



# THE BURKETT FAMILY

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## Happy Holidays to everyone!

### *The Bogle Reunion -*

Well, we had a pretty good turn out again this year even if Alabama and Tennessee did schedule their game on *our* day! But it was nice of them to schedule it late enough that it didn't interfere too much except for those who had season tickets and attended the game instead of the reunion. And we did get to watch it on TV when we returned to Huntsville from Woodbury.

Also, we were blessed with good weather again this year which not only helps while we are there but makes the drive much more pleasant.

Anyway, the food was good and plentiful as usual and it was good to visit with our relatives even if it was for such a short time. It's always pleasant to visit because when we were growing up we really didn't get to know them. We didn't have the highway system back then nor did we have the cars and money to do much traveling.

Next year I want to get more organized with the picture taking and be sure we not only get a picture of everybody there but also make sure everybody is identified in the pictures. Each year sees the number grow smaller and we ought to make sure we get as many pictures and as much information as we can. ■

### *Various Spellings of the Family Name of Burkett -*

*By Nita (StellaB) Jaynes October 6, 1995*

My maternal Ancestors are named Burkett. We pronounce it **BURK'** ett. All my life I have been told by Burkett relatives that it used to be Burkhart in Germany where our family originally lived. My

great Uncle James Henry Burkett "Uncle Jim" - the Burkett pecan expert - had a daughter named Kate who researched the family history from the time our Burketts left Germany until they migrated to and settled in Texas. I have read the letter in which Kate detailed her findings, namely the German spelling was Burkart and/or Burkhardt. Kate was well ed-ucated and knew how to do genealogical research. Also I should add that her father (my great Uncle Jim) was a diligent student of Burkett family history and often told me information he had obtained from his ancestors. He believed the name was formerly Burkhart.

This may be an appropriate time to say that as a professional genealogist I learned while taking university courses for a PhD in library science that various spellings of names occur in all public records, especially those kept in courthouses and city halls because the early clerks did not write clearly and correctly or preferred to spell by sound. Very often, people used the same spelling given on public records because the clerk "should know" how to spell.

All good genealogists research family history by reading histories of towns and counties where the family lived and may learn about various ways the family name was spelled or pronounced. For example, I have learned much family history by reading histories of North Carolina, Tennessee, and Texas. ■

*Well, Nita, you've done it now! This raises more questions such as "When and why was the name changed?" And is there any chance of locating a copy of the research Kate did? I'm going to have to write you a letter about this. But we thank you for this letter.*

## *Last Will and Testament of Henry Burkett, Sr. -*

HENRY BURKETT )  
                   To                )  
 Last Will and        )  
 Testament-            )

State of Tennessee

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. 1st 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, funeral expenses first to be paid. 2nd I hereby give and 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 hereafter stated to have and enjoy during her life or 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 a 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. 3rd 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 parents would have been entitled to. 4th 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 purchased money

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## **THE BURKETT FAMILY**

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and my real estate 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 purchased money is paid. I direct that my said Executors advertize my personal property for sale by posters and in the county News paper if any for at least thirty days and my real Estate in like manner for at least for forty days. I further direct that in case any of my children or grandchildren whose parents may be dead at that time are poor and needy and in judgement of my Executors it is best for them to do so, My executors are authorized to sell any of the sale notes for either real or personal property at the best price they can get not to exceed ten per cent discount and equally divide the proceeds among them entitled under this Will if any who are minors at the time their parts to be paid over to their regular guardians. 5th I hereby nominate and 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 the 20th day of June A.D. 1874.

his  
Henry x Burkett  
mark

Signed and acknowledged in the presence of witnesses,

H.J. St. John  
A. Finley

-----end of Will-----

State of Tennessee ) April Term County Court  
1875  
Cannon County - )

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 they were personally acquainted with the said Henry Burkett during his life time and that he acknowledged the within instrument to be his last Will and Testament on the day the same bears date that they became subscribing witnesses at the

instance of the testator and signed as such in his presence.

Witness D.B. Vance Clerk of said Court

in open Court,

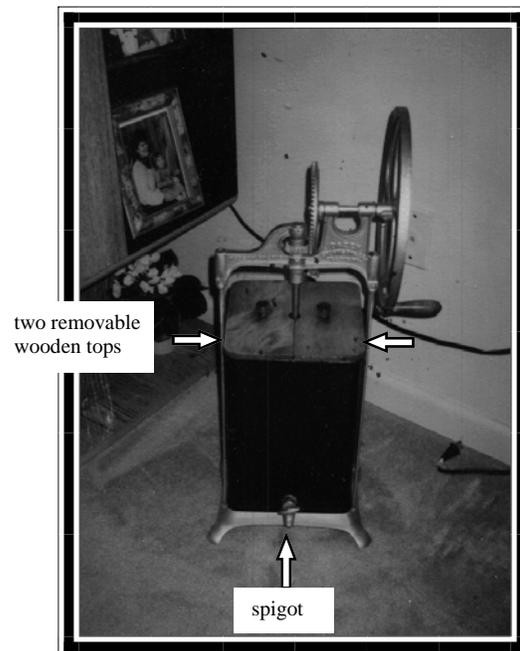
D.B. Vance, Clerk

April 5th 1875-

*NOTE: For the life of me, I can't remember how I obtained this document. Somebody will have to help me on this. I have retyped it from a typed copy which I feel somebody typed from a handwritten copy. Further, I have tried to copy it without altering it in any way and feel that whoever typed it also tried to copy it just as it was written. ■*

## ***A Rich Mans Churn -***

Probably many of our younger relatives have never seen a churn - much less one like this.



Some may even ask, "What is a churn?" Well, a churn is "a vessel in which milk or cream is agitated to separate the oily globules from the other parts and thus to obtain butter." All of our relatives had the type with a round wooden handle sticking straight up through the top and you sat beside it and worked it up and down which, while it wasn't real hard work, still took time and effort and as the milk thickened, it took more effort. But as you might

*(Continued on page 3)*

guess, somebody had to come up with an easier way. This churn is owned by Audy Majors who had all of the metal cleaned and repainted and the wood refinished to look like new. This picture doesn't really do justice to it. It was Patented in 1917 by the Dazey Churn & Mfg. Co. in St. Louis, Missouri. As you can see, you simply sat beside it and turned the wheel which, in turn, turned two paddles inside the churn. The spigot is to release the whey after the butter-making is completed. Now I hear somebody asking, "What is whey?" Whey is "the watery part of milk separated from the more thick or coagulable part." My Granny Burkett, like most others, had a round wooden mold which she then used to shape the butter in about one pound sizes. ■

### *A trip to McMinville -*

On Monday following the Bogle reunion on Saturday, Audy Majors and I drove up to visit Laura Durham and Frances Watson. They were unable to make the trip to Woodbury and Audy and I had promised to visit so away we went.

When we arrived, we phoned Laura for directions and, as we drove up in front of her house, one of her sons, Aaron, drove in behind us. We went in together and greeted Laura who then kept calling Frances until she got her and told her we had arrived so Frances came over to Laura's house.

Well, we had a great visit talking and looking at pictures - some of which I will share in this issue. Aaron was on his lunch time and we talked right on through that while his mother, Laura, kept him rounding up pictures for us to look at. Maybe we tired him out but it came time for him to go back to work for which we were sorry. He was a very comfortable and enjoyable person to be around and at least we got to meet him.

One of the pictures we came up with is the one in the next column which is Laura and Frances' parents - Tolbert Lee Burkett and Minnie Elrod. Tolbert was a brother of Almon Lee Burkett. Notice that Lee is the middle name for both. Not only that but Aaron, Laura's son mentioned above, has the middle name of Lee and, if you will look at the descendants chart on Page 6 under Elizabeth, you will find a daughter named Nora Lee. Now

that presents another question for me to work on. Where did the Lee come from? So far, I have managed to track down most of the common names in the family so now I'll have to go to work on this. Incidentally, Tolbert was 56 years of age when this picture was taken.



*Tolbert and Minnie Elrod Burkett*

The next picture is a full page and is shown on the next page followed by a Descendants Chart for Jobe Burkett which will help you see and understand the relationship of those in the picture. They are first cousins and/or brothers and sisters. But some of them are unique cousins. Looking at the Descendants Chart, you will notice that Julie and Dollie both married Watsons who were brothers. Well, since they were sisters who married brothers, that makes all of their children *double* first cousins! Furthermore, you will notice that Tolbert and his sister Elizabeth both married an Elrod - Minnie and Gum respectively - who were brother and sister so

*(Continued on page 7 )*



This picture was made September 7, 1980 and is of some of our Tennessee relatives.  
FRONT ROW (L to R) Palmo Watson, NoraLee Griffith, Laura Durham, Frances Watson, Jessie Watson,  
BACK ROW (L to R) Dorothy Foster, Lannie Gilley, Lewis Watson, Claude Wood  
See Jobe Burkett DESCENDANTS CHART on the next page