



“ . . . And departing leave behind us, footprints in the sands of time.”  
*The Psalm of Life by Henry Wadsworth Longfellow*

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**Dorothy Agnes Elrod Foster**  
**“Dot”**

Born February 2, 1924  
 In  
 Warren County, Tennessee

Died - June 8, 2003  
 In  
 McMinnville, Tennessee

*“Deeply Loved and Greatly Missed”*

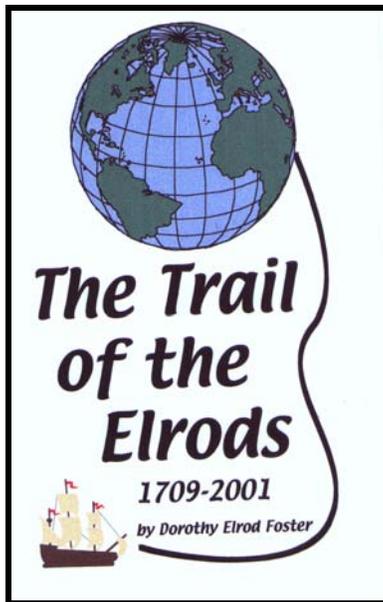
Dot was a daughter of Elizabeth Love ‘Lizzie’ Burkett Elrod and John Montgomery ‘Gum’ Elrod. She was a granddaughter of Jobe and Rebecca Caroline Burkett; a great granddaughter of John and Paulina Marcum Burkett; and a 2nd great granddaughter of Henry and Mary ‘Polly’ Epley Burkett. She had five (5) brothers - David, Jessie, Lloyd, Locey, and Edward; three (3) sisters - Lila Wood, Mattie Womack, and Nora Lee Griffith.

Dot married John Noel Foster in McMinnville, Tennessee on July 17, 1954. They had one daughter, Elaine. Elaine married Larry Goodman and they have one son, Jonathon Goodman.

Dot was a contributor and supporter of our family history. She prepared a book (shown to the right) on the Elrods and submitted information and photo's more than once about our Burkett family. She enjoyed attending family reunions and went to every one she could.

Audy Majors and I became very close with Dot through her attendance at the reunions and our communications with her via letters, phone calls, and a couple of visits by Audy and myself when we drove up from Huntsville, Alabama to McMinnville, Tennessee. During one of those visits, Dot took us to visit Laura Burkett Durham who was in a nursing home there in McMinnville. We teased at Dot a lot because she took it so well and went right along with our kidding.

As a daughter of Lizzie Burkett Elrod,



Dot was a niece to Almon Lee Burkett, my grandfather, and a 1st cousin to all of our Aunts and Uncles in Huntsville so she either knew everybody personally or knew by name who they belonged to.

Audy and I had another trip planned to visit Dot after our reunion in Huntsville this past June 14. However, we didn't get to make it since Dot died June 8. Many will miss her - especially me and Audy.

I would like to close out this article about Dot by including a poem written to Dot by her daughter Elaine.

*To My Mother  
May 1987*

*You've always been there to help me along  
With whatever I might need.  
You gave me advice and words of wisdom  
(I hope I learned to heed.)*

*It's easy to forget sometimes  
The many things you do  
Like cooking meals and making clothes  
And lots of other stuff, too.*

*I guess sometimes I take for granted  
That you know just how I feel  
That always in my heart there is  
A special place you fill.*

*I thank you now for all your help  
The guidance you supplied  
And most of all for all your love  
Without it I would not have survived.*

*Tho' changes come in many things,  
Throughout life's uneven days,  
I want you to know, without a doubt,  
That I will love you always!*

*- Elaine Foster Goodman*

## Our Research Status -

Many of you know and remember that, over the years, I have worried not only about the loss of our family data but about sharing it as well. As the years passed, new and better computer programs evolved which allowed me to make copies and send them to others around the country thereby eliminating my worry about losing the information. Once my worry about losing the information and/or photo's was eliminated, the next concern was where to centrally locate the information for future generations to easily locate and use. However, sharing it did not come without a cost. Those who wanted copies of what I had found it necessary to purchase copies of the program I used to create them. This article will address all of these concerns and where we stand in our efforts to

## *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

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### ALABAMA REUNION MANAGER

Debbie Burkett Howard

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resolve these questions.

As most of you know, our search involves three (3) main divisions - the collection of data about our family members, the collection of photo's and information about the family, and the quarterly newsletters since 1993. While many of us have several items of memorabilia, it is not centralized so I do not refer to that as a main division.

Before beginning with an update on each division, let me explain something for the benefit of those with computers as well as those who do not have computers. If you are not familiar with it, there is a program called Adobe Acrobat which provides a free program which allows you to read any file written in a .PDF format. To get your free copy of this reader, go to [www.adobe.com](http://www.adobe.com) and follow the instructions. I'm not going to complicate things by a lot of computer talk as to what PDF means so let's just proceed with understanding how this affects us and our research.

Since the beginning, I have used a program named Family Tree Maker to record information about our family members such as birth dates, marriage dates, names of children, parents names, death dates, military service, etc. This has worked fairly well; it is easy to use and fairly inexpensive. Many of you have purchased this program and I have sent you copies of what I have recorded so you would have the identical information I have in my computer. However, you did have to purchase a copy of the Family Tree Maker program to review my files.

Now, Family Tree Maker has issued an updated version I have purchased which allows the file to be converted to a PDF format and copied on a CD. What this means is that you no longer have to purchase Family Tree Maker to review my files; all you have to do is to download the free reader from Adobe Acrobat if you don't already have it which many computers do. I can then send you a CD which you will be able to review. What the cost of the CD will be has to be determined but it will be nominal to cover the cost such as the CD, envelope, label, case, postage, etc.

For our photo's, I have been using a program for some time entitled *Flip Album*. I have placed many of our photo's into this program and then made CD's. This is an excellent way to share our photo's because it does not require the user to buy any software.

Our Newsletters were of particular concern to me because many of you became involved after the Newsletters had been in existence for some time and, therefore, had not read every issue. Making paper copies proved not only time consuming but somewhat expensive as well as being prone to deteriorating over a period of years. Now, as a result of the Adobe Acrobat program, it appears we can put all

of the issues on one CD and they can then be viewed using the free Acrobat Reader program.

To summarize, it now appears that we can protect and preserve all the work of many people over the years and, at the same time, provide a means for others to view all of our work at a fairly cheap cost. Before closing out this article, I would like to thank cousin Bill Huckaby who has not only brought these developments to my attention but has also purchased the software required to make some of the CD's. Look for more about these in future issues. ■

## Tennessee Memories by Texas Relatives —

*In an earlier issue, I wrote about some of our Texas relatives making tape recordings of what they remembered of stories told by their ancestors. I also pointed out that these tapes were loaned to me by Burkett Curtis. While I still have not had time to listen to these tapes, Joe Burkett of Angleton, Texas loaned me his handwritten copy of one of these sessions where some of the children of Joseph Lafayette Burkett gathered at Lake Merritt near Goldthwaite, Texas. Due to the amount of space taken up by the handwritten version, I have decided to type rather than copy it. However, I will attempt to follow the handwritten format as closely as possible. I think you will enjoy this first one. Where you see italics below is something I have added and is not part of the tape nor the handwritten copy.*

We have on tape the following  
Floyd Burkett talking

Today Saturday Sept. 13, 1969 Edgar Burkett, Mae Delle Burkett Goodwin, Gladys Burkett Hodges and her husband Archie Hodges and I Floyd Burkett have met at Lake Merritt near Goldthwaite to record some of the stories told to us by our father Joseph Lafayette Burkett and his brother George Washington Burkett about some of the happenings that occurred before they came to Texas.

Now Edgar since you are the oldest one present would you tell us the story of the skirmish on and near our grandfathers (*Jacob*) place near Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

- Edgar talking -

I am Edgar Burkett. I will tell you in my own words tales told to me by my father Joe Burkett and his brother George Burkett who lived near Murfreesboro, Tennessee with their parents Jacob and Lavina Burkett.

Jacob enlisted in the Confederate army May 23, 1861 at Murfreesboro, Tennessee leaving his wife

and children on the farm to make a living. *(At that time they had 4 children—George who was about 9; Joseph who was about 8; Mary who was about 4; and Sarah who was about 2.)*

Nothing of importance happened for some time. Then on July 12, 1862 late in the evening grandma ordered the two boys, George and Joe, to bring in the night water. The boys who were about 10 and 12 years old *(they were actually closer to 9 and 10)* at this time obeying orders took their buckets and went to the spring and were returning carrying their buckets of water “nigger fashion” on their heads when grandma looked across the field and saw some soldiers in the Union army making a camp for the night. *(I want to stop at this point to explain the use of the “N” word. Although not readily acceptable in this day and time, in the 1800’s and especially in the south this was a commonly used word. This is a historical document and is intended to reflect the life and times of our ancestors. The use of this word by our ancestors and the repetition of it here does not reflect critically upon them - it simply demonstrates how they and almost all southerners talked. Edgar and the person who transcribed these comments knew this and placed quotation marks around those two words.)*

She immediately hollered for the boys to hurry. As the boys entered the back yard, one of the soldiers fired a gun at them. The bullet pierced the bucket on Uncle George’s head. Grandma, running to meet the boys, grabbed them and the rest of the children and pushed them through the trap in the floor leading to the place where she hid flour, potatoes and other provisions for safe keeping since it was common practice for the marauding soldiers passing through the country to take all the food they could find in the homes of people. Soon a soldier appeared on the scene and asked where were the two men who had entered the house. Grandma replied that no men had been there. After searching the house the soldier was satisfied and left without finding the children. Next morning at sun up Grandma discovered that every stalk of corn in her ten acre field had been cut and fed to their horses and the roasting ears eaten by the soldiers.

About that time, Grandma saw the Confederate army approaching and the fighting was soon in progress. The skirmish continued through out the day and covered a sizeable area. Late in the afternoon the fighting ceased and the prisoners were driven like cattle to a nearby camp by the Union forces who were riding horseback while the prisoners were forced to walk. The Confederates resented this treatment and were cursing the “dam yankee’s.”

After the fighting was over, the entire area was cleared of the dead and wounded by the soldiers. The next day after all soldiers were cleared out and gone, Grandma, Uncle George, Dad, and a neighbor

“nigger boy” searched the battlefield and found three bodies that had been overlooked. Having nothing to make coffins, they took the bed off their wagon and put all three men in it, used scrap lumber for a lid, dug a grave, placed the unknown men in it and covered them up.

The next day a soldier came to Grandma’s house, asked if she had found any bodies after the fighting explaining he and his brother had been together all through the war and it was their custom to meet each night after the fighting to see if the other one was alright. The night after the battle there he had failed to find his brother and asked for and received permission to check the prisoners and the dead. Still not locating him, he had obtained permission to return to the battlefield and look and make another search. Grandma told him they had buried three men. They dug up the bodies. He recognized one as his brother, reburied the other two, and took his brother’s body with him.

Another story that I remember Uncle George and Dad telling us is about Grandma’s horse trades. The south was invaded by bands of Yankee soldiers who looted and destroyed property and terrorized the people as they passed through the countryside. Grandma had an experience with three Yankee soldiers. They rode up to her house and demanded her to cook them a good meal. She did as they ordered, cooked fried ham and eggs, coffee and other food she had stored for her family. After they had eaten, the three men mounted their horses and started off. Then they noticed Grandma’s young fat workhorse in the lot. One of the soldiers was riding an old, poor, no good saddle horse. The officer told the soldier to put his horse in the lot and saddle that good horse. Grandma asked the soldier to please not take her good horse, she needed him to work and make a living for her self and the children. His reply was, “in my occupation I need the horse more than you do just to make a living for you and the children.” After the horses were exchanged the men rode off leaving Grandma badly worried about her poor horse. Several days passed with no farm work done as the horse was not able to pull a plow. Grandma was still worrying a few days later when another band of soldiers rode up and demanded a good meal for all of them. She obeyed orders preparing the very best food she had. While the men were eating and enjoying their good food Grandma related what had happened a few days before to her and the other Yankee soldiers. They seemed to be not concerned and paid little attention to what she was saying. After they had eaten and were fixing to leave, the officer told one of his men that was riding a good young horse and able to work to put it in the lot and put his saddle on Grandma’s old poor horse and go on down the road.

Grandma said no, you need a good horse more than I do. The officer told Grandma not to worry, he would make a trade down the road a few miles with someone who didn't need a good horse as bad as she does. They went on down the road and Grandma went back to the house and said to the children, "Well, there are some good Yankee's."

I could relate more tales that were told to us children by Dad and Uncle George but this is enough for this time.

- Floyd talking -

Yes, Ed. Talking about these things brings back to memory many more tales Dad and Uncle George told us but before we bring this to a close can you tell us why they left Tennessee and came to Texas?

Edgar talking

When the war between the States was over and Grandpa received his discharge and returned home and after looking over his place he found his place torn up so badly with trenches dug during the fighting he decided the damage was so great it would take so much time and work to get his farm in condition to work he would take his family to Texas and start over on land not torn up so badly. Grandpa had been wounded during the war, having been struck by shrapnel in his hip he was not able to undertake the great task of rebuilding the farm in Tennessee. Grandpa and his family arrived in Hoover's Valley - Burnet County Texas December 25, 1865. In a few days he came through Llano to Big Valley, Brown County, now Mills County, where he later pre-empted a homestead and lived there until his death December 25, 1875 having never fully recovered from his old war wound.

This is my memory of the tales as Dad and Uncle George told them to me. If some details differ with the way others have heard these tales just remember I am past eighty years old and it is possible I do not remember exactly as it was.

As I have said before. Grandpa was discharged from the Confederate army at Greensboro, North Carolina May 1, 1865 as a first lieutenant having attained that rank August 7, 1861 just three months after he volunteered for duty May 23, 1861 in Murfreesboro, Tennessee.

Jacob Lorenza Burkett was laid to rest December 25, 1875 in Joy cemetery now Mohler cemetery, five miles southwest of Goldthwaite, Mills County, Texas on John Parker place. A nice marble stone furnished by the U.S. Government marks his final resting place.

- The end by Edgar Lorenza Burkett, Mullin, Texas -  
(Jacob's remains have since been moved from the Mohler Cemetery to the Burkett section of the Oaklawn Cemetery

in Mullin, TX. This is the first of what I hope will be a series of articles relating the stories remembered by our Texas relatives.) ■

## Pictures from Bill Huckaby -

His great grandmother

Frances Josephine  
Burkett

Born May 17, 1865

Died August 4, 1953

(Taken early 1920's)



Frances was the 7th surviving child of Jacob and Lavina Burkett. She married John Edward McCall on March 22, 1882 in Llano County, Texas. They had ten (10) children. The first daughter was Leona Alyce McCall who married George Washington Huckaby. One of their sons was William Horner Huckaby who was the father of Bill Huckaby.

Below is a picture of the George Washington Huckaby family taken about 1914 or 1915.



Left to right - George Huckaby (grandfather of Bill), Arthur Huckaby, William Huckaby (father of Bill), Frances Huckaby, Leona McCall Huckaby (grandmother of Bill), John Huckaby and George Huckaby. Notice the shotgun/rifle (?) and the wheels on the kids wagon which are spoke wheels. ■

## Pictures from Burkett Curtis -

Burkett sent several photo's. Beginning with this one, that is Burkett with his mother, Juanelle Burkett Curtis. This photo was made in 2002.



This next picture was taken in 1993 and is Alton F. Curtis and Juanelle Burkett Curtis. Looks like they are in a surrey of some kind.




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## GROCCERS AND GROCERIES -

In about the 12th century, merchants sold their produce and goods at fairs. In order to sell most of their goods and not be left with some on hand, they sold only in lots by the gross - 144 or 12 dozen. Because of this practice, they became known as *gross-ers* which with usage became grocers. With this pronunciation of grocers, it then became the practice to refer to their goods as *groceries*. ■

## HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA REUNION -

This year the reunion will be held at the FLINT RIVER BAPTIST CHURCH which is next to the Meridianville School where we held the reunion last year. Entrance to the church will be on the north side.

The date is again the 2nd Saturday in June which is June 12.



Sure wish my health would permit me to not only get out a complete Newsletter but more of them back on a regular basis. Most of you know of my problems with numbness and tingling in the arms which, at its worst, is like hitting your 'funny bone' and everybody has had that happen. The numbness is there on a continuous basis but gets worse if I type for 30 minutes or so on the computer. For over a year, the Doctors have been searching for the cause and have ruled out carpal tunnel syndrome which everybody, including myself, seemed to initially think it was. For some months, the Doctors have believed it to be a pinched nerve but have been unable to determine where it was. This week they took another 9 or 10 x-rays and had me in more positions and shapes than I knew the body could be placed in!! I go back next week to see if they have located anything. The Doctor thinks they can do something about it if they can pinpoint where the pinching is taking place so I have my fingers crossed. I have a lot of work on the photo album and copying the newsletters onto a CD which I work on a little at a time as I can but I only work a few minutes to avoid getting that dreaded burning sensation of the 'funny bone.'

Up to this page, the rest of this Newsletter was done last year prior to my problem starting. The only thing I did on this page is the article on Groccers, the Reunion and this article. I have a lot more information and pictures I had planned to include but I simply can't do it. Just cross your fingers the Doc's can find this pinched nerve and we can get back on schedule. I'll keep you posted. ■

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## MORE ON HUNTSVILLE REUNION -

In case you are thinking about skipping the reunion this year, let me point out that Verdi Andrews will again make and donate some of those outstanding baskets he has made over the years. So if you want a chance at getting one as a door prize, you will have to be there in person to be eligible. ■

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## THE MURRAY REUNION -

This year the reunion will again be held at the Quartz Mountain Resort in Altus, Oklahoma. This years dates are June 4 and 5. For more details contact Jerry or Gayle Murray at 817/295-1066 or email them at [jerrygayle@yahoo.com](mailto:jerrygayle@yahoo.com).

Here is the descendant line from Burkett to Murray.

Henry Burkett  
|  
Jacob Burkett  
|  
Sarah Burkett/Archibald Murray  
|  
William Jacob Murray  
|  
Roy Coleman Murray  
|  
Paul Edward Murray  
|  
Jerry Paul Murray

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