

Upchurch and Allied Families 2019-20 President's Report

We lost our founder Phil Upchurch to pancreatic carcinoma on May 27, 2020. Phil had spent almost three years trying to be sure that he had done everything possible to assure that UAFA would continue successfully without him. In the last year, UAFA accomplished all the amazing things that are reviewed below and we know that he will rest in peace knowing that his deep engagement in our American story will be carried forward for generations to appreciate.

Major accomplishments since June 2019 include:

Completed transfer of family tree information of over 80,000 individuals from Phil's paper-based system into the [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com) cloud. This was a seven-year project that created nineteen clan-based Upchurch trees and about 20 UAFA Allied Family trees in the www.ancestry.com cloud.

Completed transfer of Anna Marie Sheet's George Upchurch information into the UAFA George Upchurch Tree. Anna had been working independently on her tree for over 27 years and decided to contribute her information to the UAFA tree. This added over 12,000 new individuals, over 9000 photos and almost 67000 records. Anna added most of this information into UAFA by hand assisted by Linda Sparks and Teresa Churchill. It increased our database of Upchurch descendants to over 100,000. Anna's home is Toddville, IA. Linda lives in Jackson, TN and Teresa lives in Strang, OK.

Expanded the Big Beautiful American Upchurch Index Tree to over 77,000 members. The Big Tree is a merge of information from all the UAFA Upchurch Clan Trees. The merge is managed by Tree Master Co-Ordinator Linda Upchurch Sparks once a year. The 2021 Big Tree will contain over 100,000 names.

Completed scanning of Phil's paper-based research notes (Phil called these his "biofiles"). The paper biofiles are stored in forty 4-drawer filing cabinets that contain a vast handwritten archive of historic and genealogy information about over one million people. All information that we have scanned is now available to anyone for no cost under the "Biofiles" area of UAFA website, www.alliedfamilies.com (Use password: 2014allied#). We use a password so can identify people who are interested in this information). This work was done by Jay Buck and his team in Chesterfield, MO.

Carla Michaels of Cary NC and her team continue to transcribe key biofiles. Handwritten records are being converted to digital texts that are more easily readable and, perhaps more importantly, are word-searchable.

Prior to his death, Phil Granted Full Ownership of Scanned Copies of his genealogy work to UAFA and gifted the original paper-based information to North Carolina State University.

Welcomed Cindy Hale Rudich of Peoria, AZ as the UAFA Newsletter coordinator and editor. Cindy is producing two or three-page newsletters monthly except in Jan and June when she produces much more comprehensive, multiple page versions. These publications are delivered by email to UAFA contacts and are also posted to the Upchurch and Allied Families page on 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 two more stories to on our Upchurch and Allied Families YouTube channel. There are 37 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. With Phil's passing these stories will become even more dear to us as years go by.

Plan to close the Chesterfield, MO UAFA Office by Sept 2020. Most of the work there involved scanning documents and general operations support. Scanning should be completed by then and Jay Buck will handle general operations from his home office after that.

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). The future of this office will depend on financial status and upcoming board decisions.

UAFA continues to be guided and supported by a strong Board of Directors ([click here to see board member resumes](#))

UAFA Goals for FY 2020-21

Encourage more members to join local and national genealogy groups and societies. We have a great story to tell and we need to learn from others.

Continue to improve use of Phil's biofile and Upchurch Bulletins information

- Let more people know that this information is available on our Allied Families webpage

- Use information to support family tree entries
- Use biofiles and bulletins to find family stories to add to stories and UAFA Newsletters
- Improve searchability of the biofiles by continuing with transcriptions and indexing of files.

Extend work on interlinking between all UAFA trees, including Upchurch Clans and Allied Family Trees so that a searcher can seamlessly move from one tree to the other. This could create a huge virtual tree of descendants of families who lived in the Wake County Area during the Colonial era.

Continue to add more individuals, supporting information, pictures, and graphics to all Ancestry.com trees.

Find more people who have the time and interest to be tree masters. This may mean replacing some tree masters who are not active. Also, must identify more tree masters for Allied Families

Encourage more people read the Upchurch and Allied Families Facebook page and the UAFA monthly bulletins

Increase utilization of Wild Apricot member management software

- Encourage use by all members
- Use automatic features to reduce labor associated with billing and payments
- Increase use of Web Page features

Our current achievements and those hoped for are largely the result of thousands of hours of volunteer work supported by monetary contributions from about 200 people working from locations all over the United States. Financial support is 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 exceptionally low reimbursement, often just enough to cover expenses. In 2019-20 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.

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 time, money or both.

Finding a UAFA-Upchurch Family Clan Tree or a UAFA-Allied Family Tree in [Ancestry.com](https://www.ancestry.com)

Open www.ancestry.com

Single Click "Search" from the top menu bar

Select "Member Search"

Enter "Phil Upchurch"

a. To view an UAFA-Upchurch Families clan tree:

Select the first option which is Phil Upchurch, Chesterfield, MO

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:

Select the last option which is Phil Upchurch beside the Allied Family icon

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

Submitted by Tom Upchurch 25 Mar 2020