



THE BURKETT FAMILY



A Quarterly Publication

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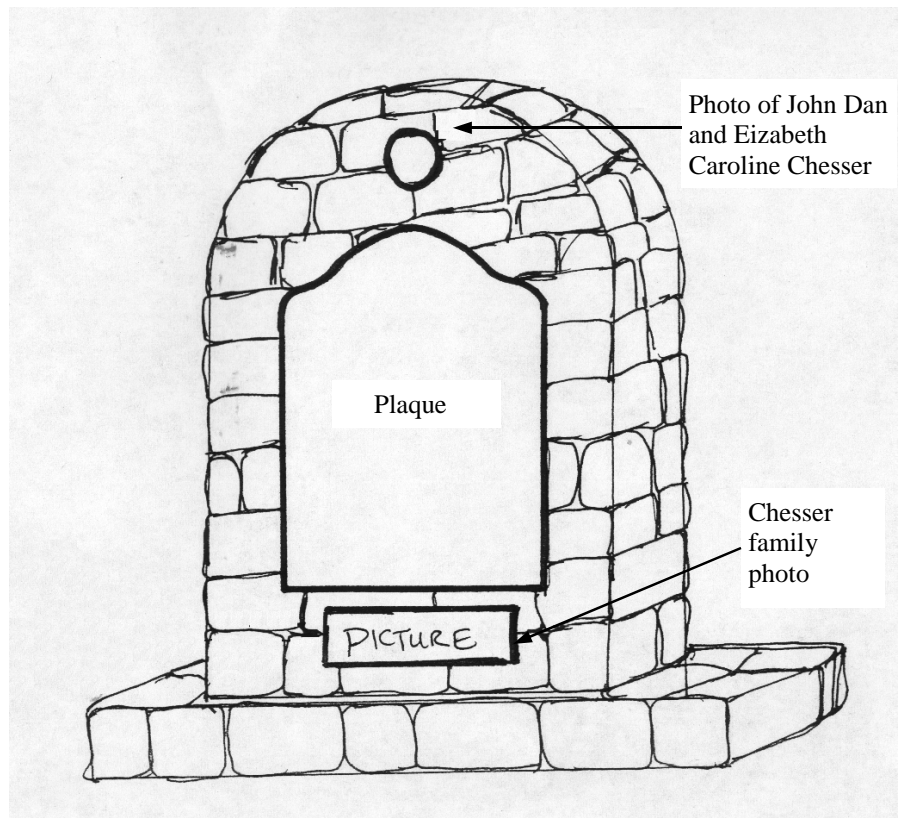
- Ashley Elizabeth Marier 15



A Texas Historical Marker For Chesser Valley!

After many months of hard work, the efforts of Luther Williams and Leta Mae Durst are nearing completion. The State of Texas has approved a marker near the site of Chesser Valley which is close to Mullin, Texas. Below is a preliminary drawing of the marker which will be constructed of native rock gathered from the last original structure at Chesser Valley. This will be more than the usual marker in that there will be photo's on it which will be made of porcelain similar to those on markers in cemeteries. These photo's, the wording on the plaque, and a map showing the location will appear later in this article.

Previous articles have provided information about the valley and it's founder, John Dan Chesser. However, a summary is being provided for new relatives to understand the significance to our family.



In 1854, John Dan Chesser's family moved to Texas from Missouri at which time he was twelve years of age. Six years later, at the age of eighteen, he married Elizabeth Caroline Epley.

Elizabeth Caroline Epley was a daughter of John Epley and Mary Spangler. Her father was a brother of Mary 'Polly' Epley who married Henry Burkett and also a brother of Annie Epley who married John Williams who established the Williams Ranch.

Around 1850, John Epley moved his family to Hickory County, Missouri. But Hickory County was not good to the family. At the age of 45, John died in September 1852, his wife Mary, age 44, died one month later in October and a daughter, Tennessee, died one month after that in November at the age of 19. There was a yellow fever epidemic in 1852 which may be what caused their deaths although we have no actual proof. After these deaths, the remaining children — four boys and two girls — were moved back to Tennessee to live with relatives.

Family legend has it that Elizabeth and younger sister, Louisa, were unhappy with these relatives and, when a wagon train was being made up by Bill Williams to go to Texas, a friend slipped them out a window during the middle of a cold night. Legend has it that Elizabeth came out without shoes and rode all night on horseback causing her feet to freeze. For a long time, it was thought she would lose her feet.

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

John Dan and Elizabeth were married at the Williams home in 1860 when both were 18. Soon after they were married, George Williams and John Dan walked from Williams Ranch to the area which would later become Chesser Valley. George showed John Dan a section of land he had staked out for himself and then helped John Dan stake out a section.

However, at that time, John Dan had no money so he took his bride and went from Williams Ranch to Burnet, Texas where he soon got a job carrying the mail by ox wagon from Burnet to Fredericksburg, Texas — a distance of approximately 60 miles. The Chessers lived in a one-room rock house which later became the post office.

During the War between the States, John Dan served as a ranger on the frontier helping to fight the Indians. His wife would not see him for weeks at a time. After the close of the War in 1865, the Chessers returned to the land John Dan had surveyed in what later became Chesser Valley. They brought with them a son, John Shirell, who had been born in 1863 in Burnett County. They built a one-room cabin and a daughter was born to them in this cabin.

As the years passed, other families moved to the valley and the Chesser family continued expanding their cabin to accommodate their 11 children.

Preachers of various denominations would preach and the local preachers made their headquarters at the Chessers. It was not unusual for the Chessers to invite 50 guests for dinner on Sundays with the women arising before dawn to prepare the food. People also came from miles around to use the Chesser blacksmith shop. Caskets were also made in the shop with the women making the shrouds.

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

ALABAMA REUNION MANAGER

Debbie Burkett Howard

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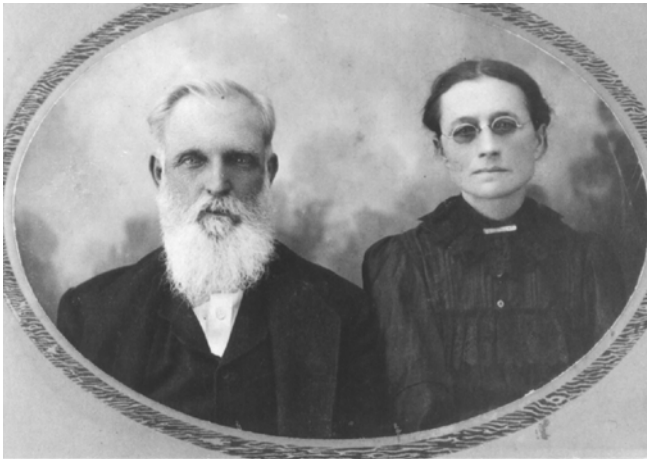
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The above picture of the Chesser Family is a copy of the one planned for the marker. John Dan and Elizabeth are on the extreme left. Note the double birdhouse in the tree on the right.



This is the picture of John Dan and Elizabeth which will appear on the marker. Below is what the plaque will read.

Site of
CHESSEY VALLEY COMMUNITY

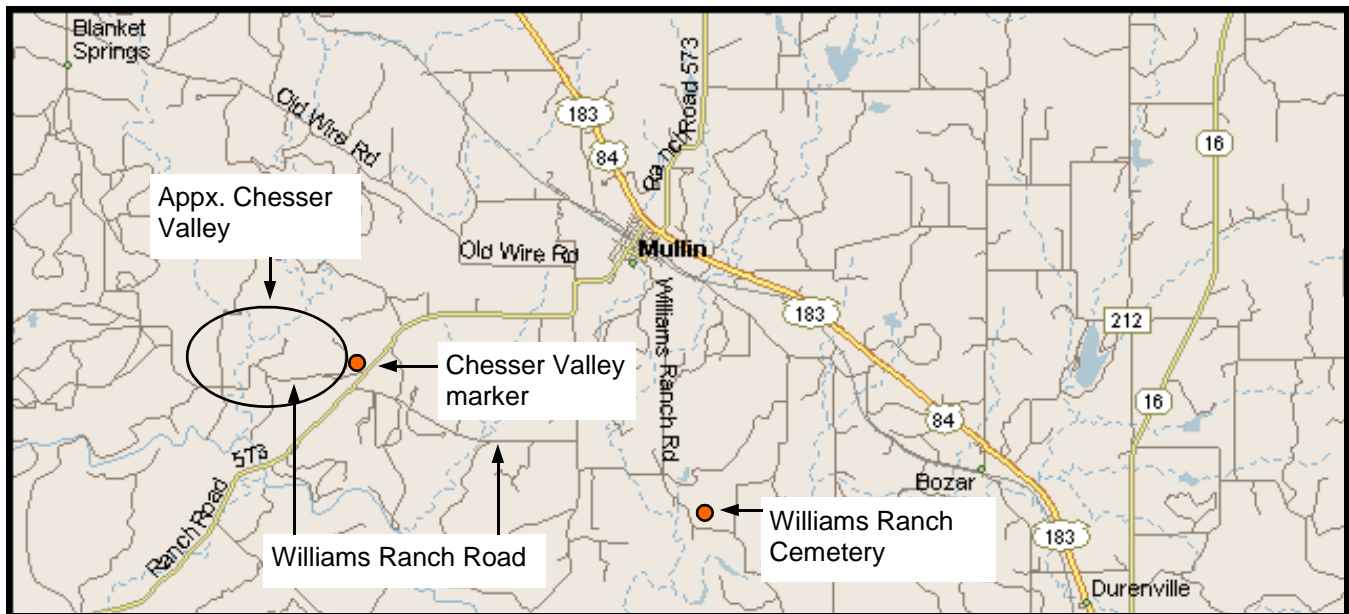
Near this site is the Chesser Valley, named for early settler John Dan Chesser, whose home became the focal point of a small rural community by the same name. Missouri native John Dan Chesser (1841-1914) moved to Texas with his family in 1854

and married Tennessean Elizabeth Caroline Epley (1842-1924) in 1860, They first lived in Burnet, Texas but moved to this part of the state after Chesser's service in the Texas state troops during the civil war.

The Chessers homesteaded 160 acres of land in what was then part of Brown County. They expanded their log home as their family grew to number 11 children. It served as a church, hospital and hotel for travelers along the Williams Ranch Road.

Chesser Valley was the site of frequent camp meetings. Entire families came from miles away to camp out in a grove of live oak trees and attend prayer and preaching services under a tabernacle near the Chesser house. A one-teacher school began in 1868 to serve the children in the area around Chesser Valley. After Mills County was created out of Brown County in 1887, the new county commissioners recognized the school district and designated it as District No. 8.

Those who settled the Chesser Valley community were primarily friends and family of John Dan and Elizabeth Chesser. The Chesser house, which had been the nucleus of the community, burned in 1926, and by the dawn of the 21st century, only one original structure remained from the period of the Valley's settlement. (End of plaque.)



Location of Chesser Valley and Marker

It is possible that some changes will be made from what is presented here since the work is still in progress. The State of Texas has ordered the plaque so the wording is much defined. However, the rock marker is still to be made and the photographs are still to be sent to the company that will reproduce them in porcelain. When the marker is completed, there will be a dedication ceremony with the date still undetermined. Leta had hoped the dedication could take place during the Goldthwaite reunion in September but the marker should be completed well before the date so it will be necessary to go ahead and schedule the installation and dedication. At any rate, the marker should be there for the reunion attendee's to view.

My congratulations to Luther Williams and Leta Mae Durst for their hard work in securing this marker. I think I have forgotten to mention that Leta Mae is a granddaughter of John Dan and Elizabeth Epley Chesser. Her parents were Louise Iola (Ola) Chesser and William Henry Williams. Luther is a son of Luther Lois Williams, a grandson of Silas Marion Williams; a great grandson of William Lyon Williams; and a first cousin once removed to Leta. ■

Some Facts About the 1500s -

1 TAKING BATHS

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house had the privilege of the nice clean water, then all the other sons and men, then the women and finally the children and last of all the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could actually lose someone in it. Hence the saying "Don't

throw the baby out with the bath water."

2 PORK INFORMATION

Sometimes people would obtain pork which made them feel quite special. When visitors came over, they would hang up their bacon to show off. It was a sign of wealth! Hence the saying, "Bring home the bacon." They would cut off a little to share with guests and then sit around to "chew the fat."

3 BREAD

Bread was divided according to status. Workers got the burnt bottom of the loaf, the family got the middle, and guests got the top or "upper crust,"

4 BURIALS

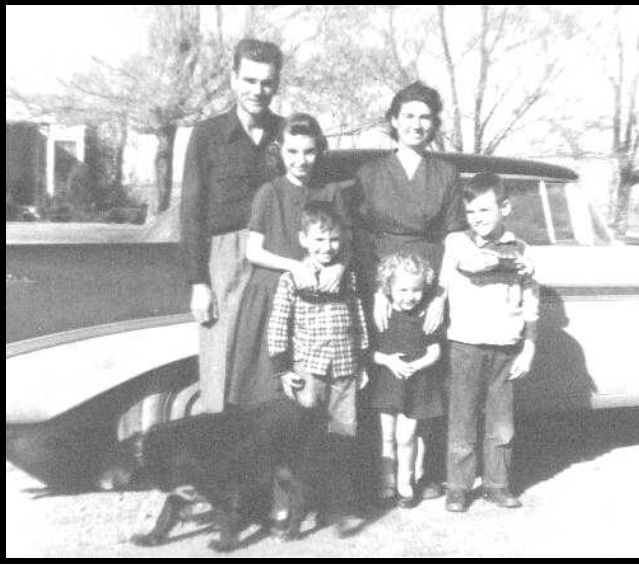
England is old and small and the local folks started running out of places to bury people. So they would dig up coffins and take the bones to a "bone-house" and reuse the grave. When reopening these coffins, 1 out of 25 were found to have scratch marks on the inside and they realized they had been burying folks alive. So they thought they would tie a string on the wrist of the corpse, lead it through the coffin and up through the ground and tie it to a bell. Someone would have to sit out in the graveyard all night (the "graveyard shift") to listen for the bell; thus, someone could be "saved by the bell."

5 MOST MARRIAGES WERE IN JUNE

Most people got married in June because they took their yearly bath in May and still smelled pretty good by June. However, they were "starting" to smell so brides carried bouquets of flowers to hide the odor. ■

More Photo's of John and Zona Burkett Family -

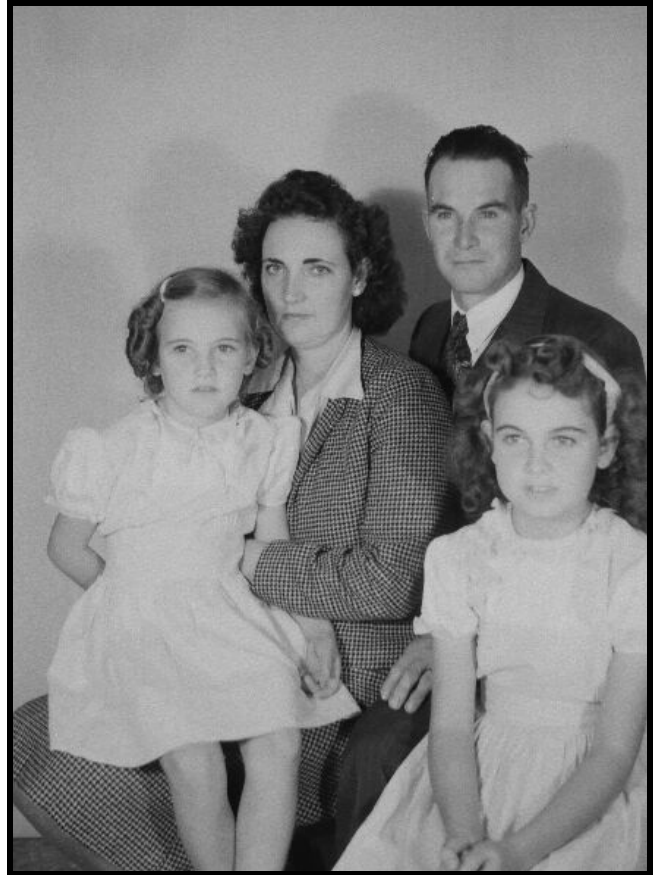
In the last issue I published several photo's but had several left over. Here they are.



Joe and Lorene Burkett and their family about 1958 or 1959. In front of Joe is Linda then L to R Cary, Connie and Delbert. Joe says he thinks the dog was Rex.



Young Joe Burkett and sister Wilda.



Jake and Eileen Burkett with daughters Betty on the left and Peggy on the right. About 1947.



This was taken in January 1943 when Joe was in the army and attending a course in radio communications in Los Angeles, California. This picture was made at some little photo booth. Visiting Joe are his then fiancée, Lorene on the left, mother Zona in the middle, and sister Cortez on the right. Father John was also along on the trip but not in the above picture.



John and Zona Burkett Family - October 1943
 Rear L to R - Dale, Katie, Jake, Wilda, Elmo, Cortez, Joe. Front L to R - John, Jim, Zona
 (Joe was on the end so he could set the self timer and then run into place.)



As I mentioned in the previous issue, one of Joe's hobbies was photography. The above picture was his first double exposure on the same negative. That's sister Katie helping "herself" with school home work.



This was taken in 1942 at Elmo's house who lived near Tahoka, Texas at that time. Tahoka is south of Lubbock and just north of O'Donnell. That's Joe second from the left and the group played on the radio station in Lubbock in 1937 and a little in 1938.



Taken at Falcon Lake down on the Rio Grande in 1992, this is Wilda, then Joe and Jake.



L to R - Joe Burkett, Paul Kunkel, Mildred Bullar. Taken when they visited Mildred last year in a nursing home. Mildred used to play with them. She was 102 years old when the above was taken - and she played!



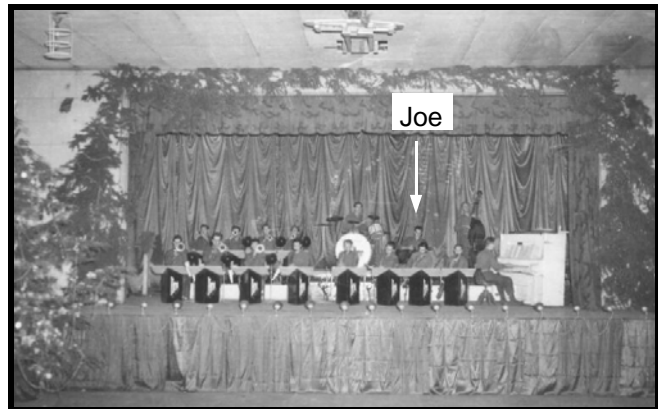
That's Cary and Jennifer Burkett at the Continental Divide. The sign says that rainfall divides at that point with rain to the west going to the Pacific Ocean and rain to the east going to the Atlantic Ocean. However, Joe's opinion is that it went straight down into the dry desert soil!



Above is a jazz band that Joe plays with about once a month at the mall in Lake Jackson, south of Joe's home in Angleton, Texas. Joe says the rest of the band are all about half his age and they can't imagine how he can learn these new numbers so fast. He says they don't realize he was playing these same tunes before they were born! (Arrow points to Joe.)



"Banjos Limited" Andy Desham, Richard Golladay, and Joe Burkett. About 1993



1346 Combat Engineers Battalion Orchestra at a 1945 Christmas program - Koizumi, Japan

That concludes the photo's provided by Joe Burkett of Angleton, Texas. Joe, I want to thank you again for taking the time to send those photo's. I know they will be enjoyed. ■

A New Contact By Descendants of Jeremiah M. Burkett -

A few years back when we were starting to really gather information about our Burkett's, we had trouble with one of the sons of Henry and Mary 'Polly' Burkett, Andrew J. Burkett, in that we could find little about him. UNTIL our cousin Gina Burkett Hyche got on his trail. Gina was able to locate a lot of information which led to us locating even more. Here is what we have learned about Andrew and his children.

Andrew J. Burkett and Nancy Jane Derryberry were married in 1850 and had two sons. John H. was born in 1856 and his brother, Jeremiah (Jerry), was born in 1858.

Andrew J. Burkett died in 1858 when he was only about 31 years old. After their father died, their mother married Hiram Todd but then she died in 1863 at the age of 32 when John was seven and Jerry was five years old. John died only three years later in 1866 when Jerry was eight years old.

Their mother, Nancy Jane, had a sister, Elizabeth Anne Derryberry who had married Jeremiah (Jerry) Bush. Apparently, a family decision resulted in Jerry Bush being appointed guardian of the two boys. Below is a typed version of that document which was located by Gina Burkett Hyche.

GUARDIANSHIP OF JOHN H. BURKETT & JEREMIAH BURKETT

State of Tennessee)
 Cannon County)

Know all men by these presents that we Jeremiah Bush Jeremiah Derebery (sic) and Hiram Todd all of Cannon County and State of Tennessee are held and firmly bound unto the State in the penalty of Six hundred Dollars to be paid to the State as aforesaid for the benefit of the children hereafter named committed to the t...tion of the said Jeremiah Bush to which payment well and truly to be made. We bind ourselves and each of us, each and everyone of heirs, Executors and Administrators, jointly and severally firmly by these presents sealed with

our seal and date this 3rd day of October 1865.

The condition of this obligation is such that whereas the above bounded Jeremiah Bush is constituted and appointed Guardian of John H. Burkett and Jeremiah Burkett minor heirs at law of A.J. Burkett deceased.

Now if the said Jeremiah Bush shall faithfully execute his guardianship by securing and improving all of the Estate of the Said minors that shall come into his possession for the benefit of the Said minors until they shall arrive at full age or be sooner thereto required and then under a plain and true account of his guardianship on oath to the justice of our said court and deliver up pay to or possess the Said minors of all such Estate or Estates as they ought to be possessed of or to such other persons as shall be lawfully empowered or Authorized to receive the same and the proffits arising therefrom then this obligation to be void otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

Jeremiah Bush (seal)
 Jeremiah Derebery (seal)
 Hiram x Todd (seal)
 ↑
 his mark

Acknowledged and approved in open court.

J. G. Elkins Chairman

Recorded at office this 17th day of October 1865

Josephus Finley Clerk

(End of Guardianship document)

You will note the three men signing the above were their Uncle Jerry Bush, grandfather Jeremiah Derryberry, and stepfather Hiram Todd. Also note the date approved was October 17, 1865. The War had ended. John was now 9 years old and Jerry was 7 years old.

John died in 1866 from unknown causes. This date can be determined by examining the Settlement document on the next page which was filed by "Jeremiah Bush guardian of Jeremiah Burkett a minor heir of A.J. Burkett Deceased."

SETTLEMENT BY JEREMIAH BUSH OF JEREMIAH BURKETT ESTATE

Jeremiah Bush) State of Tennessee Cannon County
 Guardian of) In obedience to the Statute Laws of said State in such cases made and provided
 Jeremiah Burkett) I, Josephus Finley Clerk of the County Court of said county have this day
 proceeded to make and state a settlement with Jeremiah Bush guardian of Jeremiah
 Burkett a minor heir at law of A.J. Burkett/Deceased and the said Jeremiah Bush reports the following
 amounts to have come to his hands as such guardian To wit

	\$	Cts	\$	Cts
Received of J.S. Ridley Clerk and Master of the Chancery court				127 45
Received of Hiram Todd Administrator of A.J. Burkett Deceased				44 57
Total Amount of Liabilities Reported by said Guardian is				\$172 02
I also find said Guardian Entitled to the following credits To Wit				
No. 1. One receipt from David Ralph & William Barnes for making coffin		20 00		
Interest on the same to January the 10th 1867		04		
“ 2. One receipt from L.B. Fields for shrouding		6 62		
Interest on the same to January the 10th 1867		02		
“ 3. One receipt from Josephus Finley Clerk		1 00		
Interest on the same to January the 10th 1867		08		
“ 4. One receipt from J. Searcy for		11 50		
Interest on the same to January 10th 1867		06		
“ 5. Credit to Revenue Stamp for Bond		50		
Clerks Fee for said Settlement		1 75		
Total amount of Liabilities after deducting credits				130 45

All of which is most respectfully submitted to the consideration of the
 worshipful court this 10th day of January 1867.

Josephus Finley Clerk

Approved by the Court February the 4th 1867 J.D. McKnight Chairman

Registered February the 18th 1867 Josephus Finley Clerk

Note the above document only mentions "Jeremiah Burkett Estate." Also note No. 1 which shows \$20.00 spent for making a coffin and No. 2 which shows \$6.62 spent for shrouding. Since Jeremiah Bush, as Guardian, could only spend money for the benefit of John H. Burkett and Jeremiah Burkett, we believe this proves that John H. Burkett had died and these were funeral expenses. The above was filed with the court January 10, 1867 so we believe this indicates that John H. Burkett died sometime in 1866.

As for the age of the two boys, the 1860 census shows John's age as 4 and Jeremiah's age

as 2 which would indicate they were born about 1856 and 1858 respectively. This same census shows they were living in the home of Hiram Todd and Nancy Todd, who married in the 12 months preceding the census which would have been in 1859.

The next document relating to Jeremiah (Jerry) Burkett is the 1870 Cannon County census which shows Jeremiah, age 12, living at the home of Jerry Bush and wife Elizabeth Anne Derryberry Bush. However, no record of Jeremiah could be found in the 1880 Tennessee census records.

In our attempts at locating Jeremiah, we reviewed other family records. Interestingly, a brother

of Andrew J. Burkett, George Washington Burkett, married Lucinda Narcissa Derryberry, a sister to Jeremiah's mother, Nancy. This meant that Jeremiah Burkett was a double nephew to George Washington Burkett and Lucinda Nacissa Derryberry Burkett since he was a nephew of George, a brother of his father, and a nephew of Lucinda, a sister of his mother.

The next interesting item came from a review of the Final Settlement of Henry Burkett's estate as published in Volume 1 1997 page 3. By arranging the payments in order, it quickly became obvious that George Washington Burkett and Jeremiah M. Burkett received payments on the same dates and in the same amounts. Both received \$61.90 on October 27, 1886 and \$71.29 on December 29, 1887. Based on this, we now began to suspect that Jeremiah had moved to wherever his uncle George was living and had returned to Tennessee with him to collect their inheritance. This suspicion proved partially correct. Gina Burkett Hyché returned to her search of the Tennessee records and soon discovered that, instead of returning to Tennessee, both George Washington Burkett and Jeremiah M. Burkett had executed a Power of Attorney to act in their behalf in collecting their inheritance. This Power of Attorney revealed they were both in Osage County, Kansas. Given this, I soon learned via the internet and a non-relative resident of Osage County, Kansas, Linda Fagan, that they did indeed move and live there. Linda provided copies of the obituaries for George and his wife and a marriage record of Jeremiah and Hattie J. Kinner (sic). Until a couple of weeks ago, that was the end of the information about Jeremiah (Jerry) Burkett. Then I received a forwarded message from Dot Alford in Austin, Texas inquiring about Jeremiah.

This message came from Roberta (Bobbi) Burkett, wife of Steve Burkett. They live in the Seattle, Washington area. Roberta had really zeroed in on Jeremiah in her search for her husband's ancestors. The first thing she pointed out was that Jeremiah married Hattie SKINNER and not Hattie KINNER. We have exchanged several email messages and she is working to put together some information to send to me and I am working on a package for her.

She told me that they lived in Tallahassee, Florida from 1994 to 1997 while her husband was City Manager. A shame we couldn't have gotten together then! Maybe they could have attended some reunions while they were on this side of the country. They next moved to The Woodlands just north of Houston, Texas where they remained until last spring - and Roberta says it's a shame we hadn't gotten together by then so they could have visited

with the Texas Burkett's. They next moved back to Washington where Roberta could take care of her mother and near Steve's folks so they get to visit with them more often. Steve and Roberta - she also answers to her nickname Bobbi - have two daughters, Shawna and Courtney. Shawna lives in Washington and Courtney still lives near Houston.

Interestingly, Shawna has a son named Jacob and I asked Roberta how they came up with that name. She said their daughter and son-in-law liked the name and, because Roberta and Steve kept joking with the daughters about having to carry on the Burkett name, they gave Jacob the middle name of Burkett! So his name is Jacob Burkett Isted. My question about the Jacob name was prompted by remembering that Jeremiah had an Uncle Jacob Lorenza who was the one who left middle Tennessee and moved to Texas.

While I am waiting for Roberta to have time to put together her info, I have learned that Jeremiah's first son was named Clyde and he was born about 1884. Sadly, Clyde was killed during a lightning storm in Kansas while still a teenager. Jeremiah's next son was named William Andrew and he was born in 1885. William Andrew's oldest son, whose name I do not have at this time, was Steve Burkett's father so Steve is a great grandson of Jeremiah Burkett; a 2nd great grandson of Andrew J. Burkett; and a 3rd great grandson of Henry Burkett. My last word from Roberta, who is presently in Texas visiting daughter Courtney, is that she has put out an SOS to her father-in-law's siblings for information and photo's. I have my fingers crossed that they will come up with some really good information and, hopefully, some photo's.

I sent Roberta a copy of the Final Settlement of the estate of Henry Burkett and she noticed that some of them had an "e" added on to Burkett making it Burkette. She further commented that "at least two of Jeremiah's sons spelled their name with an "e" probably because so many others wanted to add it on (we've had that problem ourselves). Their descendants also spell their names with the "e" on the end."

On the next page is a copy of the Power of Attorney executed by Jeremiah M. Burkett to J. R. Talbert of Cannon County, Tennessee to represent him in collecting and settling any interest that Jeremiah had in the estate of Henry Burkett. His Uncle George W. Burkett executed a similar document to the same J. R. Talbert.

In reviewing that document, you will notice that both Jeremiah and Uncle George could both write (and probably read as well) since they signed their name in a very legible fashion. The copy machine cut off the "ett" from Jeremiah Burkett.

Recorded in Cannon County, Tennessee - See next page for typed version.

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Power of Attorney } Known all men by these presents
 From } That Jeremiah M. Burkett of Osage
 Jeremiah M. Burkett } County in the State of Kansas have
 J. R. Talbert } made constitute and appointed and
 by these presents do make constitute and
 appoint J. R. Talbert of Cannon County
 in the State of Tennessee my true and lawful
 Attorney in fact for one year in my name
 place and stead and to my use to do and
 perform all and singular each and every
 thing necessary in and about the collection
 and settlement of any interest or right
 that I may have in and to the estate of
 Henry Burkett Decedent late of Cannon County
 Tennessee to collect all money due me or
 to become due with full power to receive
 and receipt for all payments made to him
 and my account either with persons or
 with the Courts with full power to institute
 suit and maintain any and all legal
 proceedings that may be necessary to
 secure my full rights
 With full power of substitution and Ratification
 hereby ratifying and confirming all that
 my said Attorney shall lawfully do or
 cause to be done by virtue hereof
 In witness whereof I have hereunto set my
 hand this 12 day of October 1886
 executed in presence of } Jeremiah M. Burkett
 C. S. Martin
 J. W. Burkett

State of Kansas } Best Remembered that on this 12
 Osage County, S.S. } day of October A. D. 1886 before
 me the undersigned a Notary Public
 in and for the county and State aforesaid
 came Jeremiah M. Burkett wh. is personally
 known to me to be the same person who
 executed the within instrument of writing and
 such person did duly acknowledge the execution
 of the same in testimony whereof I hereunto
 set my hand and affixed my Notarial Seal this day of
 year last above written C. S. Martin
 Notary Public

Power of Attorney
From
Jeremiah M. Burkett
To
J. R. Talbert

Know all men by these presents that Jeremiah M. Burkett of Osage County in the state of Kansas have made constituted and appointed and by these presents do make constitute and appoint J. R.

Talbert of Cannon County in the State of Tennessee my true and lawful attorney in fact for me and in my name place and stead and to my use to do and perform all and singularly each and every thing necessary in and about the Collection and Settlement of any interest or right that I may have in and to the Estate of Henry Burkett Deceased late of Cannon County Tennessee to collect all money due me or to become due with full power to receive and receipt for all payments made to him on my account either with persons or with the courts with full power to institute suit and maintain any and all legal proceeding that may be necessary (sic) to secure my full rights. With full power of substitution and revocation hereby ratifying and confirming all that my said attorney shall lawfully do or cause to be done by virtue hereof In witness whereof I have hereunder set my hand this 12 day of October 1886

Jeremiah M. Burkett

Executed in presence of
C. S. Martin
G. W. Burkett

State of Kansas
Osage County, S.S.

Be it remembered that on this 12 day of October A.D. 1886 before me the undersigned a Notary Public in and for the county and State aforesaid came Jeremiah M. Burkett who is personally known to me to be the same person who executed the within instrument of writing and such person did duly acknowledge the execution of the same in testimony whereof I have hereunto set my name and affixed my Notarial Seal the day and year last above written.

C. S. Martin
Notary Public

————— End of Document —————

This concludes what we know at this time about Jeremiah (Jerry) M. Burkett. However, a late email from Roberta Burkett said she would try to scan and send some photo's and additional information upon her return from Texas. If this takes place prior to completing this issue, I will add it later. ■

HUMOR - Oarless in Maine

Previously published in RootsWeb Review: Vol. 5, No. 18, 1 May 2002 and written by Martha B. Higgins atlmainiac@peoplepc.com

(The following notice was found in the "Ellsworth American" newspaper, of Ellsworth, Maine from the year **1891**. The newspaper is still publishing each week, about 150 years so far. A great sense of humor is evident but no author is listed.)

Whereas our not so hotsy-totsy sister, Susannah Persis Fluetta Wussener, has seen fit to depart this life, having done so by running headlong into a hurricane off Killdeer Point without benefit of oars in her skiff (never having had both oars in the water during her earthly life), therefore, be it resolved that we, the happy as clams members of this circle, do solemnly swear that we will henceforth enjoy being able promote at least one idea per meeting without having to listen to twenty-five minutes of her opposing guff, resolved that we will deck the halls with boughs of holly for the next 12 years in her memory and resolved that the surviving members of her jubilant family will receive a hearty handshake when meeting anywhere on the street and, time permitting, will be dragged off to the nearest bar for a healthy snort, courtesy of the su-per-flu-wus Memorial Trust. (To understand su-per-flu-wus, go back and look at the first letters of her name) ■

- REUNIONS -

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA — June 15 at the new Meridianville School just 2 miles (appx) north of the Church of Christ where it was held last year. A map is included at the end of this issue. TO USE THE GYM, YOU MUST BRING TENNIS SHOES.

GOLDTHWAITE, TEXAS — September 7 at the Mills County State Bank on the square in Goldthwaite where it has been held before. Those planning to spend one or more nights in Goldthwaite should make reservations early at the Redbud Inn 1501 N Fisher Street 915/648-3061. It's bird hunting season! Ask for a room in the new section. The Redbud Inn is less than a half mile from the reunion site. ■

Life's Unanswered Questions -

Why don't you ever see the headline,
"Psychic Wins Lottery"?
Why does the sun lighten our hair but darken

our skin?

Our CD Photo Album -

I have just learned of an upgrade to the program I used to produce the CD photo album. After reading of the changes and improvements, I ordered a copy and look forward to receiving it. From what I read, it will be a much improved album and allow me to do some things I could not do before.

Although I have not had time to work on our album and won't until after the Huntsville reunion, I plan to try to get out the next version maybe by August at which time I expect to have perhaps as many as 200 more photo's than were in the first version.

Please review your photo's and, if you have any you have not yet sent to me, please do so as soon as possible. I would like to get as many as I can in this next version. ■

Newsletters -

I am still looking around for some way to economically produce a "book" containing all of the Newsletter issues to date. Simply taking them to a copy shop is too expensive for most folks. Counting this issue, there are 34 issues averaging maybe 20 pages each. If I can come up with a way to put them on a CD using my computer, then that would be inexpensive. I recognize that not everybody has a computer but I can't find a way to accommodate everybody at this time.

If anybody has any ideas, I would appreciate hearing from you. ■

Our Hard Cover Book -

This is another project I work on as time permits but it's one which still has a long way to go because of the large number of photo's and information I have. However, I am still missing information so please review what you have sent and provide any additional information and/or photo's you can. As I have said in the past, once that book goes to press, there is no way to add to it or correct any possible error or omission. ■

The Draper Manuscripts -

In the previous issue, I wrote about a Professor Lyman Draper who came down to Virginia from the University of Wisconsin. He was doing research and was given permission to take all the documents he wanted! My interest was in locating

the special enumeration taken in 1795 to determine if there were enough residents for Tennessee to become a State.

You will recall that I now believe Henry Burkett was born in what is now Hawkins County Tennessee. The census records for that part of Tennessee have been lost for the periods up to 1820 and I am hoping that the enumeration might at least list the names of residents which would hopefully include Henry Burkett and his parents.

During his lifetime, Professor Draper did a tremendous amount of research and his data is cataloged at the University of Wisconsin under the title, "The Draper Manuscripts." I have learned there is a "Guide to the Draper Manuscripts" and a published "Calendar of the Tennessee and King's Mountain Papers of the Draper Collection of Manuscripts." These documents are apparently available through the State Historical Society of Wisconsin and I have written to see if I can obtain copies. Hopefully, I can review those to determine whether or not Professor Draper had a copy of the Special Enumeration of 1795.

Another source of inquiry is the Hawkins County Historical Society and the East Tennessee Historical Society in Knoxville.

I have already reviewed all of the land records and court records I can find on the internet with no luck which is why I am placing so much emphasis on locating this special enumeration. ■

Jimmie Lois Celebrates 90th B'day -

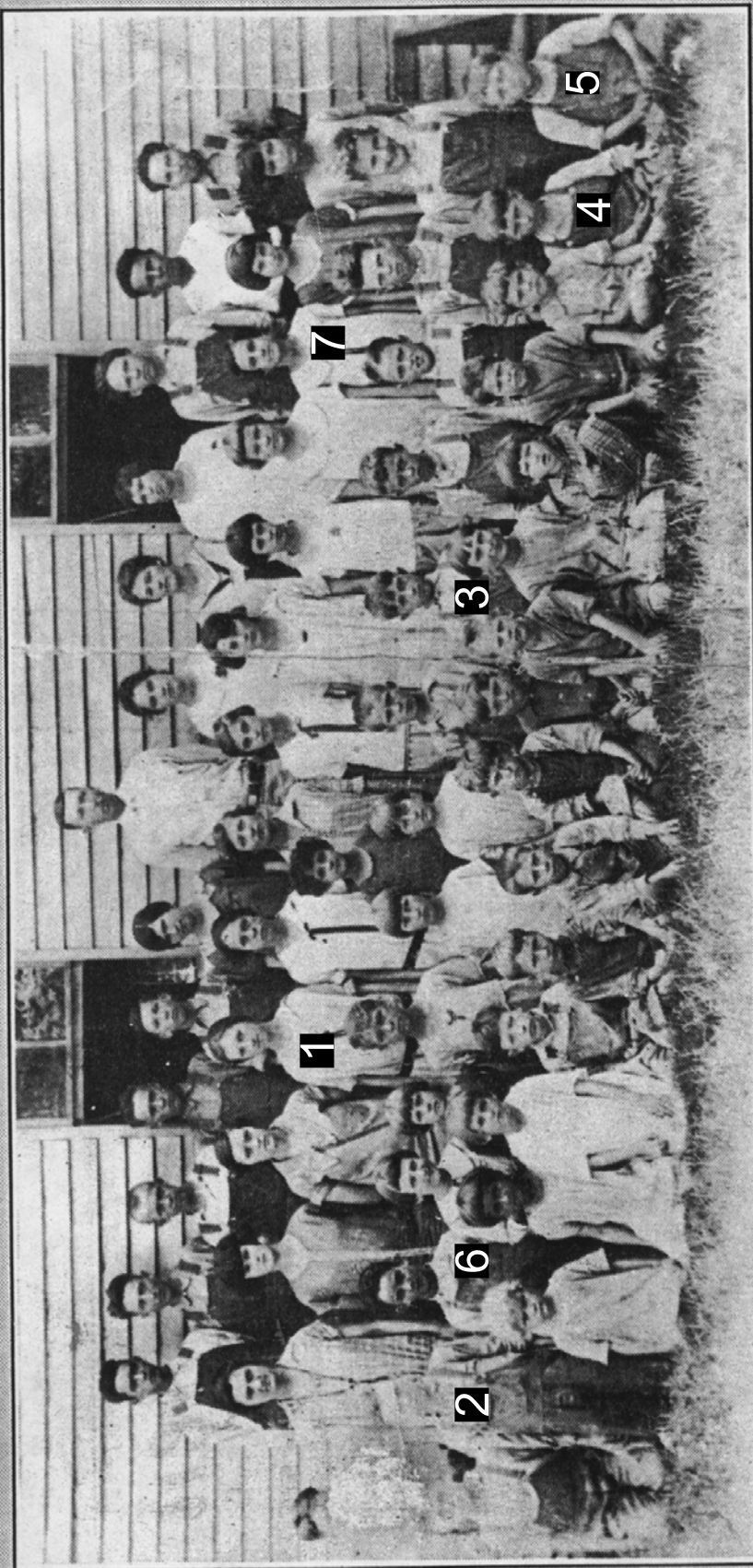
Jimmie Lois Wood Davis Williams celebrated her 90th birthday April 22 near her home in Old Hickory, Tennessee with many relatives and friends in attendance.

Jimmie Lois is a daughter of Joanna Burkett Wood and James Lafayette Wood. She first married Thomas Lawrence Davis and they had two daughters, India Joan and Susan Laraine. Her husband died in 1968 and she married Fred Burtron Williams in 1979. She is a granddaughter of Jobe Burkett and Rebecca Caroline Rigsby Burkett; a

g r e a t
granddaughter
of John Burkett
and Paulina
Markum Burkett;
and a 2nd great
granddaughter
of Henry Burkett
and Mary 'Polly'
Epley Burkett.
To the right
facing the



Can you remember...



In the year 1924 Oak Grove School was a two room school house with grades one through eight. First row left, Pearl Eirod St. John, Rachel Watson, Audrey Watson Henry, Charles Womack, Junior Cantrell, unidentified, Buel Newby, Byrd Parkhurst, unidentified, Nettie Womack Riggsby, Carrie Bell Warren, two unidentified, Lloyd Eirod, and Lucy Eirod. Second row, Bryan Womack, Chattom Woods, Sam Eirod, Iteria Gribble, unidentified, Maggie Woods Hennessee, Artie Cantrell Kitchin, Bonnie Eirod Jarrell (standing), Loretta Cantrell Woods, unidentified, Grady Woods, Johnnie Eirod, Carson Newby, Haskel Mullican, and

Walden Watson. Third row, unidentified, Opal Parkhurst Akins, unidentified, Beatrice Foster Riggsby, Jimmie Lois Woods Davis, Katie Mullican Woods, Nona Womack Foster, Helen Newby Riggsby, Virgle Eirod Smith, Pearl Foster Mitchell, Josie Mae Riggsby Watson, Mattie Eirod Womack, Pauline Newby Griffith, and Willie Eirod Davenport. Fourth row, Jim Eirod, Fate Cantrell, Howard Riggsby, Bob Riggsby, unidentified, Della Warren, teacher Robert Lassister, Anna Lee Kirby, teacher Geneva Foster, Vassie Warren Mason, Willie "Buck" Warren, George Mullican, and William Dallas Williams. (Pictured submitted by Pearl St. John)

Speaking of Jimmie Lois, here is a school picture of her in 1924 - she's number 1. Her brother Chattom is number 2 and brother Grady is number 3. Also in the above are three (3) brothers and one sister of Dorothy (Dot) Eirod Foster. Number 4 is brother Lloyd; number 5 is brother Lucy; and number 6 is brother Sam; number 7 is sister Mattie. Dot is a daughter of Elizabeth "Lizzie" Burkett Eirod and John Montgomery "Gum" Eirod.

IN MEMORIAM

Col. David Gaston Alford

USAF (Ret.)

May 29, 1917 – May 20, 2002

*When his time came this old pilot followed the directions from the ground crew to the parking area, closed the throttles and cut the switches—and exhaled softly and said,
“It’s been a great flight!”*

Memorial Service: 10:30 a.m., May 29, 2002

*high flight chapel
air force village ii
5100 john d. ryan boulevard
san antonio, texas*

I received the above from Dorothy “Dot” Burkett Alford. Dot is a daughter of Joseph Washington Burkett, Sr.; a granddaughter of James Henry Burkett; a great granddaughter of Jacob Lorenza Burkett; and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett. Dot and her husband were married almost 30 years. Dot has been a staunch supporter and contributor to our family history. We extend our condolences. ■

Another New Arrival! -

Patsy Coleman Smart has proudly sent me news about *another* grandchild. I say “another” because I announced two in Volume 2 2001. The new arrival is Ashley Elizabeth Marier and she was born March 16, 2002 in Bell County, Texas. She is the daughter of Melissa and Paul Marier.

Patsy is a daughter of Leona Burkett Coleman; a granddaughter of George Newton Burkett; a great granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett; a 2nd great granddaughter of Jacob Lorenza Burkett and a 3rd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett. ■

Giving When It Counts -

The following story does not involve our family but does involve a family. I thought you might enjoy it as much as I did. The author is unknown.

Many years ago, when I worked at a hospital, I got to know a little girl named Liz who was suffering from a rare and serious disease. Her only chance of recovery appeared to be a blood transfusion from her 5-year old brother, who had miraculously survived the same disease and had developed the antibodies needed to combat the illness. The doctor explained the situation to her little brother and asked the little

boy if he would be willing to give his blood to his sister. I saw him hesitate for only a moment before taking a deep breath and saying, "Yes, I'll do it if it will save her." As the transfusion progressed, he lay in bed next to his sister and smiled, as we all did, seeing the color returning to her cheeks. Then his face grew pale and his smile faded. He looked up at the doctor and asked with a trembling voice, "Will I start to die right away?" Being young, the little boy had misunderstood the doctor. You see, he thought that to save her he was going to have to give his sister *all of his blood*. ■

Now here is one more story. Again, the author is unknown.

Always Remember Those Who Serve

In the days when an ice cream sundae cost much less, a 10-year-old boy entered a hotel coffee shop and sat at a table. A waitress put a glass of water in front of him. "How much is an ice cream sundae?" he asked. "Fifty cents," replied the waitress. The little boy pulled his hand out of his pocket and studied the coins in it. "Well, how much is a plain dish of ice cream?" he inquired. By now, more people were waiting for a table and the waitress was growing impatient. "Thirty-five cents," she brusquely replied. The little boy again counted his coins. "I'll have the plain ice cream," he said. The waitress brought the ice cream, put the bill on the table and walked away. The boy finished the ice cream, paid the cashier and left. When the waitress came back, she began to cry as she wiped down the table. There, placed neatly beside the empty dish, were two nickels and five pennies. You see, he couldn't have the sundae because he had to have enough left *to leave her a tip*. ■

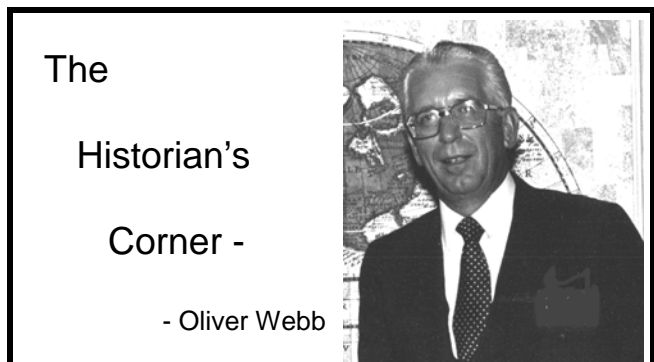
More About The Texas Reunion -

Earlier I spoke about the Texas reunion without talking with anyone out there. Guess I kinda' jumped the gun because Audy and I always look forward to going. I am now waiting for confirmation that the reunion will be held and that it will be held at the Mills County State Bank as it has been in the past.

In the meantime, I recommend that those who had been planning to attend continue to plan on the reunion being held as usual until we learn definitely what the status will be. If a decision is made to "kill it", I will either get the next issue out in time or send a separate notice to everyone who subscribes to the Newsletter. I can tell you that Audy and I will be very disappointed if the reunion is discontinued. If

my memory is correct, they have been taking place since 1955.

I had already printed page 12 announcing the reunion when it dawned on me that I needed to check with the relatives in Texas. Given the enthusiasm Audy and I have for attending - we have attended for the past 4 years - I assumed it would be held again this year. After talking with Audy, I can tell you that we will be in Goldthwaite at the Redbud Inn arriving no later than Friday, September 6 regardless of whether or not the reunion takes place. We plan to visit the Chesser Valley Historical marker and other relatives in the vicinity. My apologies for jumping the gun. ■



While not locating relatives and new information as fast as we have in past years - we have located most of our relatives - we continue to find them, thanks to the internet. The recent contact from descendants of Jeremiah Burkett out in Washington should bring in some more information and photo's as they find time to provide it.

I will be leaving Tampa shortly headed for the Huntsville, Alabama reunion. This year I will be staying a little longer because Audy and I have some Tennessee trips planned. Audy plans to take me up to the area which we believe to be the home place of Henry Burkett and where he was living when he died. You will recall that Audy and cousin Gina Burkett Hyche located it. Among other trips, Audy and I plan to visit the courthouse in Cannon County to see if we can trace the property records. We also plan to try to locate records which might reveal the names of Henry's parents. This has been a major roadblock in tracing Henry's ancestors. The Epley's have done a tremendous job in tracing the ancestors of Henry's wife, Mary Magdalene "Polly" Epley Burkett.

I received faster delivery service on my new software for the Photo CD than I anticipated and have taken a brief look at it. It seems to offer all the advantages I had hoped for. However, as with all software programs, you have to use it to become aware of its features. See you next issue ! ■