

Burkett Family History

a Supplement

August 1995

This document was originally prepared by descendants of Joe and Della Burkett of Mills County, TX, in about 1975.

This edition was retyped and printed by William A. Huckaby, a descendant of Frances Josephine Burkett, a sister of Joe Burkett

PREFACE

This information is about our Burketts and some related families is intended to supplement the Burkett Family History written in 1963 by the children of Joe and Della Burkett of Mills county , Texas. Additional knowledge has been acquired since that time, and we want to share it with you. Although we have done a great amount of careful research for this family history --- traveled thousands of miles in many states, read a large number of books and official paper, talked with dozens of people who knew or had heard of our Burketts and allied kin --- we realize this information is quite limited and may contain errors. We trust you will appreciate our efforts, correct the errors you see, and what ever extra information you want to include. This book is in a loose leaf arrangement for addition of extra pages that you may want in it.

We are very grateful, indeed, to all persons who helped with this book. Special thanks go to my mother, her sisters and brothers --- children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett --- for cheerfully sharing their knowledge and encouraging us to learn more about our people.

This history starts with my great, great grandfather, Henry Burkett, Sr., born about 1796 in Virginia and died in 1875 in Tennessee. He was the first Burkett ancestor definitely known to be related to our Burketts in Mills county, Texas. Henry's son Jacob Lorenza Burkett, born and reared in middle Tennessee came to central Texas in 1865. Jacob was the father of Joe or J.L. (Joseph Lafayette Burkett) who lived most of his married life at Mullin in Mills county.

HENRY Burkett
1796 - 1875

Henry Burkett was a thrifty, industrious owner of a large farm, several head of livestock, and a well-equipped blacksmith shop which he operated along with his farm and livestock production in Cannon County, Tennessee.

It has been said that Henry's craftsmanship in blacksmithing went far beyond that of the ordinary work and that he made or repaired articles for household use as well as farm equipment and the shoeing of horses.

A good family man, Henry provided well for his wife and children. He also helped the grandchildren whose parents were ill or dead. His good business judgment, skills and habits of steady work apparently were not cultivated by all of his children after they became adults. Most of them moved from place to place, acquiring very little money or property.

Henry's kind, gentle ways and deep love for his family and neighbors did become strong character traits of his children, especially his sons.

MARY EPLEY Burkett
1800 - 1884

Mary Epley's parents lived in Pennsylvania before migrating to North Carolina where Mary was born and lived until she married Henry Burkett whose family had moved from Virginia to North Carolina.

Several Burkett and Epley families moved from North Carolina to Tennessee in the 1820's. Some of them later moved to Missouri and Texas.

Henry and Mary Epley Burkett lived out their married life in Tennessee. After Henry's death in 1875, Mary moved to Lampasas County, Texas where she lived with her children Jacob Burkett and Mary J. Burkett Young in the Big Valley community --- now a part of Mills County.

Mary Epley Burkett died July 29, 1884. She was buried in Williams Ranch cemetery, Mills County, Texas.

During our childhood, we heard that one of our great, great grandmothers in the Burkett family could not or would not speak any language but German. She even read the Bible in German language to her grand children who spoke English only. Some of our relatives think she was Mary Epley Burkett. Many years have passed and we may have confused her with another grandmother. Our Burketts also of German descent, are thought to have had neighboring relatives in Tennessee that spoke German at home, and used the Germanic spelling of Berget for their family name.

HENRY & MARY (EPLEY) Burkett
FAMILY

HENRY Burkett, Sr., born about 1796 in Virginia
died March 30, 1875 in Tennessee
married in early 1820's to:

MARY EPLEY, born 1800 in North Carolina
died July 29, 1884 in Texas

Henry and Mary Burkett lived most or all their married life in central Tennessee. They settled in Warren County, Tennessee in the early 1820's then they became citizens of the adjoining Cannon county where they lived until Henry died in 1875. Several months (perhaps one or two years) later Mary moved with her daughters Martha J. Young and Mary C.E. Brown and families to Lampasas county, Texas where the son and brother Jacob Lorenza Burkett was already living. In fact, Jacob brought his mother and sisters to Texas when he returned temporarily to Tennessee for settlement of his father's estate.

Eight sons and two daughters were born to Henry and Mary Burkett. If they had other children, we do not know about them. The following list will contain names, significant dates, and marriage partners of the Burkett children:

1. Henry Burkett, Jr., born 1825 or 1826 in Tennessee
Died about 1855 in Missouri
married about 1847 to Nancy Evans in Tenn.
2. John Burkett, born 1828 in Tennessee
died after 1870, probably in Tenn.
married in 1849 to Paulina Markham in Tenn.
3. Andrew J. Burkett born about 1829 in Tennessee
died after Civil War: where ??
married about 1850 to Nancy Jane Derryberry
in Tennessee
4. Jacob Lorenza Burkett, born 1830 in Tennessee
died about 1876 in Texas
married (1) Lavina Burnett about 1850 in Tenn.
(2) Matilda Reed in 1869 in Texas.
5. Nathaniel D. Burkett, born about 1833 in Tennessee
died after Civil War; where ??
(An old newspaper mentioned death of a
Nathaniel Burkett about 1903 in Lavaca
county, Texas. I've lost the old paper
and do not recall details of this obituary.)
married ---- ??

6. George Washington Burkett, born about 1835 in Tennessee
died after Civil War; where ??
married in the 1850's to Lucinda ----
7. James Burkett, born about 1838 in Tennessee
died after 1880; where ??
8. Mary C. E. Burkett, born 1841 in Tennessee
died after 1883; maybe in Texas
married Mr. Brown in Tenn.
9. Martha J. Burkett, born 1842 in Tennessee
died after 1907 in Oklahoma
married 1864 to William Young (Yonge) in Tenn.
10. David E. Burkett, born about 1846 in Tennessee
died about 1926 in Tennessee
married (1) Frances Ferrell in 1867 in Tenn.
(2) Mrs. Emma Phillips in 1919. Tenn.

We do not know the names of parents or brothers & sisters of our Henry Burkett (1796 - 1875). Family tradition is that Henry was the son of a German (Dutch) immigrant who landed in Philadelphia soon after American Revolution ended in 1783; then migrated through Virginia on to North Carolina; and maybe to Tennessee. Another tradition is that Henry's father might have used the German form of name Berget or a close variation of that spelling, and might have been the old JACOB BERGET living near Henry.

Official probate and estate records of Warren county, Tenn. mention a George Burkett who could have been a brother to Henry.

HENRY, Jr. & NANCY EVANS Burkett
FAMILY

Henry Burkett, Jr.

born in Warren County ? Tennessee
died ca. 1855 in Missouri
married ca. 1847 in Tennessee to

Nancy Evans, 1825 - 1898 in DeKalb Co., Tenn.

three children, all born in Tennessee

1. James E. Burkett, 1848 - 1935 ? d. in Mo.

wife, Angie Brown
children ??

2. Isaac Evans Burkett, 1849 - 1932, DeKalb Co., Tenn.

wife, Mary Belle Parker, 1865 - 1921

five children:

(1). Hellon ? Burkett married James McCool
in Tenn., moved near Sulphur Springs,
Texas; five children; Burkett, Robert,
Clarice, Forbis, Faye

(2). Sgt. Robert Burkett, 1881 - 1931
wife, Minnie Record, 1884 - 1970

(3). Clarice Burkett, 1892 -- alive May '73
husband, Walter Boyd
sons: Robert and Howard

Clarice, widowed, lives in Lebanon, Tenn.

(4). William Wauford Burkett, 1901 - 1943

Two marriages:

1. Annie Midgett (Later they divorced.)

Sons: Wm. W. Burkett, Jr.

Killed 1944 in France

Bob Preston Burkett, Sr.

wife, Frances Anne Brown

called "Brownie" Burkett

Murfreesboro, Tenn.

sons: William Jonathan Burkett

Bob Preston Burkett, Jr.

2. Callie Kelley

children: Kenneth, Ronald,

Betty Jo, a md. dau. in Kentucky

(5). Wilburn Lee Burkett, --- - ---

wife, Wanda Daughtery

children: Wanda L., Tresa A., Preston L.,

Clarice A.

3. Robert Burkett, 1853 - 1870

NANCY A. Burkett HUGGENS

Nancy A. Burkett and three older brothers were the orphan children of a son of Henry, Sr. and Mary Epley Burkett. We do not know which son, but think he was either George or Nathaniel because we have proof that all the other sons of Henry and Mary Burkett were living long after Nancy A. went to live with her aunt, Nancy Evans Burkett.

Later the orphan Nancy A, Burkett, married a Huggens and lived most or all her married life in Wilson county, Tennessee. We do not know whether they had any children.

The three orphan brothers of Nancy A. Burkett seemed to have lost all contact with their Burkett relatives, and we are unable to tell you the first names of those orphan brothers. The father and mother both died while the children were very young. Neighbors who took the boys apparently moved away from that vicinity. One story is that in her old age Nancy A. Burkett Huggens learned that one of her brothers had reared his family in the adjoining county of Warren, Tennessee.

The limited information on this page was given to us by was given to us by descendants of Henry Burkett, Jr. and wife, Nancy Evans. These descendants said that older relatives called Nancy A. Burkett "Cousin Nan" and remembered that she sometimes mentioned a George Burkett (maybe her father) and Henry Burkett, Sr., her grandfather.

JOHN & PAULINA MARCUM Burkett

John Burkett, born 1828 in Warren County ? Tennessee
died ----

married 11 March 1849 in Cannon County

Miss Paulina Marcum. (Markham), 1830 --

Children: Jobe, Thomas Mary
born; 1850, 1853, 1856

Jobe (J. M.) Burkett, 1850 --
married Aug. 22 1872 in Cannon County, Tenn.
Rebecca Caroline Rigsby
born Dec. 1844 -- died Nov. 26 1927

Children: Almon Lee "Aud", Tolbert,
Julia Ann, Elizabeth, Dolly; others ?

Almon Lee Burkett (July 22, 1873 - May 26, 1944)
married Dec. 16, 1895 in Cannon Co., Tenn.
Nancy Caldon Bogle
(July 14, 1872 - Dec. 6, 1953)
Both are buried in Maple Hill cem. Huntsville, Ala.

Almon & "Dona" Burkett had 2 sons & 6 daughters:
Gentry J. B., Audey S., Ova, Tildie, Elisabeth,
Ara HESSIE, Leva Joanne, Martha

Audey S. Burkett, born Jan. 22, 1913, Cannon Co.
was the youngest child of Almon & Dona Burkett.
Audey married Aug. 28, 1936 in Huntsville, Ala.
Agnes Owens. Their three children are:
Kenneth Wayne, Marlene Faye, Frances Elaine

Audey and Agnes Burkett in Huntsville, Alabama
He is retired from George C. Marshall Space
Flight Center in Huntsville.

J.B. Burkett, born Sept. 24, 1910, Cannon Co.
married Bessie Bryant. They have 3 girls
Betty, Brenda, Deborah; 1 son William Verne.

J.B. and Bessie Burkett live in New Market, Ala.
He works for Dunlop Rubber Company.

ANDREW & NANCY DERRYBERRY Burkett

Andrew J. Burkett, born ca. 1829 in Warren County, Tenn.
Died after 1904 ? Cannon " "

married in Oct., 1850 in Cannon County, Tennessee

Miss Nancy Jane Derryberry, born 1831 in Tennessee
to Jeremia and Susanah Derryberry. Jeremia D.
was born ca. 1804 in Kentucky; Susanah ca. 1810
in North Carolina.

We are almost certain that Andrew J. & Nancy Jane D. Burkett had a son named Andrew J. Burkett born ca. 1869, and still living in July, 1935 near Bradyville in Cannon County. They probably had more children.

In 1970 we talked with an old man in Cannon County. I do not remember his name. he was living in his farm home that had been built on the same site of an old, old house where Andrew J. Burkett had lived when he sold the farm in 1904 to the man with whom we talked. He said Andrew was a very old man then. We think it was the Andrew J. Burkett born in 1829, and that he had inherited the land from his parents, Henry and Mary Epley Burkett.

JAMES & MARY GILLEY Burkett

James Burkett, born ca. 1838 in Warren County, Tenn., married January 17 1856 in Cannon County, Tennessee. Miss Mary A, Gilley, born ca. 1837 in Tennessee.

Their know (to us) children were: Sarah E. 1857; Jacob 1862; Adelia 1867; Clementine 1868

This James Burkett family lived near Shop Springs in Wilson County, Tennessee in July, 1870. We have no further record of them except a letter written on April 9, 1907 by James' sister Martha J. Burkett Young at Hollis, Oklahoma, saying he did not know where James was living at that time (1907). The letter was written to their brother, David E. Burkett in Cannon County, Tennessee.

MARTHA J. Burkett & WILLIAM A. YOUNG

Martha J Burkett born about 1842 in Cannon County, Tennessee was married there in Dec. 1864 to William A. Young, also born 1842 in Tennessee. His name was spelled Yonge on some records.

Martha and William had five children born in Tenn.:

Eupha A. 1866; Mary F. 1868; Elizabeth 1870; James H. 1872; William K. 1875;
Thomas C. was born 1879 in Lampasas Co., Texas.

This family moved from Mills County, Texas in 1890's to Hollis, Oklahoma.

DAVID E. BURKETT

David E. Burkett, born ca. 1846 in Cannon County, Tenn., and died there ca. 1926. He had two marriages; first on Nov. 28, 1867 to miss Frances Ferrell who died in 1918. His second marriage was in 1919 to Mrs. Emma Phillips, a widow with a small daughter, Lessie who also took the Burkett name. Emma is dead; Lessie is married and lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

David E. and Frances "Fannie" Burkett had a daughter named Louphemia who died when 18 or 20 years old. All three of them are buried in Curlee Church of Christ cemetery near Bradyville, Tennessee.

This page concludes the information about our Burketts who stayed in Tennessee or nearby states.

The next several pages will give information about Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his families. He was my great grandfather who came to Texas in 1865.

JACOB & LAVINA Burkett

Jacob Lorenza Burkett married his first wife, Lavina Burnett in Tennessee in late 1850 or early 1851.

Jacob's parents were Henry and Mary Epley Burkett. Lavina's parents were Hamilton ? and Allie Burnett.

Jacob and Lavina Burkett had seven children, all of them born in Tennessee:

- George Washington Burkett, 1852 --
- Joseph Lafayette Burkett, 1853 --
- Mary Burkett, 1855 --
- Sarah Burkett, 1858 or 1859 --
- Malinda Jane Burkett, 1862 --
- James Henry Burkett, 1862 ---
- Frances Josephine Burkett, 1864 or 1865 --

This Burkett family seemed to mover from area to area in Tennessee. The census record for 1860 shows them all in Cannon County. We have heard some of them tell about living in Rutherford County about 1862 and 1863. They have also talked about living in Maury County. We haven't found any official records of this Burkett family in Maury and Rutherford Counties, but we found several official records there about other Burketts.

Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his younger brother, George Washington Burkett, were both married and living in Cannon County, Tennessee when they enlisted as privates in the Confederate Army on May 23, 1861 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee. J. L. Burkett went into Company D, Tennessee Infantry. On August 7 1861 he was appointed 1st. Lieut. of that same company and served as a commissioned officer until May 1, 1865. (That was Co. D, 18th Regiment.) During the war J. L. received wounds that later were a major cause of his death near Goldthwaite, Texas 1876 (?). Battles and skirmishes in Tennessee during the war had so severely damaged J. L.'s farm that he decided to move his family to Texas and start a better life. Their trip (really a journey) is told on the following pages.

Burkett'S 1865 JOURNEY

TENNESSEE to TEXAS

Jacob Lorenza Burkett, his wife Lavina, and their seven children George, Joe, Jim, Jane, Fannie had a long journey when they migrated from Tennessee to Texas after the Civil War ended in 1965.

Leaving their homes in central Tennessee these Burketts with some of their Epley kin, and other people travelled in wagons to Memphis, Tennessee, It is believed that the wagons were made, particularly in Maury county, to work for needed funds and visit other Burketts living there.

At Memphis our travellers loaded their belongings on big flat boats and sailed down the Mississippi to New Orleans. The river trip of more that 200 miles lasted 30 days. A story told by some of the Burkett and Epley children is: Delila, wife of David Epley, being too ill to stay up and supervise the children, assigned that responsibility to her sixteen year old daughter, Sarah. Among Sarah's charges were her younger sister Nancy, and their cousin, Joe Burkett --- both had plenty of energy and ideas. Sara spanked them whenever she thought they needed it.

At New Orleans the group took passage on a ship bound for Galveston, Texas. While sailing through the Gulf of Mexico, they endured a severe wind storm that rolled the smaller Burkett children like balls on the floor of their apartment.

Our travellers rode the train from Galveston to Branham which at the time was the terminus for the railroad in that area of Texas. At Branham they transferred to ox wagons for the remainder of their long, tiresome journey to Hoover Valley community in Burnet County where they arrived on Christmas Day, 1865.

The Burketts and Epleys soon became land owners as shown on county records. Jacob Burkett usually sold land within a few months after buying it. He did not live on every place he bought; instead he lived on rented farms.

PLACES WHERE JACOB Burkett

LIVED IN TEXAS

Jacob & Lavina Burkett's first home in Texas was a small two-room house in Hoover valley community of Burnet county in 1865. The house had one main room and a lean-to side room. Both rooms had puncheon floors.

Lavina and infant died in 1868 in Burnet county. They are buried in Cummings cemetery in Hoover Valley community. Many years (over a hundred) later some of her grand children ---- Joe and Della Burkett's children ---- erected a monument at Lavina & baby's grave. After his first wife Lavina died, Jacob placed their children temporarily with kind neighbors in or near Hoover Valley. Sarah stayed with Rev. Jack Mabry family; Mary with John Davis family; Jim, Jane, Fannie stayed with the Elkins family. We think that George and Joe, the two oldest children stayed home with their father because we have no record of their living with any other family. Later Joe and Jim stayed with their great uncle, GEORGE EPLEY, a brother of their grandmother Mary Epley Burkett. He lived below Big Valley.

On January 15, 1869, Jacob Lorenza Burkett married his second wife Miss Mary Matilda Reed in San Saba county. Her father was Rev. John Reed and her mother a Trent. Soon after their marriage, Jacob & Matilda & his children resided a short time at Rose Mills in McCulloch county. Returning to Burnet county, they were living on the John Davis place when Indians killed the Whitlock family on 7 December 1870. Whitlock's house was at the point of Long Mountain and located across the river from the Burkett house which was three or four miles away at the foot of the mountain on the east side of the river.

At the time of the Whitlock massacre, Joe and Jim Burkett were picking cotton for Jim Allen whose field was about one-half mile from his residence. The Burkett boys saw the Indians pass within three or four hundred yards.

Jacob & Matilda & family moved, probably in early 1873 to Lone Grove in Llano county and lived on the D. H. Trent farm. The Burketts' next moved to the Best farm in San Saba co. From there the Burketts moved close to Big Valley in Mills county where Jacob preempted a farm in 1874 near Pecan Bayou & Colorado River. He sold the preempted place in 1875 to David & Elizabeth Farley and bought a place from John Conner on Colorado River. In a short while Jacob sold the Conner place to Abraham "Abe" Ezzell and bought a place on Prescoat Creek. That farm was once a portion of the old Murrah ranch about 4 & a half miles west of Goldthwaite, Texas. The Jacob Burkett house was about one-half mile below the old Prescoat home place. Jacob died at his home on Prescoat Creek, probably about December 1876. His youngest daughter Elvina (or Levina) was born in Feb. 1877 about 2 months after his death.

JACOB AND LAVINA Burkett

DESCENDANTS

Seven children, three sons and four daughters, were born in Tennessee to Jacob Lorenza Burkett and his first wife Lavina (Burnett) Burkett:

1. George Washington Burkett
born 1852 -- died March 1, 1927
Callahan county, Texas

This George W. Burkett married in Texas to
Mary Ezzell, born about 1843 ---
died ----- Kerrville
Mary was a daughter of Abraham "Abe" and
Keziah Ezzell.

George W. and Mary (Ezzell) Burkett had three
children, a son and two daughters:

John Burkett married Zona Albright.
They had five sons and three daughters

Salena Burkett married Eph Guthrie.
They had a daughter, June, & son, Fay

Archie Burkett married Vernon W. Heard
They had a son, Vernon Price Heard
(We plan to obtain and include additional
information about the families mentioned above.)

2. Joseph Lafayette Burkett (1853 - 1920)
married Della Catherine Pyeatt (1862 -1937)
They had ten children: Annie, George N., Stella, Edgar, Floyd, Lee,
Birdie, Mae Della, Gladys, and John. (more information later)

3. Mary Burkett
born 1855 -- died 1896. Llano county, Texas)
married after coming to Texas:
 - (1) John Clark; they had two children
Albert & Ida (married Box)
 - (2) James Templeton: they had three children
Alice, Ora, and Fred.
Alice married --- Sullivan
Ora married --- Borden
Fred married ----
Albert Clark married Alice Ray

4. Sarah Burkett

Born 1858 --- died in July, 1941 in Gould, Okla.
married in Texas:

- (1) Archer William Murray, born 1857 --- died 1885
They had three children: William, Jr.,
Georgia, and Asa

Archer William Murray was a school teacher
from New York, according to census records.

- (2) Ole Storehoff, harness maker & shoe cobbler
from Norway
Ole & Sarah had two daughters ---

5. James Henry Burkett "Uncle Jim"

born 1862 --- died 1945 in Clyde, Texas
married in Texas to Mrs. Samantha Nolley, a
widow with three children: Sallie, Jennie, Sam.
James H. & Samantha N. Burkett had four children:

Omar Burkett ---
Joe Burkett ---
Iru Burkett Jackson ---
Kate Burkett ---

6. Malinda Jane Burkett "Aunt Jane"

born 1862, twin sister of James H. Burkett
died 1952, October 16, at Chickasha, Oklahoma
married two times:

- (1) John M Pavey in Nov., 1880, Llano Texas
They had a daughter, Ollie

- (2) John Davis Cox in December, 1883, Brownwood, Texas
They had seven children, the first three were
born in Texas; the last four in Okla.
James Jasper, William Andrew, Luna Eldora, Nancy Melvina,
Robert Marion, John Foster, and Ella.

(This John D. Cox was a son of Mary C. Forsythe
Cox, an aunt of Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett.)

7. Frances Josephine Burkett "Aunt Fannie"

born 1864 --- died 1953 in California
married in 1882 to John Edward McCall (1855 -- 1940)
in Llano county, Texas. They had ten children:
Robert Leonard, Leona Archie, Alice L., Addie Emily,
Ida Ernestine, Laura Estelle, Hazel Ann, Myrtle Esther,
Leva May and Joseph LeRoy.
(Myrtle and Leva were twins, born in 1901.)

JACOB AND MATILDA Burkett

DESCENDANTS

Jacob Lorenza Burkett (1830 - 1876)
married in 1869 to Miss Mary Matilda Reed
daughter of Rev. John Reed

Jacob & Matilda Burkett had four daughters:

1. Martha Ellen Burkett
born in March 1870, Burnet county, Texas
died -----, Cottonwood, Arizona
married Feb. 2, 1887 to L. E. Tizzo (or John
Tissaw) in Fisher county, Texas
They had two daughters and two sons:
Mary & Rosa, ---- & ----
2. Annie Laura Burkett
born Nov. 4, 1872, Burnet county, Texas
died Aug. 31, 1968, Sweetwater, Texas
married Dec. 25, 1888 to William Andrew Lynch
in Fisher county, Texas
They had five or more children:
3. Virginia Caroline Burkett "Jennie"
born May 4, 1874 in San Saba county ? Texas
died Dec. 18, 1959, Sweetwater, Texas
married March 31, 1892 to George E. Godfrey
in Fisher county, Texas
They had children:
4. Elvina or (Lavina ?) Burkett
born in Feb. ? 1877, Mills county Texas
died ----- soon after marriage
to Z. H. Pannell on Nov. 6, 1898 in
Fisher county, Texas.
(we heard that Elvina & Z. H. moved farther
west somewhere in Texas and Elvina died
there with TB and begging to see her
mother.)

FRANCES Burkett McCALL

Frances Josephine Burkett, youngest dau. Jacob and Lavina
born 17 May 1864 or 1865 in Tennessee
died --- 1953 in California of a stroke & age

married John Edward McCall on 23 March 1882
in a log cabin at Lone Grove, Llano county, Texas

John Edward McCall, born 16 May 1855
died in 1940 of heart attack

Frances J. (Burkett) & John E. McCall had ten
children; five of them were living 4 Mar 1971

Robert Leonard McCall, 16 May 1883 ---
Leona Archie Huckaby, 7 May 1885 -- 1933
Alice L. McCall, 7 Oct. 1887 -- Jan. 1894
Addie Emily --- 18 March 1890 -- Mar. 1955
Ida Ernestine Tracy, 10 January 1893 ---
Laura Estelle Safford, 25 July 1895 -- 10 January 1971
Hazel Ann Rust, 1 January 1897 ---
Myrtle Esther Bradford, 10 Aug. 1901 ---
Leva May McCall, 10 Aug. 1901 -- died same date
Joseph Leroy McCall, 19 March ---

Fannie Burkett was 4 years old when her mother died, so Fannie spent much of the time with her older sister Mary Burkett Clark Templeton. After their father died, his first set of children were much on their own, and did not live with their stepmother, Matilda Reed Burkett, but always lived nearby. Jacob and Matilda had four girls: Ellen, Laura, Virginia, and Levina. Ellen married John Tissaw and lived in Arizona. She had heart trouble and is buried in Cottonwood, Arizona. Her sons lived in Flagstaff & Williams, Arizona. One daughter Mary lived at Chula Vista, married Jim Campbell. The other daughter Rosa Huckaby lived at Newman, California, last I knew.

Aunt Levina (Burkett) Pannell died years ago in west Texas shortly after she was married.

in 1941 Robert Leonard McCall's wife Lottie took Aunt Frances & Aunt Ellen to Oklahoma to see their older sister Aunt Sarah Burkett (Murray) Storeoff just before she died. They were in Gould, Okla. in June, 1941. Aunt Sarah died there in July, 1941.

Information on this page was copied from a letter that Robert Leonard McCall, oldest child of Aunt Fannie Burkett, sent to his cousin Mae Delle (Burkett) Goodwin on 4 March 1971. He lives in Fresno, California.

Copy of a letter
from Mrs. Lykes
to Mrs. Goodwin

Mrs. Anna Bell Lykes
506 West Fourth Street
Sweetwater, Texas, 79556

Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin;

March 9, 1971

Dear Mrs. Goodwin.

So glad to have had the pleasure of reading your letter and answering it. I was Anna Bell Wallace, the youngest of three children of Matilda and Washington S. Wallace. My sister Pearl Wallace and brother Walter Wallace passed away several years ago. They lived to be in their seventies. Pearl married Brack Mitchell. They had three girls and two boys. Walter had two girls and three boys. His wife and children live in Abeline, Tex.

I don't remember where my mother Matilda (Reed) and her first husband Jacob L. Burkett lived but would like very much to know --- my mother must have met my father in Mills county after she lost Jacob. My parents lived in Fisher county, Texas. I remember we had a farm out from Eskota where we grew up -- until we were all married. Mother was forty years old and Father was sixty-four when I was born. He was 24 years older than Mother. We had a happy home and I always thank God for our Christian heritage. My mother, father and all four of my half sisters (Burketts) belonged to the Church of Christ.

I married Dr. Michael Monroe Risinger when I was sixteen. He was a good doctor and a fine man. We lived and reared our family in Roscoe, Texas ten miles from Sweetwater. We had four wonderful children, two boys and two girls. My husband was killed by a train in 1933 while making a call. I moved to California where I could educate my children, lived there 25 years. I met and married Jim Lykes and we spent 13 years of a very happy life. He died with cancer in 1958. I came back to Sweetwater where my oldest daughter Rita Wharton lives. My youngest daughter died in California; she was 40 years old, buried in Forest Lawn.

I became a Baptist soon after I married the first time as that was my husband's faith. My children are all Christians. My youngest son is an ordained minister, but works for the Government in Bureau of Indian Affairs, Wagner, South Dakota. He does quite a lot of missionary work among the Indians. I spent two or three months in the summer with him & his family, a lovely wife and three children.

I am now living with Hazel (Godfrey) Gardner. She is a daughter of Jennie (Burkett) Godfrey. Hazel and her sister Jewel (Godfrey) McCown both lost their husbands a few years ago with cancer. Jewel is in a rest home here in Sweetwater. She has diabetes and hardening of arteries. Her mind is real bad; she can't remember much. She always knows us and like for us to visit her, but cannot remember us being there the next day. Hazel is seventy-four and in very good health. Her legs bother her a lot in walking --- arthritis so badly. Their brother J. W. Godfrey lives in Fort Worth, Texas. He is the youngest of the three.

Hazel was so lonely after losing her husband, she insisted on my living with her as she has a three bedroom home, and is one of the sweetest people I ever knew. I have been with her since last August. We are really happy together and love each other very much.

I will be 82 years old August 25, 1971; have had good health and worked hard all my life, mostly nursing. I nursed several years in Veterans hospital in Los Angeles and in a number of Hospitals in the City.

My father, Washington S. Wallace, was born Nov. 4, 1824 and died Nov. 1, 1914. My mother Mary Matilda Reed (Burkett) was born December 8, 1848 -- died April 1, 1914. They are buried at Palava, a few miles from Sweetwater. Father carried mail from Eskota to Palava several years. He was a Civil War Veteran and drew a little pension.

Laura and Jennie, my half sisters, lived in Eskota. Laura married William Andrew Lynch and had three boys; two girls. Laura was in a rest home ten or twelve years, died at 94, was blind before she died. One of her daughters, Ruby Killen who lives in Phoenix, Arizona is in the millionaire bracket, took special care of her mother and dad through the years. Her dad died several years before her mother. Faye Purser, Laura's youngest daughter, lives in Trent, Texas about 9 miles east of Sweetwater. JENNIE married G. E. Godfrey. In her late years Jennie fell and broke her hip which caused her death.

I never knew my other half sisters Ellen and Lavina Burkett as they married when I was young and moved so far away they never got to visit us after they married. Lavina died begging for her mother, but mama never knew it until after Lavina died. We knew very little about her husband Z. H. Pannell. Our mother grieved over Lavina a lot.

Could you come to visit us sometime? We would be so glad to have you spend as much time as you could. Until then, much love from Hazel and me. She asked me to answer for her.

*God bless & keep you,
Anna Bell Wallace Lykes*

Burkett - PAVEY -BARKER-Burkett

("Aunt Jane") Malinda Jane Burkett Pavey Cox (1862 - 1952)

Married :

(1) John M. Pavey
They had one daughter, Ollie Pavey

Ollie Pavey

Married Thomas J. Barker
They had a daughter named Bertha Jane Barker
born 1902 at Lindsay, Arkansas
died 1969 in Paris, Texas

Bertha Jane Barker

Married Levi Burkett, born 1912

Bertha Jane and Levi Burkett lived on Route #3, Honey Grove, when she died of kidney poison in hospital at Paris, Texas. She was buried in Crestview cemetery, Wichita Falls, Texas.

Bertha Jane's sister is: Mrs. Curtis Davenport
#8 Farris Street
Wichita Falls, Texas 76301

Levi Burkett was a son of William F. Burkett

William F. Burkett was a son of Jobe ? Burkett.

Jobe Burkett may have been the A. J. Burkett born 1829 or 1830 in Tennessee,
but moved to Clay County, Texas about 1880 or before.

Our Grandpa Jacob Lorenza Burkett had a brother named
Andrew J. Burkett born about 1829 in Tennessee.

According to the above information, it seems that Aunt Jane Burkett's (Pavey)
grand daughter, Bertha Jane Barker, married Levi Burkett who was a cousin
(Probably a third cousin) to Aunt Jane Burkett -----
daughter of Jacob L Burkett
niece of Andrew J Burkett

Della Lou Goodwin
Language

Blanket, Texas
Oct. 22, 1935

*My grandmother Goodwin was born in Alabama.
My grandfather Goodwin was born in Texas.
My grandmother Burkett was born in Arkansas, while my grandfather Burkett was born in Tennessee. My father and mother was born in Texas. I was born in Mullin, Mills County, Texas. I was named for my two grandmothers.*

*The Goodwins came from England. My grandmother Goodwin's people came from England also.
They were Irish and Welsh.*

*The name Burkett came from the word Burkhart.
Mr. Burkhart and his three sons were exiles from Holland on account of their religious beliefs. When they landed in America, the Americans pronounced Burkhart as Bur-Kett. Today we call it Burkett. One of the boys made Tennessee his home. This is where my grandfather was born. He is Irish and German My grandmother Burkett is Scotch-Irish. While coming from Scotland to America my great, great grandmother bled to death at the nose and was berried in the sea.*

I will tell you a part of my grandmother Burkett life that has always been interesting to me. There were only two children in her family, Grandmother and a brother 2 years older. When Grandmother was nothing but a baby her mother and father died. She and her brother lived with some people who were not good to them. There were a large family and Grandmother had to work very hard. When Grandmother was 15 and her brother 17 he realized his sister was not getting a fair deal. They lived at Fort Chadbourne in Coke County. The children had an uncle living in Mills County. Grandmother's brother ran away from home, came to Mills County and told the uncle how they were being treated. Their uncle saddled two horses and sent him back to steal grandmother. When the brother got there he hid the two horses in a neighbor's barn. Everyone in the community knew how they were being treated, so they were willing to help them get away. The neighbor man gave a party that night and begged the people to let Grandmother go. During the day the neighbor man got a chance to tell grandmother that her brother had come for her and for her to make out like she was going to the party. Grandmother slipped out a bundle of clothes and hid them down the road. When dark came she started to the party. The brother had the horses saddled and instead of going to the party, they started out for their uncle's home. They were so afraid of being caught and carried back they rode all night until 4 the next morning when they lay down beside the road to rest. They continued their journey, stopping only long enough to eat and rest awhile.

FAMILY RECORDS

NAMES AND DATES

Joseph Lafayette Burkett "Joe or J. L." (son of Jacob & Lavina)

Born 3 April 1853 in Tennessee

Came to Texas in 1865 with his parents

Married 11 June 1882 to Della Catherine Pyeatt

Died 27 October 1920 at Mullin, Texas

Della Catherine Pyeatt (daughter of Henderson and Emmaline)

Born 14 November 1862 in Arkansas (Parents died in 1864)

Came to Texas in 1873 with her Aunt Mary Cox

Married 11 June 1882 to Joe Burkett

Died 11 June 1937 at Mullin, Texas

Joe and Della Burkett had ten children:

1. Annie Louisa Burkett Jackson, 1883 --
2. George Newton Burkett, 1884 -- 1963
3. Stella Mae Burkett Massey, 1887 --1946
4. Edgar Lorenza Burkett, 1889 --
5. Floyd Eli Burkett, 1891 -- 1972
6. Lee Pyeatt Burkett, 1895 -- 1965
7. Birdie Leona Burkett Chambers, 1898 --
8. Mae Delle Statyre Burkett Goodwin, 1901 --
9. Gladys Beatrice Burkett Hodges, 1904 --
10. John Ivy Burkett, 1909 --

(This writer does not have all our family records which should be included, especially cousins or the allied families. We trust each family will add its own record of names, dates, et cetera.)

Annie Louisa Burkett (oldest child of Joe & Della)
Born 24 April 1883 in Williams Ranch Community (near Mullin, Texas)
Married 28 July 1901 to William L. Jackson

William L. Jackson (son of Wm. A. & Nancy C.)
Born 6 May 1877 in Cherokee county, Alabama
Came to Texas with parents
Married 28 July 1901 to Annie Louisa Burkett
Died 21 January 1954 at Lubbock, Texas

Annie & Will had eight children:

1. Twin Girls, Born 1903, lived a few hours buried in Williams Ranch Cemetery
2. J. W. Jackson, 1904 --
3. Stella B. Jackson McMichael Jaynes, 1907 --
4. Lawrence Jackson, Nov. 1911, -- Dec. 1911 buried in Williams Ranch cem.
5. Callie Ree Jackson Cooper, 1913 --
6. Addison M. Jackson, July, 1915 -- Oct. 1925 buried in Carlisle Cemetery
west of Lubbock, Texas
7. Arthur Dale Jackson, 7 August 1918 ---

George Newton Burkett (oldest son of Joe & Della)
Born 5 September 1884, Williams Ranch Community
Married 7 January 1906 to Clementine Elizabeth Vann
Died 26 November 1963 in Commanche, Texas

Clementine Elizabeth "Lizzie" Vann (dau. of W. T. & Frances)
Born 16 February 1892 at Blanket Springs, Mullin
Married 7 January 1906 to George Newton Burkett
Died 10 April 1971 in Commanche, Texas

George & Lizzie had eleven children:

1. Lois Elva Burkett Davis, Dec. 1906 -- July 1924
 2. Stephen Lafayette Burkett, 1908 -- 1910
 3. Leona Statyre Burkett Coleman, 1911 -- 1968
 4. Chlotilde Irene Burkett Swinney, 1914 -- 1993
 5. Frances Katherine Burkett Swinney, 1917 -- 1970
 6. Floretta Natoma Burkett, 1922 --
 7. Evelyn Estelle Burkett Hatley, 1924 -- 1989
 8. Enza Dell Burkett Wilson, 1927 --
 9. Verna Bess Burkett Collins, 1931 --
- (Two girls born & died: Juanita Burkett, 1920 Baby Girl . . . 1921)

Stella Mae Burkett (second dau. of Joe and Della)
Born 5 January 1887 in Williams Ranch Community
Married 27 April 1919 to Arthur T. Massey
Died 14 Mar 1946 in Waco, Texas

Arthur T. Massey
Born 15 June 1883 at Giddings, Texas
Married (1) She later died
(2) Stella Mae Burkett on 27 April 1919
Died 12 January 1968 in Fort Worth, Texas

Stella and Arthur had three children:

1. Burkett Edison Massey, 1920 --
2. Stella Mae Massey Kardash, 1924 --
3. Joe Oliver Massey, 1926 --

Edgar Lorenza Burkett (second son of Joe & Della)
Born 28 May 1889 at Mullin, Texas
Married 20 April 1910 to Evelyn "Dove" Barton

Evelyn "Dove" Barton
Born 27 February 1893
Married 20 April 1910 to Edgar L. Burkett
Died 24 June 1953 in Temple, Texas

Edgar & Dove had five children:

1. Baby son born 1912 --- lived 4 days
2. Blanch Katherine Burkett Britt, 1914 -- *Dead*
3. Joe Louis Burkett, 1916 -- 1924
4. Beryl Juanell Burkett, 1920 --
5. Jacob Bentley (Jake) Burkett, 1923 -- *Dead*

Floyd Eli Burkett (third son of Joe & Della)
Born 3 October 1891 at Mullin, Texas
Married 24 Nov. 1912 to Maude Estelle Petty
Died 27 February 1972 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Maude Estelle Petty
Born 9 July 1892
Married 24 November 1912 to Floyd E. Burkett
Died 21 May 1965 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Floyd & Maude had two children:

1. Wanda Zelle Burkett Gerald, --
2. James Floyd Burkett, 1928 -- *Dead*

Lee Pyeatt Burkett (fourth son of Joe and Della)
Born 7 September 1895 at Mullin, Texas
Married 4 August 1920 to Rubye Pearl Lewis
Died 27 October 1965 in Fort Worth, Texas

Rubye Pearl Lewis
Born 9 April 1900 in San Saba, County, Texas
Married 4 August 1920 to Lee P. Burkett

Lee & Rubye had four children:

1. Doye Lorena Burkett Wilson, 1924 --
2. Jack Lewis Burkett, 1926 -- *Dead*
3. Donald Lee Burkett, 1930 --
4. Bobbie June Burkett, 1932 --

Birdie Leona Burkett (third daughter of Joe & Della)
Born 5 September 1898 at Mullin, Texas
Married 14 August 1937 to Willis H. G. Chambers

Willis Harrison Grigsby Chambers
Born 27 Feb. 1871 in Marshall County, Alabama
Married (1) , She died
Died 17 April 1961 at Mullin, Texas

Birdie & W. H. G. Chambers did not have any children.

Mae Delle Statyre Burkett Goodwin (fourth dau., Joe & Della)
Born 6 May 1901 at Mullin, Texas
Married 8 October 1920 to Thomas Daniel Goodwin

Thomas Daniel "T. D." Goodwin
Born 28 June 1899 near Mullin, Texas
Married 8 October 1920 to May Delle Burkett
Died 17 August 1962 in Goldthwaite, Texas

Mae Dell & Dan had three children:

1. Margie LaJuana Goodwin Ivy, 1921 --
2. Della Lou Goodwin Geeslin, 1923 --
3. Nelda Berylene Goodwin Beck, 1930 --

Gladys Beatrice Burkett (fifth dau. of Joe & Della)
Born 23 December 1904 at Mullin, Texas
Married 13 June 1927 to Benjamin Archer Hodges

Benjamin Archer Hodges
Born 13 October 1906 near Mullin, Texas
Married 13 June 1927 to Gladys B. Burkett

Gladys & Archie had three children:

1. Helen Colleen Hodges Mayr, 1930 --
2. Nelda Ruth Hodges Willingham, 1931 --
3. Joe Charles Hodges, 1935 --

John Ivy Burkett (last child of Joe & Della)
Born 8 August 1909 at Mullin, Texas
Married 17 December 1936 to Merle Means

Merle Means
Born 6 Feb. 1917 in San Saba County, Texas
Married 17 Dec. 1936 to John I. Burkett

John & Merle did not have any children.

Jesse Newton Pyeatt (only son of Henderson & Emmaline)
Born 14 May 1859 in Ellis County, Texas
Married 23 February 1881 to Nancy Epley
Died

Nancy Epley
Born in Cannon County, Tennessee
Came to Texas in 1865 with her parents & Burketts
Married 23 February 1881 to Jesse Newton Pyeatt
Died

Newt & Nancy had seven children:
(Three infants died.)

1. Dollie Pyeatt McCollum, 6 Sept. 1884; Williams Ranch
2. Oscar Pyeatt, 25 Nov. 1886, Mullin, Texas;
Died Clyde, Texas
3. Callie Pyeatt Marshall, 1 Sept. 1889, Mullin
4. Russell Pyeatt, 17 August 1891, Cottonwood, Tex.
Died Clyde, Texas

(Nancy Epley Pyeatt & Joseph Lafayette, Burkett were cousins (2nd.?) through the Epley family)

THE Burkett WIFE BURIED AT SEA

About 1744 to 1754, JOHN Burkett, his wife and their four young children with many other passengers were aboard ship, all enroute to America. The Burketts were Germans as were most other passengers. During the ocean voyage, JOHN Burkett'S WIFE became ill and died. She was buried at sea. (Some researchers say nose bleeding was the cause of death among several ocean travelers in those years and earlier. It seems the nose bleed usually went along with a disease -- I don't know the name of such disease)

That John Burkett (sometimes called Jonathan Burkhart) and his children continued their Atlantic Voyage to the United States where he kept the family circle intact in Maryland and Pennsylvania until his death five years after their arrival.

The first child, JEHU Burkett, born 1738 in Europe, died 1823 in Ohio; married Magdalena Croll of Lancaster County Pennsylvania.

Another son, NATHANIEL Burkett, birthdate unknown, died in 1815 in Virginia. He married and had 12 children. Some were Joseph, Daniel, John, Sally, India, Hannah, and others I've forgotten.

I do not have the names of the other two Burkett children whose mother died at sea, but think one was Christian. I am certain their father John Burkett had a brother named Christian Burkett who emigrated to America.

The Jehu Burkett mentioned above had a son Christian Burkett born in Lancaster county, Pennsylvania. This Christian Burkett married Catherine Peary and they owned a large plantation in Ashe County, North Carolina where they lived and had 15 children.

Information this page may give clues about our Burkett ancestors, but the relationship is not clear at this time --- more researching to do. John M. Burkett in Washington, D.C. provided the above information with his writings which were reliable. He died in 1947.

STORIES OF EARLY DAYS

WILLIAMS RANCH, CHESSEY VALLEY, MULLIN

Today is Tuesday, May 30, 1972. We Edgar Burkett, MacDelle Burkett Goodwin,, Gladys Burkett Hodges and her husband Archie Hodges have met at the Hodges cabin at Lake Merritt, near Goldthwaite, Texas, to record on tape some stories of early days in Williams Ranch, Chessy Valley, Mullin and surrounding country. These stories have been handed down orally by our parents and other pioneers of this area.

JACOB LORENZA BURKETT, our grandfather was born March 15, 1830 in Tennessee where he married his first wife Lavina Burnett who also lived in Cannon County, Tennessee. JACOB and LAVINA BURKETT and their seven children came to Texas in 1865. Leaving their home in the Nashville, Tennessee area they went overland to Memphis, Tennessee. From Memphis they traveled by boat on Mississippi River to New Orleans, Louisiana. At New Orleans they took passage on a ship sailing through the Gulf of Mexico to Galveston, Texas. From There they came by train to Branham, Texas where the railroad ended at that time. They continued the journey in ox wagons to Hoovers Valley, Burnett County, Texas where they arrived Christmas Day, 1865. Jacob and Lavina's seven children, in order of birth: George W., Joe (our father), Mary Sarah, Jim and Jane (twins), and Fanny. Lavina died at the birth of a baby about 1867 and was laid to rest with the baby in Hoover's Valley Cemetery. Kind hearted neighbors took the children and kept them until Jacob, some two years later, married Miss Mary Matilda Reed, daughter of the Reverend John S. Reed. The Jacob Burkett family lived a various places in Burnett, Llano, and Lampasas Counties. These moves were made to try to avoid Indian raids. JACOB and MATILDA Burkett had four daughters; Ellen, Laura, Virginia "Jennie", and Lavina "(Elvina ?).

Jacob Burkett died in the latter part of 1875 or early 1876 from wounds he received in the Civil War. He was buried in the Joy (now called Mohler) Cemetery on John Parker farm five miles southwest of Goldthwaite, Texas.

Joe Burkett, our father stayed with Matilda for a time making a living for her and his half-sisters. Matilda married Washington S. Wallace in 1881 and they moved to Fisher county, Texas. Joe worked for some ranch men Dan Trent (whose sister was the mother of Matilda Reed Burkett), also for George and Bill Williams until his marriage in June, 1882 to DELLA CATHERINE PYEATT in Chessy Valley. Joe & Della lived a short time in Chessy Valley then moved near Williams Ranch (a town at that time) where he and his brother-in-law, Newt Pyeatt established a blacksmith shop, operating it jointly. The railroad came through in 1885 and Mullin (a tent city at first) was started. That year 1885, Joe Burkett and Newt Pyeatt set up a blacksmith shop in Mullin. Newt & family moved from Williams Ranch to Mullin where he operated the shop. They closed the shop in Williams Ranch and Dad moved his family to Mullin in October, 1888. He and Uncle Newt ran the shop there until 1889 when Dad's older brother George bought Uncle Newt's interest in the shop. Uncle George and Dad were partners in the shop and a farm until 1900 when Uncle George sold his interest to Dad and moved to Roswell, New Mexico.

Annie, George N., Stella Burkett were born in or near Williams Ranch. Edgar and all other children of Joe and Della Burkett were born in Mullin, Texas.

Annie, 1883; George N., 1884; Stella, 1887; Edgar, 1889; Floyd, 1891; Lee, 1895; Birdie, 1898; May Delle, 1901; Gladys, 1904; John, 1909

After the country became more thickly settled Indian raids were fewer and THE MOB was broken up, settlers enjoyed getting together and telling their children stories of the hardships they had come through. I (Edgar) will relate some of the stories:

One experience Dad had with Indians was the time John Morris was killed by Indians while John and his brother Dave Morris were on their way from the mill at Williams Ranch to their home in Center City. That killing occurred in 1868 on what is now the Don Geeslin farm, two miles and a half northeast of Goldthwaite, Texas. Dave Morris escaped from the Indians, but John was killed and scalped. John Dan Chesser and Joe Burkett and others went in a wagon and brought John Morris' body to the home of John Dan Chesser where Caroline (John Dan's wife) fixed supper for the men. While the older men ate supper Joe and George Burkett, just boys at the time, guarded the body in the wagon. John Dan Chesser at that time lived on the Fowler ranch now owned by R. T. Padgett. Travel being slow and difficult, early settlers buried their dead in the nearest cemetery. His grave is marked by a stone furnished by the Federal Government s John was a Civil War Veteran. It is noted on his marker that he was killed by Indians.

Burkett HISTORY -- obtained 1938 at the University of Illinois

Elmer Jacob Burkett (born 1856) -- United States Senator from Iowa. Son of Henry W. and Catherine (Kramney) Burkett. He is fifth in descent from Stuffel Burkett, born in Germany who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1780?? and settled Bedford County. The line is traced through his son Joseph, a Revolutionary soldier; his son John, a soldier of 1812; and his son Jacob and wife Sarah Stiffler, who were the parents of Henry W. Burkett.

John Burkett, banker and editor in Arkansas, born January 26, 1854, son of Madison and Emily (Welch) Burkett, both of Tennessee. John Burkett graduated with honors at Southwestern Baptist University in Arkansas. He was Delegate to the Democratic National Convention at Chicago. He was President of the Tennessee Press Association in 1898. He married Callie W. Robbins of Chester County, Tennessee in 1879. They have three children.

John Fremont Burkett (born 1856 -- died 1921), dental surgeon if Indiana --- great, great grandson of Jonathan Burkett who emigrated from Germany to Pennsylvania.

Handwritten note at bottom of page:

I can't recall where I got this and am not sure where the connection is - am not sure if this is the Henry Burkett who is our ancestor.

Copy of a copy of letter from J. H. "Jim" Burkett.

Date and addressee unknown. (probably written during the early 1940s)

Tradition handed down orally is to the effect that there were three brothers landed in Pennsylvania soon after the Revolutionary War - having been expelled from Holland on account of their religious proclivities. Soon after reaching America one of them went in the direction of Illinois, another towards Kentucky, and another made a stop in North Carolina - how long ago I am not informed. Our family sprung from this one that went to North Carolina. My greatgrand father married an Epley, in North Carolina and emigrated to middle Tennessee years before the Civil War. My grand father was named Henry Burkett and to him was born eight boys and two girls, Mary and Martha. The boys were John, Jim, George, Dave, Nath, Jake, Jobe and Tolbert. Jacob Lorenza my father, married Lavina Burnet.

When the Civil War arose Pa was elected Lieutenant by his company and continued in that office until the surrender. He served four years. I was born - (supposedly) May 7th 1862. After the close of the war, April 1865 Rev. Ike Hoover was visiting his old home state Tennessee and he caused my father and his uncle Dave Epley to migrate to Texas. We landed in Hoover Valley Christmas Day 1865, where we became home owners, temporarily, until my mother's death.

One of my father's brothers, Uncle George, emigrated to Missouri, Uncle Jim to Arkansas, Uncle Dave to Kansas. I can remember only a few incidents that occurred before we left Tennessee. One was when Uncle George was leading off our milk cow. I recall also that my grandfather visited us, I presume as a parting adieu to my father. Grandfather had lost all of his fingers on his left hand, I noticed that he held his fork with his thumb and this sub of his hand. Another incident; my twin sister and I were seeking to collect some eggs from the woodpile. I got fastened and could not extricate myself. Sister Jane raised the alarm and my mother came and raised the log, releasing me. In this connection I had as well record other incidents of a mother's care for here off-spring.

After we had become settled in Burnet County, Texas sister Jane, Fannie and I were playing at the well. In looking over into the well my hat fell into the well and mother came down and fished it out. At another time, we three were busy playing near the same place where this well was located, when a strange animal made it's appearance near us. It was headed in the direction of the house. I grabbed sister Fannie and hollered to Jane to run, that this animal was a wolf or an Indian one. It turned out to be a common skunk, which made it's way to a hiding place under the puncheon floor of the side room. Mother again came to our relief and quickly dispatched the skunk with a hoe. The last time that I recall my mother's face, was when she lay in a winding sheet, still eyes closed, and they told me that she was dead. She was buried in the Hoover Valley grave-yard Burnet Co. Yes I can still see the hen eggs in the woodpile, the hat was fished from the well as she handed it to me and her face - in the sleep of death.

Father returned to Tennessee, probably the year of 1875 or 1874. The occasion of his return was grandfather's death, and father was appealed to, to wind up the estate. He returned from this trip, bringing with him Grandmother Burkett, Aunt Martha Young and Aunt Mary Brown, his sisters and their children. At that time our home was located on the Colorado River, and included the Little Pecan Bayou, our homes being located just above this stream and about 50 yards from the river.

After my mother's death, father broke up house-keeping, and we smaller children were placed temporarily with kind-hearted neighbors. I recall that Jane, Fannie and I were located with an Elkins family. Sarah with Rev. Jack Mabry, Sister Mary with a Mr. John Davis - all residing within Hoover's Valley.

Something like two years later, father married again. Miss Matilda Reed assumed the responsibility of mothering his brood. We children were again brought together under the same roof. At first we were located in McCullough County near Rose Mill.

At this place was the first school experience sister Jane and I had. My step-mother was the daughter of Rev. John Reed, Miss Matilda Reed. After living at Rose Mill, McCollough County for a short while we returned to Burnet County and lived on the John Davis farm. Here it was that Ellen was born, the oldest of my half-sisters. She now lives in Arizona. Laura came along later, born also in Burnet County. The family then moved to Lone Grove, Llano County, residing on the farm of D. H. Trent. We then went to San Saba County, where Rev. John Reed lived; located on the Vest farm. From there we removed to near Big Valley, Mills County, where a third half-sister was born and where Pa pre-empted a little place. He later sold this place to Dave Earley and located on the place on the Colorado River - bought it from Uncle John Conner. This place he sold to Abe Ezzell - Henry Ezzell's father. Pa then bought a place on Prescoat Creek 1/2 mile below Prescoat's old home place. Here he died and was buried at the Joy grave-yard, in December 1885 or 1886. And here the last of our half-sisters was born, after my father's death. (The other sister, Virginia, was probably born on the Vest farm.) She now lives in Sweetwater - Mrs. Godfrey. There were 7 of the first children, George, Joe, Mary, Sarah, Jane, and I and Fannie.

While living in Hoover Valley, occurred the Indian massacre of the Whitlock family. About this I will write later, as it will come in my series of articles intended for the magazine.

I have touched only briefly on our family history - but enough to place you in possession of a few of the salient points and I want you to call on me for further elucidations, which I will try to answer in detail when I know what you want.

A recent letter from Anna reached me just as I was debating in my mind whether to try to make the trip to Mullin - and I had decided that I had better stay at home and try to take care of my prospects for a living.

I am forced to put in 12 or 14 hours a day growing my little truck crops. The April freeze took toll of my entire pecan crop. If conditions had remained normal I would have harvested 4000 pounds of Burkett pecans this coming fall - utterly destroyed my commercial collateral. I won't get a single pound of nuts this fall. And I am deeply in debt.

I had hoped that I might get up a large club of subscribers to my farm letter brought me to my sober senses. Other people have troubles the same as I do. If, however, you boys are favorably impressed with my offer of the magazine I would appreciate you raising me a club, feel sure you will be pleased with the paper, 3 years \$1. If my plans dont go awry I plan to occupy space in this journal as long as I am physically and mentally active - - of course that wont be long. Just now I have a prospect to sell a little 3 acre, 14 year pecan orchard, worth \$1800.00. Have offered to take \$500.00 for it, so I can employ labor and devote the rest of my time mostly at my desk.

Yes I have abandoned the anticipated pleasure of meeting you on the 11th. Hope you will have a good time. If you dont have as many attendants as you would like, dont get discouraged. Your motives are worthy and noble - if you have in mind to perpetuate the traditions of moral virtues, and hand them to posterity, unblemished - encourage the youngsters to live pure, patriotic - and abhor the low sinister grovelings, of immoral mongrels which they are forced to meet daily.

Your Uncle Jim.

Henry Burkett

State of Tennessee

Last Will and Testament

I Henry Burkett of the County of Cannon and State of Tennessee, being now far spent in years, but of sound and disposing memory and knowing the uncertainty of life and the certainty of death which I must meet before a great many years -- I hereby make and publish this my last will and testament, revoking and making void all other wills by me at any time heretofore made; and by this will I wish all my property, both real and personal, disposed of in the manner herein directed after it shall please God to take me away from this world.

1. It is my will and desire that all my just debts be paid after my death as soon as can be done, by my executors, out of any money or other effects I may die possessed of, my funeral expenses first to be paid.
2. I hereby give and bequest [bequeath] all my property, both real and personal to my beloved wife Mary Burkett for and during her natural life and widowhood, with the exceptions hereinafter stated, to have and enjoy during her life in widowhood for her benefit and support; and in case my stock of any sort should accumulate by increase after my death until there is more than my wife can take care of or have use for, then she is at liberty to sell off any part of surplus property and use the proceeds of sale for her own use and benefit.
3. It is my will, and I hereby will and bequeath unto all my children share and share alike equal portions of my estate, both real and personal, after the death of my beloved wife Mary Burkett; and if any of my children shall be dead at the death of my wife, leaving children, then their children are to represent the interest and be entitled to the portion of my Estate which their estate parents would have been entitled to.
4. It is further my will and I hereby direct that [after] the death of my beloved wife Mary Burkett, my executors will after advertising, sell all my property, both real and personal. The personal property to be sold on a credit of twelve months with good and approved security for [the] purchase money; and my real estate all to be sold on time of one and two years credit in equal installments with good and approved security for the purchase money, retaining a lien on the land until the purchase money is paid. I direct that my said Executors advertise my personal property for sale by posters and in the county newspaper, if any, for at least thirty days; and my real estate in like manner for at least [???] forty days. I further direct that in case of any of my children, or grandchildren whose parents may be dead at that time are poor [and needy] and in judgment of my Executors it is [best] for them to do so -- my Executors are [authorized] to sell any~~thin~~ of the sale notes, for either real or personal property, at the best price they can get, not to exceed ~~10~~ [ten] percent discount, and equally divide the proceeds among those entitled under this will; if any who are entitled are minors, at the time, their parts are to be paid over to their regular guardians.

I hereby nominate [constitute] and appoint Josephus Finley my Executor to this [my] last will and Testament to carry out the same.

Given under my hand on this 20th day of June A D 1874.

Signed and acknowledged in the presence of witnesses

H. J. St. John

A. Finley

his
Henry X Burkett
mark

The following Certificate is part of the records of Cannon County, Tennessee. This was not included in the transcription of the Will that is included above. Other changes are indicated by strike-outs or [brackets]

*State of Tennessee
Cannon County*

*April
1875*

Tenn County Court

Personally appeared before me D B Vance Clerk (in open Court) of the County Court of said County H. J. St John & A. Finley subscribing Witnesses to the within paper writing purporting to be the Last Will and Testament of Henry Burkett dec'd Who first being duly sworn deposed and said that they were personally acquainted with the said Henry Burkett during his life time that he acknowledged the within instrument to be his last will and Testament on the day the same bears date that they became

The certificate continues to the next page of records. The Will and Certificate shown above are on pages 246-248 of the County Records.