



THE BURKETT FAMILY

PUBLISHED QUARTERLY BY THE BURKETT HERITAGE FOUNDATION



Mary Elizabeth Majors Teague

'Martha'

Born December 30, 1930

in

Huntsville, Alabama

Died February 16, 2000

in

Hendersonville, Tennessee

My Cousin 'Martha',

by Oliver Webb

Many of our relatives will read the above and then remember her name was really Mary Elizabeth. But she was called Martha all of her life so that's all any of us ever thought of. Nobody — and I guarantee you nobody — ever called her Mary or Elizabeth, always Martha. When Martha was born, the Dallas Cotton Mill paid for a "visiting nurse" who came to the home of folks who worked at the mill and who had medical problems which could be handled by a nurse. Few could afford to pay for any medical treatment, much less a Doctor. The visiting nurse was Martha Myhand who was present when Martha was born. Martha Myhand wanted her called Martha even though she had been named Mary Elizabeth by her sister, Mildred. And that's what happened — she was always called Martha.

Her mother was Ova Burkett Trapp Majors who was a daughter of Almon Lee Burkett and Nancy Caldonia Bogle Burkett. Her father was Benjamin Franklin "Uncle Ben" Majors who served in the Field Artillery during World War I. She had four sisters and three brothers — Mildred, Alma, Kathleen, Nancy, Herbert Lee, Almon and Audy.

Born in 1930, Martha went through the economic

depression years as a young girl and, like most of her first cousins and brothers and sisters, not only never understood what the depression was all about, she never knew there was a depression. Everybody in the Cotton Mill Village was equally poor and had no way of knowing what it was they didn't have. But it may have been the years of not having much that contributed in at least a small way to Martha marrying Cecil Teague before she was 17 years old. However, Cecil had kept his eye on that cute little 'Majors girl' who was growing up just a block away and had his heart set on her.

Cecil and Martha had three daughters — Lynn, Ann, and Kathy. When Martha became ill with that dreaded cancer, Ann and husband Maury Buchanan lived in Hendersonville, Tennessee, not too far from Martha's home in Huntsville, Alabama. They came and moved Martha to their home where they could take care of her. And take care of her they did. From scheduling visits by relatives and/or friends so as not to tire her too much, to providing whatever physical and medical assistance she needed for her comfort. Maury and Ann also set up an email address not only for relatives and friends to send messages to her but which they used to keep everyone advised as to her condition. They would read these messages to Martha and they provided a morale boost to her just to know

how many folks were thinking about and praying for her. Upon her death, Maury's message to relatives and friends included the following, "The lady who loved passing out peppermints at church is now doing the same in Heaven." At her side when she died were two (2) of her four beloved grandchildren, Rachele Buchanan and Mark Enfinger. Another grandson, Ben Buchanan, was at work and a granddaughter, Martha Lynn Barnes, was at school in Auburn. She fiercely loved all her grandchildren and she was deeply loved in return.

Her funeral was held Saturday, February 19, at the Hillwood Baptist Church that, over the years, she had come to love so much and they had come to love her. I was unable to attend but have been told it was beautiful. All of Martha's relatives were 'favorites' — but she had one cousin she seemed to favor, Danny Banks. For years, she had told me and anybody who would listen that her favorite song was Danny Boy. That song was beautifully played at the funeral by the Church Minister of Music who also happens to be a member of the Huntsville Symphony violin section. A male soloist with a beautiful voice sang and a female quartet did a wonderful job. The entire service, which was planned by daughter Lynn, was very uplifting and upbeat — entirely in keeping with Martha's personality. There were some humorous stories about Martha at the Church. One involved a time when Martha was sick and in Nashville. She had sold her house there in Huntsville and bought another. Since Martha was in Nashville, people from the Church were moving her belongings to the new house when the ladies noticed the large number of clothes that Martha had. They put their heads together and decided to each select an outfit and wear it to Church the next time Martha was going to attend. They did wear the outfits and, at first, Martha was confused. Then she caught on and asked, "Is everybody in Church wearing one of my outfits?"

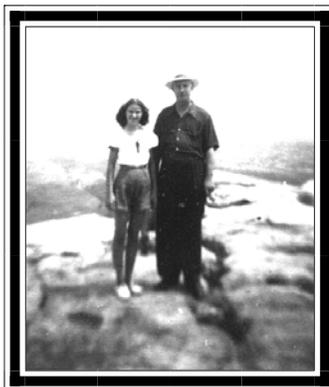
Martha was laid to rest next to her mother in Maple Hill Cemetery there in Huntsville. It was there, beside her grave, that one of her beloved grandchildren, Ben Buchanan, gave voice to a courageous prayer. Following the graveside service, the Hillwood Baptist Church she loved so much, where her faith was so strong it shined like a beacon, and where she loved to pass out peppermint candies, hosted a dinner for the family members.

In closing, I must include words written by daughter Ann Buchanan. "She fought a good fight with dignity and courage. I know you will all miss her very much. I can't begin to tell you how much I will miss her! Your presence at the service (she called it her 'going away party') was a tribute to her and I know she would have been smiling ear to ear."

A 'going away party' — so like my cousin, Mary Elizabeth.

A Young Martha -

Martha and Uncle Frank Hunter, stepfather to Oliver and Joan Webb, in the Smoky Mountains. Her Aunt Martha, Uncle Frank and cousin Joan had visited Huntsville and Martha returned to visit with them at their home in Knoxville for a few days. The picture was made in 1945 when she was only 14. ■



The Burkett Family

Original Historian

StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes

October 8, 1907 - June 18, 1996



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We wish to acknowledge the contributions made by StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes in compiling the initial data about our family. Without her efforts much of the information we have would probably never have been located. However, the impetus to continue her work began with a suggestion in 1992 by Gentry J.B. Burkett to have a family reunion in Huntsville, Alabama which was carried out by the efforts of Audy Majors. Over the years, Audy has continued his efforts toward the location and preservation of family information and artifacts.

Current Historian and Editor

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Alabama Reunion Manager

Audy Majors

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Wanda Zell Burkett Gerald

***Born 1925
in
Mullin, Mills County, Texas***

***Died December 3, 1999
in
Kingsland, Texas***

(The photo at left was taken from a group picture made at the 1995 Reunion.)

Wanda was the only daughter of Floyd Eli Burkett and Maude Estelle Petty Burkett; a granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett, a great granddaughter of Jacob Lornzo Burkett; and a second great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr.. She had one brother, James Floyd Burkett who died in

1989. She was married to Stoddard Gerald and they had one daughter, Marla Gay Box of San Antonio, who survives her.

Wanda was buried in Goldthwaite beside her husbands parents. The graveside services consisted of some hymns and a prayer led by the minister of her church in Kingsland. ■

***George
Burkett
Family -
1913***



***Washington
and
January***

George Washington Burkett - Son of Jacob Lorenza Burkett

Jacob Lorenza Burkett had a brother four (4) years younger than he was, whose name was George Washington Burkett and who was born in 1834. In 1852 when his first son was born, Jacob Lorenza named him George Washington Burkett probably after this younger brother.

In 1865, Jacob Lorenza left middle Tennessee with his family and moved to Texas. In 1870, Jacob's brother, George, left Tennessee and moved to Burlingame, Kansas. So the Texas George Washington Burkett had an Uncle named George Washington Burkett who moved to Kansas. It's the Texas George Washington Burkett family in the photo on the preceding page and which is the subject of this article.

George had three (3) children as shown in the photo — Salena, John, and Archie. While placing the photo on the page, I got to looking at their clothing. First, notice the photo was made in 1913 and then look at the suit and shirt being worn by George. The suit is cut pretty much the same as today and the shirt collar is definitely similar to today's styles. However, John's suit and shirt are of the 1913 style, down to the notch in the lapel of the coat. Next look at the style of clothing worn by Salena and her mother — both are of the 1913 era. But look at the suit worn by Archie — it resembles that worn by many young ladies in the business world today.

Little is known about Selena other than she married Eph Guthrie and they had two (2) children. Also, little is known about Archie except she married Vesta Wash Heard and they had one son, Vernon Price Heard.

However, we know quite a bit about John and his family. Here they are.



John and Zona Burkett - 50th Anniversary - 1957



The sons of John and Zona Burkett
L to R - John Elmo, Jake Leroy, Joe Watkins, Dale Logan, and Jim Mac



The daughters of John and Zona Burkett
L to R - Katie Louise, Wilda Lee, and Cortez



While all five (5) brothers played musical instruments, they never played together as a band except for a family reunion about 1984. Elmo played the fiddle and Jake played the guitar. They patterned themselves after the Kissinger Brothers records in the late 1920's and early 1930's.

Joe started playing with Elmo and Jake at the age of 6 and hasn't stopped. He started out on the mandolin, then went to the banjo and then to the guitar. He also played guitar in a Special Service orchestra in WW 2. They performed over Tokyo Radio during the occupation after the fighting stopped. He started playing the fiddle about 10 - 12 years ago — said that since everybody else seemed to want to play the guitar, he would take up another instrument.

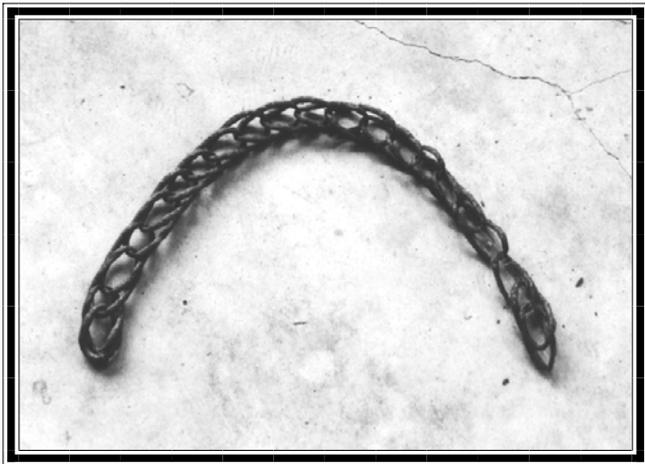
Dale started playing the piano at an early age and was the only brother to play professionally. He played piano with the West Texas Cowboys (a well known area band patterned after Bob Wills) for about ten years in the 1940's and 1950's.

Jim, who was 22 years younger than Elmo, waited until all the brothers were married and left home before he got interested in music. Beginning with a mandolin he bought in 1952, he gradually worked up to the guitar. Joe lived about 12 miles away and helped Jim get started.

Joe, being in the middle, played with all the brothers and pretty much inspired them to play at the family reunion about 1984 and to continue.

In a previous Newsletter, I wrote about Jim and Joe playing at the 1999 Goldthwaite reunion. At the same reunion, Joe brought an old and very unique chain. I have never seen one like it. Its uniqueness lies in the fact that it is a double link which you can see if you begin at the left end and look closely.

These pictures were provided by Joe who lives in



Angleton, Texas and other information was provided by Jim who lives in O'Donnell, Texas. ■

Park Statues

Ever wondered about those statues of a person on a horse? If the horse has both front feet in the air, the person died in battle; if the horse has one front leg in the air, the person died as a result of wounds received in battle; if the horse has all four legs on the ground, the person died of natural causes. Now you know.

- Family Reunion -

RELATIVES OF JAMES E. WATSON & BELLE
BRADY WATSON

AND

ALEX WALTER COPPINGER & LILLIE IRENE
PERRY COPPINGER

WHEN: SATURDAY JULY 8 9:00a.m. - 5:00 p.m.

WHERE: McMINNVILLE CIVIC CENTER
McMINNVILLE, TENNESSEE

Martha Watson married Glen Coppinger and they presently live in Muscatine, Iowa. Martha is a daughter of James E. Watson, a granddaughter of JoAnna Burkett Watson, a great granddaughter of Jobe Burkett, a 2nd great granddaughter of John Burkett, and a 3rd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr. With the assistance of their daughter, Wanda Bryant, Martha and Glen have decided to have a joint reunion of the Watsons and the Coppingers.

For further information, you may contact Wanda at 319/264-5548, email webryant@home.com or her mother, Martha, at 319/263-1509, email marthac7@home.com. You can also drop Martha a line at 107 East Fulliam Avenue, Muscatine, Iowa 52761-3445. All family members are invited but please contact Wanda or Martha to let them know you will be attending. ■

Happy Birthday, Laura Bain! -

On March 21 of this year, Laura celebrated her 86th birthday so we wish her a belated Happy Birthday. Laura lives in Smithville, Tennessee and, over the years, has contributed some interesting information for our Newsletter. She is a daughter of Julie Ann Burkett Underhill, a granddaughter of Jobe Burkett, a great granddaughter of John Burkett, and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr. We hope you had an enjoyable day, Laura ! ■

Civil War Markers -

Upon locating the marker for George Washington Burkett in Burlingame, Kansas and finding out it had been placed there recently, I got to wondering how these markers were procured. I contacted our relative, Doye Burkett Fannin. She lives in Copperas Cove, Texas and is the daughter of Lee Burkett and the granddaughter of Joseph Lafayette Burkett. Doye researched it and here is what she learned.

First, secure Government Form 40-1330 from any licensed funeral home and submit it with the evidence of service, i.e., enlistment record, discharge record, service



medical record, etc. There are spaces on the form to indicate whether the veteran was a Union or Confederate soldier.

The funeral home will submit the application and documentation to the proper government office, and place the stone upon receipt.

So if you know of such a grave and wish to place a marker, you now know how to proceed. Thanks to Doye for her work in learning about this procedure. ■

Congratulations Page Ann Banks ! -

Saturday afternoon, December 18, 1999, at two o'clock, will always rank high in the memory of Page Ann. On that day and at that time, she received her degree of Bachelor of Science from the University of North Alabama.

Page is the daughter of Danny Banks and the granddaughter of Basil and Mildred Trapp Banks all of Huntsville, Alabama. She is a great granddaughter of Ova Burkett Trapp and Felon Trapp; a 2nd great granddaughter of Almon and Caldonia Burkett; a 3rd great granddaughter of Jobe Burkett; a 4th great granddaughter of John Burkett; and a 5th great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr.

Way to go, Page! We're proud of you! Keep up the good work. ■

Speaking of Page's Grandparents -

Mildred and Basil Banks celebrated *60 Years of Marriage* February 13, 2000 in Huntsville, Alabama at the home of their son, Danny Banks, and granddaughter, Page Ann. Attendee's were asked to bring a written story, photograph, or other item of a humorous or memorable event to share with them.

Part of my memory revolved around the time I was stationed at the Naval Training Center in Gulfport, Mississippi in 1944 at the same time Basil was stationed there. Son Danny was only 2 years old then. At Christmas, my mother and stepfather, Frank Hunter, came down to visit. On the evening of their arrival, my stepfather drank all of Mildred's milk and had to get up early the next morning and go to the store to get more. Why? He said it was the best milk he had ever tasted - *it was the first time he had ever had homogenized milk!*

Congratulations, Mildred and Basil. May you have many more! ■

Pictures Help Make the Family -

The first few years after I embarked on researching our family, I was concentrating on collecting the names of our relatives, where they were born, married, names of their children and where they died and were buried.

But it soon became evident that more was needed. We needed to know about their lives, what it was like living during their days. And nothing helps more than pictures. We have pictures taken in studios, on front porch's, working in the fields, on ponys, in front and rear yards, in automobiles or standing in front of automobiles, etc. And they tell us a great deal about our relatives and their lives. Clothing styles, hair styles, house construction, wells, etc. all give us clues as

to how they lived.

Here are some pictures of one of our relatives which does some of that and I am delighted to have them. These were provided by LaJauana Goodwin Ivy and are of her mother, Mae Delle Statyre Burkett.

Mae Delle was born in Mullin, Texas May 6, 1901. Her parents were Joseph Lafayette Burkett and Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett.

On October 8, 1920 she married Thomas Daniel Goodwin. But before she married, she had a life as a young woman and enjoyed 'dressing up' and being 'courted'. Some of these pictures depict that stage of her life and the picture to the right seems to sum it up — a calm, poised, and confident young woman.

Appears to be a younger Mae Delle than above





A courtin' we will go!
Here is Mae Delle with one of her boy friends.

A note to our younger female relatives — How would you like going on a date in a horse drawn buggy like the above!? And to our younger male relatives — How would you like arriving for a date in a horse drawn buggy instead of a car!? Frankly, from what I have seen of buggies, that looks like a pretty darned good one with padded seats even.

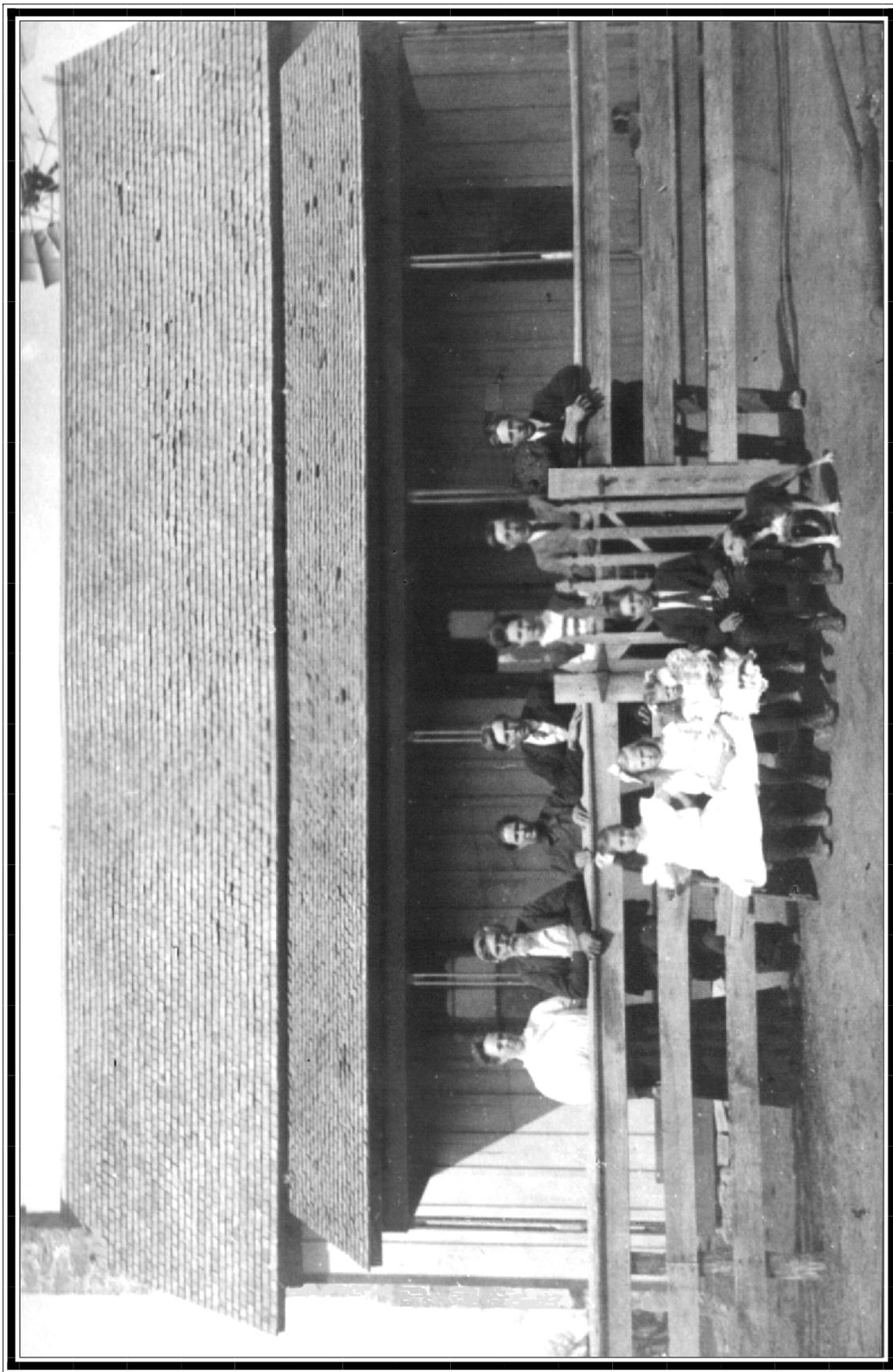
Earlier when I wrote she loved 'dressing up', that was my own assumption drawn from looking at these pictures. She has on some nice looking dresses and look at the picture to the right of her sitting on what appears to be a well. A white skirt and a Navy style blouse, probably blue with white stripes. Very stylish!!

Mae Delle was born May 6, 1901 and married Thomas Daniel Goodwin October 8, 1920 when she was 19. They had three daughters; Margie LaJuana, Della Lou, and Nelda Berylene.

On the next page is a picture of a young Mae Delle, two to three years old, with her parents and all of her brothers and sisters.



The Joseph Lafayette Burkett Family - About 1907



Behind fence L to R - Della Catherine Pyeatt Burkett. Joseph Lafayette Burkett, Anna, George, Stella Mae, Edgar and Floyd
In front of fence L to R - Birdie, Mae Delle, Gladys, Lee, and Old Red

A Graduation . . . And A Wedding

On August 15, 1999 at College Station, Texas, Judith Ann (Judy) Burkett married Chris Magee *after both graduated from Texas A & M University.*

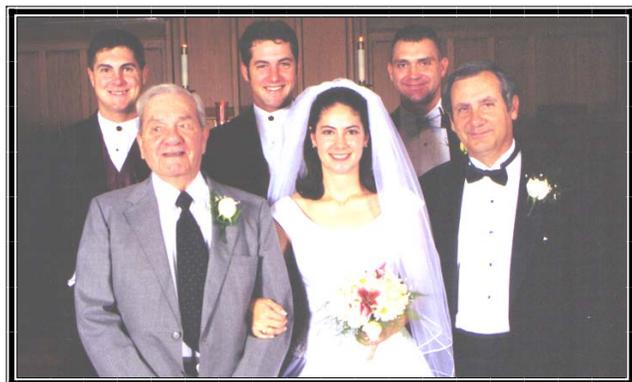
Judith Ann is the daughter of Joe W. Burkett, III and the granddaughter of Joe W. Jr. and Pearl Burkett. She is a great granddaughter of Joe W. Burkett and a 2nd great granddaughter of James Henry Burkett, developer of the Burkett pecan. James Henry Burkett was a brother of Joseph

Lafayette Burkett and both were sons of Jacob Lorenza Burkett who moved his family from middle Tennessee to Texas arriving there Christmas Day of 1865.

Judith Ann's great grandfather, Joe W. Burkett, had a distinguished career both in politics and law. He served as a district clerk and county Judge as well as serving as a State Representative and Senator. Belated Congratulations to the happy couple on your wedding and your graduation !!



Front row L to R - Margaret Ann Kimberly, Michael Kimberly, Emilie Kimberly (all 3 are children of Diana Burkett Kimberly), Sharon Courtney Cook (the daughter of Jane Burkett Furbush), and Kristen Furbush (the daughter of Jane Burkett's husband, Steve Furbush). Second Row L to R - Diana Burkett Kimberly, Pearl Burkett (wife of Joe Burkett, Jr. and grandmother of the bride), the bride Judith Ann Burkett Magee and her husband, Chris Magee.



Front row L to R - Joe Burkett, Jr. (grandfather of the bride), the bride, Judith Ann Burkett, and the bride's father, Joe W. Burkett, III. Second row L to R - the 3 brothers of the bride, Trapper Burkett, Hunter Burkett, Joe W. Burkett, IV



L to R - Jane Burkett Furbush, sister of the bride, the bride Judith Ann Burkett Magee, and Diana Burkett Kimberly, sister of the bride.

Photo Restoral -

I recently ran across a site on the Internet which specializes in the restoration of old photo's. Although somewhat expensive, it seemed to me some of you may have photo's which you value enough to spend the money.

Known as PhotoRevival, you can visit their website at photorevival.com. If you do not have a computer and are interested, you may call them at 513/791-6066 or write to them at:

photorevival.com
9433 Montgomery Road
Cincinnati, Ohio 45242

I ordered one of their packages and they have the most complete line of items for family history preservation and display I have ever seen. This includes albums for photo's, picture frames, mounting hooks, etc. ■

**There's nothing like a good family
when you're really up a tree.**

- Carolyn Hax in *Washington Post*

Huntsville Burkett Reunion Date -

Mark your calendar now. It's the third Saturday in June which is June 17 and will be held at the same place as last year — the Meredianville, Alabama Church of Christ. A map will be included in the next issue which will be sent out before the reunion but you can mark your calendar now. ■

Congratulations! It's A Boy! -

For most folks, they're happy whether it's a boy *or* a girl — and that applies to the Wesley and Lori Burkett Bertoldi family of Jasper, Alabama as well. However, the whole family (which includes grandparents Kenneth and Janie Burkett, also of Jasper, Alabama) is delighted to have a boy. The reason for the excitement is that Grandfather Kenneth has two sisters who had four daughters; daughter Lori already has two daughters, and her sister Gina Burkett Hyche also has two daughters. So here he is below. Welcome, John Wesley!

John Wesley Bertoldi

Born 03-16-2000

Birth Time: 3:51pm

Weight: 7 lbs 13 oz

Length: 19.25 in



Congratulations! It's A Girl! -

A more recent arrival is Amber Brittney Przecha, a daughter of proud parents Kenneth and Tracy Lyn Parker Przecha. Tracy Lyn is a daughter of Wes and Jewel Parker of Fresno, California. Many of you who are long-time readers of the Newsletter will recall that Wes has contributed a great deal of information and photo's about our family. He is descended from Martha Jane Burkett Young and is a 2nd great grandson of Henry Burkett, Sr. That makes Amber a 4th great granddaughter of Henry Burkett, Sr. Now here she is below. Welcome, Amber!

Amber Brittney Przecha

Born: 04-07-2000

In Fresno, California

(Amber was busy taking a nap when the picture was taken.)



~~Tennessee: From Territory to Statehood -~~

Since Tennessee played such a major role in the lives of the Henry and Mary 'Polly' Epley Burkett family, here is a brief history of how it came to be a State and some of the problems experienced by the early settlers.

In the days before statehood, Tennesseans struggled to gain a political voice and suffered for lack of protection afforded by organized government. Six counties — Washington, Sullivan and Greene in East Tennessee and Davidson, Sumner, and Tennessee in the Middle District — had been formed as western counties of North Carolina between 1777 and 1788. After the revolution, however, North Carolina did not want the trouble and expense of maintaining such distant settlements, embroiled as they were with hostile Indians and needing roads, forts and open waterways. Nor could the far-flung settlers look to the national government because, under the weak, loosely constituted Articles of Confederation, it was a government in name only. The settler's two main demands — protection from Indians and the right to navigate the Mississippi River — went largely unheeded in the 1780s.

North Carolina's insensitivity led frustrated East Tennesseans to form the breakaway State of Franklin. John Sevier was named governor and the fledgling state began operating as an independant, though unrecognized, government. At the same time, leaders of the Cumberland settlements made overtures for an alliance with Spain, which controlled the lower Mississippi River and was held responsible for inciting the Indian raids. Such stirrings of independence caught the attention of North Carolina which quietly began to reassert control over its western counties.

These policies and internal divisions among East Tennesseans doomed the short-lived State of Franklin which passed out of existence in 1788.

When North Carolina finally ratified the new Constitution of the United States in 1789, it also ceded the Tennessee country to the Federal government. North Carolina had used these lands as a means of rewarding its Revolutionary soldiers and in the Cession Act of 1789 it reserved the right to further satisfy land claims in Tennessee. Congress now designated the area as the Territory of the United States, most commonly known as the Southwest Territory.

President George Washington appointed as Governor, William Blount, a prominent North Carolina politician with extensive holdings in western lands. Land grant acts passed in North Carolina created a booming market in Tennessee land before actual settlers had ever arrived. Land speculation was based upon cheaply acquiring large amounts of western land in hopes that increased immigration would raise the price of these lands. Most of Tennessee's early political leaders — Blount, Sevier, Henderson, and Andrew Jackson, among others — were involved in land speculation making it difficult sometimes to tell where public responsibility left off and private business began. The sale of public land was closely linked to Indian affairs, because settlers would not travel to the new land until it was safe and could not legally settle on lands until Indian title was extinguished. The business of the Territorial government, therefore, centered on land and Indian relations.

Despite the governments prohibition, settlers continually squatted on Indian land, which only increased the Indians hostility. Indian warfare flared up in 1792 as Cherokee and Creek warriors bent on holding back the tide of white migration launched frequent attacks. The Cumberland settlements, in particular, were dangerously remote and exposed to Creek raiding parties, and by 1794 it seemed questionable whether these communities could withstand the Indian attacks. Exasperated by the unwillingness of the Federal government to protect them, the Cumberland militia took matters into their own hands. James Robertson organized a strike force that invaded the Chicamauga county, burned the renegade Lower Towns, and eliminated the threat from that quarter. This and threats of similar action against the Creeks finally brought a halt to raids on the Cumberland settlements.

With frontier warfare subsiding, the way seemed clear for peaceful growth and the possible creation of a state for the people of the Southwest Territory. In 1795, a territorial census revealed a sufficient population for statehood, and a referendum showed a three-to-one majority in favor of joining the Union. Governor Blount called for a constitutional convention to meet in Knoxville, where delegates from all the counties drew up a model state constitution and democratic bill of rights. The voters chose Sevier as Governor and the newly elected legislature voted for Blount and William Coker as senators and Andrew Jackson as representative. Tennessee leaders thereby

converted the territory into a new state, with organized government and constitution, before applying to Congress for admission to the Union. There was some uncertainty about how to proceed since the Southwest Territory was the first Federal territory to apply for admission to the Union. However, in a close vote, Congress approved the admission of Tennessee as the sixteenth state of the Union on June 1, 1796. ■

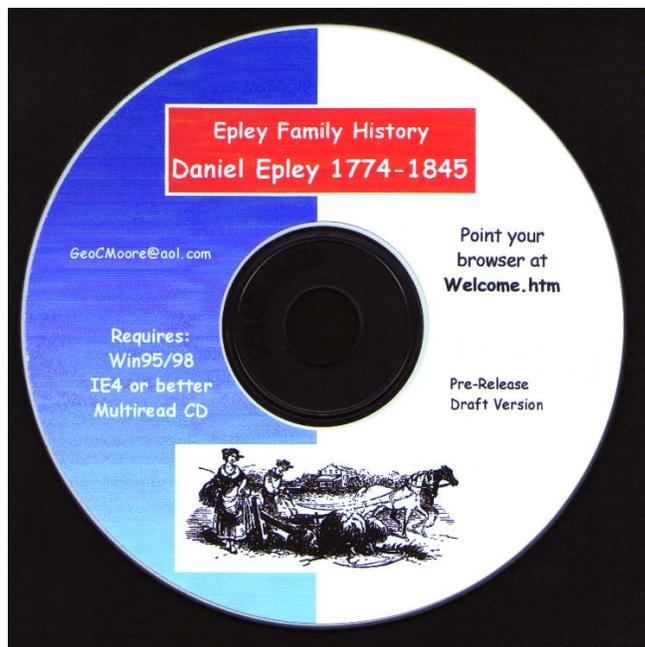
Contact With An Epley Descendant -

We have had several articles over the years about Mary ~~'Polly' Epley who married Henry Burkett, Sr. in Greene~~ County, TN in 1819, including the amazing picture made about 1843 with Mary, her father, and all of her brothers and sisters and their spouses. One of her sisters was Sarah Epley who married Andrew Moore.

A few weeks back I was contacted by George C. Moore, a descendant of Sarah and her husband. George lives in Arlington, Virginia and is engaged in researching the entire Epley line but is focusing on the Daniel Epley Sr. family. George wanted to obtain anything I had about the Epleys and, in exchange, offered to share what he had plus going to the Archives in Washington which isn't far from his home in Arlington. Since that initial contact, we have been able to learn a great deal about Epleys and Burketts. One thing George did for me and Gina Burkett Hyche was to go to the Archives and copy the entire file of Henry Burkett's service in the War of 1812. George is extremely knowledgeable about computers and is putting his research on a compact disk, a copy of which is shown below. There will be more about this combined effort in this issue and even more in the next issue.

Burkett Ancestors

Money



—*Intriguing Legend* - by StellaB Jaynes

Special Stories, By StellaB Jaynes

German Ancestors' Money in Bank of England

When my Burkett ancestors left Germany and Holland to escape religious persecution, they stayed briefly in England before sailing to Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. While in England, they deposited money which they had brought from Germany. The money was left in English [London] Bank for security reasons until Burketts could become settled in United States and send for it. Time passed too quickly; various problems prevented recovery of the money. Finally just before World War I or just after it the Texas Burketts and some German friends paid expenses for a trusted man to go to Germany and England to trace the money and arrange its return to Burkett descendants in Tennessee and Texas, also in other states — if their identity could be proven.

England's bank officials refused to release the money because (they said) time limits had expired years ago and ^{the} money had already become involved in England's economy. According to financial authorities, the money had increased by interest and other ~~an~~ investments to millions of dollars.

Money Story continued --- page 2

A related story of Burkett's Money:
Henry Sr. and Mary Epley Burkett had an old family bible containing information about the ancestors' money left in England Bank. After deaths of Henry and Mary, their youngest daughter Martha Jane Burkett Young (Mrs. William A.) had the bible in her home in Oklahoma about 1917/18, but refused to allow any other Burkett^s to see it because "they might obtain the money and not share equally with her".

It has been reported by Burkett relatives that Martha Jane B. Young was a contrary, conservative person ~~to~~ who adamantly refused to let visitors touch the family bible. She held it securely at a safe distance from would-be lookers.

Some of you may have the partial copy of a letter Martha Jane wrote in 1907 at Altus, Okla. to her brother David E. Burkett in Tennessee wanting address of their brother James Burkett because he had significant information about the ancestors' money (Jane thought.) I never have seen or heard any more about the letter.

Comments about Burkett Money -

A very interesting story! However, totally out of character with her other work, StellaB has failed to document this legend. To begin with, she says “My Burkett ancestors ...” but fails to name them so it could have been an Epley as well as a Burkett. In some of her other writings she states that this “German grandmother who read from the bible could not speak english.” Since we do not know anything about Henry Burkett, Sr’s parents at this time, we can’t say StellaB was not referring to them. However, during our combined research, George Moore and I have received notes from Leta Mae Durst, an Epley descendant, that “John Williams (of the Williams Ranch) married Annie Epley whose mother could not speak english.” Annie was a sister to Mary ‘Polly’ Epley Burkett and their mother was Catherine Keebler, about whom we know no more at this time. There was a David Keebler who co-signed the marriage bond in Lincoln County, NC where Daniel Apley (sic) married Catherine Keebler but it does not identify whether David Keebler was her father or brother.

StellaB goes on to say that “the Texas Burketts and some German friends paid expenses for a trusted man to go to Germany and England to trace the money” but I have been unable to find any Texas relative who has ever heard of any of their ancestors participating in such an activity. This is not to say it didn’t take place — just that it can’t be documented at this time. Seems to me StellaB would have identified some of the Burketts by name. And where she states, “According to financial authorities, the money had increased to millions of dollars,” she would have quoted who these ‘financial authorities’ were and how much money they were originally talking about if they could calculate how much it had grown to.

Next, in talking about the family bible in the possession of Martha Jane Burkett Young, this could have been possible if her mother, Mary ‘Polly’ Epley Burkett, had it because Mary was apparently living with Martha Jane and her husband, William A. Young, when Mary died. (1880 census Lampasas County, Texas). However, an intensive search by Wes Parker, a descendant of William A. and Martha Jane Young, has turned up nobody who has any knowledge of such a bible. Again, this isn’t saying there was never such a bible — just that we have been unable to find any record of it. With George Moore’s help, we have turned up bibles owned by John Epley and then by his sister Sarah Epley and her husband, Andrew Moore; a bible owned by William L. Williams, a son of Anne Epley and John Williams; and a bible owned by Elizabeth Caroline Epley and her husband John Chesser. None of these bibles fit the description of the bible talked about by StellaB.

We do have a copy of part of the letter (previously published) Martha Jane wrote from Oklahoma Territory in 1907 to brother David Burkett back in Tennessee requesting the address of brother James who supposedly had some knowledge of the money. This would seem to lend some validity to the story as to whether there was or was not any

money. Note that Martha Jane wrote this letter so she had at least some education.

But look at the ages of some of the children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett in 1917 which was about when StellaB says the “trusted man” went to trace the money; Anna Louisa 34 (StellaB’s mother); George Newton 33; Stella Mae 30; Edgar Lorenza 28; Floyd 26; and Lee 22. Even going a few years either way from 1917, all of these were grown adults who would have been aware of and realized the importance of such a search. For none of them to have ever written down or even to have verbally discussed with their children anything about this “trusted man” being paid to go to Germany and England just doesn’t seem to make sense.

And yet . . . and yet . . . there is that nagging doubt that there might really be some truth in this legend. Martha Jane seemed rather persistent and even referenced “the money” when she wrote her brother David to send her brother Jame’s address.

With all the contacts that have been made and our failure to turn up any supporting evidence, I doubt we will ever know the real truth about this legend. But then again, I believe I have been guilty of making similar statements in the past only to find the answer down the road. We’ll see. ■

Closing In On Henry Burkett, Sr. -

Most of the credit goes to Gina Burkett Hyché for the facts surrounding the Final Settlement of the Estate of Henry Burkett, Sr. and the identification of the family members. In Volume 1 1997, I published the Final Settlement as we knew it at that time. However, there were some unanswered questions, especially about the identity of a Tolbert and Cage Burkett. Now, thanks to more hard work by Gina, we know the identity of those individuals.

In accordance with documents filed by the executor of the estate of Henry Burkett, Sr., Josephus Finley, there was \$1465.08 to be distributed in approximately equal shares to the heirs. Gina has located documents which confirm the correctness of this amount including the sale of 270 acres of land owned by Henry Burkett, Sr. at the time of his death.

In accordance with the Will, the land was to be sold at a public sale and could be sold on terms of two (2) years. It was sold at a public sale October 2, 1884 and purchased by J. N. Carrick, A.J. Carrick and Thomas Sissom who gave two Notes, one of which was due October 2, 1885 and the other due October 2, 1886. Each Note was for — read carefully, this is not a typographical error — seven hundred and fifty dollars & 87 ½ cents. You read it right — 87 ½ cents! I didn’t know there ever was a half-cent piece!

Getting back to the previously unknown individuals, here is how the Final Settlement looked to us when I published it in Volume 1 1997.

Final Settlement of Henry Burkett’s Estate - July 26, 1888

Matilda Burkett (Marcum)	133.80
Martha Jane Burkett (Young)	133.19
Malinda Burkett (Perryman)	133.10

M.E. (Mary) Burkett (Brown)	133.19
Jeremiah Burkett (son of Andrew)	133.19
David Burkett	131.50
George Burkett	133.19
Jacob Burkett Heirs	121.40
Henry Burkett, Jr. Heirs	133.20
John Burkett Heirs	110.55
Nancy Burkett (Huggins)	16.35
Mary Burkett (Patterson)	16.50
Margaret Burkett (Porter)	16.35
Jobe Burkett	16.35
Heirs (unidentified)	45.00
TOTAL	1429.50
Allowance to Executor	14.52
Balance due Tolbert Burkete	16.36
Balance due Cage Burket	4.70
GRAND TOTAL	1465.08

By digging through court records, Gina has learned that Tolbert and ~~Cage~~ Burkett were sons of John Burkett and Paulina Markum Burkett. The name 'Cage' was apparently a nickname with his real name being Micajah and he was probably named after his maternal grandfather who was Micajah Markum. According to these court records located by Gina, Cage was apparently still a minor in 1882 because he had an Attorney represent him as Guardian Adlitem which indicates he was a minor. The Attorney's name? B.M. Webb! No, just a coincidence — no relation to me.

Going back to the above settlement dated July 26, 1888, it appears that Tolbert had not collected anything since it shows he was still owed \$16.36 which was about the same as the other children of John Burkett. However, assuming Cage was to get the same amount, it appears he had already been paid \$11.66 since he is only owed \$4.70

Given the above, a restatement of the John Burkett heirs would look like this:

John Burkett Heirs -	
Nancy Burkett (Huggins)	16.35
Mary Burkett (Patterson)	16.50
Margaret Burkett (Porter)	16.35
Jobe Burkett	16.35
Micajah 'Cage' Burkett (\$ 4.70 owed)	16.36
Tolbert Burkett (still owed)	16.36
Heirs (unidentified)	33.34
TOTAL	131.61

Looking at the above enclosed "Heirs (unidentified)" would lead us to believe there are still more Heirs. However, there are attorneys listed who may have been paid directly by the estate. We'll have to continue digging on this.

However, the location by Gina of these additional sons does bring into question a couple of assumptions we had made. Here is a listing of the children of John and Paulina Markum Burkett as we had it before Gina turned up Tolbert and Cage (Micajah).

John Burkett born abt 1826 *died abt 1866*
Paulina Markum born abt 1830 *died abt 1866*

Jobe Burkett born 1850
Thomas Burkett born abt 1851
Mary Burkett born abt 1854
Nancy Ann Burkett born 1863
Margaret Burkett born abt 1865

Court documents indicate Tolbert Burkett was an adult on April 27, 1882 and Cage (Micajah) was a minor. If so, Tolbert would have to have been born no later than April 1864 in order to be 18 in April 1882. Cage would have to have been born after April 1864 to still be a minor in April 1882. The information we had was that John and Paulina both died *about 1866*. Depending on when Cage was born, this may change our thinking as to when John and Paulina died. What we need next would be to locate Tolbert and Cage in some census records to get an idea of when they were born.

So even though we have gained some new information, we still have some more digging to do to fill in some blanks. But thanks, Gina, for your hard work in going through the Tennessee archives. ■

More on Henry Burkett, Sr. -

Although we still do not know the parents names for Henry, we have learned more about him from the War of 1812 records originally located by Gina Burkett Hyche and recently copied in their entirety by George Moore for Gina and myself.

He enlisted May 1, 1812. Assuming he enlisted soon after reaching the age of 18, and that he had to be 18 in order to enlist, this would place his birth date as 1794 - 1795. He listed his birthplace as being Tennessee. Since Tennessee did not become a State until 1796, we have to assume he is saying he was born at a place which later became Tennessee.

He served five (5) years and was discharged May 1, 1818 in Ft. Osage, Missouri. Since he did not marry Mary 'Polly' Epley until August 23, 1819, for which we have a copy of the wedding license and wedding bond, this leaves us to wonder what he did from May 1, 1818 until August 1819. As a guess, he probably spent some time in Missouri, and perhaps the surrounding territory, before returning to Tennessee. This speculation is based on the fact that he applied for and was granted Land in Missouri in accordance with an Act of Congress which granted Land to those who served in the Army. On the next page is a copy of that grant from James Monroe, then President of the United States. We do not have the record of how or when he disposed of the land but do have some documents relating to it which I will include in the next issue of our Newsletter. ■

James Monroe

President of the United States of America,

TO ALL TO WHOM THESE PRESENTS SHALL COME, GREETING:

Know ye, That, in pursuance of the Acts of Congress appropriating and granting Land to the late Army of the United States, passed on and since the sixth day of May, 1812, *Henry Burkett*

having deposited in the General Land-Office a Warrant in *his* favor, numbered *19305* there is granted unto *the said Henry Burkett* late a *Private in D'Fallons*

Co. of Riflemen a certain Tract of Land, containing *one hundred & sixty ad* being the *NW 1/4* of Section *thirty two* of Township *fifty seven N* in Range *eighteen W* in the Tract appropriated (by the Acts afore-

said) for Military Bounties, in the Territory of *Missouri N*: TO HAVE AND TO HOLD the said *quarter* Section of Land. with the appurtenances thereof, unto the said *Henry Burkett* and to *his*

heirs and assigns forever.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF, I have caused these Letters to be made patent, and the Seal of the General Land-Office to be hereunto affixed. Given under my Hand, at the City of Washington, this *seventeenth* day of *February* in the Year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and *nineteen* and of the Independence of the United States of America the forty-*third*

By the President, *JM*

JM Commissioner of the General Land-Office.

HENRY BURKETT'S DISCHARGE

To All Whom It May Concern

Where Ye, That Henry Burkett a soldier of Captain John O'Fallon's, company in the regiment of Riflemen, who was enlisted the first day of May one thousand eight hundred and thirteen, is hereby Honorably discharged from the army of the United States, by reason of the expiration of his term of enlistment

Said Henry Burkett, was born in the state of Tennessee, is twenty three years of age, five feet ten inches high, dark complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a Farmer

Given at Fort Osage in the Territory of Missouri, this first day of May 1818

James G. Gay, Capt.

TO ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN

Know Ye That Henry Burkett a soldier of Captain John O'Fallon's company in the regiment of Riflemen who was enlisted the first day of May one thousand eight hundred and thirteen to serve for five years is hereby Honorably discharged from the army of the United States by reason of the expiration of his term of enlistment

Said Henry Burkett was born in the state of Tennessee, is twenty three years of age, five feet ten inches high, dark complexion, grey eyes, brown hair, and by occupation when enlisted a farmer.

Given at Fort Osage in the Territory of Missouri on this first day of May 1818.

This document and the Land Bounty on the preceding page were among those copied by George Moore from the Archives in Washington for Gina Burkett Hyche and myself.

A Summary on Henry Burkett -

All I have read about genealogy says you go with the source or record closest to an event date. We couldn't be closer than taking the word of Henry Burkett himself which he states in his military records. So here is a summation of what we have learned.

Accepting his word that he was 23 years of age when discharged from the army May 1, 1818, this means he was born between May 1, 1794 and May 1, 1795. We have learned he was 5 feet 10 inches tall, had grey eyes, brown hair, and was a farmer before he enlisted. He says he was born in Tennessee but, as previously written, Tennessee was not a state until 1796. The assumption is that he was born in what was then the Southwest Territory and later became Tennessee.

On February 17, 1819, he received 160 acres of Missouri land for his army service and undoubtedly sold it. Was he still in Missouri in February 1819? We don't know for sure. He could have had an Agent filing for him and then subsequently selling the land. Perhaps he used this money and any he might have saved during his 5 years in the army to begin his marriage to Mary 'Polly' Epley August 23, 1819.

Henry and Mary had 11 children and we have identified all of them and most of their children. We do know from census and other records they spent their entire married life in middle Tennessee where Henry died.

Who were Henry's parents? We simply do not know at this time. Gina Burkett Hyche suspects — and it's only a suspicion at this time — their name might have been Burkardt and they might have been in Greene County, Tennessee at the time Henry and Polly married. Over the years, we have followed "hunches" like that to do research and have come up with some answers. And sometimes we came up empty handed as well!

The Epley documents state that Polly was born in Lincoln County, NC. So how and when did the Epleys get over to Greene County, TN — and why? You will recall from the article in this issue about how the territory that later became Tennessee was once part of North Carolina and they used that land as awards for service during the Revolutionary War. Did the Epley's receive a land grant in Greene County? Did Henry's parents likewise receive a grant? Did the Epleys and Burketts know each other in North Carolina — or maybe even before? When Henry did return from Missouri after being discharged, why did he wind up in Tennessee? Was it because his parents were living there? Maybe. It's these type questions which must be asked in order to determine the next research location — and I suspect we are going to be looking at land grants by North Carolina to see if they provide any answers.

Since we started and with the help of so many, too numerous to list, we have learned a great deal about Henry and Polly, their lives and their children. It's been interesting.

The search continues. ■

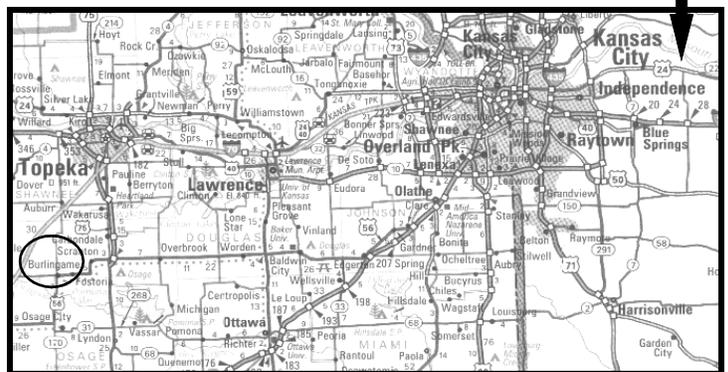
The Kansas George Washington

Burkett - (a son of Henry Burkett, Sr.)

Those of you who received the last Issue of the Newsletter will recall my description of the trip to Burlingame, Kansas by Audy Majors and myself and my disappointment at the small amount of information we obtained. Here is a portion of what I wrote about that trip: *"Although a little discouraged, we've run into brick walls before so I started looking on the Internet at the telephone white pages listings for Burketts, Gablers and Wells in and around Burlingame. Here I got lucky and found a Robert Wells in Burlingame. I called and, sure enough, he was related. However, he told me I needed to talk to his father who lives in Overbrook, Kansas just north of Burlingame. I called and spoke with John 'Jack' Wells. We had a most interesting conversation and he seemed glad to hear from me. However, he did not know too much himself but told me about a cousin who had done some work on the Burketts. I put together a package and mailed it to him. He has referred this package to the cousin so I am now waiting to hear from her."*

I have now heard from Arlene Briggs Peters, the cousin Jack Wells referred to. Arlene lives in Topeka, Kansas and, in two letters, has provided a great deal of information about the family. However, I just received the second letter and have not had time to enter it so I'm going to ask Arlene to accept my apology and wait until the next issue when I will have time to give it the proper attention it deserves.

But one thing crossed my mind about George Washington Burkett. What prompted him to go to Burlingame, *Osage County, Kansas*? Look back at his father's army Discharge on the preceding page and you will notice his father was discharged at Fort *Osage, Missouri*. Fort Osage is just on the other side of Kansas City. Fort Osage, Missouri is located by the arrow in the upper right corner and Burlingame, *Osage County, Kansas* is



located in the circle on the left. I would estimate it's approximately 100 miles between them. Henry was discharged in May 1818; the land grant was February 1819. Could Henry have spent some months roaming and looking to decide if he wanted to stay? And could he have told his son about the country? More on this in the next issue! ■

*The
Historian's
Corner -*

Oliver Webb



Got to looking at the photo I've been using for this column and noticed how old the *photo* had become. It even had my hair looking white! So I decided to use a photo in much better condition. <grin> <grin>

A lot has been going on these past few weeks. Working with George Moore, the descendant of Sarah Epley and Andrew Moore, has been very enlightening. As I pointed out, George is *very* knowledgeable about computers and about searching for information. He has educated me more than he knows! Our joint research has led me to phone conversations with Leta Mae Durst, an Epley descendant who used to live in Mullin, Texas and who worked on records for the Williams Ranch Cemetery; and Beatrice Ethridge, also an Epley descendant and who currently lives in Mullin. Both were extremely cordial and helpful and I'll have more to say about them in the next issue. Leta Mae has three (3) bibles in her possession and has been kind enough to provide copies of them.

Elsewhere in this issue I gave thanks to Gina Burkett Hyché for all she has done but I omitted someone who has also been a big help — her husband, Gary! Gary has not only driven Gina from their home in Jasper, Alabama to Nashville, Tennessee to search the archives but has gone through those records with her. And anybody who has sat and gone through old records knows what a job it can be! So thanks to you too, Gary. We appreciate it.

Another supporter of our Newsletter has been Joe W. Burkett, Jr. of Kerrville, Texas. It was Joe who provided the excellent photo's of his granddaughter's wedding shown on page 10. Over the years, Joe has provided information and photo's which have contributed significantly to our knowledge about the family. And that's a pretty good looking family you got there, Joe!

And speaking of support — many of you included an extra amount over and above the dues this year. I really appreciate that. It lets me send out more packages to folks I am seeking information from. After all, this is the trading business — I'll give them some information if they'll give me some. I realize that not everyone is able to send an extra donation and that's fine — it's not required. But for those who could and did, I sincerely thank you.

The story which begins on page 11 about Tennessee

going from Territory to Statehood is one I recommend you go back and read again. It gives a pretty good picture of how Tennessee came about and some of the hardships suffered by the early settlers.

And the article about "Closing In on Henry Burkett, Sr." which begins on page 15, may seem to have a lot of detail like the Bible "begats." However, it's necessary to document each step in an analysis in order for others to follow the chain of thinking. Often, after reading something, we have had relatives correct us — and correctness is what we strive for. So when we publish one of those articles that seems to go on and on, just grin and bear with us! After all, Gina found two more relatives we didn't know we had.

That's all for this time. I know I'm late but I trust you now understand why. The next issue will be on time — I promise! ■ (P. S. I was 13 in that photo.)

A BRANCH OF HISTORY

Burkett pecan tree now

fashioned in pen sets The
above is part of



Barton Cromeens/Reporter-News
Steve Young crafts commemorative pens and boxes for storing them from the first Burkett pecan tree, which was struck by lightning near Baird in 1993.

an article which appeared in the Abilene Texas Newspaper in December 1999.

Steve Young is the new craftsman selected by the Callahan County Historical Commission.

If interested in obtaining one of these pens or a pen set which includes the box, please contact Robert Watson at 254/725-7439. Either makes an excellent memento of a notable event in the Burkett family history. ■