Since January 2019 UAFA has:

- **Completed transfer of family tree information of over 60,000 individuals from Phil's system into the Ancestry.com cloud**. This has been a seven-year project that created nineteen clan-based Upchurch trees and about 20 UAFA Allied Family trees in the www.ancestry.com cloud. See instructions following this article to learn how to find and view an Upchurch Clan or Allied Family Tree on ancestry. We also created a Big Beautiful Upchurch Index Tree with over 70,000 members to assist UAFA workers identify appropriate clans for new members and assist DNA and other research. For now, access to this tree is limited to UAFA Tree Masters but will soon be available to everyone.
- **Welcomed Linda Upchurch Sparks from Jackson, TN as the UAFA Tree Master Coordinator**.

   Linda created the Index Tree, integrated information from Trees developed by multiple cooperators and helped finish the transfer of UAFA Trees to Ancestry. She coordinates the work of over 30 Tree Masters who continue to add resource information, new ancestors and items of interest to the UAFA trees.

- **Completed scanning about 70% of Phil's paper-based research notes** (Phil calls these "biofiles") The biofiles are stored in *forty 4-drawer filing cabinets* that contain a vast handwritten archive of historic and genealogy information involving about one million people. The biofile scanning project has been in process for seven years and we believe it can be completed in 2020. All information that we have scanned has been made available to anyone for no cost under the "Biofiles" area of UAFA website, www.alliedfamilies.com (Use password: 2014allied#) We use a password so we can identify people who are interested in this information).
- **Welcomed Carla Michaels of Cary, NC as the Biofile Coordinator**.

   Carla is currently focused on transcription of text information, mostly handwritten, in biofiles and has a team of volunteers working with her. She is also a member of the Board and manager of our Cary, NC office.

- **Welcomed Cindy Hale Rudich of Peoria, AZ as the UAFA Newsletter coordinator and editor**

   Cindy will produce two- or three-page newsletters monthly except Jan and June when she will produce much more comprehensive, multiple page versions. These publications will be delivered by email to our UAFA contacts and are also posted to YouTube.

- **Welcomed Ronald Upchurch of Westin, CO as our UAFA database coordinator**.

   Ron is helping us integrate our membership, website, events, and other activities into Wild Apricot, a web-based software specifically designed for small nonprofits like us. It will make it possible for managers and members to access UAFA functions from any place in the world that is connected to the Internet.

- **Added more stories to on our Upchurch and Allied Families YouTube channel**. There are 35 videos of Phil telling family stories. To access UAFA videos, go to www.youtube.com and enter "Upchurch and Allied Families" in the search box.
- **Increased the number of Tree Masters to 30 contributors who live in twelve different states**
- **Set up the "Upchurch and Allied Families" page on Facebook.**

- **UAFA Tree Masters have added 4914 people, 4934 sources and 10300 media to UAFA trees in the last six months**. (This will annualize to around 10,000 new people, 10,000 new sources and over 20,000 new pieces of media each year at our current pace—and we expect to accelerate as more tree masters and Allied Families are added.
- **Welcomed Phil Upchurch back to the operations area as Development Coordinator.**

     Despite pancreatic cancer, radiation and chemotherapy for three and a half years and ninety-one years of very busy life, Phil is still strongly engaged and working every day.

- **Maintained two UAFA brick and mortar offices**. Our office in Chesterfield, MO focuses on scanning documents and general operations support. The office in Cary, NC houses our library of UAFA-specific books, maps, and other paper records. It is also a welcome place for volunteer groups that work with UAFA such as the Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR)
- **Expanded our core of active volunteer workers to around sixty and financial contributors to over 200**.
- **Have been guided and supported by a strong Board of Directors** [(click here to see board member resumes)](#)

We have accomplished so much that one could reasonably question "what is left". The answer is "a huge amount"! We have created the framework of a national organization of volunteers coordinated by dedicated managers all using mostly cloud based functions to support our mission to collect and organize Upchurch and Allied Families genealogy and history information and to share our work with the world for free. Now our challenge is to fill in details, colors and nuances that make genealogy and history so interesting. We have made a wonderful beginning to the beginning.

Moving forward we will:
- Complete the biofile scanning project and get the biofiles posted to the webpage
- **Improve usability of online biofiles.** Basically, the biofiles consist of thousands of hand-written notes, photos, news articles, and other material that is loosely organized by family and/or individual names. Much of the hand-written information should be converted to text and the files should be indexed to improve the ability to search for information.
- **Add supporting information to over 70,000 individual UAFA records.** Many ancestry trees are wonderful indicators of relationships but are bare boned with little or no proof of accuracy. This information exits in the Upchurch Bulletins, Biofiles, and numerous locations on the internet, but must be identified, verified and linked to appropriate individual records. This is the major challenge for our Tree Masters, a many years long project.
- **Continue to add new individuals to family trees as they are identified.**
- **Add additional Tree Masters** because of the huge amount of work to be done to improve family trees as noted above.
- **Expand our Allied Families component**. Some of these trees have hundreds of members already but are in earliest stages of development.
- **Identify links between Clans, Allied Families and individuals** and determine a means for identifying these associations.
- **Use material in the Upchurch Bulletins, Ancestry Trees, Biofiles, Phil's Memory and Internet sources to create family stories** in historical context and link these stories to appropriate individuals in Ancestry Trees and the Family Stories area of the webpage

- **Encourage family reunions** using our newsletter and FaceBook communication
- **Work on full implementation of the membership management capabilities of Wild Apricot**.
- **Continue to work on Family Enclave information, geographic placement of families over time and other fascinating projects that are being considered**

Our current achievements and those hoped for are largely the result of thousands of hours of volunteer work supported by contributions from about 200 people. Contributions are crucial because we must pay for support services necessary for our volunteers to do their work. These include office space, licenses, insurance, computers, scanners, and legal and accounting services. We also pay our manager and a few other people who work for very low reimbursement, often just enough to cover expenses.   In 2019 our total cost of doing business was about $35,000, an amazingly low figure considering the size, complexity and productivity of the organization. Since we do not charge for any of our products, we are entirely dependent on contributions from those who find our work worthwhile and are willing to support it. UAFA membership is based on an annual contribution of $50.00 but fortunately many give above that level, a few much more.

Phil Upchurch works many hours a week helping manage development, setting up and expanding UAFA components such as Family Stories, and other work. Jay Buck give much of his time as manager for a minimal fee. Both are crucial to UAFA. However, Phil's age and health and Jay's intention to retire within the next year or so means that UAFA will have to replace both with an executive manager in the near future. Funding this position will be a challenge and one of the major reasons that we hope our supporters will be generous with contributions.

It is an incredible opportunity to work with an organization of such giving and talented people. We welcome all who enjoy learning more about themselves and their families by exploring past generations and history to join us by volunteering your time, money or both.

Finding a UAFA-Upchurch Family Clan Tree or a UAFA-Allied Family Tree in Ancestry.com

1. Open www.ancestry.com
2. Single Click "Search" from the top menu bar
3. Select "Member Search"
4. Enter "Phil Upchurch"
    a. To view an UAFA-Upchurch Families clan tree:
        i. Select the first option which is Phil Upchurch, Chesterfield, MO
        ii. After the page opens, scan through available clan trees by clicking the > in the right middle of the page. When you find the clan you wish to view, click on the name and the tree will open
    b. To view an UAFA-Allied Family tree:
        i. Select the last option which is Phil Upchurch beside the Allied Family icon
        ii. After the page opens, you can scan through available family trees by clicking the > in the right middle of the page. When you find the family you wish to view, click on the name and the tree will open