

February 19, 2021

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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SUPPLEMENT

A warm hello is wished for all our newsletter readers! We received a letter from a very good friend of our founder, Dr. Phil Upchurch. In his letter, Professor David Ransome pointed out that there existed a revised version of a letter I printed in last newsletter issue 14 Feb 2021. Prof. Ransome has been a very important contributor to UPCHURCH research over the years and we wish to thank him for his dedication and contributions. In the following video Founder Phil Upchurch talks about Professor Ransome. Please take a look!

➡ [Upchurch Stories—Professor David R. Ransome, The Invaluable British Contributor](#)

Prof. Ransome's email reads:

Dear Cindy Hale,

You are kind to keep sending me the newsletter which I continue to read with interest even though I am no longer actively researching the Upchurch family past. I was, however, a little perturbed to read p.4 of the latest issue. It reproduces from Upchurch Bulletin vol.2 no.1 a flawed copy of Michael Upchurch's letter of 4 May 1652 to his father.

In the late 1980s, when I began editing the Ferrar Papers in Magdalene College, Cambridge, I found in the files a letter from Phil Upchurch enquiring about Michael Upchurch's link to the Ferrars. We corresponded, I pointed out errors, and Phil commissioned a report on Michael Upchurch, with a more accurate transcription of his four letters. This I undertook, and Phil published it in UB vol 15 no.4 pp.127-159 (odd pages only). This was only the start of what became a friendship with Phil and Sallaine. We met in England and my wife and I visited them in America. I am sorry that an early and imperfect version of Michael's letter should misrepresent Phil's scholarly interest in his family's past. He deserves better.

Sincerely,

David Ransome



Cindy Hale —Editor

Part Two

UPCHURCH Family in VIRGINIA 1650-1750

MICHAEL UPCHURCH (XID 146)

By Robert Phillip Upchurch, PhD

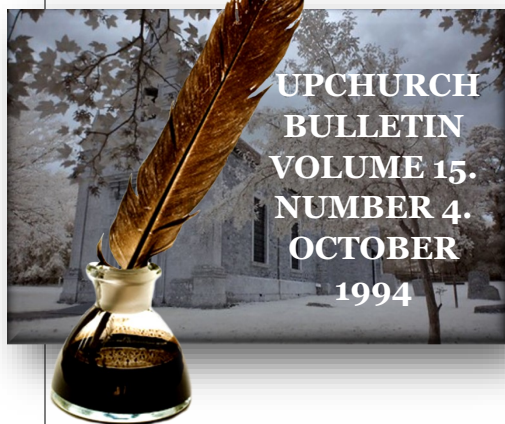
It is not known when nor under what plan, MICHAEL UPCHURCH emigrated to Virginia from England. He was listed in Nell Nugent's CAVALIERS & PIONEERS, Abstracts of Virginia Patents and Land Grants, 1623-1666, by two different persons, as a headright, when they were granted land in 1654. His name appeared on the list of Valentine Patten, when Patten was granted 1000 acres, 6 June 1654, in Westmoreland County, Virginia, "upon the S & W at the head of the Oqui Creek, WSW along the line of Richard Codsford, for the importation of 20 persons."

He was also listed by Robert Hubbard when Hubbard was granted 1600 acres in Westmoreland County, 25 October 1654, "on S side of Petomack River, beginning at a branch of the Oqui River, for the transfer of 32 persons." No record of any activity of MICHAEL UPCHURCH has been found in Westmoreland County, Virginia. It appears that this is one of those cases, which often happened in early Virginia, which permitted persons, greedy for land, to buy lists of headrights even after the person whose name was used, had been in the colony for some time. It is known that MICHAEL UPCHURCH had come to Virginia as early as 1649-1650, as will be shown later. Among the names on the lists of Patten and Hubbard was also the name of James Collett, who was a son of Susannah (Ferrar) Collett of Little Gidding, Huntingdonshire, England, of whom in the Little Gidding story in the Appendix of this book. Richard Collett, another son of Susannah Collett, was already in Virginia. He was listed as a headright when George Busse was granted "400 acres at the head of Lawne's Creek on 23 December 1642." As this Lawne's Creek area is where the first record of MICHAEL UPCHURCH was found, it is very evident that James Collett and MICHAEL were influenced to come to this section of Surry County,

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THE REVISED 1652 MICHAEL UPCHURCH LETTER XIX



Virginia, to join Richard Collett. We know that MICHAEL UPCHURCH was in Virginia as early as 1649-1650, as he had time to collect "tokens" to send to his family and friends at Little Gidding by March of 1651. In a letter written on the 27th of that month to Mrs. Virginia Ferrar, UPCHURCH FAMILY XIX he said: "I am sending you a basket of skins of animals, flying hart's head and horns, the rattles of a rattlesnake, a crowne of a burd. This is all I can provide to send you at the present time. Nixt yier I hope to be of better abilitie to serve you. P.S. I have sent you a young turtin in a glass bot-tel." (MAG. OF VA. HISTORY, Vol. 11/44, FERRAR PAPERS). While searching for the original of this letter at Magdalene College Cambridge University, England, MRS. MARTHA (UPCHURCH) TIDD discovered, among the FERRAR PAPERS, an original letter, dated 4 May, 1652, written by MICHAEL UPCHURCH to his father at Little Gidding, which did not reveal his father's name. An outer cover of this letter could have been lost, or there was such intimacy with the household of the Ferrars, that MICHAEL felt no other address than the one which follows was necessary.

MICH. UPCHURCH
To: Mr. Ferrar, Gidd
Virginia
May 4 1652

For my hon'rd friend Mr. Farrer
liveing in Little Gidden in/ /
Hunting:sh
Leave this at Mr. Nicholas
Colletts in Lombard Street
at the White Hinde . . . nere
the Cardinals Capp

Loving and kinde ffather my duty with my wifes humbly
senhed to you and to my mother as alsoe our love to my
sister trusting that that you are in health as at present I am
blessed bee god desireing you to remember mee to all my
friends in generall. these are to notifie you that as yett I have
not received your letter but I here it is in ye country but I have
received the letter wch Mr Farrer sent mee as alsoe the token
which the faire lady his daughter sent mee for the which I am
deeply engaged for her favor and courtesie. Truly I am very sor-
ry I have not had your letter sooner for I did reserve you a
Hogshead of the best tobacco I had on purpose to send you but
not heareing from you made mee lay it out and yett if I can pos-
sible I will send you some tobacco this yeare although my owne
bee layd out but however I intend God willing to send you some
tobacco the next yeare without faire and pray lett me heare
from you the first shippes that come to Yorke River and pray di-
rect your letter for mee to one Mr James Bruce¹⁸ Liveing neere
unto Esquire Ludlow¹⁹ in yorke and I shall be sure to have it
delivered./ pray father bee not unmindful to present my service
to mr ffarrer informing him I understand that hee did not re-
ceive halfe the toakens I sent but it was none of my fault for I
beeing illiterate desired him to writ my letters to send both the
name of the man and alsoe of the shipp but I think that he did
neglect it therefore I desire to be informed wt the meaning of
the hitting of the naile on the head is and wt it doth signifie and
concerning the earth it is the common mould of virginia onely
I sent a young turtle or terrapine as the Indians call them and
the earth was onely to pserve it alive whilst it came to London

Continued next page




THE REVISED 1652 MICHAEL UPCHURCH LETTER XIX *Continued...*

This is the text of one of the four letters of Michael Upchurch. The rest in due time as Phil Upchurch liked to say. To get a much broader understanding and history of Michael Upchurch's lifetime, there is so much more information available! Suggested reading material:

The Upchurch Bulletin [Archive of Phil Upchurch Publications - Allied Families](#)
Phil's Upchurch Bulletins are searchable.

Michael Upchurch : His Life, His Times, His Legacy, 1624-1681 (Book by [Mae Davenport Cox](#), 2012)



I sent my father tow rondes of tobacco : the matter of 20 lb and I sent my Mother an Indian baskett and a pepper box and I sent to mr ffarrer 8 lbs of principal good tobacco for his owne drinking and a halfe a dozen of Indian Pipes and a box full of tobacco seede and I sent to mrs Virginia Farrar a muskrat skin tow [two] musk codd an Indian baskett two woodpeckers crownes wch were redder then any scarlet and with all I sent a paire of flying hart's hornes and a paire of burds hornes and pease of mine several sorts and beanes of all colors wheate and Indian corne of all sorts and I sent home heavy earth and a peece of fullers earth and as concerning the Indians makeing of bowes and arrowes they make their bowes of Locust and their arrowes of reeds and their arrow heads bee of glass or of turkicock spurs or tipps of deer's hornes and they doe get glasse from the English and make tryangle  just as this marke is they did not cutt it with diamonds onely with a conce knife or a pippel stone and as concerning mettles I am ignorat there is diverse sorts of mettle stones but I cannot gett any beecause the Indians are at war one with the other but I shall promise some against the next yeare. however I know not how to make Mrs Farrer amends for all her manifold favours bestowed upon mee howsoever I shall remaine very thankful for her kindnes though unknowne soe at present I comitt you to God and your dutiful sonne /

MICHAELL UPCHURCH

my wife's name is Frances Upchurch/ Virginia
May 4/1652/

17. Nicholas Collett (d.1688) was a goldsmith, and nephew of John Ferrar, being a son of John and Susanna (Ferrar) Collett: **18.** For James Bruce in Northampton county in 1645 and 1545 see *Cavaliers and Pioneers 1623-1666*, pp. 163. 164. 418. where he occurs as Bruse. **19.** For George Ludlowlei, *ibid.* 127, 134 177, 201, 210 214, 239. 243. 245 250, 252, 295-5. 337.402, 424, 532, 555, and especially 164, where on 21 July 1546 he received a total of 1,452 acres in York county, beginning at the mouth of Wormeleys Creek on the south side of the Charles river and adjoining the mill land belonging to Warrick river and Hugh Allen's land, parallel to the land of the late Captain Wormeley.



17th century glass arrows