

Volume 3, 2002



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The 2002 Huntsville Reunion

This year found us at a new location - the Meredianville Middle School. Meredianville is a community just north of the Huntsville, Alabama city limits. We gathered in the cafeteria thanks to arrangements made by Debbie Burkett Howard. And I want to stop right now and thank Debbie and husband Dale for all the work they did in getting it set up. Speaking of Debbie, here she is with a couple of cousins, Bobby Carroll of Hueytown, Alabama and Kathleen Majors Andrews of Union Grove, Alabama. That's Debbie on the right.



I apologize for the quality of the picture - seems I got some bad film. In the above it looks like Bobby might have a white beard and that's just not the case. Yes, I realize the sun is coming in from that side but the whole picture is just "washed out" and I could not correct it even using the computer software. But, like I've said many times, it's better to have a bad picture than no picture at all.

Before showing any more pictures, let me again thank those relatives who contributed door prizes and list those who won them.

First are the baskets made by Verdie Andrews who again brought some pretty and well made baskets. As has been his practice, he made one large basket with the reunion and date on it. This large basket was won by Randy Phillips, husband of Beth Stephens and son-in-law of Betty Jo Burkett Stephens and Frank Stephens. Other basket winners were:

- 1. Mildred Trapp Banks dau of Ova Burkett Trapp Majors
- 2. Loretta Chisholm Patterson dau. of Ara Burkett Chisholm
- 3. Zack Stephens son of Mark Burkett Stephens and Donna Stephens
- 4. Jake Stephens son of Mark Burkett Stephens and Donna Stephens
- 5. JoAnna Gowan Burkett wife of Buddy Burkett

THE BURKETT FAMILY

- 6. Debbie Burkett Howard dau. of J. B. Burkett and Bessie Bryant Burkett.
- Page Banks dau. of Danny Banks and granddaughter of Mildred Trapp Banks and Basil Banks.
- 8. Beth Stephens Phillips dau. of Betty Jo Burkett Stephens and Frank Stephens.
- 9. Dot Foster of McMinnville, TN dau. of Elizabeth Love "Lizzie" Burkett Elrod and John Montgomery Elrod.
- 10. Rebecca Dietz of Manchester, TN dau. of Audy Majors.
- 11. Frank Stephens husband of Betty Jo Burkett Stephens.
- 12. Greg Patterson son of Loretta Chisholm Patterson and Carlos Patterson.
- 13. Susan Majors Campbell dau of Audy Majors and Sandy Majors.

Earl Burkett, he's the son of Buddy and JoAnna Burkett and the owner of New Market Iron Works, again contributed some iron fabrications including an indooroutdoor table similar to one he contributed last year. Winners of these items were:

- 1. Della Frey dau. of Kathleen Majors Andrews and Verdie Andrews.
- 2. Brenda Burkett Elders dau. of J.B. Burkett and Bessie Bryant Burkett.
- 3. Matthew Phillips son Beth Stephens Philips and Randy Phillips.
- 4. Carolyn Carroll wife of Bobby Carroll.
- 5. Dayna Martz dau. of Debbie Burkett Howard and Dale Howard.

Winner of the table was Katie Dietz - granddaughter of Audy and Sandy Majors.

Winner of the birdhouse contributed by Bobby Carroll was Sandy Majors, wife of Audy Majors.

The final three prizes were copies of the CD made by Joe Burkett of Angleton, Texas. Those winners were: 1. Buddy Elders - husband of Brenda Burkett Elders.

- 2. Earl Burkett son of Buddy and JoAnna Burkett.
- 2. Lan Durkert Son Or Duduy and JOAnnia Durkell.
- 3. Julia Carter dau of Nora Lee Elrod and John Hobert Griffith.

To the right and facing the camera in the red shirt is Earl Burkett who is the owner of New Market Iron Works and who contributed the iron door prizes. He's shown here talking with his William father "Buddy" Burkett.



The Burkett Family Original Historian StellaB 'Nita' Jackson Jaynes

October 8, 1907 - June 18, 1996



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

CURRENT HISTORIAN AND EDITOR Marvin Oliver Webb

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Above are the Tennessee visitors this year. From left to right is Dorothy (Dot) Elrod Foster, daughter of Elizabeth (Lizzie) Love Burkett Elrod and John Montgomery (Gum) Elrod; nieces of Dot - Julia Griffith Carter, daughter of Nora Lee Elrod and Beverly Elrod Lavender, daughter of Locey Elrod. Dot and Julia live in McMinnville, Tennessee and Beverly lives in Rock Island, Tennessee. Glad you came, folks!



Shown in deep conversation above are Buddy Elders, husband of Brenda Burkett Elders, and Greg Patterson, son of Loretta Chisholm Patterson and Carlos Patterson. Greg is the Coach I wrote about last issue. Buddy has recently retired and he and Brenda have moved back to Huntsville after being away for many years. They have built a new home and invite all their friends and relatives to drop in for a visit. Brenda is shown in the next picture at the top of the next column.



Brenda Burkett Elders, daughter of Gentry J. B. Burkett and Bessie Bryant Burkett.



The above picture particularly aggravated me about the film being bad because that would have been a great picture of Kathleen Majors Andrews and Verdie Andrews. Heck, that picture of Brenda above is none too good either. Actually, none of the pictures turned out good but I remember where I bought that film and you can bet I'll never buy another roll there! I am just thoroughly disappointed.

Kathleen kinda' made it up for me by giving me a good copy of their 50th anniversary picture. All I had until she gave me this one was one from the newspaper which didn't scan too well. So thanks, Kat. That helps a little but I'm still upset with that film!





And just to prove it was bad film, above is another picture I was given at the reunion. It was given to me by cousin Mildred Trapp Banks and is of Mildred (that's her on the left) and my mother Martha Burkett Webb Hunter when Mildred and husband Basil were visiting Busch Gardens in Tampa several years ago.



Here are some of the early arrivals and the food tables being set up. No, we didn't bring all those coolers in the background - they belong to the cafeteria. To the right standing is Audy Majors; to his left is Mickey Campbell talking to Cindi Hines. In the far background left to right is Bill Edgemon, Bobby Carroll, Carolyn Carroll and others I can't identify from the picture.

One final picture of a bad lot is to the right. Standing is B o b b y C a r r o I I; seated to the right is S a n d y M a j o r s,



Audy's wife; next to her is Basil Banks; seated farther back facing the camera is Audra Majors Young, daughter of Audy and Sandy and almost blocked by Bobby is Rebecca Dietz, daughter of Audy. This was taken in the covered walkway just outside the entrance to the cafeteria and made a comfortable place to visit since there was a nice breeze blowing through.



With his back to the camera is Danny Banks and seated to the right is Audy Majors.

That's all of the pictures I care to publish and I apologize to all of you but this is my first experience with bad film. I accused the folks who developed and printed them but they printed another one just to show me it wasn't their developing or printing service.

Here is another previously unpublished photo I was given at the reunion. It's of Ova Burkett Trapp Majors and sister Ara Burkett Gaines Chisholm taken at the home of their brother Gentry J. B. Burkett.

That's Ova on the left and Ara on the right. I believe they were there on one o f h i s birthdays. We had

another good time with good w e a t h e r . Those of you who failed to attend are not building up memories that you will enjoy in later years.





either removing their hats or putting them on the back of their heads so the camera could pick up their faces. The original picture sent to me was the left can be seen a passageway indicating it was a "dog trot" style of house. A guess would be that this was made in the late 1880's. There is ര This is a picture someone sent to me and I failed to identify which family it is and who sent it to me. I know. You can't believe I could make can tell you that whoever it is took their family reunion seriously. If I counted correctly, there are 80 people in this picture and they are all dressed in their "Sunday-go-to-meeting" clothes. Just looking at the clothes and the construction of the house tells me this picture was made before cars were available so they had to walk, ride horses, or wagons to get there. And it's my guess this was an all-day affair. Notice also the practice of so large I had to take it to a copy center and have it reduced before I could handle it with my scanner. One other thing I would like to point out about the picture is the house construction. The ladies on the far right appear to be standing on the front porch and over the heads of the folks on child." This should be remembered by folks who think family reunions are not important enough to attend. The folks in this picture apparently a mistake - but I did. I believe it is the Watson family of Tennessee. I am hoping the person who sent it to me will see this and then identify it. a teaching in the Jewish faith that is also reflected in an African proverb, "Sticks in a bundle are unbreakable, but sticks alone can be broken by pelieved that reunions were that important.

Goldthwaite, Texas Reunion Sept. 7 -

This year the reunion will again be held at the Mills County State Bank on the square in Goldthwaite from 9'ish to whenever. All are encouraged to attend.

Expected to attend this year - they already have their reservations at the Redbud Inn - are Mr. and Mrs. Bill Huckaby of Carmichael, California. Several years ago when I was just getting started on our family, Bill was of tremendous help to me and put me in touch with Helen Mayr to further help. Bill has continued to help over the years. To assist those planning to attend, I will explain Bill's position in the family in another article so you will understand when you meet him and his wife. I can assure you I am really looking forward to meeting Bill in person.

I will also outline the status of the Chesser Valley Historical Marker in a separate article. Make your plans to be at the Reunion ! ■

The Chesser Valley Historical Marker

On Thursday August 22, I spoke with Leta Durst regarding the status of the marker and here is what she had to report. The Historical Marker has been completed by the State of Texas and is on hand. The pictures have been completed and forwarded to be done in porcelain but that is expected to take another two weeks. This must be completed before the stonemason can begin his work. They have been gathering the stones to be used but again, until the stone mason has the pictures and marker in hand, he cannot begin his work. So I guess we will be disappointed at not being able to view the completed project but Leta and Luther Williams are more disappointed since they have worked so long and so hard at bringing this to a successful conclusion. Upon completion, there will be photo's taken and I will include them in the next issue of the Newsletter.

Ancestor's of Bill Huckaby -

Jacob Lorenza Burkett, a son of Henry and Polly Burkett, came to Texas with seven (7) children as follows:

George Washington Joseph Lafayette Mary A. Sarah James Henry Malinda Jane Frances Josephine "Fannie"

Frances Josephine "Fannie" Burkett married John

Edward McCall March 23, 1882 in Llano County, Texas. Four children were born in Texas and with their four (4) children, they moved from Sweetwater, Nolan County, Texas to the Verde Valley area of Arizona arriving between March 1890 and January 1892. Four more children were born in Arizona. The family left the Verde Valley after March 1904, probably before 1906, moving first to the Butte County, California area. Their eight (8) children were as follows:

Robert Leonard McCall Leona Alyce McCall Alice L. McCall Aldeelida Emily McCall Ida Ernastine McCall Laura Estelle McCall Hazel Rae McCall Leva May McCall

The second child, Leona Alyce McCall, married George Washington Huckaby May 22, 1901 in Cottonwood, Yavapai County, California. They had five (5) children as follows:

George W. Huckaby John Edwin Huckaby Arthur Nelson Huckaby William Horner Huckaby Frances Jewel Huckaby

William Horner Huckaby married Laveeda Mae Nance January 13, 1935 in Taft, Kern County, California. They had two (2) sons as follows:

William Arthur "Bill" Huckaby John Marvin Huckaby

William Arthur "Bill" married Bernice Edith Holder and they had three (3) sons as follows:

Stewart William Huckaby James David Huckaby Steven Eugene Huckaby

> A condensed version of Bill's ancestors is: Henry Burkett

Jacob Lorenza Burkett

Frances Josephine Burkett (McCall)

Leona Alyce McCall (Huckaby)

William Horner Huckaby

William Arthur "Bill" Huckaby

Bill and wife Bernice will be attending and possibly a cousin or two from Texas. If you are wondering where Carmichael, California is located see map below. It is a suburb of Sacramento and in the famous San Joaquin Valley - see bottom circle.



You can see that Bill and Bernice have a long trip in front of them so attend the reunion and meet a relative who has done much in the research of our family. Joseph Lafayette Burkett is a greatgranduncle of Bill. ■

Jeremiah M. Burkett -

In the last issue of our Newsletter, I talked about making contact with Roberta (Bobbi) Burkett, the wife of Steve Burkett who is a great grandson of Jeremiah M. Burkett. She has really been working hard and has made contact with a granddaughter of Myrtle, one of Jeremiah's children.

But let me back up and summarize what we have learned. Andrew J. Burkett, a son of Henry and Polly Burkett, married Nancy Jane Derryberry and they had two (2) sons, John and Jeremiah. Andrew died about 1858 leaving Nancy with the two (2) boys to raise. She then married Hiram Todd but Nancy herself then died March 5, 1863 when the boys were only about 7 and 5. The boys apparently continued living with their stepfather, Hiram Todd, for a period of time which is unknown. At some point in time, they went to live with their Aunt Elizabeth Anne Derryberry Bush and her husband, Jeremiah Bush. In October 1865, Jeremiah Bush was appointed Guardian for both John and Jeremiah. The oldest boy, John, died about 1866 at the age of 10.

Just guessing here but sometime between maybe 1877 when Jeremiah would have been 19 years old and before 1880, he moved out to Kansas where his Uncle George Washington Burkett was living. I say before 1880 because he is not listed on any Tennessee census for 1880 that I can find.

Many records are in disagreement as to Jeremiah's birth date. For example, the 1900 Kansas census shows his age as 42; the 1910 California census show his age as 53; the 1920 Washington census shows his age as 61; the 1930 Washington census shows his age as 73. There are only 10 years between the census but from 1900 to 1910 he gained 11 years; from 1910 to 1920 he only gained 8 years; and from 1920 to 1930 he gained 12 years! Good genealogy practices dictate that you go with the information closest to the event so I prefer to go with the 1860 and 1870 Tennessee census's which would give him a birth year of about 1858.

From here on, all of the pictures and practically all of the information has been contributed by Roberta Burkett and I am deeply grateful to her for all the work she has done.

To begin with, below is a picture that in my wildest dreams I would have never expected to see. It is Nancy Jane Derryberry Burkett and her two (2) sons, Jeremiah on the left and John on the right! It was taken around 1860 - 1861 as estimated by guessing that Jeremiah was about two and John about four.



This was a tintype and, as you can see, is in remarkably good condition for its age - almost 142 years old! Notice the fingerless, lace gloves she is wearing. Also notice that Jeremiah seems to be wearing a dress which was customary for all boys until they reached a certain age.

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Now, take a look at these - Nancy and ANDREW J. !

Nancy is easily identified by comparing this picture with the one on the preceding page. Identification of Andrew J. is somewhat circumstantial. Later you will see photo's of Jeremiah and the man in this photo is definitely not Jeremiah. The photo's appear to be taken about the same time; they appear to have been taken by the same photographer; if anybody would have pictures of them it would be Jeremiah since he was the only surviving member of the family. Since Nancy died March 5, 1863 and we have an estimated date of about 1858 for Andrew's death, this would date these photo's somewhere between October 19, 1850 when they were married and prior to 1858 when Andrew died. Andrew died at the age of 31 and Nancy died at the age of 32. What caused their early deaths? We do not have a definite answer to that but yellow fever was breaking out around the country during those years of the 1850's and 1860's so that's a possibility.

As previously stated, Jeremiah moved out to Kansas where his Uncle George Washington Burkett was living. George was a brother to Jeremiah's father Andrew and had married Lucinda Derryberry, a sister to Jeremiah's mother, Nancy.

Jeremiah married Harriet Janet Skinner September 27, 1883 in Lyndon, Osage County, Kansas. They had seven (7) children as follows:

William Andrew b. Oct 10, 1885 d. June 1969 Elza Clyde b. Jan 29, 1887 d. 1902 (?) Clarence Roy b. Sep 10, 1889 d. Sep 2, 1960 Ernest Milton b. June 1, 1892 d. Nov 10, 1964 Myrtle Mae b. Apr 8, 1896 d. Dec 24, 1981 Carl Ellis b. May 8, 1898 d. Oct 14, 1993 Walter Jay b. June 6, 1903 d. Sep 26 1982

Tragically, the second born, Elza Clyde died at the age of about 14 after being struck by lightning. Some said he was in the house; others said he was in the barn. Apparently, the lightning rod had been sold for money. He was probably buried in Harveyville, Wabaunsee County, Kansas. Harveyville was the nearest town to where they lived at the time.

Sometime after June 1903 when son Walter was born in Harveyville, Wabaunsee County, Kansas, the family moved to Outlook, Yakima County, Washington. They next moved to Macdoel, Siskiyou County, California in October 1907 on a Homestead Act. They traveled by wagon through Washington and Oregon to Macdoel which is in Northern California. They moved with 6 other neighbors and filed on a homestead for 160 acres. They lived there at least three years, maybe four. See later picture of the family in Macdoel on Christmas Day 1908.

Now, let's look at some pictures of Jeremiah and Hattie.

younger age.



Jeremiah M. Burkett and wife Hattie Janet Skinner. Possibly their wedding photo September 27, 1883. They appear to be the right ages - 25 and 17 - so this would make this photo about 119 years old.





Jeremiah M. Burkett - Age unknown

He is older in this photo than the wedding photo shown in the first column. Notice he has continued the mustache from his wedding photo.

He appears to be a little older than the photo to the left. There is one young more photo on the next page.





Jeremiah M. Burkett

His daughter Myrtle identified his age as 17 in the above and maybe we shouldn't question that but Roberta and I both believe he appears to be more like 20. In the two (2) young photo's on the preceding page, he appears to be even younger than this photo. If we are correct about his age, then this was taken in 1878 so this photo is 124 years old.



L to R front - Jeremiah, Myrtle, Hattie, Carl L to R rear - Ernest, Clarence, William, and Clyde. Clyde was killed by lightning. Photo about 1900 KS



Above shows the main towns involved. Lyndon, lower right is where Jeremiah and Hattie were married. Next up is Burlingame where George Washington Burkett lived. Eskridge appears to be where they lived for at least 6 years since Ernest was born there in 1892 and Carl was born there in 1898. They may have moved over near Harveyville after 1898 because Walter Jay was born there in 1903 and Clyde died in 1902 from the lightning and Harveyville was listed as the nearest town.



Approximate location of Outlook, Washington where the family first moved to from Kansas.



Family moved to Macdoel in 1907; homesteaded 160 acres.



Macdoel, Siskiyou County, California Christmas 1908

We do not have identification of the above individuals at this time. However, since they moved to California with 6 other families, we can guess that some of those other families are in the above.



Macdoel, Siskiyou County, California 1910 Front L to R - Jeremiah, Hattie, Walter. Rear L to R - Carl, Myrtle, Ernest. Due to damage, the only photo found damaged so far, other identification is impossible.

Two of Jeremiah's sons at a young age. The handwriting says it is Willie and Clyde but it's actually Clyde on the left and Willie on the right. Willie was the oldest, born October 1885 and Clyde was born Jan 1887. Photo was taken in 1888 in Lyndon, Kansas where Jeremiah and Hattie were married.



To the right is William, the oldest child, and his wife, Bessie Teegarden, who were married in 1909.



To the right is Clarence Burkett(e) as a young man. I believe Clarence was one of those who had an "e" added to his name making the name pronounced as Bur KETTE instead of BURK ett. No date is given. He married Edith Enochs in Sept. 1910 in Outlook, Yakima County. Washington.



To the right is Ernest Burkett(e) and I believe he is another who added an "e" to their name. No date is given for this photo. He married Valma Carruthers in Tacoma, Pierce County, Washington in 1918.





This was such a good picture of Hattie and daughter Myrtle that I decided to make it larger. It was taken in 1912 when Myrtle was 16. Not sure if the family was still in Macdoel, California or had moved to Washington where Myrtle married Fred Brown in 1914. Myrtle is the one who gathered up the photo's and information which were then handed down to her granddaughter.

To the right is Carl E. Burkett. He married Viola Howard in Yakima, Yakima County, Washington in November 1924.





Walter Jay Burkett(e) and wife Mildred Sisk. They were married in Yakima, Yakima County, Washington in July 1922. I believe Walter may be another who added an "e" to his name.



Hattie and Jeremiah Burkett Probably taken in either Sumner or Puyallup, Washington since that was the last place they lived before they died. Taken around 1928 or 1929.



Seated is Hattie and Jeremiah. Standing L to R - Walter, Carl, Myrtle, Ernest, Clarence, and William. William is Steve Burkett's grandfather. This must have been some type of formal occasion since the ladies have corsages and the men have boutonnières. Taken around 1928. 45th anniversary? Jeremiah's 70th birthday?



Roberta thought - and hoped - she had found a picture of George Washington Burkett but we decided it was not him. However, she did come up with a picture of Millie Burkett Skinner, a daughter of George Washington Burkett. Millie married John Skinner, a brother to Hattie. They are shown to the left.

Interestingly, Millie had twin sisters named Jennie and Jessie. Jessie died at the age of 5 years and 10 months of scarlet fever. Millie had two daughters and named them Jennie and Jessie. They are shown to the right.



One final point - Hattie died July 20, 1931 in Puyallup, Pierce County, Washington and is buried in the Sumner Cemetery in Sumner, California. Jeremiah died June 19, 1939 in a convalescent home in Tacoma, Washington and was buried next to Hattie in the Sumner Cemetery.



That's all for this issue. However, Roberta tells me there are still more boxes to go through - she only borrows one box at a time. She has told me about a negative she has which maybe came from a Bible listing all of the children and their birth dates. She will have to take it to a photo shop and get a print made before she can scan it and send it to me. Who knows what else may turn up? Thanks again, Roberta. ■



I'm running late on this issue so it will be shorter than normal. I have been busy working with Roberta on the Jeremiah Burkett family which I am really excited about. As I mentioned, who knows what may show up when she is able to review the contents of the remaining boxes plus she is asking other relatives to provide some answers and possibly some pictures.

I have mentioned before that we are lacking in information about two of the daughters of Henry and Polly Burkett - Matilda Burkett who married Berry Markum and Malinda Burkett who married Joseph S. Perryman. I have been in touch with a lady who seems to be a descendant of Matilda and expect to develop more information by the time the next issue is published. We seem to be gradually closing in and locating information about all of the children of Henry and Polly. That, of course, is my objective. Before, we only had a picture of one of the children and that was David. Now, we also have a picture of Andrew and Millie, a daughter of George Washington Burkett as shown on the previous page and, of course, Jeremiah, a son of Andrew.

It seems that not only are more people getting on the internet but more and more are getting interested in their roots so it's entirely possible that we may yet run across information and pictures totally unexpected, just as we have about Jeremiah. While we are searching for relatives, they may be searching for us. After the Texas reunion, I plan to get back to work on our web site which should make it easier for folks to locate us.

Also, I expect to be looking into digital cameras before the reunions next year. I don't want another camera experience like this year!

That's all for this issue, Got to get it in the mail and then get up to Huntsville to head out for Goldthwaite. Hope to see lots of you at the Texas reunion! ■

