

**Appendix 3 (AFBR.01): Reviews and Excerpts from Books Bearing upon
the Family of Moses Upchurch (1753-1853)
(UAFA Enrolled Family UAEF-3)**

1. Upchurch Family of England, Virginia, and North Carolina by Belle Lewter West, 1962, privately published.

This 126 page book by Etta Belle is the culmination of her many years dedicated to uncovering Upchurch family history in America and England. Her book was enhanced by collaboration with several to whom she gives credit. This offering was the first collaborative work to sketch the broad outline of the American Upchurch family and its English origins.

Upchurch Family is of special value to the Moses Upchurch Family as he was the grandfather of Isham Sims Upchurch who, in turn, was the grandfather of Etta Belle. Naturally, she gave special attention to Moses Upchurch and his descendants.

During the 1970s, Etta Belle and Phil Upchurch, the editor of the *Upchurch Bulletin*, became very close collaborators. She adopted Phil as her “genealogical son” and supplied him with much family history material, which is now preserved in the Allied Families Research Center in Chesterfield, MO. She also agreed to waive the copyright on her book to allow the contents to be used in any manner to support Upchurch family interests. Key parts of her book have been repeated in the *Upchurch Bulletin* and are available online at the Allied Families website. The book is out of print. A goal of UAFA is to publish it online in due course.

Etta Belle recounts how Moses Upchurch served in the Revolution, later getting a pension for his service. She reports on many deeds and other documents pertaining to the Upchurch family. Moses Upchurch did not leave a will, but Etta Belle does great service by generating evidence for his ten children. Her input for the children provided the springboard for other researchers to amplify how the lives of the ten siblings and their descendants unfolded.

While Upchurch Family is, for the most part, well researched, there are some errors and in a few cases, over extrapolations. A notable example of such a transgression appears on page 5, where her 13 generation chart has been found to be seriously flawed. The outline from Isham Sims Upchurch’s link to Michael Upchurch is correct. However, while Michael did marry a Frances about 1651, the prospect that she was nee Delke has been found to be without basis. Furthermore, the ancestors of Michael as shown going back six more generations is without proper foundation. The reader is referred to reports by Professor David Ransome, published in the *Upchurch Bulletin* and in *Englandia* for a vigorous treatment of this matter.

Etta Belle was a tireless worker in family history and her treatment of the family of Moses Upchurch is exceptional. She is truly the grand dame of Upchurch family history and it is on her shoulders, and those of her colleagues, on which later researchers stood and stand in their efforts to find, preserve, and share Upchurch history and lore.