



THE BURKETT FAMILY



A Quarterly Publication

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Our Web Site Is Up and Running ! -

It is www.burkettfamily.org. A great many of those with computers have already been notified and have visited the site. For those who have not yet done so, I invite them to visit it and give us your comments and/or suggestions as to what you would like to see.

Before I explain why we are so happy to have the web site, let me take this opportunity to extend a big "thank you" to Joe Burkett III of Fredericksburg, Texas. Joe has not only obtained the web site name for a period of ten (10) years which is renewable at the end of that time but has done all the design work and set it up. Thanks, Joe. This is a big step on our road to uncovering data and other information or pictures about our relatives. Joe knows this which is why he went to the trouble and expense of setting it up.

Now for those without computers, I will try to explain in "non-computer" language why this is so valuable to us. As you may know from bits and pieces you have heard or learned about through the newspaper or TV, the internet is simply millions of computers on a network which makes it possible to "talk" with each other and share information. This is done by several "servers" which perform the function of connecting one computer to another via the process of each computer having a unique address much like your home mail address. For example, my computer address is hickeywebb@aol.com. Nobody else has that address so anybody who wishes to communicate with me can send me a message using that address. Not only can we exchange written communications but we can also send pictures over the network.

Why is this so important to have our own web site? When a web site such as ours is established, there are what is called "search engines" which have been established to search for almost anything - which includes genealogical web sites such as ours. Certain "key" words are passed around which identifies what a web site contains such as the family names of Burkett, Epley, Marcum, Derryberry, Young, Perryman, Hall and Brown. It generally takes a few weeks to get this information shared by the various search engines. When someone "signs on" to the web, they can type in what they are searching for such as "Burkett." This starts the "search engines" into motion and they search the entire web looking for anything about "Burkett." Upon locating a web site such as ours, the search engines provide the information necessary to get to our site which is www.burkettfamily.org. This web site address is much like our individual addresses in that nobody else has that address except us. The person doing the searching can then "visit" our site by typing in that address to see if ours is the Burkett family they are looking for.

Until our web site was set up by Joe Burkett, we were dependent upon another feature of the internet. There are web sites which will direct a searcher to each state of the union and then to each county and/or each city. In the early days of my searching, I went to the Cannon County, Tennessee site. Each such site has what are called bulletin boards where messages can be posted such as "Looking for information about the Henry Burkett Family. Henry married Mary 'Polly' Epley and they had eleven (11) children. Contact hickeywebb@aol.com." This worked then and still works but you are dependent upon someone visiting the Cannon

County site and reading that message on the bulletin board. As an example, if a person in Idaho is looking for information about Henry Burkett but doesn't know he was in Cannon County, they will probably never see that message. There are other web sites where messages can also be posted but, then again, a person who is searching has to visit that particular site and see our message. Here is where having our own web site becomes so important. We are no longer dependent upon being "lucky" that someone happened to read our posted message. If that person in Idaho simply types in "Burkett", they will be directed to our web site. They can then read and see what we have posted to determine if we are the Burkett's they are looking for. If they are still in doubt after reviewing our web site, there are "links" established by Joe Burkett III which will permit that Idaho person to send either me or Joe an email with any questions they have. If they determine they are related to us, they can use the same link to let me and/or Joe know about them and their family and to ask us for additional information. Thus, this eliminates much of the "luck" we used to rely on to locate relatives. More and more folks are not only buying computers and "signing on" to the internet but are becoming interested in locating their ancestors. I recall only too well when, several years ago, I had posted a message on a Texas bulletin board and it was read by Bill Huckaby. Bill contacted me and gave me information which provided my first major break in locating our Texas relatives. Without Bill's assistance, I might still be floundering around trying to locate our Texas relatives.

What other benefits will we enjoy by having our own web site? In addition to family information about Henry, Polly and their eleven (11) children, there is a Guest Book where visitors can sign in and let us know what they think about it, make suggestions, or even ask us to contact them. As you all know, our Newsletter is only published quarterly and some things take place which we would like for the family to know about on a more immediate basis. There is a Bulletin Board where we can post information such as upcoming reunions. There is a Family News section where we can make information available on a more timely basis such as births and deaths. While not all of our relatives have computers, many do and more are buying them as folks learn that computers do not require a great deal of technical skill to operate. Many are still intimidated by a computer but they should not be. When I first started some twelve (12) years ago, you did have to remember a great number of "commands" to use a computer. However, software programs are now in existence which require no effort or knowledge other than "point and click" - point means placing a cursor at the desired point and "clicking" a mouse. It's just that simple. Prices have come down remarkably. I can recall paying about \$500.00 for a laser printer. Today, an inkjet printer which does a better job can be purchased for under \$100.00. So if you have been thinking about a computer but decided they are too

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

NORTHWEST BURKETT(E) REUNION MANAGER

Roberta Burkett and Sue Mack

MURRAY (BURKETT) REUNION MANAGER

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complicated and/or expensive, take another look and talk to someone who has a computer and ask them to show you a little about them. Let's take a look at some of the features of our web site. First is the Guest Book.

Guest Book

Please enter your contact information below!

1. Point your mouse here and left click. It changes to a vertical line | . Type your name.

Name:

2. Next point and click your cursor in the address block below. It changes to a vertical line | . Type address.

Address:

3. Point and click in email address below. Enter your email address

E-Mail Address:

Do you have any suggestions for how we may improve our Web site?

Please Enter Your Suggestions and Comments Here.

(EXAMPLE) I would like to see

When finished, click below on SUBMIT. If you have made a mistake or wish to change/add to your suggestion, click on RESET and start over.

Thank you for your interest!

Submit

Reset

I know that many of you with computers are not familiar with entering information while online. Most of you are only familiar with taking information from the internet. But please don't be afraid to enter information - you can't cause any harm and, if you make a mistake, you always have the opportunity to delete or reset and start over. Now here is the Bulletin Board section of our web site.

Family Members Post Your Bulletins, Family Notices & Announcements, Etc. Here



Place your cursor here and click. It changes to a blinking line. Type your announcement or notice and then sign your name and email address.

Below is a portion of the current Bulletin Board.

Bulletin Board

- Murray Family Reunion - March 21-23, 2003 at the "Quartz Mountain Resort" in Altus, Oklahoma. For details contact: Jerry Paul Murray; 1916 Cindy Court, Burleson, Texas 76028. Telephone: (817) 295-1066. Heirs of Sarah Burkett Murray. Sarah Burkett was a daughter of Jacob Burkett.
- Annual Burkett Family Reunion - Huntsville, Alabama; Saturday, June 14, 2003. More specifics to be forth coming.

The Murray (Burkett) Reunion -

The first Murray reunion has just taken place March 21-23 at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Altus, Oklahoma.



The blue arrow above points to Altus and the blue circle over to the left of Altus shows Gould, Oklahoma and I'll have more to say about Gould later in this article.

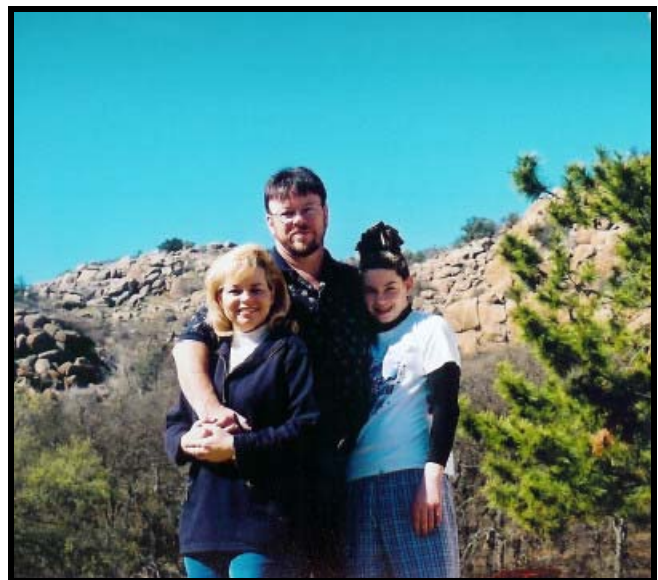
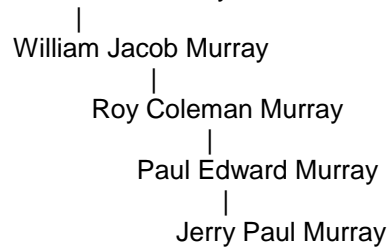
Just who are the Murray's? They are descendants of Sarah Elizabeth Burkett who married Archibald William Murray in Llano, Texas about 1877. Sarah was a daughter of Jacob Lorenza and Lavina Burnett Burkett and was born about 1860 in Tennessee. Sarah was only about 5 years old and one of 7 children when Jacob and Lavina made the move from Tennessee to Texas in 1865 which has been written about in previous issues. Sarah died in July 1941 in Gould, Harmon County, Oklahoma. Sarah had moved to Oklahoma from Texas after her husband, Archibald William Murray died about 1885 and Sarah next married Ole Storehoff. It is not known at this time just when Sarah married Mr. Storehoff. Interestingly, Sarah had an Aunt, Martha Jane Burkett Young, who moved to Hollis, Oklahoma in the early 1890's. (Hollis is just to the west of Gould and can be seen on the above map.) While it is not definitely known, a guess is that Sarah moved to Oklahoma first and then her Aunt Martha Jane moved later.

The Murray's list Sarah's husband's name as Archibald. My information shows his name as Archer but that may have well been a nickname or it could have even been Arch. For the time being I will just refer to him as Archibald. Sarah and Archibald had three sons: William Jacob, Asa, and Ezra plus one daughter, Georgia.

The Reunion in Altus was organized by Jerry Murray, a son of Paul Edward Murray, a grandson of

Roy Coleman Murray, a great grandson of William Jacob Murray and a 2nd great grandson of Sarah and Archibald Murray as shown below.

Sarah Burkett Murray/Archibald Murray



Above is Gayle and Jerry Murray with daughter Ashley at the reunion site.



Seated in chair is Sarah Elizabeth Burkett Murray Storehoff. Standing left is Ruby Barnes Murray, wife of Pope Douglas Murray, a son of Ezra Murray. Standing right rear is Oma Milligan Murray. Seated on arm chair left is Henry Reed and seated on arm chair right is Willie Day Cunningham Murray, Ezra's wife.



Another picture of Sarah Burkett Murray Storehoff and some great grandchildren. Left to right is Sonny Murray, Bobbi Murray (Prock), Willie Jean Murray (Henderson), and Yvonne Bearden. Date of this and the picture on the preceding page is unknown.



The above picture was taken Saturday, March 22, of the entire group. This and all of the pictures of the reunion were provided by Jerry Murray with permission to use them in the Newsletter. My thanks to Jerry for not only providing these but also for providing a lot of information I did not have.

To the right is Leia Nicole Murray, the daughter of Trey and Brandy Murray and the granddaughter of Jerry and Gayle Murray. She was born April 11, 2001.



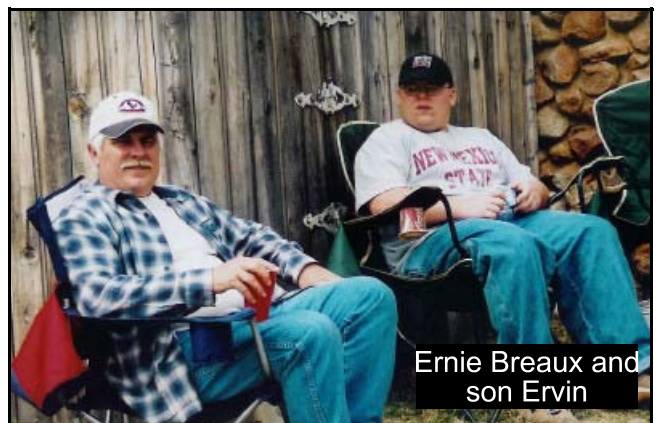
Now, in no particular order, here are more pictures taken at the reunion.



Above is Ernie and Donna Murray Breaux with Gayle Murray standing. Donna is a daughter of Roy Gene Murray; a granddaughter of Roy Coleman Murray; a great granddaughter of William Jacob Murray and a 2nd great granddaughter of Sarah Burkett Murray and Archibald Murray.



Ernie and Donna Breaux with Shirley Murray Matthews, a daughter of Roy Coleman Murray; a granddaughter of William Jacob Murray and a great granddaughter of Sarah and Archibald.



Ernie Breaux and son Ervin



Rear L to R - Eddeannia Davis Briner, Larry and Jan Risor Davis; Madison Woodford and Cheryle Davis Denton. (Larry and Eddeannia are brother and sister; Madison is granddaughter of Cheryle.)



L to R - Larry Davis; Barbara Boyett Murray; Clarence Murray (standing); Claudine Murray Hudson; Cheryle Davis Denton.

To the right is a mother/daughter pic. On the left is Claudine Murray Hudson with daughter Claudia. Claudine is a dau of Roy Coleman Murray; a granddaughter of William Jacob Murray; and a great granddaughter of Sarah Burkett Murray and Archibald Murray.



KIDS ON A SWING -

Standing left is Ashley Murray; and right is Matthew; then left front is Dylan; Blake, and Malinda.

This was also taken during the reunion at the Quartz Mountain Resort.



Cousins L to R - Donna Murray Breaux; Betty Murray Kitchens; Jerry Paul Murray; Claudia Hudson Anderson; Mary Beth Murray Ledbetter; Edith Lynn Murray Horn; Pamela Norene Murray Johnson.



More Cousins L to R - Gracie, Trish, Gavon, Tamra, Allie, Dylan, Kim, Erin, Blake, Ashley, Clinton, Zachary, Ervin.



And more Cousins L to R - Cutter held by Shirley Murray Matthews, Clarence Murray, Rhonda Murray Reynolds, Jean Murray Henderson, Claudine Murray Hudson, Norma Murray Laughary.



Still more Cousins L to R - John Allen Laughary, Jr. ; Mike Murray holding Gracie; Scott Murray; Beth Murray Ledbetter; Pam Murray Johnson; Lynn Murray Campbell; Betty Murray Kitchens; Jerry Paul Murray, Claudia Hudson Anderson; Donna Jean Murray Breaux.



John and Norma Murray Laughary; Cheryl and John Laughary, Jr.



L to R - Trish, Tamra holding Gavon, Kim, Erin holding Blake, Paula, Ashley.



On the right with the kids enjoying the slide is Erin on the left with son Blake behind her and Tamra on the right with son Gavon on the slide.



L to R - Craig and Rhonda Murray Reynolds; Cheryl and John Allen Laughary, Jr.



To the right is Jay and Paula Hodges with Melinda and Matthew



Game Time! - L to R Trish; Pam Murray Johnson (standing); Tamra Murray holding Gavon; Kim Newland; Paula Hodges,



Willie Jean Murray Henderson and her husband - Jean is a daughter of Wylie Murray; a granddaughter of Ezra Murray; and a great granddaughter of Sarah Burkett Murray and Archibald Murray. Jean is the owner of the two (2) pictures of Sarah Burkett Murray included at the beginning of these pictures.

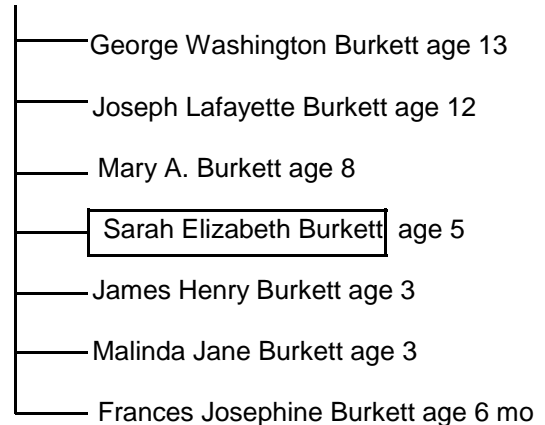


Pin cushion - Hand made by Sarah Burkett Murray.

That's it for the pictures. As hard as I tried, I probably have made some mistakes on names and I apologize for that. Maybe Jerry can point these out to me and I can correct them in the next issue.

To better illustrate the lineage, here below is the family of Jacob and Lavina Burkett at the time of their move from middle Tennessee to Texas.

Jacob Lorenza Burkett/Lavina Burnett Burkett



For the benefit of those seeing this for the first time and who might think there is a mistake on the ages for James Henry and Malinda Jane, they were twins.

Sarah Elizabeth Burkett/Archibald Murray
 William Jacob Murray
 Georgia Valeria Murray
 Asa Lafayette Murray
 Ezra Archie Murray

One correction that I know of is the group picture on page 6 where I stated this was the entire group. It wasn't. The Davis family had to leave early and are not in that picture.

My congratulations to Jerry and Gayle Murray for their work in organizing this reunion and I applaud those who attended. I hope everyone who attended enjoyed it as much as they appeared to. Jerry tells me that next year the reunion will be June 4 - 6 since some could not attend due to having children in school. I have already spoken to my cousin in Huntsville, Audy Majors, and told him to plan to attend the Murray reunion next year. It is the weekend prior to the weekend when we hold our reunion in Huntsville and I will already be up there so he and I are looking forward to attending. Audy asked where it was held and I told him it was a small town in southwest Oklahoma and he had probably never heard of it. When I told him it was in Altus, he began to chuckle and I asked him what was funny. He said it wasn't funny, just a coincidence. His wife, Sandy, has a nephew who lives in Altus! See you and the others next year, Jerry. ■

Texas Tape Recordings -

During the first couple of years that Audy Majors and I attended the Goldthwaite, Texas reunions, we heard more than once about some tape recordings which were made by descendants of Joseph Lafayette Burkett. These recordings described the family members recollections of family history as they had been passed down. However, we became so busy collecting other information and pictures that the tapes were forgotten about.

Following the death of his mother, Juanelle Burkett Curtis whose obituary is included later in this issue, Burkett Curtis called me to discuss these tapes along with other information. I asked Burkett to loan me those tapes to see if I could transfer them to CD's in order to preserve them. Burkett has now sent them to me.

There are probably as many as 25 of these tapes; I haven't counted them yet. They were made in 1971 and 1972. So far, I have only listened to parts of a few of them. As might be expected, the quality is not as good as I might have hoped but I have been able to understand most of what is on them. The tape marked number one seems to be Edgar Burkett describing the move from middle Tennessee to Texas in 1865 by the Jacob Burkett family. Although I heard no new information about this move, I did hear the pronunciation of Jacob's wife's name, Lavina. I have been pronouncing it as La V na and Edgar pronounces it as La Vi na. Perhaps not a big deal but I have always wanted to pronounce names correctly and, in this instance, I tend to think Edgar is more correct than I am since she was his grandmother.

What am I hoping to accomplish by recording these on CD's? As previously stated, I want to preserve the actual voices of as many relatives as possible - especially as they recite what they remember about the family. Next, even though the quality is not that good now, maybe technology some years in the future will be able to extract only the voice sounds from these recordings thereby making them much easier to understand. This has already been done in the music recording industry where they took old recordings and "cleaned them up."

My belief is that years from now our relatives would enjoy hearing the voices of long-departed relatives as they recite their recollections of family history as it was handed down to them by word-of-mouth. It will be a formidable task but I think it will be worth the effort. After transferring them to CD's, I plan to send them to Sharon Fleming to see if we have correctly identified the speaker. I have already spoken with Sharon about this and she has agreed to take on this project with me. It will take some time to accomplish this so don't expect immediate results but we will make every effort to complete this as soon as

possible. I thank Burkett for the loan of these tapes and I promised to return them to him after I get them transferred to CD's. ■

TEXAS LORE -

When leading a herd of cattle, it's best to look back now and then to make sure they are still following you.

Mary A. Burkett -

In the last issue I spoke of finding descendants of Mary A. Burkett, Paul and Victoria Frenzel. Paul sent me this picture of Mary. I believe he told me it was a tintype. I have "cleaned it up" a bit using the computer and think it is pretty good for a picture more than 100 years old. Mary was born about 1857 in Tennessee and died in 1896 at the relatively young age of 39, cause unknown.



If you look closely, the white arrow above points to where someone wrote her name "Mary."

Mary Burkett (continued)

Mary was a daughter of Jacob and Lavina Burkett and, therefore, was a sister to Sarah Elizabeth Burkett Murray as shown on page 9.

Mary married John R. Clark in about 1873/1874 when she was only 16 or 17 years old. They had two children - a boy and a girl. However, John died in 1878 when he was only about 29 years old, cause unknown.

Mary then married James Logan Templeton in Llano County in 1878. They had five (5) children; an infant who died at birth plus two daughters and two sons.

As mentioned in our last issue, we have now located some descendants of all of Jacob Lorenza Burkett's children and I am very pleased about that. I want to thank Paul and Victoria Frenzel for sending not only the picture but additional family information as well. Paul, mark your calendar now for the reunion in Goldthwaite this year. It is the first Saturday after Labor Day. I look forward to meeting both of you. ■

Meet Steve Burkett -

Shoreline, Washington
City Manager -

The City Council appointed Steve Burkett Shoreline City Manager May 1, 2001. Prior to coming to Shoreline, Burkett served as President and CEO of the Woodlands Community Service Corporation and City Manager of the Cities of Tallahassee, Fla., Fort Collins, Colo., and Springfield, Oregon. His varied experience in city management has included working for six cities ranging in size from 40,000 to 500,000. Burkett received a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and Master's Degree with a concentration in Public Administration from Western Washington University in Bellingham, Wash. He is originally from Pasco, Wash., and his wife, Bobbi (Roberta Roberts Burkett), grew up in Shoreline and graduated from Shorecrest High School.



Located amid the natural beauty of Western Washington 15 miles north of downtown Seattle, the City of Shoreline combines urban opportunities with suburban convenience. Although it is a new City, Shoreline boasts a rich history, abundant parks, strong neighborhoods, and a respected school district. With more than 53,000 residents, Shoreline is Washington's fourteenth largest city.

(All of the above came from the web site for the City of Shoreline and was located by Bill Huckaby who sent it to me. Thanks, Bill.)

From our previous Newsletters, you may recall that Steve is a descendant of Jeremiah M. Burkett who was a son of Andrew J. Burkett and Nancy Jane Derryberry Burkett, and a grandson of Henry and Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett. I have exchanged many email messages with Steve's wife, Bobbi, and she is currently working on a file to send me containing the information she has compiled about the family of Jeremiah. Bobbi has provided several family pictures including the excellent picture of Nancy Jane Derryberry Burkett and her two (2) sons shown on page 7 of Volume 3 2002. Also, Bobbi and Sue Mack have scheduled the first western Burkett convention for August of this year, details of which will be provided later. ■



JUANELLE 'NELL' BURKETT CURTIS
August 27, 1920 - February 11, 2003

Shown above with brother Jake, she was one of the strongest supporters and contributors to our family history. Audy Majors and I met her on our first trip to the reunion in Goldthwaite, Texas and quickly discovered her sense of humor. She was married to Alton Floyd Curtis for more than fifty (50) years when he died in 1993. They had four (4) children - Jerry, Burkett, Claye and Lorrie. She was visiting son Jerry in Hereford, Texas when she passed away and was buried with graveside services in Oakview Cemetery in Mullin, Texas. She was 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.

Nell provided leadership to the community of Goliad by actively participating in Cub Scouts, Girl Scouts, high school band and drama/speech. She

served as the Goliad County Expansion Agent's Assistant when she furthered the development of the Goliad County 4-H Clubs. Nell also worked as an Administrator of the Goliad Nursing Home and Director of the Goliad Senior Citizen's Center. Nell was also a loyal lifetime member of the Goliad Church of Christ and will be missed by many, especially by me and Audy. ■

Laura Belle Burkett Durham

August 28, 1907 - January 29, 2003

(A 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett)

A McMinnville, Tennessee resident and Warren County native, Laura died at NHC Healthcare after an extended illness. A homemaker and member of the Church of Christ, she was the daughter of the late Tolbert L. and Minnesota Elrod Burkett, and was preceded in death by her husband, Jesse Murry Durham in 1957, son Jesse Mack Durham and daughter Mary Joyce Durham.

She is survived by sons and daughters-in-law, Harold L. and Frances Durham of Nashville, Aaron L. and Kay Durham of McMinnville and Anthony D. and Danette Durham of Knoxville; grandchildren Laura Duncan of Nashville, Brad Durham of McMinnville, Jennifer Lee Durham of Pasadena, California, Julie Anne Durham of Boulder, Colorado, David Durham of Knoxville, and Amy Riley of Dallas, Texas; step granddaughter Kami Smith of McMinnville; one great grandchild; and six step-great-grandchildren. Services were held at High's Chapel with Eben Gilbert officiating. Burial was at Mt. View Cemetery.

(I do not have a good picture of Laura but Audy Majors and I visited Laura at her home in McMinnville several times. Laura also came to a Bogle Reunion in Woodbury, Tennessee one year and after that went with us up to Sugartree Knob. I loved to hear her laugh. That must be a Burkett characteristic because I have encountered several relatives who also enjoy laughing. Laura was 95 and had suffered a stroke a couple of years earlier. During our last visit with her, she knew who Audy was but couldn't quite place me although she kept looking at me and trying to place me. She said she understood when we told her I was "Martha's boy" but I'm not sure she really knew me anymore.) ■

1930 Census -

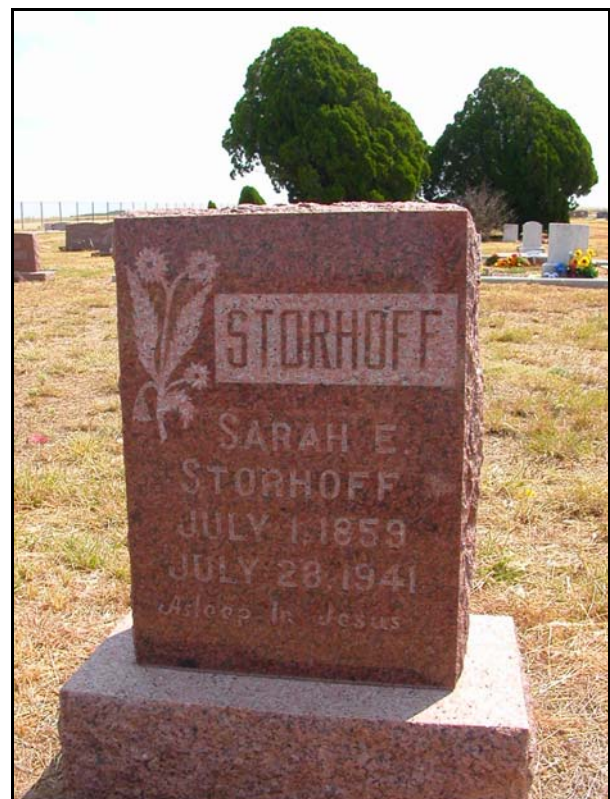
Now this won't mean much to anybody except my Alabama cousins. Bill Huckaby sent me a copy of the page listing my grandfather, Almon Lee Burkett and the family members living with him at the time the census was taken.

Those listed were Almon L.; Nancy C.; Gentry J.;

Audy S.; Martha Webb and Marvin O. and we were living on North Dallas Avenue. My mother and father were separated at that time which was why we were living with them. Uncle Gentry (J.B.) was 19 at the time and was working as a Salesman at a retail grocery store. My cousin, Mildred Trapp Banks, told me he drove a horse and wagon delivering groceries for Rousseau Grocery store. Uncle Audy (sic) was 17 and it shows he had been in school during the preceding nine months. Grandfather's occupation was listed as "Water Tender" which I believe was because he was Foreman in the boiler room of the mill. Mother's occupation was listed as "Filled Batteries." Now I had to go to cousin Mildred on that because I could not figure how they used batteries in a cotton mill. It seems Mother wore an apron with pockets she filled with bobbins of thread. She would go to the end of a Loom and place these bobbins on a wheel which was referred to as a "battery of bobbins." Very interesting to me and I hope my cousins. ■

More On Sarah Elizabeth Burkett Murray Storhoff -

I had already printed the article about Sarah when I had a conversation with cousin Bill Huckaby and he sent me the following pictures.



The preceding picture and the one below were taken at the Dryden Cemetery near Hollis, Oklahoma. Sarah married Mr. Storhoff after her first husband, Archibald William Murray, had died.



One thing I learned from these pictures is that I had been spelling the name as Storhoff. Plainly the above shows it spelled without an "e" in the middle as I had been spelling it.

Bill took these pictures on his way to the Goldthwaite, Texas reunion last September. Thanks very much, Bill. Those are good quality pictures. ■

More On Mary A. Burkett Clark Templeton -

Below are two (2) pictures also made by Bill Huckaby. These were taken last year on Sunday following the reunion in Goldthwaite on Saturday.



The pictures were taken in the Board Branch Cemetery near Lone Grove, Texas which is in Llano County. You will note the marker gives Mary's birth date as 1831 and her death date as 1896. While the death date is correct, the birth date is incorrect. Her father was born in 1830 and her mother was born July 13, 1833 so a birth date of 1831 is clearly wrong. Bill and I have both searched siblings and other family members to see if we could figure out where that date came from but we had no luck. We don't have a clue as to how that date was placed on her marker.



Above is Mary's husband's marker and it also appears to be somewhat incorrect although not as much as Mary's. We have his birth date as January 22, 1851 while the marker shows 1850 and we have his death date as January 18, 1932 instead of 1931 as shown on the marker. This is also in the Board Branch Cemetery near Lone Grove, Texas. I will offer the following observation about these markers. Mary died in 1896 but her husband did not die until about 35 years later. However, if you will look at the markers, they appear to have been made at the same time and by the same person. Now, from here on, this is pure speculation on my part but it could have been that Mary's marker was pretty worn down by age and the weather since she had been dead 35 years when her husband died. And maybe, just maybe, somebody decided to make her a new marker to match her husband's and the dates on her old marker were not completely legible.

However, I'm glad to have these pictures which at least provide the location of their graves. Thanks, Bill, for these as well as those of Sarah Elizabeth. ■

HOW SAYINGS GOT STARTED -

Baths consisted of a big tub filled with hot water. The man of the house was first, then all the other sons and men, then the women and children. Last of all was the babies. By then the water was so dirty you could lose someone in it hence the saying, "Don't throw the baby out with the bath water."

The
Historian's
Corner -

Oliver Webb



These past few months have been quite a period for our family. We have not only continued to make contact with new relatives but now have our web site up and running thanks to the support and efforts of Joe Burkett III from Fredericksburg, Texas. As time passes, our site makes it's way onto more and more search engines which will make it possible for more folks to locate us. Also, the fact that we have it is spread by word of mouth and email and it is being visited by more and more people who share their information and pictures with us. I'm not only excited about the web site but about the growth of the internet itself which places more and more locations online where we can look for information. Census records, which I wrote about in this issue, are just one place to look. State archives, county records, colleges, libraries and many others are gradually placing their information online where we can view it or rent microfilm. Librarian's are even more knowledgeable and helpful now that so many people are beginning to search for ancestral data. Many libraries even have separate sections of the library devoted just to genealogy with reading tables, microfilm viewers, card files, etc. to help in our research. Computer software programs are becoming more sophisticated and cheaper. And today, whether you are in a barber shop, beauty shop or grocery store, just the mention of genealogy is likely to get a response from somebody who is also involved in the search for information about their family.

When we started this project in 1992 during a reunion in Huntsville, Alabama, we only knew about our reunion. Today, there are at least six that I know about. From our reunion, we learned about the reunion of the Burkett's in Goldthwaite, Texas which Audy Majors and I have attended for five (5) years. The Coppinger's of Iowa attended one of our reunions and have since started their own. Next, I learned about the Watson's reunion in McMinnville, Tennessee. And this year there are two being held for the first time. One is the Murray (Burkett) reunion held in Oklahoma which is covered in this issue and coming in August of this year out in Kent,

Washington will be a Burkett(e) reunion. Those without Burkett names, Coppinger, Watson, and Murray, are descendants of Burkett females. It's exciting to me to see so many folks coming together to meet and share information, pictures and family legends.

However, all of this is not without a price. I haven't had the time I wanted to work on other items such as the electronic photo album and the hard cover book which I really want to press on with. I probably have at least another 200 photo's I want to get in the album and the hard cover book has always been a high priority to work on but I haven't had enough time. While I have accomplished some work on it, as the song says, "I have a long way to go and a short time to get there."

Still another objective which Joe Burkett and I have been discussing is the establishment of the Burkett Heritage Foundation with an associated Trust Fund to insure perpetuity of our family and its history. We won't be around forever so it is our goal to establish an entity which will continue on and protect the information, pictures and objects which have been accumulated. This alone will require some time and effort plus assistance from you. I will have more to say about this in the future as we progress toward this goal.

This issue is very late and I apologize for that. I was delayed by a number of things such as a 4-week bout with a virus which didn't lay me up but left me unable to work on the Newsletter as many hours as I needed. Then my printer ink went into the mailbox of a neighbor who was out of town for 2 weeks, and so on.

That's about it for now. PLEASE NOTE THE REUNION INFORMATION BELOW. ■

HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA REUNION -

The reunion will be held at the Meridianville School same as last year and will be on June 14. Please mark your calendar now in case I don't get the next issue out prior to this reunion. I have included a map with this issue so please hang on to it.

DID YOU FORGET YOUR DUES? 13 FOLKS HAVE NOT PAID AS I GO TO PRESS. PLEASE PAY SOON OR I WILL NOT BE ABLE TO INCLUDE YOU FOR THE NEXT ISSUE. THANKS!