

**Agatha Butler****no XID**

**Commentary:** Agatha Butler, born 1764, married Nathan Upchurch head of Upchurch Clan #3. Of this union there were eight children. There is some disagreement regarding Nathan's spouse or spouses as seen in this biofile. Agatha died on 19 May 1833 in Wake County, NC.

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by UAFA Volunteer Coordinator and long-time Cary, NC resident, Carla J Michaels.

**(1)** Updated RPU commentary on the name of the wife of Nathan Upchurch, I – 14 May 2004  
A. An analysis of this issue was previously published in the Upchurch Bulletin Vol 17 No 3, July 1996.

B. The 1894 Franklin Co, NC will of John Butler identifies his daughter as Agathy (Butler) Upchurch. One Agatha Upchurch, wife of Nathan Upchurch, I is reported to have died in Wake Co, NC in 1833 at age 69 (hence born 1764). Tentatively it is assumed that the Agathy of 1794 and the Agatha of 1833 are one the same. If this is so, Nathan Upchurch, I born 1759 is the only Upchurch by the name of Nathan available to have married an Agatha Butler by 1794 in Franklin Co, NC.

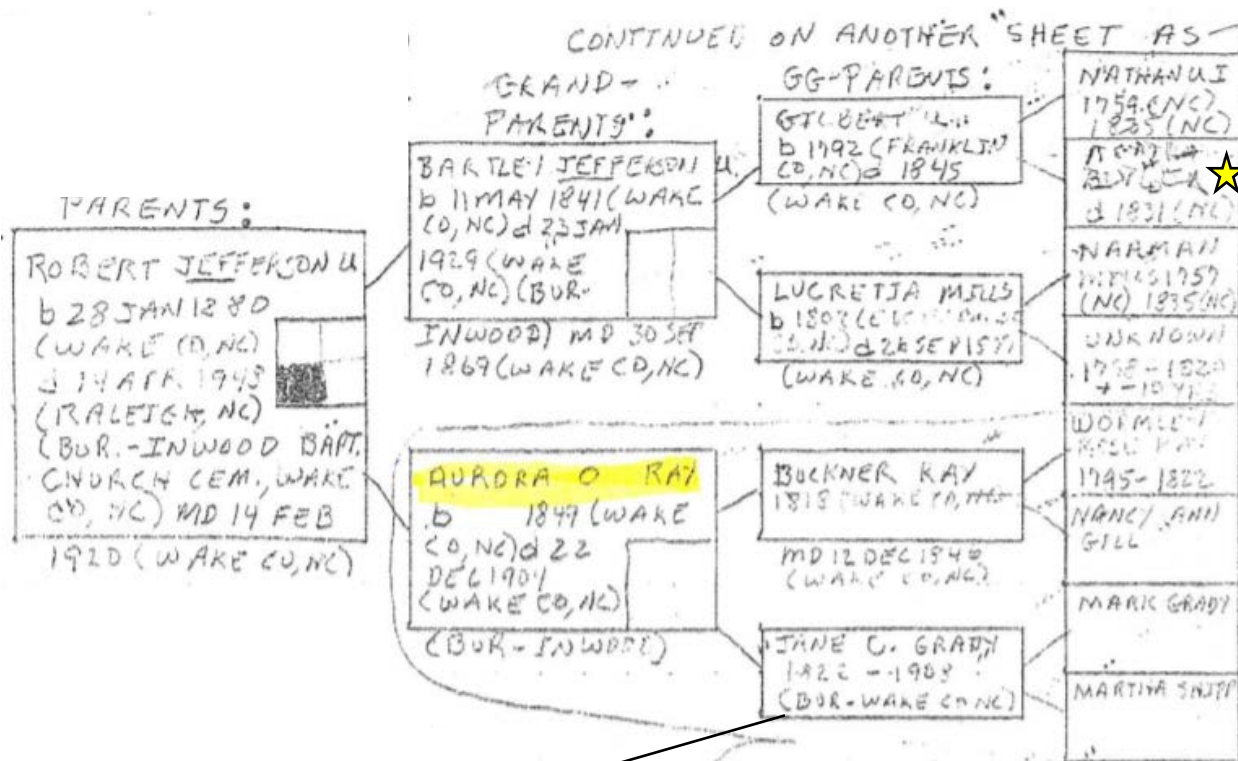
C. The Butler/ Upchurch connection presumed by the marriage of Agatha Butler and Nathan Upchurch, I is reinforced by another Butler/ Upchurch connection in that Elizabeth Thaney Butler, another daughter of John Butler, is known to have married James Upchurch, VII, a nephew of Nathan Upchurch, I and a son of Richard Upchurch, III.

D. The wife of Nathan Upchurch, I has also been referred to as Mrs Mackey Upchurch – possibly nee Mackey Johnson. At present it does not seem that Nathan Upchurch, I had 2 wives – Agatha and Mackey. The best explanation is that this wife was nee Agatha Mackey Butler or Mackey Agatha Butler. The prospect of Mackey being nee Johnson has always been speculative.

E. Need to resolve the issue as to whether the wife of Nathan Upchurch, I died in 1831 or 1833.

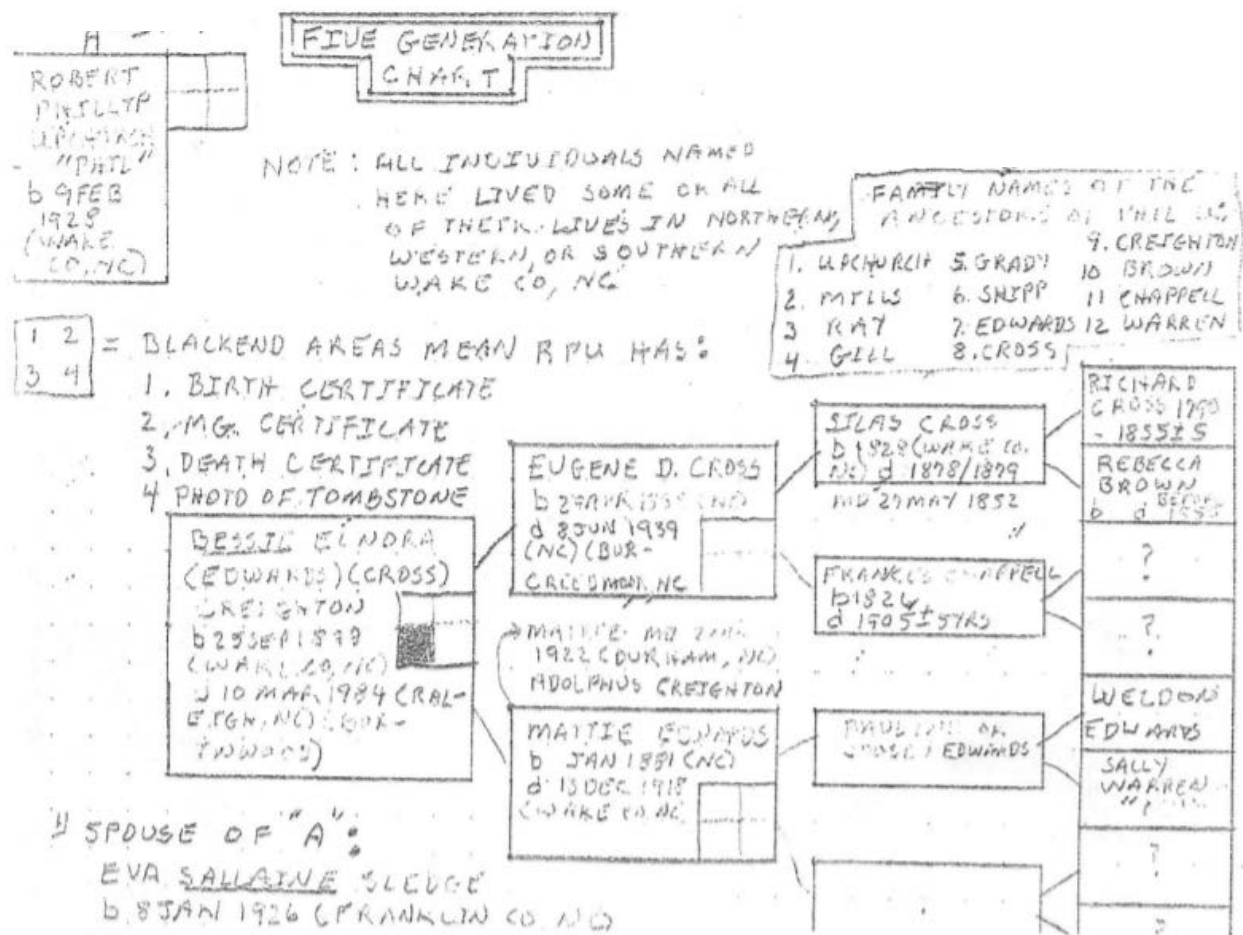
**(2)** Date Chart constructed or updated: 1 Jun 2012

\* = Ancestors of RPU. Each biofile has an orange tag in the Biofile system – RPU 15 Jun 2018



lived in Northern  
Wake Co, NC – Barton’s  
Creek Township – on the  
Neuse River.

Parents, grandparents, great grandparents, and great great grandparents of Robert Phillip Upchurch: Five Generation Chart.



Names included:

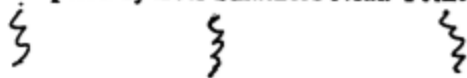
Robert Jefferson Upchurch	Bartley Jefferson Upchurch	Aurora O Ray
Gilbert Upchurch	Lucretia Mills	Buckner Ray
Jane C Grady	Nathan Upchurch, I	Mary ---
Naaman Mills	Wormly	Nancy Ann Gill
Mark Grady	Martha Shipp	Robert Phillip Upchurch
Bessie Elnora (Edwards) (Cross) Creighton		Eugene D Cross
Mattie Edwards	Silas Cross	Frank Chappell
Pauline Edward	Richard Cross	Rebecca Brown
Sally Warren	Eva Sallaine Sledge	

(3) Upchurch Bulletin Vol 17 No 3, Jul 1996, Pages 119, 121, 123

This extract places in biofiles of: Nathan Upchurch, I; John Butler, Agatha Butler, Mackey Upchurch (Mrs)

## IX. Reference Materials

A. A REVIEW OF THE BOOK "ABSTRACTS OF VITAL RECORDS FROM RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA NEWSPAPERS - 1830-1839" (Volume III) (In two parts) Compiled by Lois Smathers Neal. Printed 1993.



Entry 6117 reports that on 19 MAY 1833 Mrs. Agatha Upchurch, wife of Nathan Upchurch, died of cancer in Wake Co., NC in the 69<sup>th</sup> year of her age (hence she was born about 1764).

This report is a complete puzzle to us and we hope someone will come forward with some answers.

The only known Nathan U. to have been of the right age to have had a wife born in 1764 was Nathan U. I (XID 78) - Head of Upchurch Clan No. 3. He was born about 1759. He did not die until 1835 and at that time was living in Wake Co., NC and based on his WILL we presume his wife had predeceased him. So far all of this fits for Agatha to have been his wife. The problem is that we already have a wife for Nathan U. I (XID 78) and her name has been thought to be nee: Mackey Johnson (XID79). It is thought that Mackey died in 1831. It is therefore possible that Mackey died in 1831 and that in due course Nathan U. I md. Agatha and that shortly thereafter in 1833 she died. At this stage there is nothing but speculation and the outline of the possibility that this sequence could have taken place.

Nathan U. I (XID 78) did have a son Nathan U. II (XID 85) but by all indication this son was too young to have been married to Agatha. In any case, Nathan U. II (XID 85) and his wife (believed to be Martha \_\_\_\_\_) were having children from 1825 to 1830 at which time Agatha would have been 61-66 years of age and beyond her child bearing years.

There is one other Agathy, wife of an Upchurch male, that appears in our records. In a WILL written about 1794 in Franklin Co., NC, one John Butler names several children, including two daughters who married Upchurch males. One of these is Elizabeth Thaney (Butler) U. (XID 994), born about 1770, who is known to have married James U. VII (XID 67) - Head of the Richard U. III/James U. VII Subclan (XID 63/67). The other daughter was identified in the WILL as Agathy U. (more completely identified as Agathy (Butler) U. Given the date of the WILL (presumably indicating John Butler to be of advanced age) and the known approximate birth date of Elizabeth Thaney Butler (namely about 1770) we can readily speculate that the daughter Agathy mentioned in the WILL could possibly have been born in 1764 and thus could have been one and the same as the Agatha who died in 1833.

Given the known ages and geographical distribution of the Upchurch males in the 1750-1800 era, it is almost a certainty that the Agatha/Agathy female(s) mentioned above would have married to a son or a grandson of Richard U. II (XID 152) who settled in the Moccasin Creek area of Franklin Co., NC in 1755. Yet, a stepwise examination of the records seems to eliminate all of the sons and grandsons because of age or other known marriages.

The prospects which appear dimly to our imagination are as follows:

1. **Nathan U. I did not marry a Mackey Johnson but instead married an Agatha(Agathy) Butler who was born about 1764 and died in 1833.**
2. **The 1833 newspaper article erred in reporting that the late Agathy U. had been married to Nathan U. I and she was actually married to an Upchurch male of a different name.**
3. **Nathan U. I was married to Mackey Johnson from about 1779 until about 1831 and then to Agatha (Butler ?) from about 1832 until her death in 1833.**
4. **There was another Nathan U who would have been old enough to have married an Agathy Butler by 1794 and to have outlived her passing in 1833.**

Perhaps there are other convoluted prospects but the four given illustrate that help is very much needed to sort out this puzzle.

Although the evidence that Mackey Johnson was the wife of Nathan U. I is frail in nature, we would need *some reasonable basis for casting her aside*. The DAR records show that Nathan U. I was married to a Mackey \_\_\_\_\_ but no basis for this is given. The book "Some Colonial and Revolutionary Families of North Carolina", Volume II, compiled by Marilu Burch Smallwood and published in 1969 is more explicit. On page 356 for Nathan U. I it reports: "Revolutionary Soldier Nathan Upchurch born in VA in 1759...died 1835 in Wake County (NC), and married in 1780 Miss Mackey, who died in 1831." It appears that this information came originally from Mrs. J.C.L. Harris, Sr., nee: Florence Caroline U. (1850-1940)(XID 621), a great granddaughter of Nathan U. I. West in her book UPCHURCH FAMILY on page 79 reports "Apparently Mackey (Johnson) Upchurch, wife of Nathan had died before 1835 as she was not mentioned in his Will." West also states that Nathan served in the Revolution in 1780 and "He married Mackey Johnson during this same year." She does not state the source of this information. She does report that Nathan U. I purchased 150 acres of land on the waters of Moccasin Creek in Wake Co., NC from Julius Johnson (Wake Co., NC Deed Book H/84 recorded March Term of Court 1787). From this citation we have long hypothesized that Mackey Johnson was the daughter of Julius Johnson. The prospects that Nathan U. I married a Miss Mackey are enhanced by the fact that this couple named a daughter Mackey U. and a granddaughter was also named Mackey.

For the moment, this matter rests.

**(4)** Establishment of primary biofiles for several names or possible names encountered in an attempt to identify the name of the wife of Nathan Upchurch, I – Head of Clan.

Julius Johnson – is the primary biofile for the individual with whom Nathan Upchurch, I had interactions in the 1780 – 1800 era. His name is being cross-referenced as Julius Johnston and as Julian Johnson & Julian Johnston

Mackey Upchurch – is the primary biofile for the wife of Nathan Upchurch, I filed as Mackey Upchurch (Mrs). She being possibly nee Mackey Johnson, nee Mackey Johnston or nee Mackey Butler.

**Agatha Butler** is the primary biofile for the wife of Nathan Upchurch, I she being also known as Agatha Upchurch (Mrs).

**(5)** Will Book A – Franklin Co, NC 1785 – 1797, Page 34

(158) Will of JOHN BUTLER. To daughter Martha LINCH 4 pounds; to daughter Agathy UPCHURCH 4 pounds; to daughter Chloe BRASEL 4 pounds; to daughter Elizabeth Nancy UPCHURCH 4 pounds; to son Micajah BUTLER 4 pounds; to son Barnaba BUTLER "my gun". To son Micajah BUTLER feather bed and furniture. Sons Micajah and Barnaba BUTLER to inherit all lands(bounds described), Barnaba's share to be rented out until debts of the estate paid. Executors: Sons Micajah BUTLER and Barnaba BUTLER. His mark. Witnessed: Isaac ALFORD, Robert BUTLER. Undated.

John Butler

**Agatha (Butler)** Upchurch

**(6)** Copy for active file "Nathan's wife"

**Subject:** wife of Nathan Upchurch  
**From:** Margaret Harris <shadeofoaks@gmail.com>  
**Date:** Fri, Apr 24, 2015 6:34 pm  
**To:** Phil Upchurch <phil@upchurchstory.com>

Hi Phil - I have just read over the Nathan U. bio on your Allied Families web page. But I'm curious about your assertions for the name(s) of Nathan's wife(ves).

Please see Footnote #597 on page 415 of my book. It was you who first alerted me to the fact that one of your other correspondents had found a Franklin County will by John Butler wherein he named his daughter "Agathy Upchurch." I looked up the will and confirmed it. Then I found, on a microfilm at Meredith College, the old newspaper obituary from 1833 for "Mrs. Agatha Upchurch, wife of Nathan." So far, that is the only actual "evidence" I have seen about the possible identity of Nathan's wife.

I sincerely regret my failure to index my book. Among other shortcomings about its organization. I had set myself a deadline to get it into print that had more to do with my own age than with wrapping up more unfinished stories. Cognizant that every resolved mystery in genealogy only leads to additional mysteries, I feared walking into that metaphorical truck before completing *something* in a format with a chance of saving the summation of my work. I remain open to corrections and, indeed, appreciate them at any time. I will organize them as best I can as "addendums" in my files.

Meanwhile, I thought I had sent to you the two documents pertaining to Agatha/Agathy Upchurch. If I did not, please let me know, and I'll dig them out for you.....

Best,  
 peggy

—  
 Margaret Louise Harris  
 Please visit the website for my book:  
<http://intheshafoaks.com>

[Names included:

Nathan Upchurch  
CJM – 20 Sep 2020]

Agathy Upchurch

Agatha Upchurch

John Butler

(7) RPU undated entry

John Butler wrote a will showing **Agatha Butler** named an Upchurch. Her sister Elizabeth Thaney Butler (XID – 994) married James Upchurch (XID – 67).

(8) From: Abstracts of Vital Records form Raleigh, North Carolina Newspapers 1830 – 1839 Vol III Part 2, Page 457

6117 UPCHURCH: D. On the 19th ult., of cancer  
... Mrs. AGATHA UPCHURCH, wife of NATHAN  
UPCHURCH, of this county, in the 69th year  
of her age. ... -(Communicated). RaNCSw  
Fri 7 June 1833 3:5./

Note this Nathan Upchurch may or may not be Nathan Upchurch, Head of Clan and the Agatha Upchurch may or may not be **Agatha Butler**, daughter of John Butler. See Upchurch Bulletin Vol 17 No 3 (Jul 196) for an analysis of this situation.

(9) Per attachment #27 West letter 18 May 1975 – Accidentally encountered will Franklin Co, NC

“will not dated but one above was 1794 – Book A Page 158

John Butler – Legatees: daughter Mocha Lynch, Agathy Upchurch, Cleote Brasel, Elizabeth Thaney Upchurch, son Michael Butler, Barnaba Butler – land on Old Spring Branch, joining Robert Milton – Isaac Alford, Jurat; Robert Butler. Signed: John X Butler  
(See also Agathy Butler).