



THE BURKETT FAMILY

A Quarterly Publication

- In This Issue -

◆ Narrative of Burketts	1
◆ G. W. Burkett — Kansas	5
◆ Thank You, Juanelle	14
◆ Henry Burkett’s Fingers	14
◆ Williams Ranch cemetery	19
◆ Katie Lee Burkett Grubbs	19
◆ The Historian’s Corner	20
- Births -	
Andrew Leslie Neal	20
- Obituaries -	
Richard Earl Burkett	20
Vencil Ilene Baker	20
Norma Louise Hasselbring	20
- Future Articles -	
The Prentiss Burkett Family	
The Jennie Nolley Family	
A Summary of the Henry Burkett Family	

Editors Note: *The following narrative was written in the Fall of 1969 and based on what was known at that time. Although it contains errors based on facts which have been uncovered in the past 31 years, I find it extremely interesting to read. I present it exactly as written and will provide comments and corrections at the end of the narrative. Please carefully read the Introduction by the Author.*

About the Author: *Mr. Burkett was born in Eastland, Texas November 15, 1912. He is a son of Joseph Washington Burkett, Sr.; a grandson of James Henry Burkett; a great grandson of Jacob Lorenza Burkett; and a 2nd great grandson of Henry Burkett, Sr. He was featured in the previous issue of our Newsletter as having been elected a Judge at the age of 21. ■*

Narrative of the Burketts in America

By Joseph Washington Burkett, Jr.

INTRODUCTION: A narrative history of the branch of the Burkett Family to which I belong based on public records, myth and, to a large extent, on the imagination and conjecture of the writer.

Once upon a time long, long ago, a child was born in the Netherlands in the Rhine River Valley about the year 1725. His name was George Burkhardt.

His father was a wheelwright¹ and a member of the Guild of his trade. At about 6 years of age he began to run errands and do minor chores in his father’s shop which was located on the ground floor of a 2-story building and faced the street. The upper story was the home of George and his family.

At age 13 he was apprenticed out to a non-family member Wheelwright to learn his family’s trade. Seven years later he became a Master Wheelwright and a member of the Wheelwright Guild. The 20 years that George had spent to this point in his life had been years of turmoil, war, and more war, religious conflict and persecution.

Over his lifetime his ears had heard much talk of a land called *AMERICA*. Some of his kin had heard the call and settled in William Penn’s colony of Pennsylvania. The tales he heard were that *AMERICA* was a land of milk and honey - no military conscription — no religious persecution — and, above all, — land — free, or almost free! To be the Lord of his own Manor, to own a piece of land, be it ever so small, filled his imagination, as well as that of his family.

He and his two brothers decided to seek their fortunes in America. Having so decided they made their way to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania in the year 1744.

Landing in Philadelphia with only their tools of trade and what they could carry on their backs, they sought out and found their kin who had preceded them to the New World about 1740 and who were living near Philadelphia in Jefferson County. Working to survive and learning enough English to understand and be understood, finding no opening for their trade (their kin had already taken what openings were available at that time) they decided to move on to the more wonderful lands they had heard about; lands to the West and South on the frontier that were mostly unsettled and were crying for them to come.

Packing their tools and such possessions as they could carry, off they went. George 1st (hereafter called) went South through Virginia, exploring the roadside taverns and villages along the coast seeking to find an opening to his liking. →

¹Wheelwright — a man whose occupation is making or repairing wheels.

Visiting every Blacksmith shop along the way, fixing wheels for a few days here, and moving on, making food and a few other needs such as shoes and clothing, and a few schillings² to secrete away. Having wandered along the trail south for a few months, his travels took him across Virginia and into North Carolina. Finding himself at last in Raleigh, North Carolina, a town of a few hundred souls, he found employment. Raleigh was the center of a growing population and excited him about the new lands to the west. Again the dream of land and adventure and opportunity filled his mind. He and a few new-found friends talked and dreamed about it. Employment now had provided the needs of adventure; a horse, a rifle, and a few pieces of gold in his pocket. He and three of his new friends struck out for the Promised Land. Some few weeks later they arrived in Salisbury, Rowan County, North Carolina, a very small village full of activity. A few families already settled, many others, like him, young and seeking their fortune, a Church group which attracted him and his friends, and in this group there were a few young girls. Liking what he saw, he established himself in his trade, found land, and staked his claim. Shortly thereafter he joined the Church Group, namely, a Church of Christ, usually called "Campbellites, the non-fiddling kind" or "Square Bales."

The Church Group were simple people and the members were bound by their rules, few in number, but as such they were the law. The Ten Commandments were the law by which they lived. Their creed was to help each other in every way. Violators of their laws or creed were severely punished; the court that heard the charges of the violations was the Church Elders. Their decisions were Final and No Appeal. The most severe punishment was Banishment from the Church. Their Faith was absolute, their industry great, their self-discipline unbelievable. The Church was their social life, their protector and support.

In this atmosphere George 1st found a wife, Catherina. After the marriage they moved onto their land, went to work, and made a home. They worked from sun to sun to survive and survive they did. Life was good but harsh. Survival required food, shelter, and clothes. To survive they made a garden and orchard, slowly acquired animals, horses, a cow, pigs, a dog, chickens and a few geese. The garden provided beans, corn, potatoes and other vegetables; the cow, milk; the pigs, meat and lard; the chickens, eggs and meat; the dogs and geese provided a warning system to alert them of intruders, wild animals or humans. From the forest and streams came deer, turkeys, berries, grapes, nuts and wood above all, wood, to fuel their fire, build their shelter, the material to construct wheels, and to trade for salt, pepper, gun powder, lead and iron, to make tools and to provide raw materials for the Blacksmith Shop.

The forest provided honey and beeswax; the honey for food and trade, the wax for candles. The animal oils and fats fueled the lamps, the tallow added to the wax made more candles. A small patch of tobacco was planted; it was the only cash crop; easy to grow and brought a good price. These settlers assisted each other, swapped labor and, in time of need, took over the support of each other's children. Orphaned children were taken in, given a home and raised with their children as their own. →

² *Schillings* — gold coins

The Burkett Family

Original Historian

StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes

October 8, 1907 - June 18, 1996



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

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The group had found a neutral land far away from the King's soldiers, and the tax collectors of the coastal settlements, and away from the savage Indians in the West. They prospered; new settlers were coming in a steady stream and all seeking the Promised Land, the dream of freedom from want and slavery. They had no slaves themselves but some of the neighbors had a few. The family was happy and very busy working, learning and praying. Faithful to the Church, to their group and obeying the Law of their Clan; a few were banished in disgrace, but their places were soon filled by new settlers and there was an ever-growing number of children. Their only serious problem was disease which took a heavy toll from time to time; the Indian problem remained, however, it was not serious at this distance from the frontier. They had heard rumors of a war that was being fought along the coast of North Carolina and in the states of Virginia, Pennsylvania, Massachusetts and New York. The English King was trying to enslave the people again. His red-coated soldiers were fighting a man named George Washington. Being so far away from the other colonies they were not affected by the war; it helped their economy by making a demand for food and tobacco, increasing the prices and trade with the coastal settlements. In 1763 a son was born to George 1st and his wife Catherina. He was named George 2nd. He grew up in the trade of his father, learned the smithy trade, farmed and ploughed, worked with the church group and assisted his mother in keeping the house and caring for the other children. By age 14 he was self-sufficient and able to do a man's work and to assume a man's responsibilities.

At age 16 George 2nd and a few of his friends, led by one of the older men, made an exploratory trip to the North and West of their home up the trail into the western tip of Virginia, exploring the lands along the way. They now had horses which made the trip much faster and easier. They spent 5 or 6 months in this new land; it was different from their home, hills and valleys, the Eastern slopes of the Allegheny Mountains. George 2nd had now learned to read and write. The Holy Bible was the only book he knew, but from this Book with the help of the Church Elders, he received his only education; he knew the family trade, he helped his father make wheels, he learned the Blacksmith trade as did his father; they combined both trades; iron was now available and every scrap was hoarded for it had great value, was usable, and much in demand. The Iron Age was moving faster displacing wood and providing iron tires for the wooden wheels, axles, hubs, and fasteners to improve the durability of wagons, which made transportation from place-to-place easier.

In 1783 George 2nd found a wife, a young woman named Mary Kepley. They were married in Rowan County, North Carolina in June of 1783.

In 1792 George 2nd and a few others, remembering their trip to the North and West of a few years before, decided to move to Wythe County, Virginia (Wytheville) to free land and a new home for their families. Leaving George 1st and Catherina in possession of the old home, George 2nd and Mary, together with their children, left the nest and settled in Wythe County, Virginia, located 100 miles north of →

Rowan County, N.C. Here they went to work and developed their new home in the same manner as George 1st had done a generation earlier. By virtue of the fact that they now had horses, wagons, tools, livestock and some money, they were able to develop their new land quickly; join their church group and prosper. The new life was good — the smithy business active; the 160 acre homestead productive.

In 1794 George 2nd and Mary had a son born to them, Henry Burkett. They had now changed the spelling of their name from Burkhart to Burkett to make the spelling of their name fit the pronunciation. The savage Indian frontier had been pushed back to a safe distance, they were no longer subjects of the King of England, the new United States government had given them actual freedom, no taxes to speak of, and no threat of oppression. Here the family spent about 20 years working, praying, obeying the law, and raising their children before the wanderlust and the pull of new and greater opportunity began to send them west toward the setting sun.

Henry and his friends had now heard of a new frontier — Tennessee — so then about 1815 Henry and his friends, now riding horses, decided to take a look at Tennessee. This they did and after a few months of following the trail leading through the Cumberland Gap in extreme Western Virginia and turning South into Tennessee they explored the land and people along the trail until they found a place called McMinnville in Middle Tennessee; free land was available, fertile and productive.

Upon returning to his home in Virginia, Henry and his friends reported to their friends and families on what they had seen in Tennessee. About the year 1820 Henry had convinced his family and a few others that Tennessee was the land of the future. The family sold all they possessed that they could not carry with them and took the long trail to McMinnville. After 2 or 3 months on the trail, at last the Promised Land was in sight. They staked their claim and settled on about 320 acres of land, went to work and made a new home, cleared, built and planted. Things were better now...land, horses, cattle, hogs, a few sheep, chickens and geese, a Church group, a school and some simple property.

Henry, now 25 years of age, made his way back to North Carolina and found a young woman in Lincoln County and married her in August 1819; she was Mary Eply (sic). The young couple then traveled back to his family home in Warren County Tennessee and staked their claim to 320 acres of land in Cannon County, 50 miles west of George 2nd's home in Warren County, Tennessee. Henry's and Mary's claim was near Readyville, some 15 miles east of Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

During the early 1800's great changes were taking place. No wars, except the War with England in 1812, which was of short duration and had little or no effect on the frontier, had taken place. Railroads were beginning →

to be built; iron was being smelted in Pennsylvania; Fulton had improved the steam engine; Whitney had perfected the cotton gin; steam power was now added to human and horse power; saw mills, grist mills, and windmills, etc. were built and other machines and equipment to improve the life and production of the people of the New World. In addition, roads to Savannah, Georgia; Charleston, South Carolina; Natchez, Mississippi; Memphis, Tennessee and St. Louis, Missouri gave the new settlers improved trade and commerce. The continuing flood of immigrants — they came by the thousands — hit the East Coast and moved west through Pennsylvania, Virginia, North and South Carolina, Georgia and New Orleans (Louisiana).

President Jefferson had purchased the Louisiana territory from France in 1803, thanks to Napoleon's need for money to fight his wars in Europe. Mexico won its independence from Spain in 1821 and Andrew Jackson had pushed Spain out of Florida, and Mexico had opened parts of Texas to settlement, the Stephen F. Austin and DeWitt colonies.

Texas gained its independence from Mexico in 1836 and took the land from the Sabine River on the east to the Rio Grande River on the west and all the lands drained by the Rio Grande north and west of El Paso del Norte. In 1845 Texas became a state in the union.

Gold was discovered in California in 1849. The Yankee Clipper ships from New England were now being built in great number and were sailing the 7 seas, creating a great prosperity along the east coast, accumulating untold wealth which, in turn, furnished the capital to develop the nation. The tide moved across the Great Plains, across the Rocky Mountains, to the Pacific Coast. Now there was a nation stretching from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

Millions of acres of new land were now available for settlement and most of it for free. George 2nd and his children, Henry and Mary and their children found themselves a wonderland. They and their church group and their families were busy and prosperous; they developed their land, improved their homes, built new churches and schools, continued to work, pray and learn, for by now they all could read and write, books of learning were available, communication was much improved, newspapers were available only weeks old now as compared to months heretofore.

Henry and Mary had 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls; among the boys was Jacob "Jake" Lorenza Burkett, born in Warren County in March 1833. In Cannon County the family became acquainted with the Hoover family. Among the Hoover family, one of their children was a Rev. Ike Hoover, who had migrated to Texas in 1850 and had located in Burnet County, Texas where he founded a church in an area called "Hoover Valley." Jake had reached the ripe old age of 17 years when he found a wife, Lavina Burnet; this in 1850. Jake, now a married man, needed to leave the home nest and make a home of his own; this he did. He and his bride found land and opportunity in Cannon County, Tennessee near his father, Henry. The young couple went to work, as his forefathers had done. A new home, 160 acres of land, a good farm, orchard, livestock, and an established blacksmith shop. →

They worked and became prosperous for young folks. However, the good life was to be short-lived. In 1861 the Civil War began and things now changed quickly. "Jake" and Lavina now had 4 children and more were on the way. Tennessee joined the Confederate States; much confusion and excitement.

In May 1861, "Jake" and his younger brother George joined the Confederate Army on the same day and were assigned to the 18th Tennessee Infantry Regiment, Company D. "Jake's" cousin, David Eply, joined Company H of the same regiment. "Jake" made 1st Lieutenant in August 1861. He took part in the battle of Fort Donaldson on the Cumberland River in Stewart County, Tennessee. He became a Prisoner of War on the 16th of February 1862 and was interned in Springfield, Missouri. Some 6 months later he was among those exchanged for Blue Coat soldiers; this on September 16, 1862. He joined the Grey Coats again at Jackson, Tennessee and from there to Murfreesboro, Tennessee and was engaged in the battles of Murfreesboro (also known as the battle of Stone River) and Chickamauga, in northern Georgia, and Missionary Ridge (Lookout Mountain, Georgia).

When General Lee surrendered at Appomattox, Virginia in April 1865, "Jake" found himself in Virginia; the Grey Coats were paroled and allowed to keep their horses. On May 1, 1865 "Jake" was discharged and started home.

During the war the young men were all in the army. The older men, women and children were left to do all the work, farming to produce as much food and fodder that would support the soldiers in the War. All business and commerce was at a standstill; communication, if any, was by word of mouth and letters via the Army mail were few in number after 1862. In 1862 the Blue Coats had won the battle of middle and west Tennessee and Martial Law was declared. "Jake's" home area was occupied by the Blue Coats. The battle of Stone River with the troops on both sides living off the land had left "Jake's" farm in shambles. The animals were taken and eaten, many of their buildings destroyed, however, as the Armies moved East and South, the families were able to survive; the Carpet Baggers had not yet arrived.

By June of 1865 "Jake" and his fellow Grey Coats made it back their homes and families. All of the families in Tennessee were in the same condition — defeated in War and under military occupation and hard put to survive. The fickle finger of fate now smiled on the area around Murfreesboro and McMinnville. Rev. Ike Hoover had returned from his new home in Texas to care for his family and was in the area in June and July of 1865.

Seeing the disaster of the land and the suffering of his clan, he began to try to persuade them to let him lead them to Texas. He was successful, and a number of them, including Jake's family, David Epley's family and others, packed their resources and left their lands and home in care of their older family members. →

(Mr. Burkett's narrative continues at length describing the move to Texas and provides details about the family after their arrival. It also describes his branch of the descendants of Jacob Lorenza Burkett. However, most of that has been covered in previous articles so I will not repeat it here.

As you might surmise for an article written 31 years ago, there are several mistakes but I find the narrative to be basically factual from an historical viewpoint. The mistakes made about our family were primarily due to inadequate knowledge while we have the benefit of all these years of research with many people doing the searching. Therefore, in pointing out these errors/omissions, we are not being critical of Mr. Burkett — simply correcting the record using current information.

In the 2nd paragraph on Page 3, it states they had learned to read. I doubt that since Henry could not sign his name as evidenced by "his mark" on several documents we have.

In the 4th paragraph on Page 3, it talks about a move to Wythe County, Virginia. This was based on information which, at that time, indicated Henry Burkett was born there. However, Gina Burkett Hyche researched that family and conclusively proved it was a different Henry Burkett.

Paragraphs 5, 6 and 7 of Page 3, speaks of Henry being born in 1794, which appears to be approximately correct, and about Henry and friends surveying Tennessee and then convincing his family to move to Tennessee in 1820. However, in early 1998 and as reported in Volume 2 1998, Gina Burkett Hyche discovered Henry had been in the army from May 1, 1813 until May 1, 1818. This was information unknown to Mr. Burkett or anyone else until Gina found it. Gina procured a number of documents proving it was "our" Henry and several of these were published in Volume 4 1998. In Volume 1, 2000 additional information was published about Henry's army service and was provided by an Epley descendant, George Moore, who lives in Arlington, Virginia and who got the information from the Archives in Washington, D. C.

In paragraph 6 on Page 4, it states, "Henry and Mary had 10 children, 8 boys and 2 girls." This was later determined to be incorrect, There were 11 children, 7 boys and 4 girls.

Paragraph 7 on Page 4 states that Jake and brother George both enlisted and were assigned to Company D of the 18th Tennessee Infantry Regiment. However, the marker for George Washington Burkett in the Burlingame, Kansas cemetery shows he was a member of Company H.

Again, please do interpret these corrections as being critical of Mr. Burkett's narrative. However, it has been my experience that, all too often, anything that appears in print is taken as factual and needs to be corrected wherever possible. Based on my experience, we probably still have errors in our data which we haven't learned about.

Frankly, I found the narrative to be very interesting because, in spite of the few factual errors, it could have basically happened just as Mr. Burkett presented it and gives a more detailed view of how folks lived during those days.) ■

The George Washington Burkett Family of Kansas -

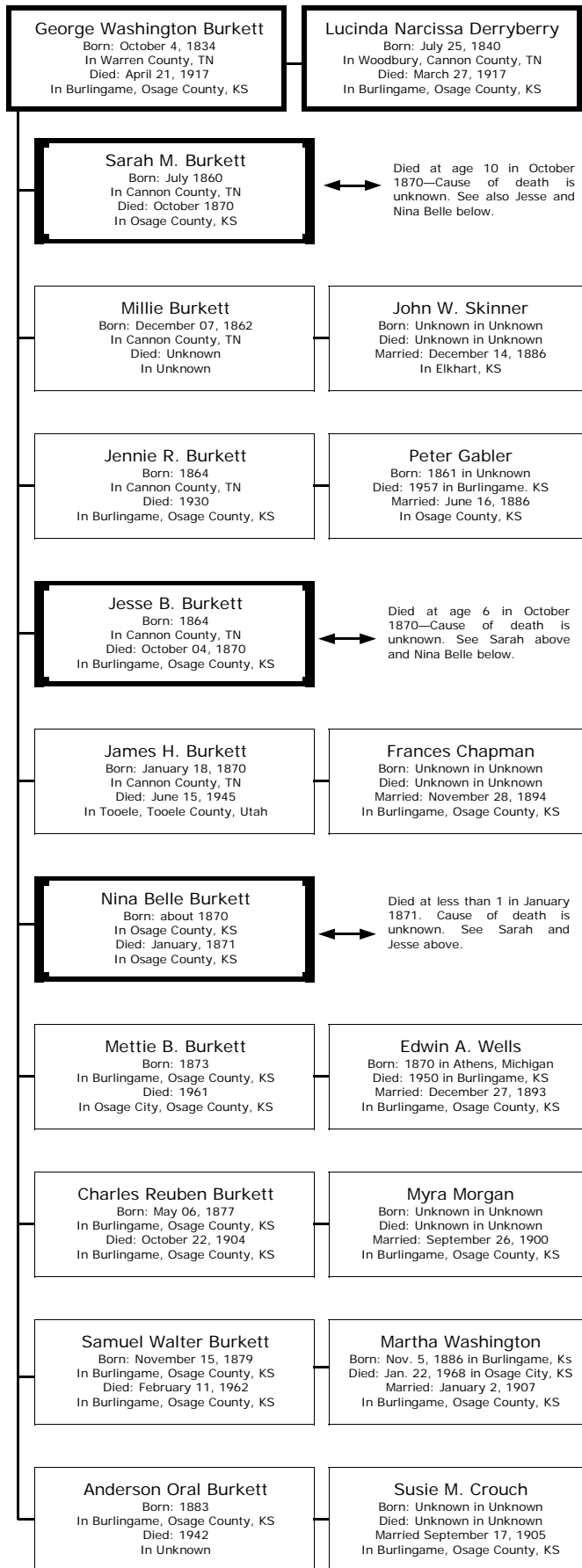
(I have previously published bits and pieces about this family. However, I have since uncovered additional information so I am going to present what I now know in its entirety causing some duplication of what I have previously written.)

Based on information in their obituaries, George Washington Burkett and wife Lucinda Narcissa Derryberry Burkett arrived in Burlingame, Kansas in March of 1870. They brought with them 5 children; Sarah who was almost 10; Millie who was 8; twins Jennie and Jesse who were 6; and James who was only 2 months old.

I have recently found that one of Lucinda's sisters, Martha E. Derryberry and her husband John Lambert, probably made the trip with them. Information from the Derryberry family indicates that Martha and John moved to Osage City, Kansas arriving between the births of their daughters, Matilda Caroline Lambert who was born in August of 1869, and A. Susan Lambert who was born in November 1870. This time frame fits in with the arrival of George W. Burkett and his family so it makes sense that they would have made the trip together. And given the fact that Martha would have been traveling with Matilda Caroline who was about 6 months of age, and Lucinda was traveling with James who was a couple of months old, I am going to speculate they traveled on a train because I believe the rigors of winter travel with its possibility of snow and extreme cold would have been more than they would have attempted using other means of transportation.

However, I still think it's likely a family member of one of them was already in Osage County. Think about arriving anytime in a strange place but especially in winter without knowing anything about the area or where you would stay until you could secure a home of your own. (I am told by a long-time resident of Osage City that March signals the arrival of Spring and there are many 60 — 70 degree days. However, she points out that it can also be unpredictable and she has even seen snow in April!) I don't believe I would have attempted it and seriously doubt they did. Since I cannot locate a Burkett relative who was already there, I lean toward thinking that maybe it was on the Derryberry or possibly even the Lambert family side. In only a very few cases have I found folks who went to new territory completely on their own without any personal knowledge of the area or without having a friend or family member already being there.

In the first column on the next page, I have summarized what we know about George and his children and you will notice that tragedy struck within a year of their arrival — three of their children died. Sarah died in October at the age of 10 as did Jesse, one of the twins, who died at the age of 6. Then Nina Belle, who was born in late 1870, died in January of 1871 when only 2 or 3

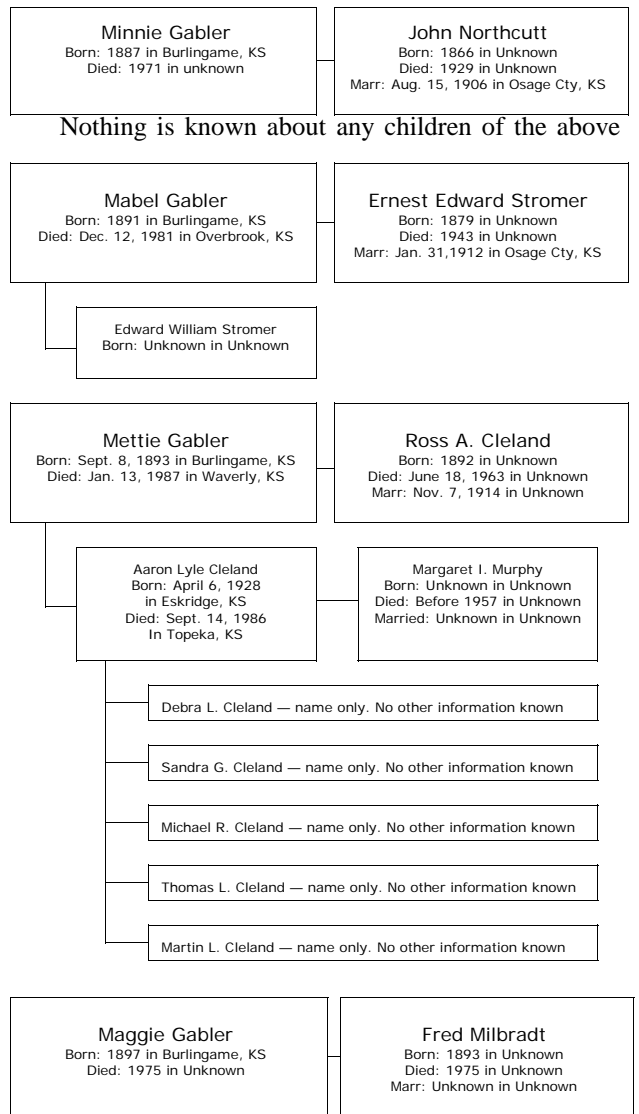


months old. While Sarah and Jesse could have died in a common accident and Nina Belle could have died of “infant causes”, I lean toward some type of sickness, perhaps an epidemic such as flu. I am trying to learn if there was such an occurrence there in 1870.

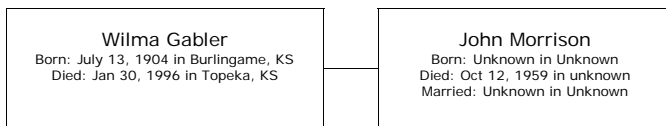
Now, with the exception of Sarah, Jesse, and Nina Belle, let’s take a look at what we know about the children.

Millie (Mrs. John W. Skinner) - Had 2 daughters, Jessie and Jennie, birth dates and places unknown. In 1917, when her parents died, Millie was living in Sunnyside, Washington according to the obituaries of her parents. Our research has been unable to develop any additional information about Millie or her family.

Jennie (Mrs. Peter Gabler) - As previously noted, Jennie arrived in Burlingame, Kansas at the age of 6. She lived the rest of her life there marrying Peter Gabler and they had the following children:



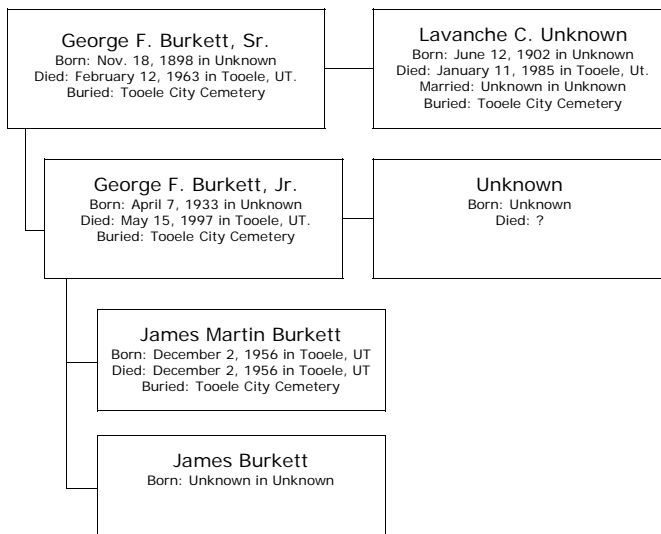
(See the next page for Wilma, the last child of Jennie)



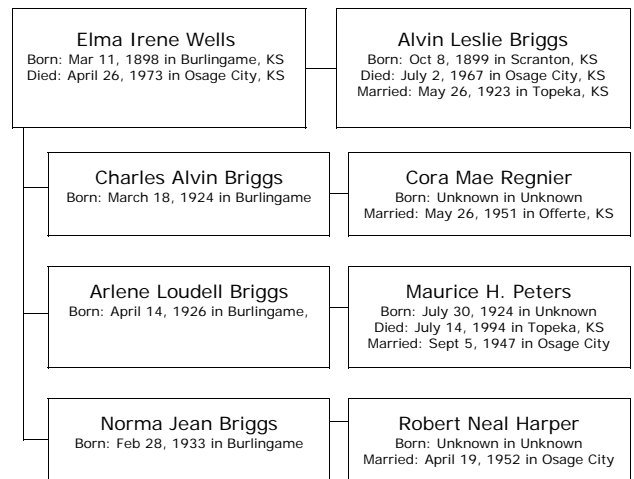
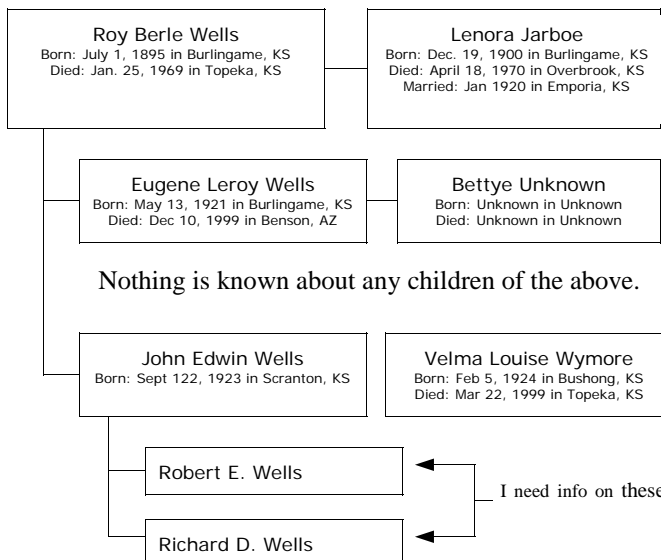
Nothing is known about any children of the above

Now we move to the next child of George and Lucinda Derryberry Burkett.

James H. Burkett — According to the obituaries of his parents, James was living in Illinois when they died. I did have information that he died in Tooele, Utah. Using the internet, I did find several relatives buried there plus a James Burkett who presently lives there but have been unable to get an answer on the phone listed for him. Using the internet information plus what I already had, here is what I have developed about the descendants of James at this time.



Mettie B. Burkett — Mettie was born and lived all of her life in and around Burlingame. She married Edwin A. Wells and their 2 children, Roy and Elma Irene Wells, with spouses and known descendants are shown below.



Nothing is known about children for any of the above.

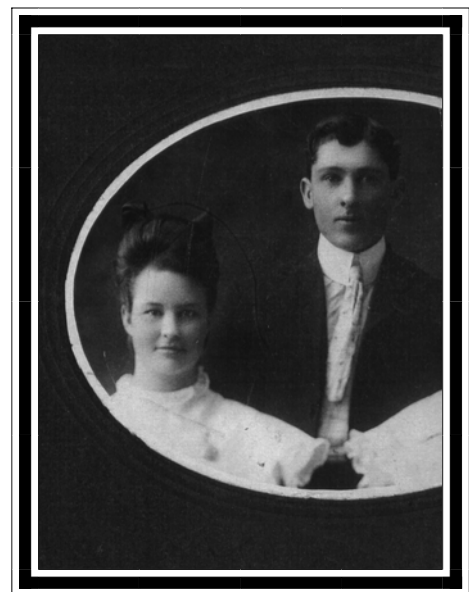
Charles Reuben Burkett - Little is known about this family. There were 3 known children but we have little information about them. What we have is as follows:

Paul Burkett was born 1904. No other information is available to us at this time.

Eunice Burkett — we have no information other than she married a man with the last name of Hayes.

Faye Burkett — we have no information about Faye other than she married a man with the last name of Hicks.

Samuel Walter Burkett — we have more information about this son of George and Lucinda Burkett than any of the other children. Before I start listing their descendants, let me show you what a fine looking young couple he and wife Martha were.

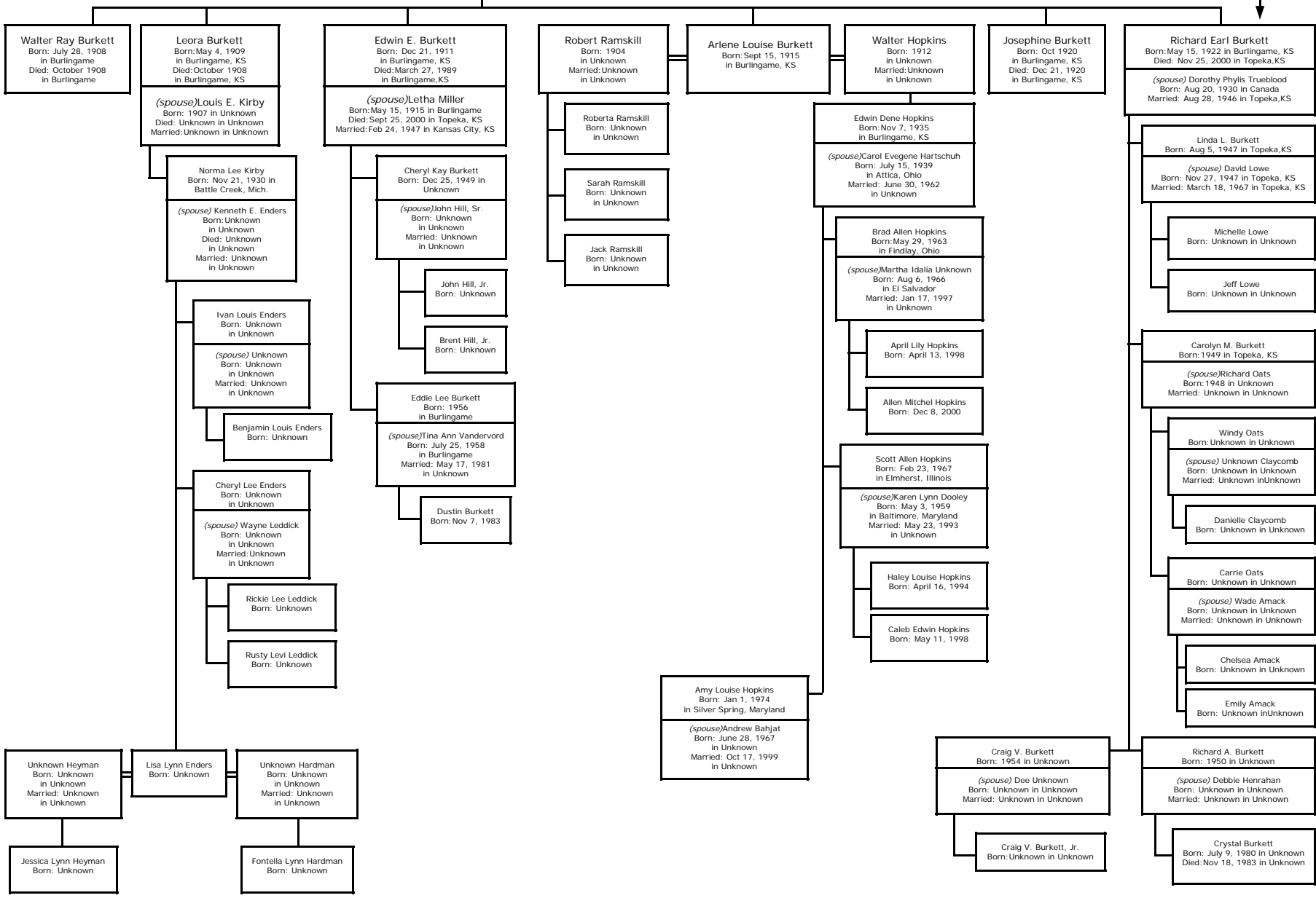


Descendants are shown on the next page.

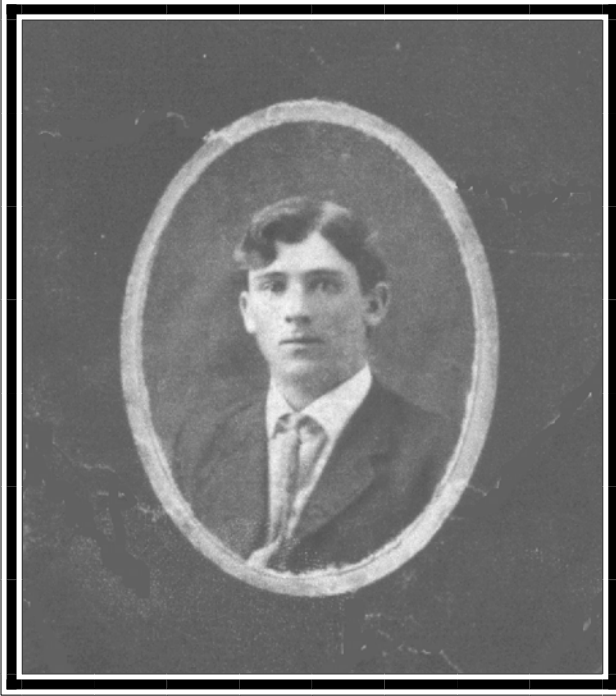
Samuel Walter Burkett
 Born: November 15, 1879 in Burlingame, KS
 Died: Feb. 1, 1962 in Burlingame, KS

Martha Washington Burkett
 Born: November 05, 1886 in Osage City, MO
 Died: Jan 22, 1968 in Burlingame, KS
 Married: Jan 7, 1907 in Burlingame, KS

Based on information in the obituary for Richard Burkett printed elsewhere in this issue, he had 9 grandchildren and 9 great grand-children so I am missing some information which we will have to work on.



Here is a picture of a young Samuel Walter Burkett. The year is unknown. This photo provided by Eddie Burkett of Scranton, Kansas, a son of Edwin E. Burkett and a grandson of Samuel Walter.



Shown above is Walter Burkett, Martha Washington Burkett and their grandson, Edwin Dene Hopkins. According to Arlene Burkett Hopkins, the mother of Edwin Dene Hopkins, Walter had fallen from a ladder and, although able to get around, it left him a little shaken. Arlene provided this photo.

Since grandson Edwin Dene Hopkins is shown above, here is a young Edwin with his parents, Walter and Arlene Burkett Hopkins. Photo was probably taken around 1937 and was provided by Arlene.



Walter and Martha Burkett. Date and location is unknown. This photo was also provided by grandson Eddie Burkett of Scranton, Kansas.





Arlene Burkett Hopkins with son Edwin Dene

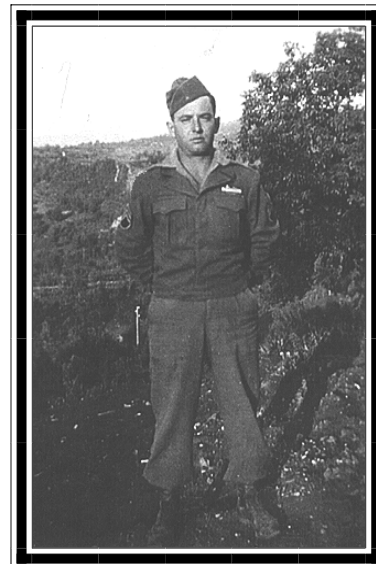


Above is a young Arlene with her dog in the backyard of her parents home. In the background is her father's garden and Arlene had this comment to make about the garden, "He sure could raise the biggest Bermuda onions!" Arlene tells me that, in addition to vegetables, there were apples, pears, persimmons, and grapes. Sounds like pretty good country!

Switching now to a brother of Arlene's, Edwin E. Burkett, the oldest son of Walter and Martha Burkett, here is a picture of him taken in Italy during World War II.



Arlene Burkett Hopkins with son Edwin Dene and Mother Martha Washington Burkett





Above is another photo of Edwin Burkett from his World War II service. This is believed to have been taken in Milan, Italy.



Above is Edwin Burkett with wife Letha Miller Burkett. They married February 14, 1947 in Kansas City, Kansas. The photo was taken Christmas of 1976.

EDWIN E. BURKETT

Edwin E. Burkett, 77, Burlingame, passed away Mar. 23, 1989, at a Burlingame nursing home.

Mr. Burkett was a mechanic. He was an Army veteran of World War II, having served in the infantry in France, Italy and North Africa.

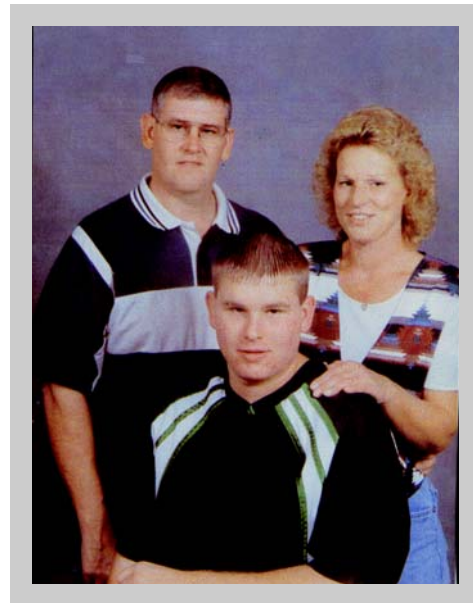
He was born Dec. 21, 1911, in Burlingame, the son of Walter and Martha Washington Burkett. He was graduated from Burlingame High School and spent most of his life in the Burlingame community.

Mr. Burkett was a member of Gene and Elroy Schenck Veterans of Foreign Wars Post No. 7584 in Burlingame.

He was married to Letha Miller on Feb. 24, 1947, in Kansas City, Mo. She survives. One stepson, Wally York, passed away in 1968.

Also surviving are one daughter, Cheryl Jefferson, Warrensburg, Mo.; one son, Eddie L. Burkett, Scranton; one stepson, William York, Burlingame; one sister, Arlene Ramskill, Attica, Ohio; one brother, Richard Burkett, Topeka; five grandchildren and one great grandchild.

Graveside services were at 2 p.m. Mar. 27, in Burlingame Cemetery. Carey Funeral Home at Burlingame, was in charge of arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Gene and Elroy Schenck VFW Post No. 7584, Burlingame, KS 66413.



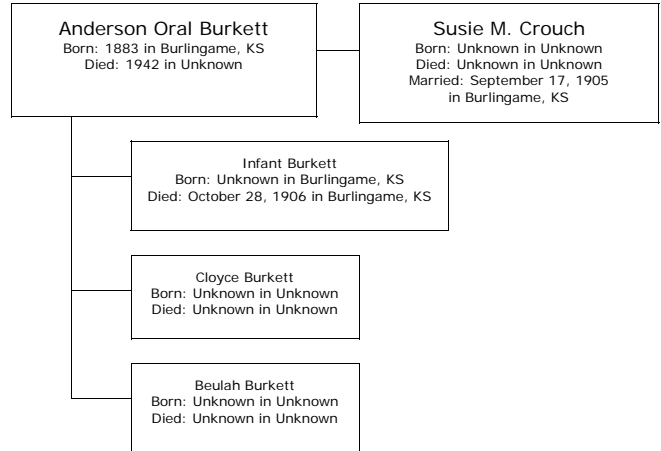
Above is the son of Edwin Burkett, Eddie Lee Burkett with his wife Tina and son Dustin. They live in Scranton, KS.



Above is the youngest son of Walter and Martha Washington Burkett, Richard Burkett. This photo provided by Arlene Burkett Hopkins and she thinks the above was taken when Richard was in the 8th grade.

That's about all I have for Walter and Martha Washington Burkett and their family at this time. I'm sure you have spotted several pieces of information missing along with the names of some relatives. But we are working on getting that information and hope to have it by the next issue. After Walter Burkett, George and Lucinda had one other son shown below.

Anderson Oral Burkett - very little is known about this son other than that shown below.



Now below is a granddaughter of George Washington Burkett, Wilma Gabler Morrison who was the youngest daughter of Jennie Burkett and Peter Gabler, with her husband John Morrison and their children. Notice the face of the child in the rear window. And surprisingly, we have no information as to the names, ages, etc. of the children. Something else we have to work on.

To the right is when Richard and wife Dorothy celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary.

Sad to report, Richard died November 25, 2000. See his obituary elsewhere in this issue.



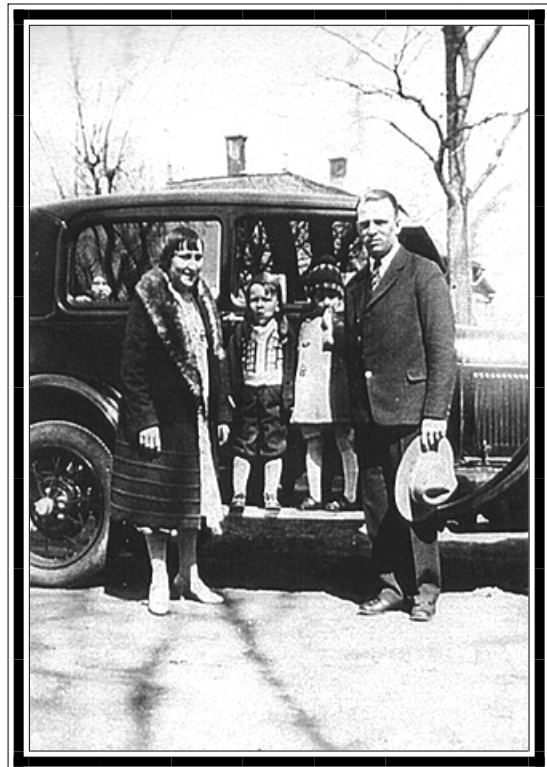
Dorothy and Richard Burkett

Richard and Dorothy Burkett, Topeka, will celebrate their 50th wedding anniversary with a family dinner on Labor Day.

Hosts will be their children, David and Linda Lowe, Mark and Carolyn Wilt, Richard and Debbie Burkett and Craig and Dee Burkett, all of Topeka. They have nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Richard Burkett and Dorothy Trueblood were married Aug. 28, 1946, in Topeka.

Mr. Burkett is retired from civil service. Mrs. Burkett is a homemaker.



For the benefit of some new subscribers who did not see the obituaries of Geo. W. Burkett and wife, I am reprinting them below.

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

March 29, 1917

Death of Mrs. George W. Burkett

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

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

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

"Mother dear, 'tis hard to leave you,
All alone this world to
trod,
But I know that
Heaven's blessings,
Will be with us and
thy God."

"I am going home to mother when
my pilgrim race
is run,
I have promised I
would meet her
in the sky
is finished,
When my Master's work
of the sun
at the setting
I am going home to
mother by and by."

Card of Thanks

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

G. W. Burkett and Family

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

April 26, 1917

Geo. W. Burkett

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

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

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

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

Then the following article appeared.

Osage County Chronicle (Microfilm Roll 213).

Burlingame Kansas Page 1 Column 1 and 2

April 26, 1917

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

Less than a month ago, the Chronicle reported the death of the aged wife of George W. Burkett of Dragon township and this week regrets to announce the death of Mr. Burkett, which occurred on Saturday of last week at his home half a mile west of the cemetery. Mr. Burkett, a fine old gentleman and for about a half century resident here, was

born in Tennessee and was 82 years of age. During the Civil War he was in the Confederate Army and came west at the close of the strife. One son resides in Illinois, two others, Oral and Walter, live here, and he also has two daughters residing here, Mrs. Peter Gabler and Mrs. Edward Wells.

The funeral occurred on Sunday. Rev. Quilliam officiating, and the interment being in the Burlingame cemetery beside the wife from whom he was separated for so short a time.

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

While the above article repeats almost everything in the Burlingame newspaper, it gives one additional fact in the first paragraph; it states his home was "half a mile west of the cemetery." This may help us in our future research.

That sums up everything I have at this time on the George Washington Burkett family. However, when Audy Majors and I visited Burlingame in 1999, we left with a feeling of utter dejection because we had almost nothing. Now I wish to say thanks to folks like Linda Fagan of Osage City who is not a relative but a researcher; Arlene Briggs Peters of Topeka, Kansas who is a granddaughter of Mettie Burkett Wells and a great granddaughter of George Washington Burkett; Arlene Burkett Hopkins of Attica, Ohio who is a daughter of Samuel Walter Burkett and a great granddaughter of George Washington Burkett; Eddie Burkett of Scranton, Kansas who is a son of Edwin Burkett and a grandson of Samuel Walter Burkett; Norma Kirby Enders of Attica, Ohio who is a daughter of Leora Burkett Kirby; and, more recently, Scott Hopkins of Newark, Delaware who is a grandson of Arlene Burkett Hopkins and a great grandson of Samuel Walter Burkett. ■

Always buy a good bed and a good pair of shoes. If you're not in one, you're in the other.

- Gloria Hunniford,
British talk-show host
as quoted in Reader's Digest

Thank You, Juanelle! -

I am referring to Juanelle Burkett Curtis who is a daughter of Edgar Burkett, a granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett, a great granddaughter of Jacob Burkett, and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett.

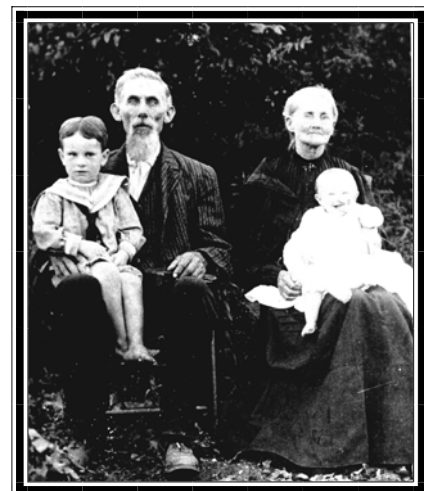
Juanelle recently sent me two boxes of family items which she had collected over the years. While I haven't had time to carefully review each document, I have made a quick scan of them and found details on an item I had speculated on for some time — see the article below. And thanks again, Juanelle. I really appreciate what you sent and promise to review everything. ■

Henry Burkett's Fingers —

Many issues ago I wrote about reading somewhere that Henry had lost the fingers of one of his hands. But that was all the information I had at the time. In going through some of the items sent by Juanelle, I found a writing by James Henry Burkett, a son of Jacob Burkett, pertaining to these fingers. Here is what he said.

"Another incident which occurred was that I remember my grandfather, Henry Burkett, who visited father just prior to our leaving for Texas. I recall that while he was eating his dinner that he held his fork in his left hand, with his thumb and the stub of his palm. Later I was told that he lost all four of his fingers between the roolers (sic) of a wood shorgum (sic) mill." (*I think he meant to say between the rollers of a sorghum mill.*)

Below is a previously published photo of Henry with wife Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett and unidentified grandchildren. This photo was obviously made late in life for Henry and you will notice he still has all of the fingers on his left hand. I do not know the date of this photo but since James Henry Burkett arrived in Texas with his father December 1865, then the picture was taken before then. Just taking a guess that the picture was made in 1864, this would place Henry's age at 70 - he was born in 1794 - and Polly's age at 64 - she was born in 1800.



Texas Burkett Photo's

These were provided by Sharon Burkett Fleming, a daughter of Jacob "Jake" Burkett & granddaughter of Edgar Burkett



Children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett

Men L to R — Edgar, Lee, George, Johnnie, Floyd Women L to R — Birdie, Mae Delle, Gladys, Stella



Family of George & Elizabeth Vann Burkett

L to R - Estelle, George, Elizabeth (Aunt Lizzie), Leona, Chlotilde, Floretta, Katherine, Enza Dell, and in front next to George is Verna Bess who was the youngest.



Family of Edgar & Evelyn Barton Burkett

L to R - daughter Blanche, Evelyn, daughter Juanelle, Edgar, and son Jake.



Edgar Burkett with his mules Red on the left and Kate behind him. Photo was taken in 1936.



Above is Jake Burkett with one of his pigs which appears to be eating a watermelon. The dog, Paul, was given to Jake and sister Juanelle by an Aunt. The young girl was a neighbor, Gladys Sadler. Interestingly, Paul taught Jake how to swim by letting Jake hold on to a paw!



Now here is Jake with cousin Joe Masssey about 1939. I know that Jake was involved in 4-H activities and had some sheep so I am guessing this was either at a fair or some 4-H meeting. Whether Joe was simply helping Jake hold one of the sheep or Joe himself had sheep, I don't know.



Jake Burkett and Billie - Year is unknown - As noted before, Jake was very active in 4-H activities so I assume Billie was another part of Jake's involvement and interest in 4-H activities.



Juanelle Burkett Curtis, Jake Burkett, and Blanche Katherine Burkett Britt - this photo was taken in 1941 at a family reunion.

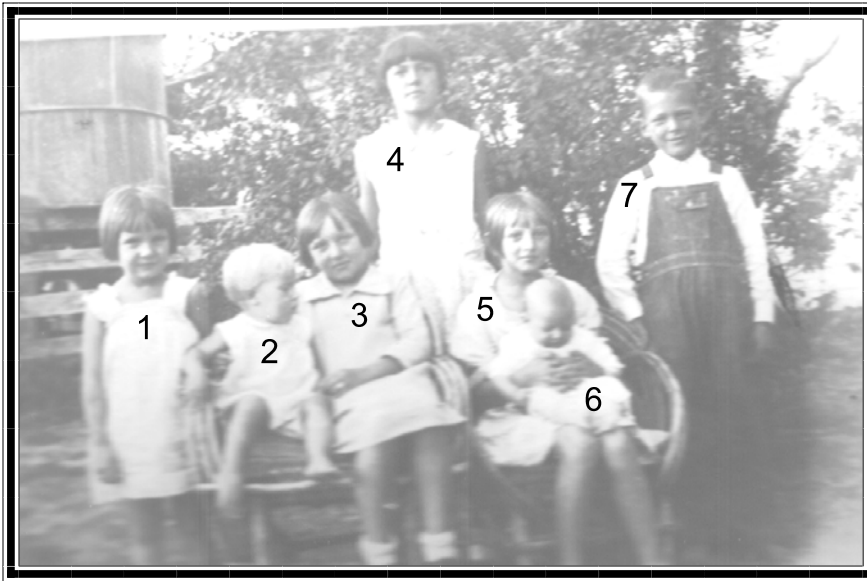


Brother and Sister - Jake Burkett and sister Juanelle Burkett Curtis - Photo was taken in 1941 in what I understand to be the front yard of their parents home.



Cousins Wanda Zell Burkett, a daughter of Floyd Burkett, and Doye Burkett, a daughter of Lee Burkett.

I have two more picture which I will present on the next page since I don't have room left here for them. Let me use this space to thank Sharon Burkett Fleming for the loan of these pictures. I apologize for some where the quality isn't as good as I would have liked. Not being an expert on photo scanning and copying, I cannot offer an explanation as to why some turn out pretty good and others do not. Some which I expected to be good were not and vice versa. Some, of course, were bad to begin with in that some faces were in the shade or the sun was coming from one side or overhead casting a shadow on faces. And then it seems the quality of the photo as regards resolution wasn't as good back then depending on the camera and/or the film. However, as I have said before, I'm just thankful we even have them and are able to identify our relatives.



1-Enza Dell Burkett, daughter of George;
 2-Verna Bess Burkett, dau. of George;
 3-Estelle Burkett, daughter of George;
 4-Juanelle Burkett, daughter of Edgar;
 5-Floretta Burkett, daughter of George;
 6-Patsy June Coleman, daughter of Leona Burkett Coleman and Kenneth Coleman and granddaughter of George; 7-Jake Burkett, son of Edgar.

I'm going to make a guess that Leona Burkett Coleman took the photo. Since that's her baby, Patsy June Coleman, who is in Floretta's lap, I don't believe momma would be far away because it appears Patsy is only a couple of months old! And since Patsy June was born June 14, 1932, we can pretty much establish the picture was taken in 1932. One more point, this means that Floretta (age 10) is holding her niece and seems mighty proud of it!



“My First Year in School at Mullin, Texas 1929-1930”

The above words were written by Jake Burkett in the photo album from which these pictures were taken. And oh what memories this picture brought back for me! Look at the boys who are all *bare-footed*. That was normal for boys in those days of the depression, myself included. If you'll look closely, you will see where the dirt ends and the clean skin begins! Now that's Floretta Burkett which I have identified as number 1. And that's the teacher Miss Mable Smith. Jake clearly identified all of the others except for the boys in the front row. So I'm going to have to guess that's Jake with the number 2. Am I right or wrong? Let me hear from some relatives. One final comment about this picture. Given the year it was made and the hard times throughout the country, I'm surprised - but happy - there was money enough to have it made.

This final picture of the "Texas Burkett Photo's" was provided by Juanelle Burkett Curtis



The Edgar Burkett Family

Standing L to R - Beryl Juanelle Burkett, Blanche Katherine Burkett
Seated L to R - Jacob Bentley 'Jake' Burkett, Evelyn Barton Burkett, Edgar Lorenza Burkett

Williams Ranch Cemetery



Unveiling of the marker commemorating the grave of John Williams. The marker acknowledges that John Williams arrived in the area in 1855 and helped start the local cattle industry. That's Edgar Burkett on the left. The date is unknown as to when the photo was made.

Katie Lee Opal Burkett Grubbs -

Many of you will remember my search for information about Katie Lee, the youngest child of James Henry and Samantha Victoria Burkett. As previously reported, I did establish she died in El Paso, Texas and I secured a death certificate from El Paso County. But this only added to my confusion since it stated she was removed to Albuquerque, New Mexico the day after she died. Using the death certificate information, I contacted the funeral home in El Paso and they sent me copies of their file. This revealed there was a memorial service the day after her death and that she was cremated.

But the trail ended there until I spoke with Tommy Bentley in Clyde, Texas. You will recall it was Tommy who was responsible for cleaning the family cemetery on the property of James Henry Burkett in Clyde and that Tommy is a descendant of Samantha Victoria and her first husband, James Nolley. Tommy told me that Katie's remains were scattered over the family cemetery there in Clyde. So this now ends my search. ■

Heaven goes by favor. If it went by merit, you would stay out and your dog would go in.

- Mark Twain

Recent Births -

A belated welcome to a new relative - and he was a big one! 10 pounds 13 ounces! His name is Andrew Leslie Neal and he was born at the Halifax Medical Center in Daytona Beach on August 26, 2000. The proud parents are Carol Owen Neal and Bradford Neal; grandparents are Patsy Andrews Owen and Larry Owen; and the *great* grandparents are Kathleen Majors Andrews and Verdie Andrews of Union Grove, Alabama. Congratulations to all and a big welcome to a new member of our family! ■

- Obituaries -

Norma Louise Baker Hasselbring -

She was born May 14, 1928 in Stotts City, Missouri and died November 3, 1999 in Sarcoxie, Missouri. She was married to Leonard Dale Hasselbring who survives her.

She was a daughter of Mira Maltby Burkett and Leslie Everett Baker; a granddaughter of James Edward Burkett and Angelina Brown Burkett; a great granddaughter of Henry Isaac Burkett and Nancy Evans Burkett; and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett and Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett.

Vencil Ilene Baker -

She was born June 21, 1918 in Stotts City, Missouri and was a sister to Norma Louise Baker Hasselbring shown above. She died November 9, 2000 in Sarcoxie, Missouri.

She was also a daughter of Mira Maltby Burkett and Leslie Everett Baker; a granddaughter of James Edward Burkett and Angelina Brown Burkett; a great granddaughter of Henry Isaac Burkett and Nancy Evans Burkett; and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett and Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett.

Richard Earl Burkett -

Richard Earl Burkett, 78, Topeka, died Saturday, Nov. 25, 2000 at a Topeka hospital.

He was born May 15, 1922 in Burlingame, to Walter and Martha Washington Burkett. He graduated from Burlingame High School. He lived in Topeka since 1946. He was a U.S. Civil Service employee at Forbes Air Force Base before he retired.

He was a veteran of World War II, having served in the army from 1942 to 1946.

He was a member of Seaman Congregation United Church of Christ, North Post No. 400 of the American Legion, Billard Post No. 1650 of veterans of Foreign Wars, Topeka Chapter No. 3 of Disabled American Veterans and Oakland IOOF Lodge No. 640, all in Topeka.

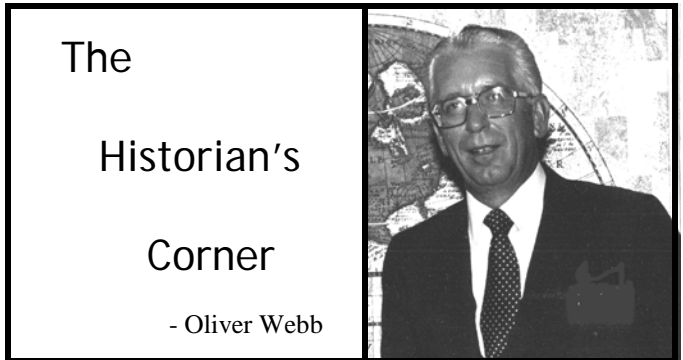
He married Dorothy Phyllis Trueblood on August 28, 1946 in Topeka. She survives. A granddaughter, Crystal Burkett, preceded him in death.

Other survivors include two sons, Richard Burkett and

Craig Burkett, both in Topeka; two daughters, Linda Rowe, Topeka, and Carolyn Wilt, Rossville; a sister, Arlene Ramskill, Attica, Ohio; nine grandchildren and nine great grandchildren.

Services will be at 2 p.m. Tuesday at Parker-Price Mortuary, Billard Post No. 1650 of veterans of Foreign Wars will conduct graveside services at Valencia cemetery west of Topeka. Mr. Burkett will lie in state after 2 p.m. today at the mortuary where relatives and friends will met from 7 - 8 p.m.

Memorial contributions may be made to Topeka Chapter No. 3 of Disabled American Veterans, 2021 Moundview Drive, Topeka 66604. ■



It seems there is always bad news to go with good news and I am sorry to report that I have bad news about our relative, Joseph Washington "Joe" Burkett, Jr. who wrote our lead article in this issue, "Narrative of the Burketts in America." Joe suffered a stroke a few months back and now needs constant care. He was 88 years old this past November.

And the good news is associated with Joe. I have just heard from Lisa Burkett Daehnke, a granddaughter of Prentiss Brackston Burkett who is a brother to Joe. This just took place and we haven't had time to exchange much information yet but she has already corrected a couple of errors and given some information I did not have.

For our new subscribers, let me repeat what I have previously said about including so much detail about folks such as the George Washington Burkett family in this issue. I know it's a lot like the "begats" in the Bible but it's necessary in order to give the members of that family the opportunity to review and correct what I have at this time - so please bear with me. I know it can get a little boring if you are not part of that family.

Leta Mae Durst of Mason, Texas tells me they are still working on trying to get "Texas Historical Site" status for Chesser Valley. I wish them luck and hope they are successful because that Valley did play a large role in the lives of many of our relatives. Anybody with information about the Valley may wish to send it on to Leta at Box 325 Mason, Texas 76856.

I want to thank all of you for your support of our Newsletter. Several sent additional amounts above the \$15.00 dues and that is certainly appreciated. This helps in seeking out and contacting other relatives. ■