

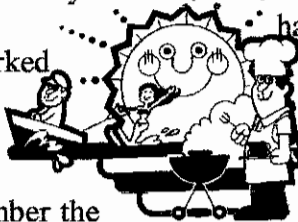


THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION

COMING UP - REUNION '94!

June 18 - that's the date. It's the third Saturday in June so mark your calendar and make your plans now. We will again be at the Sharon Johnson Park which has worked out well for us in the past and again we promise a bigger and better time than last year! Those of you who were there last year will remember the



"Memento Table" where photo's and other memento's were displayed. We plan to have that table again so let's all bring our memento's for others to enjoy. Games will again be available for the kids and we will be a little more organized as to who attends and with our picture taking. Ya'll come!!

How they lived . . .

I thought it might be of interest to go back and take a look at the life styles and conditions under which some of our ancestors lived. Bob Burkett, Jr. has sent me several Civil War documents about our relatives who served and I have received other information as well. In addition, I subscribed to a magazine "Civil War Times" in order to become more familiar with living during those times and thought it might be of interest to start this article with a discussion of the years, 1861 - 1865, during which this war was fought.

First, let me point out that while most of us refer to it as the "Civil War", the correct historical name was the "War Between the States" and what I learned really amazed me. In terms of casualties, the War *cost more than any other American war*. About 1 million were killed or wounded. Deaths, including those from disease, totaled 622,511. By comparison, about 126,000 Americans died in World War I and 407,000 died in World War II.

The South lost 258,000 men, 94,000 on the battlefield *and 164,000 of disease!* The North

lost 364,511 men, 110,000 on the battlefield *and 254,511 of disease!* This reveals that, of the 622,511 deaths, *418,511 were due to disease!!* Only 204,000 were due to battlefield wounds. This really tells us something both about the living conditions and the quality and availability of health care which existed roughly 130 years ago.

While I have not learned much about the diseases which killed that many men, I do know that diphtheria, scarlet fever, typhoid, pneumonia and childhood diseases of whooping cough, mumps, and chicken pox still existed in the 1930's so it would be reasonable to assume that these were some of the diseases involved.

Among the civilian population, conditions must have been equally bad. Since most of the fighting took place in the South, it was the South and Southerners who suffered the most damage. The war destroyed cities, towns, farms, homes, railroads, industry, trade and the economy. Food and clothing shortages were commonplace with medical help almost nonexistent. (Cont. Page 2)

How they lived . . . (Cont. from Page 1)

At this time, I have only identified two of our Burketts who were killed in the war and one who simply went off to war and never returned. Further research is necessary and will be done to determine how many Burketts were killed, wounded, etc.

Coming forward in time to 1918 and World War I, an influenza epidemic struck when most of our Doctors were overseas. Worldwide, *20 million people died!* In Pennsylvania, 10,000 died in two weeks! The virus was never identified since the electron microscope that made a virus visible was not invented until the 1930's. Again, research is needed to determine what effect, if any, this epidemic had on our Burketts.

Moving forward to the 1930's when a Doctor made house calls and was looked upon as a friend as well as a Doctor, it is known that many of us suffered from diptheria, scarlet fever, pneumonia, and the common childhood diseases of chicken pox, whooping cough, mumps, seven year itch and others. Homes with residents suffering from these diseases were placed under quarantine with a brightly colored card attached to the house and only the breadwinner was permitted to leave. I personally remember the quarantine cards and I'm sure many others also remember. These were the days before antibiotics and preventive inoculations and many children died of diseases rarely seen today. You may recall that a daughter of Almon Lee and Nancy Bogle Burkett died of whooping cough as a baby and another daughter, Tildie, died of blood poisoning. And they are only two of many others.

From the above, it is obvious that gigantic medical improvements have been made in a relatively short period of time. I might also point out, and I know many of you remember, there were no nursing homes in those days and many homes had an older relative living with the family. They often took care of the children and helped with household chores.

Moving from the war and health aspects to the more normal side of life, there was little crime. People did not lock their doors. (Continued on Page 3)

THE BURKETT FAMILY

Publisher

The Burkett Heritage Foundation

Historian and Editor

Marvin Oliver Webb

Assistant Editors

Danny Banks

Audy Majors

Reunion Manager

Audy Majors

Legal Advisor

Danny Banks

For further information about subscriptions
and articles write to:

THE BURKETT FAMILY

c/o Oliver Webb

13465-B Governors Drive

Tampa, Florida 33618

(813)961-1679

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How they lived *(Cont. from Page 2)*

The streets were safe and you knew your neighbors. Children attended neighborhood schools in most cases and walked home for lunch. Teachers were respected and children were taught that if they got in trouble at school they would be in trouble at home.

There were no supermarkets or Walmarts or K-Marts. For groceries, a clerk behind the counter filled your order and placed the items on the counter in paper bags. For some such as Grandmother Nancy Bogle Burkett, delivery service was available. I remember the store had an A model Ford truck and they would bring Grandmother's groceries to the house after she had walked to the store and selected them. Sugar was placed in small paper bags and after flour sacks were emptied they were bleached out and used for rags and/or making clothes. Almost nothing was wasted.

“ . . . the iceman would come around and deliver 25 or 50 pounds of ice . . . ”

Meat was not sold in the grocery store and was expensive for the average family when purchased from the meat market. But Grannie Burkett had chickens and almost every Sunday would have fried chicken, mashed potatoes, gravy, green beans, corn bread and a peach or apple pie. For the chicken she would go out in the backyard, select the chicken and catch it, grab it by the neck and wring its head off leaving it on the ground kicking while the blood spilled out on the ground! After that she placed the chicken in boiling water for a while and then plucked the feathers. After that was done she was able to cut it up for cooking. Aren't we glad we don't have to do that now!!

In Huntsville, we did have a Kress and Woolworth 5 and 10 Cent stores. (What can you buy today for a nickel or dime?) They had things like needles, sewing thread, and small household items including some ready-made

clothing. They also had toys and I remember as kids we loved to go in and look at almost everything they had in the store.

Back at the old homestead in Tennessee, there was no refrigeration other than placing things like milk and butter in the spring. But when Almon Lee and Nancy Bogle Burkett moved from Tennessee to Huntsville, Alabama, they at least had an icebox and the iceman would come around and deliver 25 or 50 pounds of ice according to what Grannie wanted that day. (And what fun it was for us kids on a hot summer day to get the slivers of ice which came off when the iceman used his ice pick!)

Mondays were wash days using scrub boards and wash tubs along with huge iron pots with a fire built under them and clothes and bed linen dipped out by means of a broom handle. Some clothes and bed linen were then placed in starch water and afterwards hung on the clothes line to dry. This was all done in the backyard. Then came the ironing using irons heated on top of the cook stove because there were no electric irons in those days.

Canning and preserving food was an activity almost every family engaged in and anybody who lived during those days remembers what Mason Fruit Jars are. Fruits and vegetables were the main items and pickled peaches was one of my favorites.

I think this clearly shows that it took hard physical work in those days just to survive. Biscuits were made from "scratch" and brooms and mops were used to clean the floors; very few people had carpet or vacuum cleaners.

There were few cars in those days; few radios and no TV. In Huntsville, we did have the Lyric and Grand movie theatres and movies were shown on Saturday night at the YMCA in Dallas Village. But all in all, life flowed at a much slower pace and had its own rhythm compared to today. ■

Dear Cousins . . .

In our last issue we had a FLASH bulletin about some information from a "little bird" that we might have some new Grandparents. It seems our source was accurate as evidenced from the following:

Dear Cousins,

'Tis true and wonderful! We are going to be Grandparents. Martha Burkett Waldrup is expecting on August 1. Jennifer Hamby Burkett is expecting on August 3. THESE will be our first!

Buddy and Joanna Burkett

Also received a letter from Rita Majors - wife of Almon Majors, Jr. - which I am paraphrasing.

Dear Cousins,

I am working over here in Saudi Arabia and would enjoy hearing from any of you who care to write. My address is as follows:

Riyadh - Al Manar Compound
P.O. Box 61182
Riyadh Saudi Arabia 11565
Attn: Almon Majors Jr.

Almon Majors Jr. (by Rita)

Dear Cousins,

I had another message from that "little bird" that maybe Kenneth Wayne and Janie Burkett (that's the Alabama Kenneth Wayne) may also become Grandparents and that the event may be close to me. Let's see if that "little bird" is correct again!

Oliver Webb ■

I Remember . . .

from Oliver Webb

When I was just a young boy and Mother and I were living with Grannie and Granddaddy on Halsey Avenue - Mother and my Daddy Elgie Webb were separated - Uncle J.B. Burkett would come by and take me over to Pin Hook

Creek. I did not know how to swim at that time so Uncle J - as I called him then and still do - would swim around with me on his back to get me to lose my fear of the water. It worked and it was a lot of fun but, boy, I can still remember how *cold* that water was! At about that same time, there was a pasture near the old ball park where people who owned cows kept them and we used to go there and fly kites during the summer. We didn't have any money to buy a kite so we made them using hollow sticks - don't remember the name of the weed or bush - newspaper and paste made from flour and water. We used string which was available from the cotton mill and tails made out of pieces of old cloth. What the heck! They weren't fancy but we had enough string and on a good day we could put them almost out of sight. We used to lay on our back in that cow pasture-being careful not to lay in something"- and watch those kites climb higher and higher. Those were lazy, funfilled summer days! ■

If the going gets easy, you may be going downhill.

Guesses and

This 'n That

I received an interesting letter from Bob Burkett Jr. and he included another book he had run across entitled "In A Place Called Watertown" written by Ben T. Traywick and Lowell A. Bogle. The Watertown, of course, is in Tennessee and, yes, that's one of our Bogles and, yes, there are Burketts, Woods and other relatives in the book. I haven't had time to sort it all out but expect to get around to it soon. Thanks a lot, Bob. I have finished a quick reading and I can tell you there are some funny and interesting anecdotes. . . . Had an interesting phone call from Della Andrews Frey, daughter of Kathleen Majors Andrews. She had been in an antique shop up in North Carolina and had (Continued on Page 5)

(Continued from Page 4)

run across some elaborate funeral plaques for Charles and Elizabeth "Borkett" which gave dates for birth and death as well as where they were buried. Remembering how people used to change their name, Della's question was whether they might possibly be related since the name was so close. I took the dates she gave and checked as best I could with the data I currently have but could find nothing to give us a clue that they might possibly be a relation. Even though we found nothing I intend to keep the information in my notes for further research. . . . I understand one of our cousins Page Ann Banks has been elected to the National Honor Society. Congratulations, Cuz! Now, let's do the same in college! . . . Glad to be able to report that Kathleen Majors Andrews is on the mend after suffering a stroke. Talked with Kathleen not too long ago and she reports she is doing just fine and getting better every day. Also, Audy Majors is back at work after a prolonged and painful period as a result of back surgery. . . . Received a promise from Cuz Herman Chisholm to take me "skeet" hunting the next time I come up. Apparently he is having trouble making a decision about whether to bake, boil, broil, fry or smoke the skeets but does report that they are brittle and very tough. Hey, Cuz! Is this anything like the time you took me snipe hunting? Or the time I fired that old 12 gauge . . . or was it 20 gauge . . . off my left shoulder and under my nose busting both my lip and nose? And I missed the squirrel on top of that! . . . Cousin Loretta Chisholm Patterson reports she and husband Carlos both fought the flu bug for a couple of weeks back in January and that she is now working on getting all of her family papers and pictures in order. Are the rest of you working on yours? ■

No man knows less than the man who knows it all.



The Historian's Corner

Charts of names, dates, places and relationships form the basis of our family records. Yet all genealogists will admit that such a data collection by itself is dry. From these records we can learn ancestors names, plus birth, marriage and death dates. But to really "know" our ancestors is to learn what life was like for them - where they lived, how they lived, what they did for a living, their religion, their education, etc. Think about this. Our ancestors are more than a link to a preceding generation. They were once living, working and raising a family - the same things we do in this day and time. This is not to minimize the need for full and correct names, birth, marriage and death dates. But once that is done, the real job begins of trying to learn about how they lived and so forth.

One thing I have learned is what a big job this is - and I could use some help. So here is what I am proposing and hope that some of you can help. I have entered into the computer for each family member all of the information I have. But I still see some blank spots. So what I would like to do is to select a person for each family group and send the latest print-outs for members of that group to the selected person and have them complete the forms to the best of their ability by contacting other members of their group. This would allow me to start writing about our family as well as doing more research. So that's my plan. If you are selected and receive the files but find you are unable to work on it, then let me know and I can try to find someone else.

Most of you will remember that we got our start using information *(continued on Page 6)*

(continued from Page 5)

compiled by StellaB "Neta" Jackson Jaynes. She is one of our cousins - my third cousin once removed - from Texas and provided most of what we now have on our ancestors. For the past few months I have made several attempts toward locating her but have been unable to do so. I wanted to not only thank her for all of the years of hard work she put in on this research but also to invite her to our reunion. For some reason she provided us with very little information on her side of the family which makes my search more difficult. StellaB would be 87 if she is still living and I am sure she had a lot more information about our family which, if she died, is now in the hands of a relative somewhere. I haven't given up and don't intend to but it is this type of activity I need to concentrate on and is why I asked for help in getting the easier data on family members.

Audy Majors has provided copies of some interesting documents with information about our Burketts. One of the documents is the 1850 census for Cannon County, Tennessee. Another is pages from a cemetery book and still another is the Marriage Records of Cannon County for the years 1838 - 1899. These Marriage Records are a perfect example of how names were spelled incorrectly - Burket with one "T" as an example - and Almon Lee is listed as "Aud" Burkett with Nancy Caldonia Bogle listed as Dona. Apparently, they didn't feel the necessity of giving full legal names compared to the way we do it today giving full first, middle, and last names and, in most cases, a social security number. This is the type of information desired by genealogists as "source" verification of names, dates and places and will be used when writing the book about our Burketts.

I am still investigating the various types of "scanners" which are available and which would allow me to include much clearer pictures of our relatives as well as copies of original documents which might prove of

interest to everyone. A good one is fairly expensive which is why I want to take my time and get the best for the money. It may be that I can have one by the time I publish our next issue. As I have said before, I really feel it will make our Newsletter more interesting if I can show you some of the original documents and/or photo's in good quality.

To give you an idea of the progress we have made, I am including both an ancestor and descendent chart for Uncle J.B. Burkett. Rather than print out all of his children I arbitrarily selected Betty Jo and her family. But I believe this will give you a pretty good picture of what we can do with the information we are collecting.

That's it for this time from this Corner. I apologize for the lateness of this issue but I have been caught up in resolving some matters in connection with my retirement and, of course, need to get all of that resolved in order to devote more of my time to this project. Let me hear from ya'll! ■

Congratulations

Do we have any graduations, marriages, births, promotions, new jobs or whatever coming up in the next couple of months - especially June? Let me know so that I can include those in this column. ■

Have you moved?

One of the problems of publishing any document on a quarterly basis is that people can move and forget to send their new address since the publication comes at such long intervals. If you have moved or know someone who has, please send the new address. ■

*There is no right way
to do a wrong thing.*

Membership status . . .

One of my many faults which I have recognized and which has been with me for a long time is that when I get enthused about something, I think the rest of the world is also equally enthused. Then when I find out the rest of the world isn't as enthused as I am, I'm disappointed. And I shouldn't be and know it.

But that's what has happened with regards to our membership. Besides myself, I have only received 17 other applications and checks for a total of \$450.00. This makes it difficult to continue putting in a lot of hours when, at this time anyway, it appears there isn't that much interest.

I'm hoping this is not the case and that several of you have simply overlooked sending it in.

However, this will have to be your last issue if you do not join. Until now, I have paid all of the expense but cannot continue doing that. So get going and get those applications and checks to me so we can continue our projects! Listed below are those who have sent in their applications.

- | | |
|----------------------|------------------------|
| 1. Larry S. Andrews | 10. Almon Majors, Jr. |
| 2. Basil Banks | 11. Audy Majors |
| 3. Danny Banks | 12. Herbert Lee Majors |
| 4. Bob Burkett, Jr. | 13. Cynthia Himes |
| 5. J.B. Burkett | 14. Karen Howell |
| 6. Ken Burkett(Tenn) | 15. Loretta Patterson |
| 7. Buddy Burkett | 16. Louise Smith |
| 8. Herman Chisholm | 17. Martha Teague |
| 9. Laura Durham | 18. Oliver Webb |

I will provide a financial statement in the next issue showing the expenses for mailing this issue.

cut along dotted line or photocopy

Membership Application
for
THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION
Annual dues \$25.00 *

- Yes! I want to join. Here is my check.
- No. I cannot afford it at this time but would like to continue receiving *THE BURKETT FAMILY* newsletter.
- No. I do not wish to join. Please discontinue the Newsletter.

Name _____

Street Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

* This is an estimate and believed to be a maximum. As we increase our membership, we believe this can be reduced but until this initial membership is completed, an accurate forecast is not possible.

Make check payable to M.O. Webb and mail to: THE BURKETT FAMILY
c/o M.O. Webb
13465-B Gouvernors Drive
Tampa, FL 33618

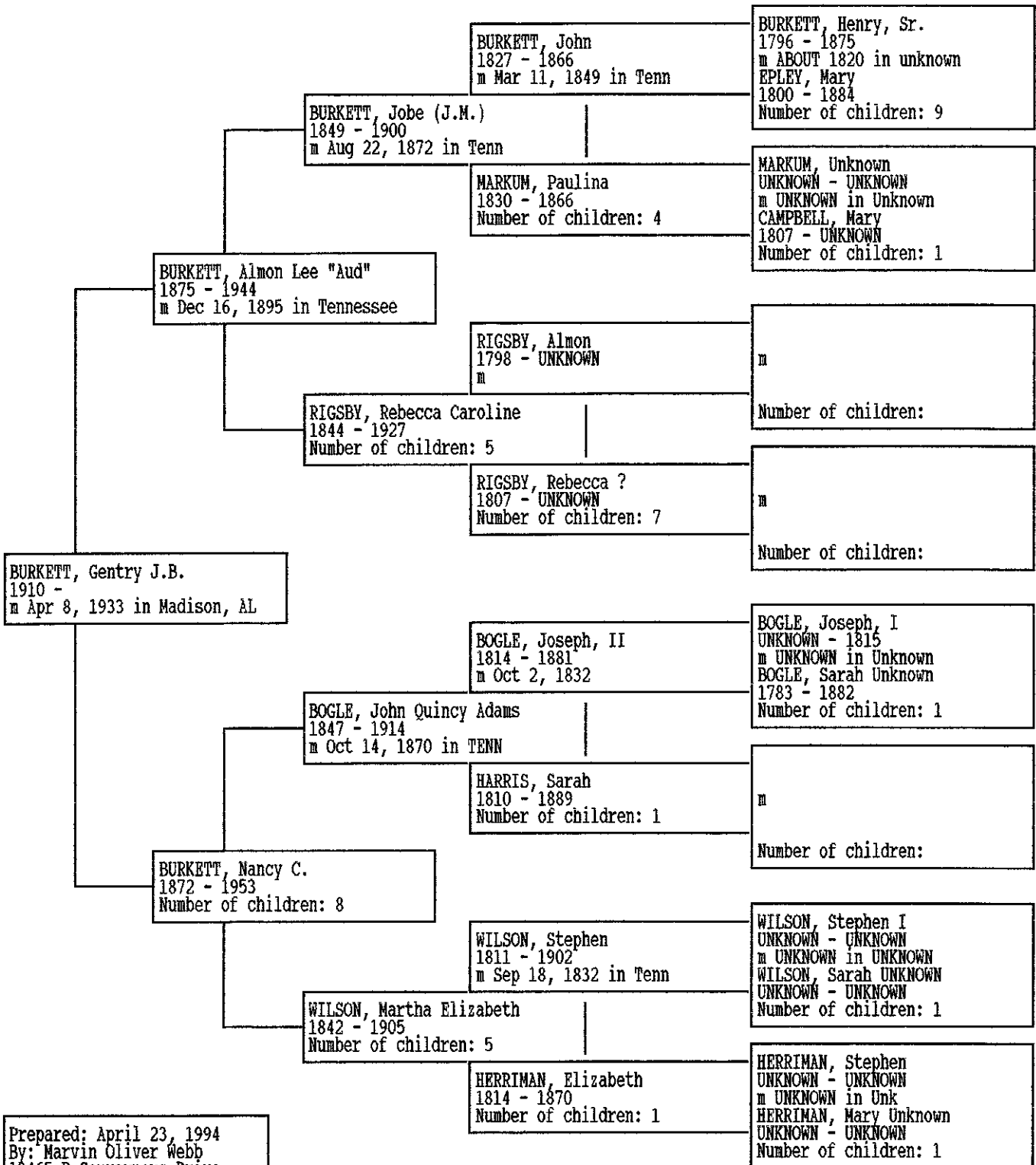
Ancestors of Gentry J.B. Burkett

Parents

Grandparents

Great-Grandparents

2nd Great-Grandparents



Prepared: April 23, 1994
By: Marvin Oliver Webb
13465-B Gouvernors Drive
Tampa, FL 33618 [813/961-1679]