatose state. Tests determined he was suffering from hypoglycemia but with treatment he made a rapid recovery.

Delores, and Darryl



The picture to the right was made in 1989 when Bob and Doye had been married for 47 years.





The above shows Doye in her position as an American Red Cross Field Director. In 1955, Doye began her association with the Red Cross by doing volunteer work at Ft. Lewis, Washington where Bob was stationed with the army. In October 1956, she was offered, and accepted, a paid staff position which had come open. This began a career that would last a total of 26 plus years with retirement effective January 1, 1985.

During that time, Doye served at military installations for the Army, Navy, Air Force and Marines at such places as San Diego, San Francisco, Colorado, Arizona, Korea and Germany.

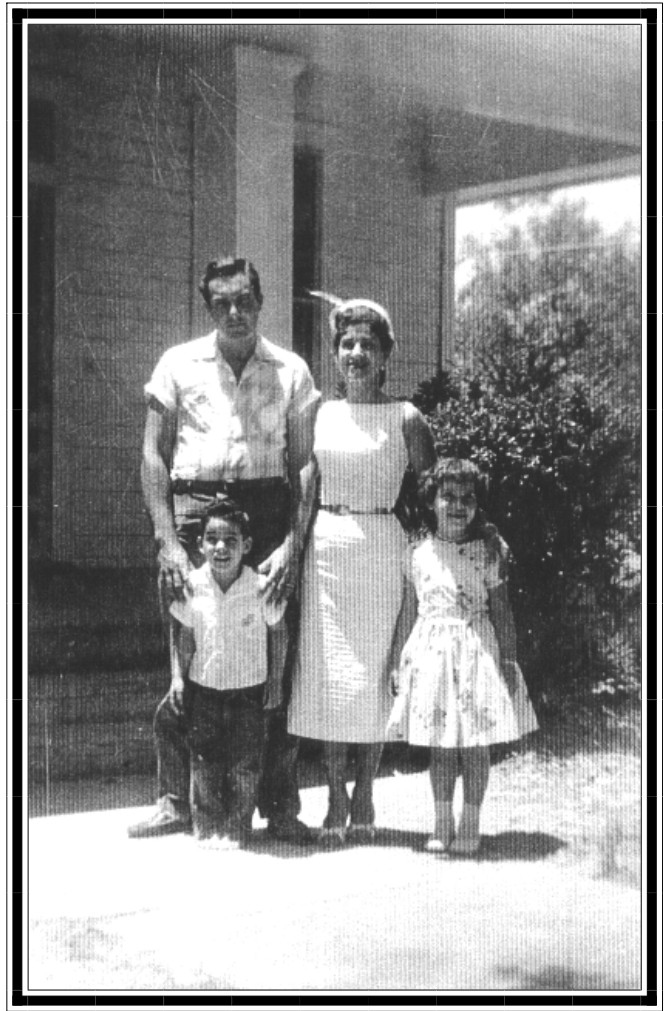
At various times, she had special assignments with the Red Cross Disaster Relief Service giving assistance in the aftermath of hurricanes, earthquakes, fires, etc. plus the settlement of Vietnamese refugees after the fall of Saigon.

Bob began his association with the Army in 1939 when he joined the Alabama National Guard. In 1940, his unit along with others was placed on active duty. His duties took him to New Guinea, the Dutch East Indies, and Mindanao in the Southern Phillipine Islands, much of which involved vicious fighting with the Japanese. Although Bob received his discharge at war's end, he subsequently applied to return to active duty which was approved.

He next applied for, and received, a direct appointment as a commissioned officer. Bob spent a total of 23 years in the Army and retired with the rank of Major. ■

The Jack Lewis Burkett Family -

Jack Burkett was the second child of Lee and Ruby Burkett and was born June 14, 1926, He married Jeanette Joseph October 5, 1942.

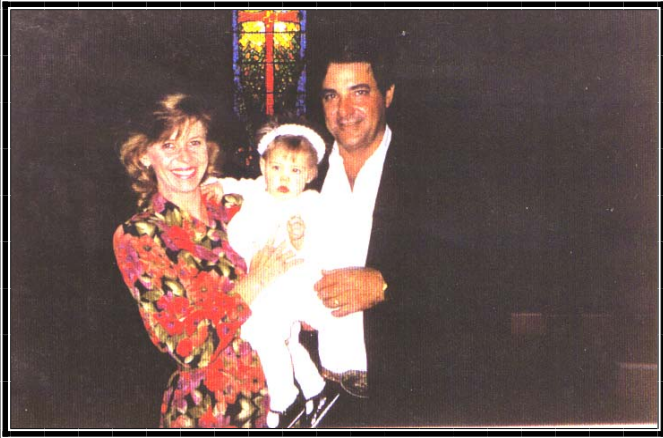


This picture was made in 1950 and shows Jack and Jeanette with son Lee and daughter Donna.

This is Donna Burkett with husband Jack Rogers. The date and location is unknown although the Christmas tree

behind them and their clothing seems to clearly indicate it was during a Christmas season.

Now here is the son of Jack and Jeanette, Lee Joseph



Burkett, with his wife Joanie and her niece, Kimberly. Photo was made in 1993.

The Donald Lee Burkett Family -

Don Burkett was the third child born to Lee and Rubye Burkett on August 17, 1930. Don attended the University of Texas and graduated Magna Cum Laude with a degree in Pharmacy. During his senior year at the University, he received the Borden Award as the Outstanding Senior. He then served a tour of duty in Germany with the US Army in the early 1950's. After his discharge from the Army, he was employed as a Pharmacist and worked in that capacity until his retirement in 1997. He married Jayne McFarland August 3, 1957 and they had four children; Judy, Lynn, Kathy and Paula.

Don's wife, Jayne, also graduated from college with a degree in Education and taught in the Fort Worth school



system for many years. Her field was special education.



From left to right - Don, Jeanette (Jack's widow), June Burkett (Don's sister), Don's wife Jayne, and daughter Judy.

Mary Frances Gobac, the family friend shown in the previous photo, was a tragic victim of the Texas University tower shooting a few years ago. ■

Bobby June (June) Burkett -

Born July 15, 1932 in Locker, Texas, June is the youngest child and daughter of Lee Pyeatt Burkett and Rubye Pearl Lewis.

She graduated from high school in Austin, Texas and then attended the University of Texas where she graduated in August of 1956 with a degree in home economics. In later years she pursued study at Texas Women's University.



June's employment history includes teaching at the elementary school level in Llano, Texas; a Home Economist for the Texas Electric Company in Texas and the Puget Sound Power and Light Company in Washington state; a hospital Dietician; a nursing home Dietician; a Home Economist with the U.S. Agriculture Department working out of San Francisco and later Dallas, Texas. She was promoted to supervisor of her Section at the Dallas office with a U.S. Civil Service rating of GS - 16. Her job with the U.S. Agriculture department, supervising the School Lunch Program, required an enormous amount of travel to conduct seminars, inspections, etc. and writing voluminous reports and correspondence, as well as supervision of her staff. She retired from that service October 31, 1986 and returned to the teaching profession, again at the elementary level, with the Fort Worth Independent School System. She retired from teaching May 31, 1997. ■

More Joseph L. Burkett Family -

Following is a picture I thought I had published. However, I reviewed my Newsletters once more and didn't find it so either I'm blind or I have not published it. I have accumulated so many photo's and so much information I am now working to organize it better — I hope!

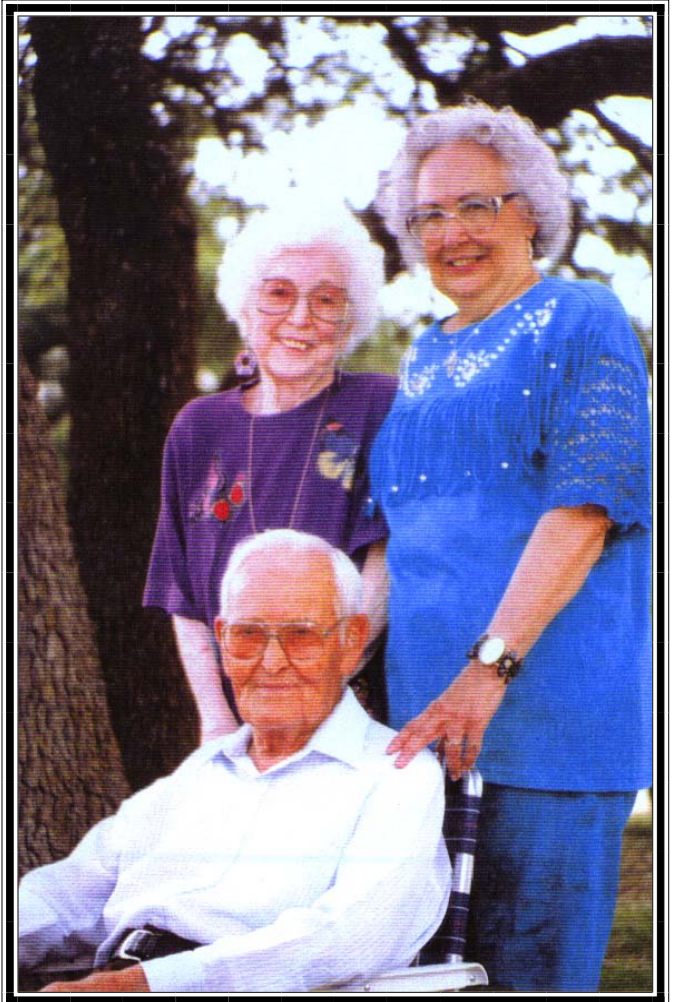
Having established my alibi for being careless, I now present this photo of Della Burkett and her five (5) daughters. I do not know the year this was taken but suspect it was made in Mullin, Texas.

That's Della seated in front and then from left to right -



Gladys, Birdie, Annie, Stella Mae and Mae Delle.

This picture was made during the 1997 Goldthwaite Texas



reunion. Seated is Archie Hodges, husband of Gladys Burkett and father of Helen Mayr who contributed so much to our family history. Standing left is Juanelle Burkett Curtis, daughter of Edgar Lorenza Burkett and granddaughter of Joseph L. Burkett; standing right is Doye Burkett Fannin, daughter of Lee Pyeatt Burkett and also a granddaughter of Joseph L. Burkett.

JUST A NOTE TO SAY I'M LIVING. . .

That I'm not among the dead.

Though I'm getting more forgetful and mixed up in the head.

I got used to my arthritis, to my dentures I'm resigned.

I can manage my bifocals but gosh I miss my mind!

For sometimes I can't remember when I stand at the foot of the stairs,

If I must go up for something or have I just come down from there?

And before the fridge so often, my poor mind is filled with doubt,

Have I just put food away or have I come to take some out?

So if it's my turn to write you there's no need for getting sore;

I may think that I have written and don't want to be a bore.

Just remember that I love you and I wish that you were near.

Now it's nearly mail time so I must say goodbye, my dear.

Here I stand beside the mailbox with a face so very red!

Instead of mailing you my letter, I have opened it instead!

— Author Unknown

— *The above was submitted by Juanette Burkett Curtis* ■

Early Alabama Justice -

As I have done before, I sometimes run across and publish articles which do not involve our family directly but which took place during the early days and in the vicinity of members of the family. Below is just such a story.

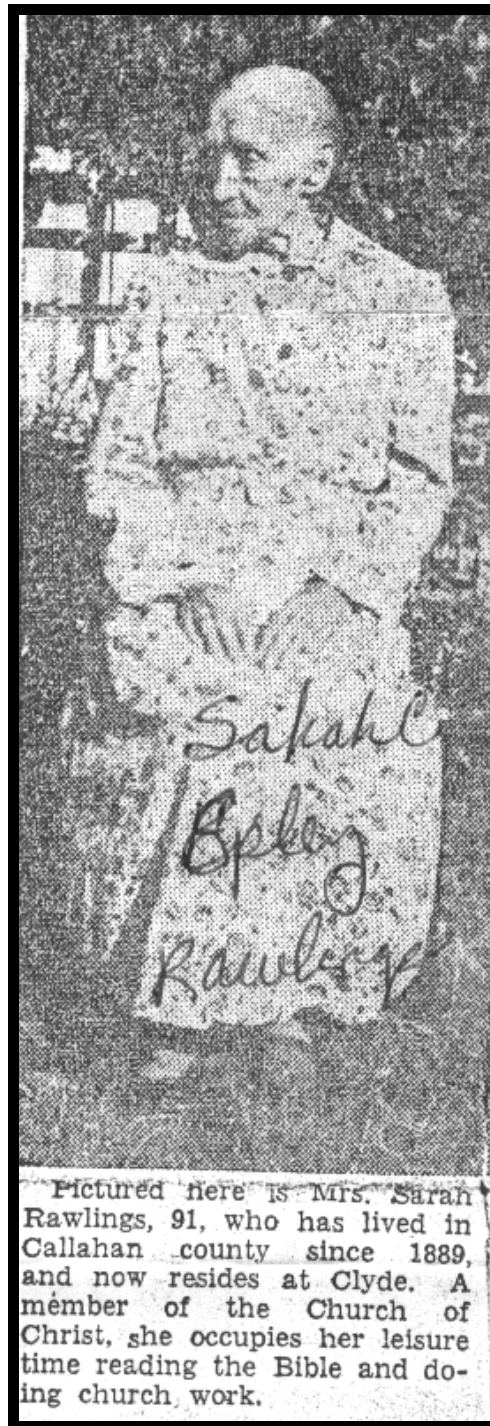
In 1881, a Mississippian named D. L. Love was supported by the Huntsville, Alabama newspaper, *Democrat*, for his efforts to organize a cotton mill in Huntsville. Love traveled around the country and the fortunes of the mill continued to prosper. However, such was not the case for its organizing genius, Mr. Love.

Apparently in his galavanting about the country, Love fell in love with a young Ada E. Johnson of Huntsville. But following the demands of a busy travel schedule, Love did not press his suit in time. The Huntsville *Democrat* on September 21, 1881 announced the marriage of Miss Ada E. Johnson, daughter of Mrs. E.K. Johnson, to Mr. John F. Lanier of Madison County. The paper further commented: "The Huntsville public were greatly surprised that Miss Ada, whose hand had been sought by so many suitors, had at last been bestowed on Mr. Lanier." None was more surprised than Mr. Love who, when he heard of the marriage, lost all sense of proportion or propriety and sought to revenge his loss by besmirching her character. So foul were his accusations that the young husband did what honorable young men of breeding were expected to do in such cases. He went to Greenville, Mississippi and killed D. L. Love.

Defended by Huntsville's superb attorney Capt Milton Humes, young Lanier was completely exonerated. The Judge in the case announced from the bench: "It is . . . my opinion that he did just what I or any other man of honor would do, and I, therefore, discharge the prisoner and bid him go hence without delay." ■

The Epleys and Burkett's -

Over the years, it has become more and more apparent that the Epleys and Burkett's remained in touch. Below is a photo which was part of an Abilene, Texas newspaper article about August 1939. This lady, Sarah C. Epley Rawlings, was the oldest child of David Epley and a niece of Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett. Note she lived in Clyde, Texas, also the home of James Henry Burkett. She and James Henry Burkett were 1st cousins, once removed. She died in 1940.



Pictured here is Mrs. Sarah Rawlings, 91, who has lived in Callahan county since 1889, and now resides at Clyde. A member of the Church of Christ, she occupies her leisure time reading the Bible and doing church work.

RECALLS CIVIL WAR—

Clyde Woman, 91, Has Experienced Three Wars,
Pair of Tornadoes; Wants No More of Either

By Mrs. Sarah Epley Rawlings

As told to Buddy Hart

I was born in Cameron county near the city of Murfreesboro, Tenn., on August 10, 1848. We lived in Tennessee until 1866 when we moved to Texas.

I was 13 years old when the Civil war began. I was the oldest child of a family of six children. My mother was an invalid and the household duties and the care of these five younger children were mine. My father was a soldier and of course was always away from home. The northern soldiers visited our house many times demanding food. Since mother was an invalid I had the cooking to do. I was awakened at night, sometime at midnight and cooked meals for as many as 25 men at a time.

TIFF WITH SOLDIERS

I remember one time some soldiers came to our home, and took everything we had in the house to eat, and what I mean they took everything—even our salt, sugar and meat. We had a small patch of potatoes and one man decided he would dig them and take them too. I decided he wouldn't so I tried to take the hoe away from him. We were having somewhat of a battle over the hoe. I couldn't get it away from him and when he tried to take it from me, he would lift me from the ground but I still held on. I was plenty mad and I said some pretty rough words.

There was an officer standing on the outside of the garden watching us and listening to the fight for the potatoes, and when he saw how determined I was to protect the patch, he ordered the soldier to the guard house. He told him it would be bread and water for him for ten days. When I went in the house my mother gave me a spanking. I never felt like I deserved the spanking, but I did save the potato patch.

WOMAN'S HOME WRECKED

There was another incident that happened during the civil war that I remember quite well. An elderly spinster lived near us, who made her living by dress making. She had worked real hard and saved her money and had bought a sewing machine, the first one in that part of the country. She was so proud of it.

One time she had gone out to solicit work and the soldiers came to her home, tore it up, destroying all parts of it. My mother got out of bed, hardly able to walk, and went to General Grant and asked him to stop them. She told him the story of the woman who had no people in the war and no one to work and support her. He told her people should stay at home, that his men were unruly and that he could do nothing with them. Some of these same soldiers broke into a store, taking what they wanted and because I had cooked some meals for them, one of them brought me a hat that he had taken from the store. I told him I could not accept it as it was stolen property.

Don't misunderstand me now and think all the mean things like this were done by northern soldiers. For there were good ones and bad ones on both sides. But living in the south, I knew only about the northern men. I have been told by people who lived in the north that some of the southern soldiers were very destructive, too, when they were in the northern territory.

I remember cooking a midnight meal for some soldiers one time when some of the southern soldiers had been cut off from the main army and were trying to get back to them. I would hang a lantern on the back porch when I had some food for them. I would pretend that I was going for a bucket of water. I would throw a shawl over my head and put extra food in a basket and carry it to our men as long as they were in our part of the country. I put the stars and bars on the flag that waved over the town of Bradyville, Tenn. It waved over the town until the close of the war.

My father sold all our property and put it into confederate money. After the war this money was no good and we had to start all over. But he was a man that would not be defeated. He worked hard and made good again.

We moved to Texas in 1866, settling near the present town of Burnett. If a person did something mean in one state and moved to another, the state he moved to would have to release him before he could be arrested and tried in that state. At the time we moved here, Texas was over run with this class of people and Indians.

A family lived not far from us in Llano county, named Lockwood. Mr. Lockwood was in the field working one day, and Mrs. Lockwood and two children were at home when the Indians came. They killed Mrs. Lockwood, captured the children then set fire to the house. He, Mr. Lockwood, saw the house on fire, ran home and the Indians met him not far from the house and killed him also. Later they killed the two children.

The Indians also killed the Jackson family that lived near us. After killing the parents they hanged the children to a wagon.

It was near the town of Burnett that I was married to T. P. Rawlings on Jan. 1, 1868. He had been a soldier in the civil war, too. I have lived through three wars, and I wish war could have been averted now. When one lives through what I have and sees the horrors, sufferings and the destruction of property and the greatest loss of all, the lives of loved ones, then and then only can one know how terrible war is.

It was near Burnett that three of our children were born, Will, Jennie and Dave. The youngest, John, was born in Junction City, Kimball county. We moved to Calahan county in 1889, settling at Cottonwood. A few years later this little town was devastated by a tornado. My daughter-in-law, Will's wife, was killed instantly. Her grandfather, named Mason, died the next day. He was 96 years old. I took the children and cared for them as my own, until their father married some years later. About a year later my husband died suddenly.

I moved from Cottonwood to Putnam and I lived there with my only daughter Jennie, until her death. I was with my other children and grand children until I decided I wanted to be independent and live to myself. I decided on Clyde as a place to live, so I have been doing light housekeeping for several years and I like it just fine. I was here in Clyde when the tornado hit last year. The house of my son, Dave, was blown away and his crop ruined. I have lived through three wars and two tornadoes and I hope that I will never see either again.

In the first sentence, she says she was born in Cameron County, TN. She has the name wrong — it was Cannon County.

Cannon County, Tennessee Where They Came From -

Cannon County was formed January 31, 1836 from portions of Rutherford, Smith, and Warren Counties. It played such an important role in the lives of our ancestors that it might be worth our time to look at where the settlers came from.

Nearly all of the settlers of Cannon County came from North Carolina and Virginia by way of East Tennessee. The 1850 census for the county lists 640 residents born in North Carolina and 407 from Virginia. Among the other states represented, the next largest amounts were from Maryland with 28 and Pennsylvania with 12. Nearly all of the settlers were of Scotch-Irish or English descent with a few Germans as well. The West Central and Southwestern sections of the county were the first to be settled by white man. Until after the Third Treaty of Tellico in 1805, lands east of Woodbury belonged to the Cherokee Indians and were inhospitable to settlement.

Before 1806, it is likely that most of the settlers came up Stones River from Nashville to Jefferson (now under the waters of Percy Priest Lake) and from there on up the river to its headwaters, locating land they had bought, probably sight unseen, in Nashville or land they had been granted in North Carolina. Although we have no proof at this time, we believe the Epleys and Burketts quite probably received land grants and moved from North Carolina to East Tennessee in the early 1800's. This will be one of the next searches to be undertaken as time permits.

Where They Went To -

From the 1840's until well after 1900, a lot of the population migrated to Christian County, Missouri from Cannon County and surrounding areas. They came mostly from Districts 8 & 11 near Woodbury and along Stone's River. (*Christian County Missouri is in the lower southwestern portion of the state very near Jasper County where present day descendants of Henry (Jr.) live in LaRussel.*)

Still others migrated from Cannon County to Madison County and Marion County, Arkansas. Madison County lies in the northwestern corner of Arkansas and Marion County is in the central part and on the Missouri line.

We know that Henry Burkett (Jr.) went to Missouri where he died from diabetes. His wife Nancy returned to Tennessee with their three (3) sons and one of them, James Edward Burkett, went back to Missouri. One of Henry's brothers, James, went first to Madison County, Arkansas and then to Marion County, Arkansas.

We have previously surmised that they moved because the land was simply worn-out and it was too hard to earn a living. They may have learned by word-of-mouth about Missouri and Arkansas. ■

Transportation in Early Middle TN -

With our automobiles and interstate highway system

plus railroads, airplanes and buses, it's hard for us to imagine what life was like before we had this transportation available to us. Here is a brief outline of what it was like for our ancestors in the 1800's in Tennessee.

The first inhabitants of middle Tennessee used two major forms of transportation. The first form was overland travel using trails established by Indians who utilized animal paths. The *Natchez Trace*, the *Cumberland Trace*, and the *Black Fox Trail* were a few of the trails used by emigrants. The second form of transportation was water travel using canoes, dugouts, flatboats, and keelboats. The travelers were at the mercy of geographic obstacles, Indian attacks and weather conditions.

The War of 1812 forced political leaders to recognize that transportation was a big problem in the western settlements. As a result, the federal government began construction of a military road from **Nashville** through **Columbia** to **Madisonville, Louisiana** in 1817. This road was one of the last constructed in Middle Tennessee with federal funds until the next century. The majority of turnpikes and roads during this period were funded by private enterprise with some government subsidies.

Governor William Carroll is credited with leading Tennessee toward an organized policy of improvements. In 1821 the Tennessee General Assembly enacted a law that grouped roads into three classes. First class roads were stage roads which were twelve (12) feet wide with bridges and mile markers. Second class roads were wagon roads which were ten (10) feet wide and third class roads were just wide enough for a single horse and rider. In 1838 the General Assembly passed a law to establish a state bank to raise funds for internal improvement projects and the state became a subscriber for capital stock in railroads, macadamized turnpikes, graded turnpikes, and sanded turnpikes. However, in 1840 the legislature brought all of this to a halt by repealing all previous laws authorizing the state government to subscribe stock for internal improvements. This development set overland transportation back in Middle Tennessee for many years.

Water travel was used for long distance travels. The Middle Tennessee area relied on imported goods from **Baltimore**, **Philadelphia** and **Pittsburgh**. Cast and wrought iron, wire, nails, tools, glass, leather goods, white lead and paints, chemicals and flour were commonly shipped by barges, keelboats and flatboats on the **Ohio** and **Cumberland rivers**. The **Mississippi River** provided the region with a commercial route to **New Orleans**. A round trip voyage from **Nashville** to **New Orleans** took around five months.

Steamboats were a big improvement over the flatboats since they could haul people and goods in both directions on the river. By 1845, passengers could make a round trip to **New Orleans** in fifteen (15) days. This relatively speedy turnover of goods allowed the Middle Tennessee area to become an important agricultural market.

By the early 1800's stagecoaches entered the region with a stagecoach route being authorized from **Knoxville** to

Nashville in 1807. An extension line to **Huntsville, Alabama** from the **Nashville to Knoxville** line branching from **McMinnville** was opened in 1820. In 1819 a traveler could ride from **Anson, Maine** via **Washington, D.C.** to **Nashville**, a distance of 1,448 miles.

Up until the beginning of the Civil War, there were sixteen (16) major stagecoach lines departing from **Nashville**. These coaches carried fifteen (15) passengers and used four horse teams. The average speed of the coaches was six miles per hour with team changes about every ten miles. Many of these stagecoach lines also carried the U.S. mail and were a source of news and information in small towns. The major stagecoach lines departing from **Nashville** ran to **Louisville, Chattanooga, Memphis, Huntsville, Tusculmbia, Florence, Clarksville, Hopkinsville, Springfield** and **Russelville**. Smaller accomodation coaches, usually consisting of two horse teams, ran to **Trunine, Nolensville, Gallatin, Lebanon** and **Columbia**.

The railroad became Middle Tennessee's third mode of transportation and played a major role in the economic development of the region. In the first years of their introduction, railroads were a supplement to steamboat transportation. However, within a few years, railroads would overtake staemboats as the main means of moving people and goods.

During the 1830's and 1840's many railroads were chartered by the state. Most of these never saw completion. Middle Tennessee's first railroad, the **Nashville and Chattanooga**, made its first run in 1851 and was completed in 1854. The **Nashville and Decatur** was chartered in 1854 and completed in 1859. The **Louisville and Nashville** railroad was constructed as a result of both cities attempts to neutralize the other as a source of economic competition. The L&N railroad company played a significant role in the history of transportation in Middle Tennessee for the rest of the century.

By 1860 other modes of transportation in Middle Tennessee suffered as the railroads grew and expanded. State funds went into railroad development rather than steamboat and road development. As a result, Tennessee had 1253 miles of railroad track in 1860 while steamboat and stagecoach development was beginning to wane.

The Civil War was one of the first military conflicts in which the railroad played a role. Railroads transported troops and supplies faster than other means of transport. Operations and construction were able to follow the troop movements of both armies. By the war's end, the railroad had become the nation's primary form of transportation. ■

Classified Ad Bloopers -

Four-poster bed. 101 years old, perfect for antique lover
Large dog for sale - eats anything and is fond of children

Illiterate? Write today for free help.

The Electric Refrigerator -

In 1931, Sears came out with a supposedly "affordable" electric refrigerator for \$137.50. Called the 'Coldspot', it was later changed to Kenmore. It quickly became one of the top-selling refrigerators in the country. ■

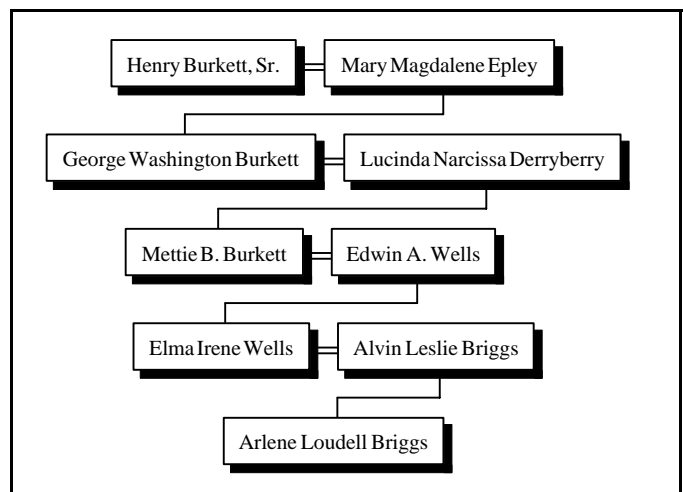
Huntsville, Alabama Reunion is June 17th - Same location as last year - See last page of this Newsletter for a map.

George Washington Burkett and Burlingame, Kansas -

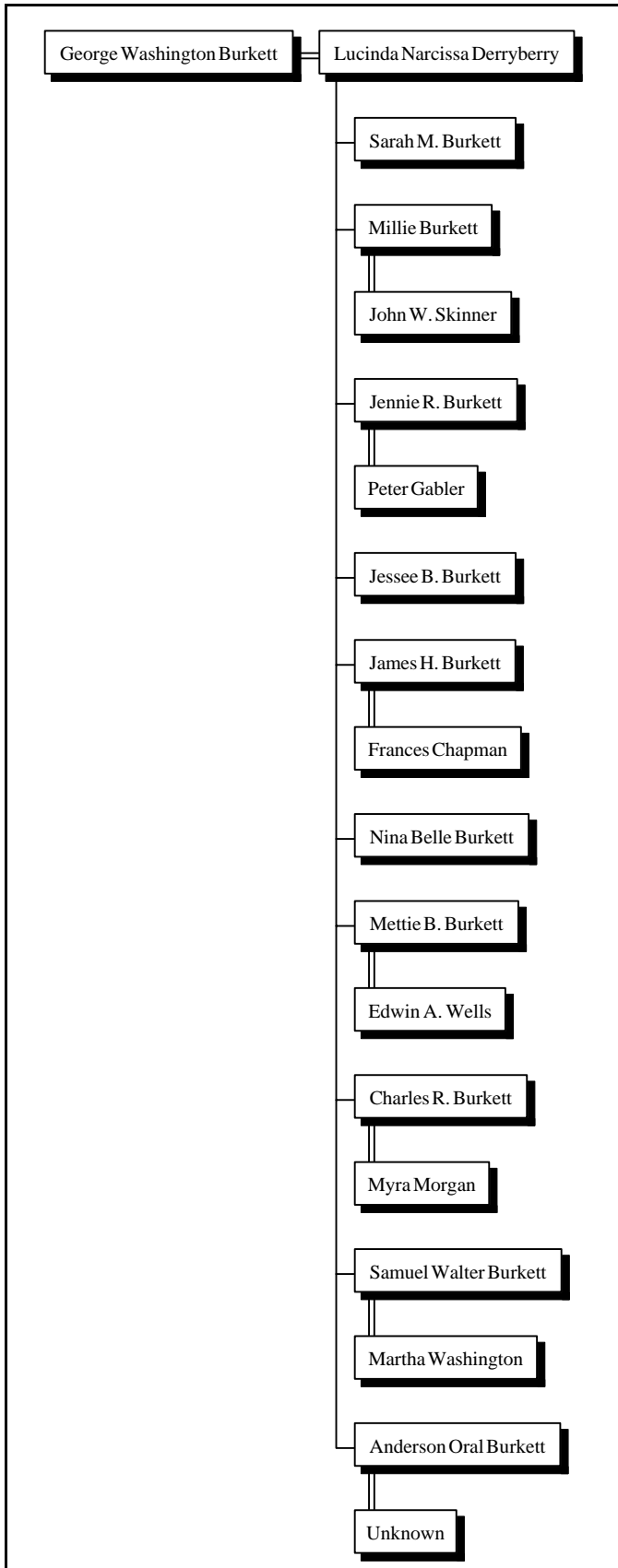
—After ~~Audy Majors~~ and I first visited Burlingame last September and I reported how disappointed we were at the small amount of information we came away with, the situation has now turned completely around. As reported in the last issue, I have been in touch with Arlene Peters of Topeka. She has provided a lot of information and I still have not had time to get it all entered.

But before I list some of what we have learned, let's look back at the previous article about the railroads in Middle Tennessee. You will note that by 1860 there were 1253 miles of track connecting cities such as Nashville and Memphis. We had already learned that George and family arrived in Burlingame in 1869 and that the railroad there had been completed from Topeka to Burlingame. My guess is that the railroad had also been completed from Kansas City to Topeka. Although I don't have the facts at this time, I would also guess the railroad had been completed from Memphis to Kansas City. If so, then George and family *could have ridden the train all the way from Nashville to Burlingame*. I place the emphasis on the fact that they "could have" ridden it because I don't know that for a fact. However, it makes a lot of sense to me that this would have been their method of transportation.

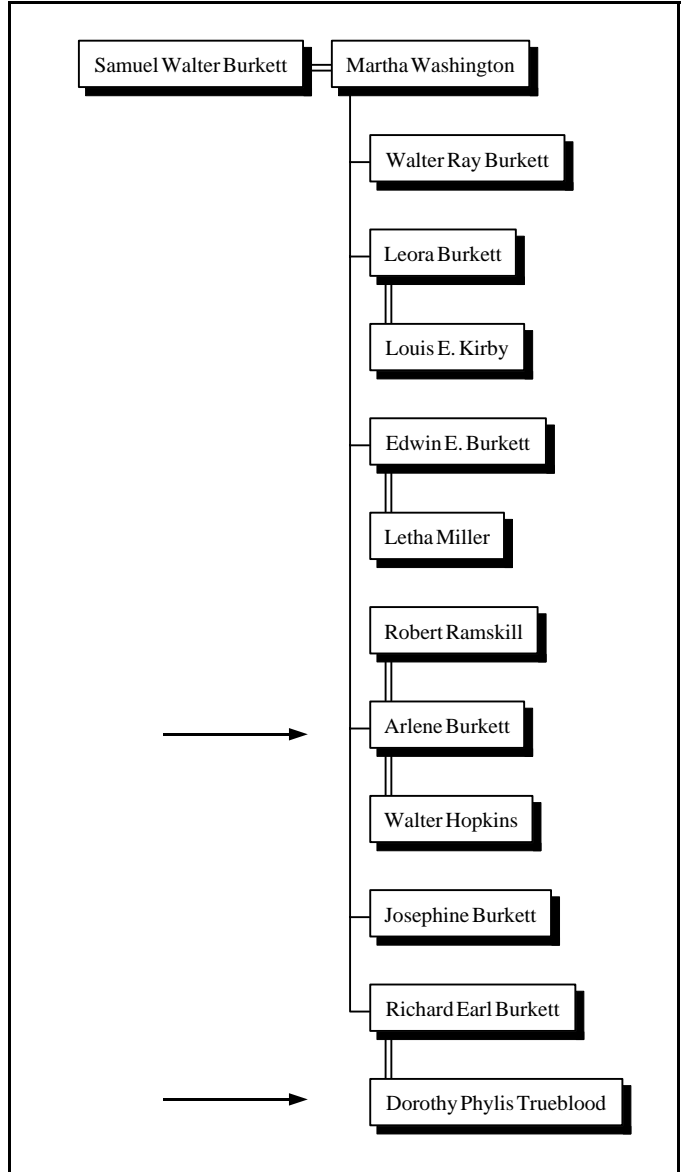
I have talked about receiving help from Arlene Briggs Peters and below are her ancestors.



Below are the children and their spouses of George Washington Burkett.



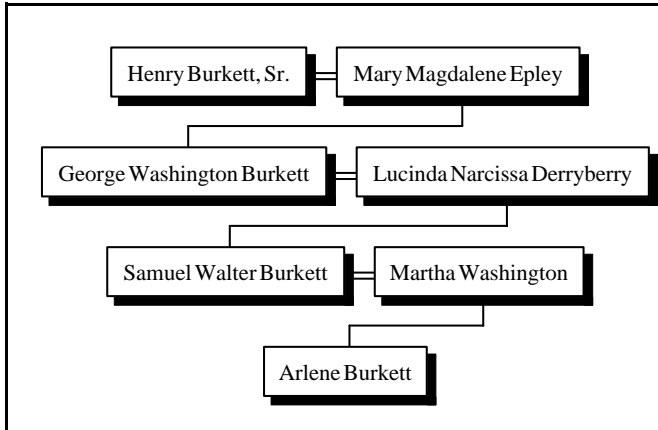
In addition to Arlene Briggs Peters, I have also spoken with Dorothy Burkett, the wife of Richard Earl Burkett who is a son of Samuel Walter Burkett as shown below. Unfortunately, Richard is in a nursing home due to injuries suffered some years back. Dorothy also tells me they lost most of their photo's in the flood of 1951.



I have now spoken with Arlene Burkett Ramskill a couple of times. As shown above, Arlene is a daughter of Samuel Walter Burkett and lives in Attica, Ohio. I prepared and sent Arlene a package which she is reviewing for corrections and omissions. To help with this, she has been in touch with a niece, Norma Enders, who also lives in Attica, Ohio. Norma is a daughter of Leora Burkett Kirby, also shown above. Leora had worked on the family history prior to her death but we do not know at this time how much information and/or pictures she may have that we don't have. Arlene tells me she does have what appear to be wedding pictures of their parents Samuel Burkett and Martha

Washington. She and niece Norma plan to go through Leora's papers and photo's and promised to send me what they find. I am looking forward to that.

Now if you will look below, you can see that Arlene is a *great granddaughter* of Henry and Polly Burkett. Right off the top of my head, I believe she is the *closest living relative* to Henry and Polly. I believe everybody else is a 2nd great or higher descendant.



That's about it for the George Washington Burkett family for this issue. However, I can promise there will be more in the next issue. ■

Joe Oliver Massey Has Died -

I have just learned that Joe Massey of Joshua, Texas died May 31. Joe was a son of Stella Mae Burkett and Arthur Massey, and a grandson of Joseph Lafayette Burkett. Joe had one brother, Burkett Massey of Waco, Texas and one sister, Stella Mae Kardash of Mesquite, Texas. He had three (3) children; Cheryl, Lou, and Dwight plus a stepson, Brian, by his wife Barbara Jean Massey. His wife survives him.

Joe suffered three (3) heart attacks after having been given a clean bill of health in February. Graveside services were conducted and he was buried June 3 in Oakview Cemetery in Mullin, Texas. ■

The

Historian's

Corner -

Oliver Webb



Either I'm slowing down in my old age or I am getting

overwhelmed with information! I am still sitting here with a lot of information I have simply been unable to find time to enter into the computer. I apologize to those who have sent it and I promise to get to work on it when I return from the Huntsville, Alabama reunion which is June 17.

As happens, I have gotten spoiled with each computer upgrade and always want more memory and faster speeds. I have been looking at a faster printer which will print both sides of a page at the same time *and which will print in color!*

Wow! When I dream, I dream big! But a printer which would print both sides at the same time would make a big difference in the amount of time it takes for me to print the Newsletter. And one which would print in color would make a far more interesting Newsletter as well. We'll see. However, since I bought my laser printer and scanner, there have been big improvements in both speed and quality along with significant price reductions. I not only want this newer equipment for the Newsletter but for the book when I find time to work on it.

Last September when Audy and I made our trip to Goldthwaite for the reunion and then continued on to Kansas, Missouri, and Arkansas, we located the survey completed in Arkansas by James Burkett, a son of Henry Burkett (Sr.). I published pages from that survey in a previous issue. In this survey, you may recall he said his grandfathers name was Membrance Burkett. I had never heard of that as a first name. However, Dot Alford has been working trying to locate more information about Henry (Sr.) and she ran across some Burketts who don't seem to be related but who have the name "Membrance" in their family. This was Membrance William Burkett who was born in Tennessee in 1810. Obviously this could not be the father of our Henry (Sr.) since we have documents proving our Henry (Sr.) was born about 1794 - 1795. But could this Membrance Burkett be a brother to our Henry (Sr.)? Quite possible. Right now we don't know where in Tennessee the Membrance Burkett was born which might help in deciding whether or not he and our Henry (Sr.) were related.

What gets confusing is that, in some military records, Henry (Sr.) says he was born in Tennessee; his son James says his father was born in Guilford County, NC; and a daughter, Martha Jane, says in response to a census that her father was born in Virginia! Who to believe? Obviously, the logic would be to believe Henry's military records but, as I have previously pointed out, Tennessee was not a state when Henry was born. If we can get into the land grants of NC for what became Tennessee land, we may find some clues there and we may find other clues in other records of Greene County, Tennessee.

But the question that seems to be on a lot of folks minds, including mine, is who were Henry's parents and where did they come from? Maybe we'll get lucky if we keep digging. We have accumulated a lot of information from Henry to the present day and need to connect it back to wherever his ancestors came from. That's all for now. ■

