

Appendix 5 (AFBR.04): Book Review: Henry County Tennessee History and Families, 1996, by Turner Publishing Company, Paducah, KY

This county family history book follows the pattern used across the U.S. by a number of publishing companies. A local group or committee is formed to gather the materials and a collaborative effort with the publisher takes care of editing, preparing galley proofs and marketing. In this case, the formal group was the Henry County, Tennessee Bicentennial Commission. As in other such books, information is presented on the history of the county and of its towns, churches, and civic organizations. Family members are invited to submit write-ups on the heritage of their particular families. In this case, 151 of 216 pages total are devoted to family histories. Included are about 500 such family histories.

Our initial reason for reviewing this book has to do with the Upchurch family, which has had a strong presence in Henry County, TN since the very early 1800s. It was then that John Upchurch V migrated from Greenville County, SC to Henry County, TN. There are twelve Upchurch references in the index. This small number of listings does not do justice to the important Upchurch and Upchurch related articles in the book. As one example, one can cite five specific Upchurch family history articles printed on pages 193-195. One of these is by John E. Burton who writes of his ancestor David Upchurch, who was a son of John Upchurch V. Another was written by Sue S. Reed and submitted by Darryl K. Freeman of the Joshua Upchurch family, another son of John Upchurch V. The other three articles were written by Robert Phillip Upchurch in collaboration with Henry County natives John Marion Upchurch and David Thomas Upchurch, M.D. The three touched upon John Upchurch V and two of his sons. These articles dovetail with other facets of the book to tell us a great deal about how life for the Upchurches and their neighbors unfolded on the frontier in the 1800s and beyond.

Another powerful aid to Upchurch research is revealed when you consider that the descendants of John Upchurch V intermarried with many dozens of families in Henry County. The substance of this advantage is only realized when one digs deeper into relationships and learns that many of the family articles that do not contain the name Upchurch nevertheless involve Upchurch blood relatives. Only by due diligence does this benefit come to fruition.

This book fails to give a fair representation of all that we know about the Upchurch family in Henry County. Fortunately, a great deal of this has been uncovered and published in the *Upchurch Bulletin*. And yet, much more remains to be brought to light.

At first glance it would seem that all Upchurch history in Henry County traces to John Upchurch V. This is not so. Several articles in the *Upchurch Bulletin* reveal that Upchurches outside of the William Upchurch IV/John Upchurch V Subclan were present to a lesser extent in the county. Elaboration on this fact is beyond the scope of this book review.

This book makes a significant contribution to the records for Upchurch and other allied families being treated by UAFA. Turner Publishing Company has produced 20 or more such books on Tennessee counties. Of special interest for acquisition by UAFA is the one on Stewart County, which is likely to be quite informative, as Upchurches were known to have been there early on.

Anyone who has a heritage in Henry County, TN would be well rewarded by having a close look at this book.

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