

## **THE BURKLOW FAMILY IN CRITTENDEN COUNTY**

In the early 1800s, Isaac D. van Burkelow came to western Kentucky. It is not known exactly where he first settled. In 1819 he is listed as living in the area known as Cypress Creek in Crittenden County. There is a family cemetery in the Dycusburg, area to mark what is most likely the site of the original homestead. Isaac's exact birthplace is not known. Some records indicate he was born in Delaware while others indicate Maryland. It is possible he spent some time in North Carolina before coming to Kentucky. After coming to Kentucky, Isaac served in the Kentucky Militia in 1812. In 1814 Isaac joined the Tennessee Militia where he served in the war against the Creek Indians. In 1819 Isaac married a widow Phoebe Ragsdale. Isaac and Phoebe had four children; Elias Jackson, Leroy William, Uriah S. And Rebecca A. Isaac died in 1850 in Crittenden County. Phoebe re-married in 1851 to Rivers Banks.

Isaac's son, Leroy William, was born in 1823. On June 1, 1840 he married Harriet Bealmear at the General Baptist Church. Leroy and Harriet had nine children; Manona, Margaret, Phebe Melvina, Susan, Matilda, Mary Ann, Henry D., James W., T.S. and Samuel.

Leroy died in February of 1885. He had been working at a tobacco twist during the morning. Later that morning some other workers returned to the farm and found him dead near the twist.

Leroy and Harriet's oldest son, James William, was born on April 13, 1841. James, like his predecessors, was a farmer. On September 25, 1861 James enlisted in the Union Army. He was assigned to Battery "K" of the First Illinois Volunteer Artillery. James was mustered in for three years and was the standard bearer for the company.

James' military service started in Cairo, IL where he was part of Grant's army of the west. In 1862 and 1863 he would be part of Grant's central Mississippi campaign. It was during a skirmish on the 9th and 10th of March, 1863 near Covington, Tennessee that James was wounded. From the descriptions in his military records it appears that he was thrown from his horse and broke his arm, "near the wish joint." James was treated at the General Hospital in Memphis for about three weeks after which he was assigned to driving a cannon wagon.

James served for the entire war and fought in several campaigns along the Mississippi river. He fought in campaigns against Robert E Lee., and in battles around southwest Tennessee, throughout Mississippi and as far south as Baton Rouge, Louisiana.

James was married to Elizabeth Jane Riley at the residence of A.A. Riley in Harden County, Illinois. They had eleven children. Their son James Thomas Burklow is my great-grandfather.

James died at the age of 66 of Bright's Disease. At that time he listed himself as a resident of Pinkneyville. He is buried with Elizabeth in the Union Church Cemetery.