

**UPCHURCH AND ALLIED FAMILIES BOARD OF DIRECTORS
2022**

Upchurch and Allied Families Board, President
David Thomas “Tom” Upchurch, MD, FACS
Suwanee, GA



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Tom is related to the Upchurch family through the William Upchurch IV and Charles Upchurch clans and the John Upchurch V Subclan that populated Henry County Tennessee beginning about 1812. He first became interested in genealogy through the Upchurch Bulletins. After becoming aware of the immense treasure of paper-based genealogy information that Phil Upchurch had created, he became intensely interested in helping preserve and share that information by transferring it to digital systems like Ancestry.com, Family Tree Maker, Web Pages and Social Media. He also edited Phil's story-telling videos that are posted on YouTube and has helped transfer information from several family trees to Ancestry.com trees. He enjoys being part of a team that is building a strong, well supported organization that is creating big, beautiful family trees, web pages and social media content that are interconnected, full of accurate genealogy information, constantly updated and available to all who are interested.

Career Highlights

After completing medical education through internship, he served as a flight surgeon in the USAF. This included one year's service in Vietnam. After leaving the military, he completed specialty training in ENT and facial plastic surgery. He set up a 4-person ENT practice in Oak Ridge, Tennessee and worked there for 30 years. During that time, he also became an adjunct professor in the University of Tennessee Medical Training System, taught general medicine, surgery and ENT to post graduate physicians and edited a medical textbook. He served as the local FAA medical flight examiner for years. In 1997 he co-founded and began to work for AllMeds, a medical information management company that provides services for specialty medical practices. After serving for over 20 years as the Chief Medical Director and Chairman, he retired from AllMeds in 2019 when the company was purchased.

Education Background

Education includes BS Union University, Jackson, Tennessee; MD University of Tennessee Medical Units, Memphis; PG1 Rotating Internship, City of Memphis Hospitals; Aviation Medicine Basic School, USAF; PG 2 Residency in General Surgery, Memphis VA Hospital; PG3-5 Residency in Otolaryngology and Head and Neck Surgery, University of Tennessee, Memphis.

Personal Background

Tom was born 1941 in Henry County, West Tennessee and grew up on a small dairy farm. He attended Union University in Jackson, Tennessee from 1959-1963 then medical training in Memphis from 1963 to 1974 except for two and one-half years in active military service. He married Joyce Meeks in 1965. They lived in Memphis, Lubbock, Texas, Memphis again then moved to Oak Ridge, Tennessee in 1974 and finally to Suwanee, GA in 2004. They have 3 daughters, 3 sons in law and 8 grandchildren. He is most involved with family activities, UAFA and the Rotary Club but enjoys travel, photography and videography including photo and video editing. He was a private pilot for many years.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Vice President

Woody Herman Yates, MBA, C.P.M.

Cary, North Carolina



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Woody joined the UAFA Board on April 1, 2017 and enjoys contributing to the continued successful development of a sustainable and scalable non-profit that has a solid financial infrastructure. He is related to the Upchurch family through the Nathan Upchurch clan and the Burtis Upchurch subclan that remained in the Green Level area of Wake County, NC. His great-grandmother, Amelia Ann Upchurch, was the granddaughter of Burtis Upchurch. He has always been interested in family history and was especially inspired by his son's special interest in Yates family genealogy and the lifelong work of Dr. Phil Upchurch.

Career Highlights

Woody has held key positions of increasing leadership and financial management responsibility throughout his career, including corporate officer roles as interim CFO, treasurer, and assistant treasurer at RTI International, one of the world's leading nonprofits.

As executive practitioner and course instructor at NC State's Institute for Nonprofits, he played a key role in the development and establishment of a customized executive leadership certificate program for an international nonprofit. As executive director/CEO of Habitat for Humanity of Wake County, Yates brought substantial financial and general management experience to expand the capacity and financial strength of the organization. Previously, he served as executive director of the State of North Carolina's statewide information technology commission, and as COO and CFO of a Triangle technology start-up.

In 2012, he launched his most exciting venture — STEWARDSHIP INNOVATIONS group — which fulfills a dream to bring his financial management insight and expertise to others. Yates works across the nonprofit sector with churches and other organizations as they seek to strengthen their financial management and expand their mission delivery by planning for and acquiring the most cost effective financing available.

Educational Background

Yates earned his BS degree from NC State University, an MBA from the Babcock Graduate School of Management at Wake Forest University, completed the Young Executives Institute Program at UNC's Kenan-Flagler School of Business and the Strategic Perspectives in Non-profit Management Program at Harvard Business School.

Personal Background

Woody was born in 1955 in Raleigh (Wake County), NC and grew up near the Carpenter community in western Wake County, which sits adjacent to Research Triangle Park. He married Stephanie Sears in 1978 and they have one son, Matthew Tyler Yates, a daughter-in-law, and two grandsons. Woody is very active in his home church and enjoys fitness training, tennis, spending time with the grandsons, and traveling with the family.

**Upchurch and Allied Families Board Secretary/Treasurer
Debra Upchurch Heck "Deb"
St. Louis, MO**



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

As a child, Debra joined her father, UAFA Founder, Robert Phillip Upchurch, in expeditions to libraries and cemeteries to research family history. She is a 10th generation Michael Upchurch descendant, tracing through the Nathan Upchurch Clan. In 2013 she became one of the six original organizers of the UAFA. Retirement from her professional life allowed time to support and consult with her father on his passion of forming the UAFA organization and sharing his many years of research. Debra serves as both Treasurer and Secretary for UAFA. Although passion for family history research is not at her father's level, she treasures the time spent with him in support of this organization. She is thrilled to have her father's years of research including videos, master outlines (via ancestry.com Legacy trees) and biofiles (scanned onto the Alliedfamilies.com website) available to our members.

Career Highlights

Debra began her career with the Monsanto Company in Information Technology, progressing to a Director position in applications development and business support. After spending 17 years with IT, she pivoted to Procurement and Business Services functions. As Monsanto merged with Pharmacia and was subsequently acquired by Pfizer she led global procurement teams over 7 years as well a collection of Travel and Fleet Services, Cafeterias, Copy Centers, Child Care Centers, Fitness Centers and Meeting Management teams, ultimately running a global organization of 200 people with a \$25 million-dollar budget with responsibility for \$5 billion in annual expenditures. In her last year with Pfizer, she ran their St. Louis United Way Campaign. Debra then moved to Express Scripts, a Pharmacy Benefits Management Company, as Vice President of Corporate Procurement. Over 7 years she created a "best in class" centralized procurement organization, achieving significant savings for the company. She also was the first to chair Express Scripts' United Way company-wide campaign and did so for 5 years. Debra served on the St. Louis Minority Business Council Board, was honored with a YWCA Corporate Leader Award, and was selectively picked to join Leadership America, Winning Women and the St. Louis Forum.

Education Background

M.S. in Management, Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana. Quantitative Methods Specialization
B.S., Purdue University, West Lafayette, Indiana, Mathematics Major, Accounting Minor

Personal Background

Debra is married to Robert Heck and their family includes their son, Andrew, his wife Sarah and their son, Phillip (named after his great-grandfather) and Debra and Robert's daughter, Jennifer. Debra was born in Florida, raised in North Carolina and Missouri, went to college in Indiana and lived in Arizona before moving back to St. Louis where she married the boy next door and has lived most of her adult life. After a productive professional career, she happily retired in 2012 and has been living the good life by being involved in two not-for-profit Boards, enjoying traveling, watching many sporting events (loves her Cardinal baseball team!), going to musical and theatrical productions and joining many of the cultural institutions in St. Louis. She also enjoys playing tennis and loves just being with friends.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member
Nancy Blair Upchurch “Nancy Blair” Ariano
Suwanee, Georgia



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Nancy Blair (goes by double first name) is a member of the William IV and Charles Upchurch clans and John V subclan. She has developed an 8000-member tree based on the ancestry of her children with the core of her Upchurch genealogy tree based largely on information obtained from the Upchurch Bulletins and material from Phil Upchurch’s research. The tree also extends widely into Italy - the home of her husband’s ancestors. She especially enjoys using her investigative reporter skills to solve tricky genealogy issues.

Career Highlights

She is a television journalist and has worked as a reporter and producer for commercial TV stations in West Virginia and Virginia, managed television-based education for the state of Virginia, worked as a writer for AT&T and currently is the co-developer, owner and manager of *The Media Choice*, a video/broadcast public relations company in the Atlanta, Georgia area. Her parallel career has included roles as a community volunteer, wife, and mother of three children.

Education Background

Oak Ridge High School, Oak Ridge, Tennessee; Bachelor of Arts, Grady School of Journalism, University of Georgia, Athens, Georgia.

Personal Background

She is married to Joseph (Jay) Ariano, a proud third-generation Italian. They have three children, Thomas a computer engineer, Mollye a pediatric nurse and Caroline, a pre-nursing student at Georgia College. She and Jay have been intensely focused on work and children’s activities in the last few years, but they enjoy traveling and hope to have time to do more soon.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member

Jay C. Buck

Chesterfield, MO



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

During his 30-year teaching career, Jay assigned students a family history project which hopefully helped students to better understand their families and their place in American history as well as honing their research skills. This project began a lifelong passion for the study of genealogy. Jay has also tried to stay on top of technological change and its benefits to the researcher.

Career Highlights

In addition to being a teacher of American History and US Government, Jay coached soccer, softball, and tennis. He also sponsored the Lafayette High School Key Club, with its 300+ members, for over 10 years until his retirement. Since retiring, he has worked part-time at the St. Louis County Library History and Genealogy Department and beginning in 2015, has worked for Phil Upchurch and UAFA and currently is the office manager and website administrator.

Educational Background

Jay earned his BA in Political Science in 1980 and his MA in Secondary Education from the University of Missouri – St. Louis.

Personal Background

Jay was born and raised in the St. Louis area, continuing the path of several of his ancestors who first arrived in St. Louis in the years prior to the Civil War. Jay is married to Maureen, a fellow educator, and has two sons, Nick, and Travis. Nick works for Ernst & Young, and lives in Little Rock, AK and Travis works for KMIZ TV in Columbia, MO.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member

Carla Jordan Michaels

Cary, North Carolina



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Carla's interest in family history started as a child sitting beside her grandmother looking through an unsorted box of old family photographs and listening to her "Nana" tell the stories of the men, women, boys, and girls pictured. Fast forward many years to when she returned to Cary and rediscovered the box of unsorted family photographs. Finally having the time to organize the box of photos led her to research the Yates and Jordan families of Wake and Chatham Counties to put all the individuals in their proper branches of the family tree.

Carla connected with Phil Upchurch in 2014 while organizing a "Fabulous Forties" class reunion for graduates of Cary High School from 1940 to 1949. Phil was unable to attend the reunion, but he and Carla met soon after and quickly realized their common interest in Wake County genealogy. In addition to her board position, she currently serves as Volunteer Coordinator for the Cary facility

Career Highlights

Upon graduation from North Carolina State University, Carla had an 8-year career with the Social Security Administration as a Claims Representative and Service Representative in various locations in the United States from 1977 to 1985. She resigned from this position when her husband, a career Naval Officer, was assigned to London, UK. She currently is strongly committed to several voluntary organizations in addition to UAFA including Protestant Women of the Chapel (PWOC) – women's ministry arm of military chapels, Bible Study Fellowship International, Friends of the Page Walker Hotel and Asbury Station Chapter, Daughters of the American Revolution.

Educational Background

Carla earned her BS degrees in Business Management and Economics from NC State University in 1977.

Personal Background

She was born in Savannah, Georgia, but her parents thought she needed to grow up in their hometown, so she moved with them back to Cary when she was six months old. She married Mike in 1978. They have one daughter, Anna Grey Michaels. Besides genealogy research, Carla enjoys researching Cary history, creating reproductions of antique needlework samplers and spending time with her husband at their log cabin in Todd, Ashe Co, NC.

Upchurch and Allied Families Tree Master Coordinator

Linda Diane Upchurch Sparks

Jackson, Tennessee



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Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Born in Henry County, Tennessee, in the lines of William Upchurch IV (b. 1745)/John Upchurch V and Charles Upchurch (b. 1755)/Susan Upchurch. Her lifelong interest in family history and genealogy was sparked by listening to her Grandmother Upchurch's stories growing up. Her goal for UAFA is to maintain accurate, well documented family trees on [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) that can serve to connect all Upchurches and members of Allied Families with their rich heritage. She has served as Tree Master Coordinator for UAFA since Jan 2019 and the Tree Master for her own Clan, William Upchurch IV. She created the American Upchurch Index Tree by merging the records of all the Upchurch Clans into one database. She is a skilled user of [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) and Family Tree Maker.

Career Highlights

1967-2018 were spent with bank employers in residential mortgage lending activities—origination, appraising, underwriting and operations management. Retired 12/31/18.

Education Background

E. W. Grove High School, Paris, TN and West Tennessee Area Vocational-Technical School, McKenzie, TN.

Personal Background

Married to Gerald W Sparks from White County, TN. Gerald has two children and one grandson. We are active members of First Baptist Church, Jackson, TN and enjoy playing golf.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member

Staley C. Smith, PLS

Apex, North Carolina



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Oral history influenced Staley's formative years. He grew up hearing his land-surveying father, uncle, and grandfather connect western Wake County family relations. This early knowledge developed respect for land record research and genealogy. With the arrival of their first grandchild in 2016, Staley began to seriously research and develop a lineage chart of his and his wife's ancestors for the benefit of their descendants. He was surprised to learn that their children are descendants of at least one dozen American Revolutionary War patriots including two "Surveyors of the Road/Highway". Staley first met Dr. Phil Upchurch in 2010 to explore a collaborative effort to produce a digitally-formatted Wake County Land Grant Map project. Staley joined the UAFA Board on August 28, 2018.

Career Highlights

Staley and his late father, A. Earl Smith, Sr., shared a common hobby in muscle-car collecting and restoration. Desiring to kindle more old-car enthusiasm in central NC, he and his father created and sponsored the first Carolina Collector Auto Fest in 1988. This bi-annual show and swap meet event was held at the N. C. State Fairground in Raleigh, NC until 2006. In 1995, Staley became a 4th generation [NC Professional] Land Surveyor which hails from the Enos Calvin Smith family whose surveying lineage began in 1880 in the village of Farmington, Davie County, NC. Staley is owner and resident professional of the firm Smith & Smith Surveyors, PA in Apex, NC where his son is employed and is pursuing his own NCPLS licensure.

Educational Background

Apex High School

Wake Technical Community College -Automotive Systems Technology
-Civil Engineering Technology

Personal Background

Staley was born in Wake County, NC and was reared in the old Salem farm community which, at the time, was situated about one mile north of the original Town of Apex corporate limit. He married Glenda J. Holt in 1986 at Salem Baptist Church; the same place where the newlyweds saw the dedicated service of their parents in practice. This marital union gave their children an ancestral connection to western Wake and eastern Chatham County allied family surnames known as: Mills, Holt, Lewter (Luter), Holleman, Scott, Council, Yates, Tingen, Pope, Holland, Womble, Olive, Lasater, Howell, Bolling, Partin, Upchurch, Merritt, Ferrell, Bachelor, Byrd, Broadwell, Johnston, Hilliard, Barker, Mann, Wilson, Pearson, Norris, Kelly, and Barbee. Staley and Glenda have two adult children and two grandchildren. Staley enjoys tree farm management, serving at his local church, and facilitating the Town of Apex Board of Adjustment, a quasi-judicial decision-making appellate body.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member
Stephen D. Terry, PhD, PE
Garner, NC



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Stephen Terry is originally from Raleigh, NC. His paternal line includes many family lines from northern and western Wake County - many from before 1800, including a line through Moses Upchurch. An avid genealogy researcher for over twenty years he has extensively researched the Terry lines in Wake County and is serves as an administrator with the Terry Y-DNA Project at FamilyTreeDNA. He joined the UAFA Board in 2019 and looks forward to contributing to the mission of linking many of Wake County's oldest families.

Career Highlights

Stephen is a Research Assistant Professor in the Mechanical & Aerospace Engineering Department at NC State, focusing on industrial energy efficiency. He is Director of the US DOE's Industrial Assessment Program at NC State, assists with the operation the NCSU Solar House and is a Registered Professional Engineer in NC. He currently teaches classes in energy efficiency, air conditioning, and thermal systems design. He also serves on the NC Code Officials Qualification Board.

Education Background

Dr. Terry holds a BS, MS, and Ph.D degrees in Mechanical Engineering from NC State University in Raleigh. His dissertation topic concerned the hysteresis effect of lifted flame stability.

Personal Background

Stephen is married to the former Susan Anderson and has one son who will be attending NC State starting in 2019. He grew up in nearby Chapel Hill, making him "bi-lingual" – able to speak NC State and UNC. He has been active in Boy Scouting with his son (an Eagle Scout) and was previously a long time member of the Triangle Brass Band playing Eb Soprano cornet.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member
John Calhoun Upchurch, Ph.D.
Dahlonega, GA



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

John's interest in genealogy was awakened in about 1979 when he was introduced to the Upchurch Bulletins and learned that he was part of the Nathan Upchurch I clan. That led to years of occasional correspondence with Dr. Phil. While John has meager direct experience in producing genealogical research, he welcomes the opportunity to learn more from and to work with members of the Board.

Career Highlights

He began his professional life with a three-year stint in the US Army. After that, he focused on higher education serving as a professor of geosciences for years, then dean at Valdosta State and finally VP of academic affairs at the University of North Georgia. He retired in 1998 from North Georgia as emeritus professor of geosciences and emeritus vice president. He is also a Fellow in Academic Administration of the American Council on Education

Educational Background

John graduated Cary, NC High School in 1956 then earned BA and MS degrees in history and geography from Florida State University. His PhD was earned at the University of Tennessee (Knoxville), while serving as a full-time instructor in the Geology/Geography Department.

Personal Background

Born in Wake County, NC in 1938, John attended 12 years of public school in Cary. He met and married a native Californian, Rebecca Tull, in 1962. She is a retired middle school math teacher. They have two grown daughters and three grandchildren.

John and Becky have been extremely fortunate to visit over 50 countries during their marriage. They are especially fond of China. Following retirement, they spent 10 summers teaching English at Tsinghua University, China's leading science and technology school.

He has been an active member of Rotary International for nearly 40 years and has served in many leadership positions in his club, including club president, and at district level. He also led a group study exchange to Brazil and he and Becky have hosted 4 international students, each for an academic year, through the George Rotary Student Exchange Program.

A past president of the Georgia Retired Education Association, John currently serves as treasurer of the 29,000-member organization.

John is a long-time philatelist having collected postage stamps for over 60 years. He also embraces the old car hobby and enjoys restoring vintage autos, especially vehicles manufactured by the Hudson Motor Car Co. In addition to owning 4 Hudsons built in the 40s and 50s, he has 3 other non-Hudson cars from the 60s.

Upchurch and Allied Families Board Member

Herbert Jackson (Jack) Upchurch, Jr.
Lake Wateree (Ridgeway), SC



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Jack is related to the Upchurch Family through the Richard Upchurch III clan that came out of Virginia in the mid-1700s relocating to Granville County NC and subsequently Franklin and on to Wake Counties. He first became interested in genealogy when he became the recipient of various family historical records and after being introduced to the Upchurch Bulletins by his uncle, Walter McGowan Upchurch, and his father, Herbert Jackson Upchurch. His wife's mother, Phyllis Oviatt Willson, who was a Mormon and very involved in genealogical research also influenced him. While Jack does not have extensive experience in genealogical research he is interested in history in general and is intrigued by researching about six of his family lines. He joined the Board in 2018 and looks forward to learning more about genealogical research and in contributing to the Allied Families project.

Career Highlights

Jack has been in the financial services industry for his entire career beginning in commercial banking in Charlotte NC with North Carolina National Bank in 1965. He moved to Columbia SC in 1968 with Bankers Trust of SC where he was involved in commercial and mortgage banking. In 1990 he joined Republic Bankshares to form Laureate Capital Corporation, a commercial mortgage banking and investment banking company where he retired as Chairman of the Board in 2000.

Educational Background

Jack graduated from Dreher High School in Columbia in 1961 and earned a BA degree in Economics from Duke University in 1965. He is a graduate of the School of Banking of the South, Louisiana State University and the Commercial Lending School, Oklahoma University.

Personal Background

Born in Durham, NC, Jack's ancestors were from Wake County, NC and Ontario Canada. He met his future wife, Donna Willson, while both were at Duke University and married in 1968. After Duke, Donna went on to earn a M.Ed. and Ph.D. in counseling from the University of South Carolina. She maintains a private practice in Marriage and Family Therapy. They have two married children and three grandchildren.

Michael Ray “Mike” Upchurch

Raleigh, NC



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Mike's interest in genealogy started as a young boy talking to his paternal grandmother about surnames. He wanted to know if he was related to his classmates in Buies Creek School. Learning of Phil Upchurch in the 1970's he subscribed to Phil's Upchurch Bulletin and discovered his clan of Upchurches were actually related to the Upchurches in Wake and Franklin Counties. Being from Harnett County, he was told by his family that he was not related to the "Raleigh Upchurches".

Mike was born in 1950 in Norfolk, VA while his dad was in the Navy. After his dad retired in 1954 his family moved back home to Buies Creek, NC. His roots are deep there with 3 of his grandparents being from this area.

Retiring in 2013 gave him more time to work on his genealogical roots that he had interest in as a youth. With the added convenience of being able to search online, the task was made much easier.

Once he started volunteering at the new Cary UAFA office he was able to work on a couple of cemetery projects that pertained to his family. This interest moved to entering Phil's Biofiles into [ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) to form the Jubal Upchurch RPU Legacy Tree. After completing this project, he began to work on the Jubal Upchurch Active Family Tree. It was in 2017 that he was asked to serve as a UAFA Broad Member.

It is his goal to see the work of Phil Upchurch be preserved and made available for many generations to come. With the tools we have today mini bios can be created and published on the web for each of our family members.

Career Highlights

Mike founded Business Machines Inc. in Raleigh in 1976. He retired after selling the business to CEI in 2012. During this time, he served as an officer and on the board of BTA, an office technology association.

Education Background

Mike earned his BSBA degree from Appalachian State University in 1972.

Personal Background

Mike and Hilda (Sink) were married in 1974 and currently have 2 grown sons and 2 wonderful grandchildren. His time is spent between genealogy research/documentation, photography, and family time at his farm in Randolph County.

In Memoria
Upchurch and Allied Families Founding Member, Deceased 27 May 2020
Robert Phillip "Phil" Upchurch, PhD
Chesterfield, MO



Interest in UAFA and Genealogy

Phil is a Nathan Upchurch, I Clan member. Nathan lived in Franklin Co., NC and moved to Wake Co., NC in 1803. Phil is a native of this County and there has thousands of kin. He took up Upchurch history in the 1960's. In 1975 he inherited the mantle of Upchurch historian from two Groups who started in 1950. He published the Upchurch Bulletin 1980-2016 identifying 62,000 relatives. He created/endowed the Upchurch Collection at N. C. State Univ. to preserve family records. In 2007 he established a website where the UB and 33 videos are posted. In 2013 he and five cousins founded Upchurch and Allied Families Association, Inc. which Phil endowed. Phil is now focused on completing his memoir and lending support to UAFA to insure its long-term success.

Career Highlights

After his PhD, Phil progressed from Assistant to full Professor at N. C. State Univ. serving until 1965. He was on active duty 1955-1957 in the USAF. He was a distinguished Weed Scientist at NCSU. He was a Leader in Ag. Research at Monsanto in St. Louis, MO 1965-1975. He joined the Univ. of AZ in 1975 as Plant Sciences Department Head, later holding several administrative posts including Associate Dean for Instruction. Phil served as President of three National agricultural societies. He often served as a consultant including serving eight years as Plant Science Advisor to the President of Eli Lilly.

Educational Background

After 3 years of High School, he earned BS & MS degrees in Agronomy from NCSU in 4½ years. He then earned his PhD in Plant Physiology from the Univ. of CA-Davis in 2-years-1951-1953.

Personal Background

Phil was born in 1928 on a hard scrapple farm in Wake Co., NC. Raised culturally and economically deprived, he was fortunately engaged at age 14 to help in Ag Research at NCSU. He adopted the professors as his surrogate family and in eight years morphed into a competent researcher. At age 20, he married Sallaine Sledge. They are fully engaged with three children and their spouses, eight grandchildren and five great grandchildren a total of 25. Retiring to MO in 1995, Phil found great satisfaction in a farming operation that terminated in 2015 after 30 years. At 91 and a 2 ½ year survivor of pancreatic cancer he soldiers on.