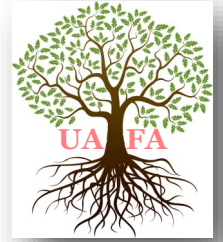


August 15, 2023

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



UAFA National Home Office | 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 120 | Cary, NC 27511-4594



FROM THE EDITOR

Hello Cousins!

I started this newsletter the latter half of July, and it was HOT, hence the desert theme. Can you guess what State is depicted? There are at least two giveaways within.

We have a classic "Phil Upchurch" article from the Upchurch Bulletin Archives to start us out. It's always great to hear from Dr. Phil! The entire collection of [UPCHURCH BULLETINS](#) (1980-2016) are available on our [website](#)!

At the present time UAFA is in need of funds to continue doing the work we have started. We have office expenses, insurance, legal and accounting fees, Internet fees, and many other expenses. Please send a contribution in any amount or become a member today!

Last but certainly not least, Jay Buck has announced some very important updates to our Online Webpage! Please read that announcement on page 4 of this issue.

Enjoy our last days of Summer!

Cindy Hale

Possible Cousins of Michael Upchurch, I in America in the 1600's

By R. Phillip Upchurch, PhD

From time-to-time one encounters in long-ago records and even in present day records names that look similar to UPCHURCH. Some of them (but not all) are UPCHER, UPSHIRE, UPSALL, UPSHAW, ACHURCH and UPSHUR. This article will address in particular the name UPSHUR. This is a well documented name in America and we shall address the matter of whether the colonial members of these two families were related. Readers of the UB and those interested in Upchurch heritage know well the story of how Michael U. I came to America from England in 1638. With rare exceptions, individuals in America with the family name Upchurch trace their family line back to Michael U. I.

Our efforts to explore the UPCHURCH/UPSHUR connection has been dilatory but has nevertheless spanned nearly twenty years. That odyssey is briefly recounted as follows:

By 1976 your editor had become well

acquainted with Mrs. George H. West, nee: Etta Belle Lewter, now deceased, author of the wonderful book UPCHURCH FAMILY. She had in her possession a book entitled UPSHUR FAMILY IN VIRGINIA by John Andrew Upshur, The Dietz Press, Inc., Richmond, VA, 1955. This book was borrowed on 28 DEC 1976, key passages extracted and returned to Etta Belle. This book tells the story of an important family in America which originated about 1637 when Arthur Upshur (Upcher) at age twelve came to the eastern shore of VA from Essex County, England. The book details the prominence of this family in America which can only be cited briefly here. Successive generations maintained impressive homes on the eastern shore, some of which have been maintained or restored in recent decades. In 1841, Abel Parker Upshur of this family became Secretary of the U. S. Navy, and then in 1843, Secretary of State. He was killed by an explosion on the battleship Princeton in 1844. Other family members were also prominent in public service. In this century one family member has played a major role in the res-

Continued on page 3

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	1
Possible Cousins of Michael Upchurch, I in America in the 1600's by R. Phillip Upchurch, PhD	1
UAFA News, Information and Links	2
Introduction to Genealogy Course!	2
NEWS! The Bio-Files are Back Up!	4

UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Dr. David Thomas Upchurch, GA
President

Woody H Yates, MBA, CPM - NC
Vice President

Debra Upchurch Heck, MO
Treasurer/Secretary

Carla Michaels, Cary, NC
Director

Nancy-Blair Upchurch Ariano, GA
Director

Staley C. Smith, Apex, NC
Director

Linda Upchurch Sparks, TN
Director

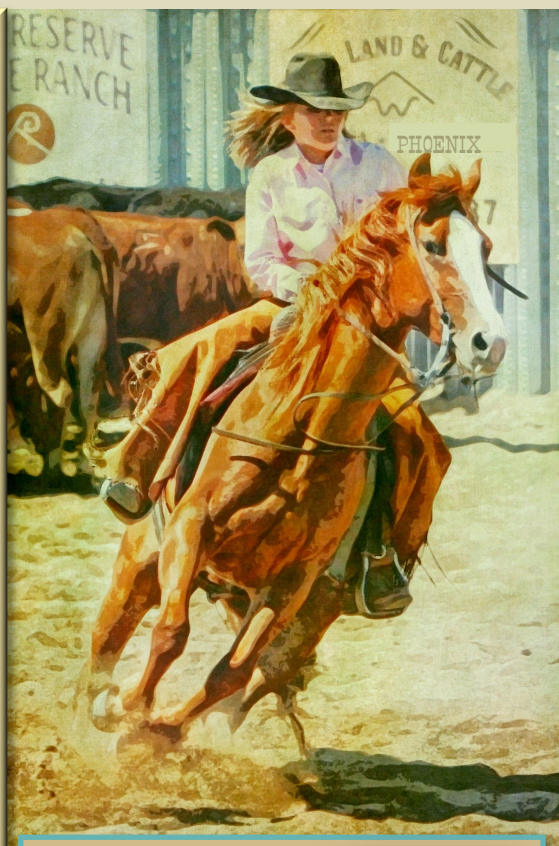
Michael R. Upchurch, Raleigh, NC
Director

Dr. Stephen Terry, NC
Director

Herbert Jackson "Jack" Upchurch, SC
Director

Jay C. Buck, Chesterfield, MO
Director

Board Member Resumes
[Click Here](#)



Over 35 videos featuring *Phil Upchurch* telling family stories, along with UAFA President, Dr. Tom Upchurch. These are available and FREE. Go to: <https://www.youtube.com>

After opening YouTube, enter "Upchurch and Allied Families" into the search box. This will open the UAFA channel and display the videos.



UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES LINKS

[UAFA—Home](#)

[Description of UAFA](#)

[Newsletter Archive](#)

[Join UAFA](#)

[Transcribed UAFA Biofiles](#)

[Board Member Resumes](#)

[Contact Form](#)

[Contribute](#)

Jay Buck, Office Manager
jay@alliedfamilies.org

Cindy Hale, Editor
UpchurchRoots@gmail.com

Brenda Carbon, DNA Project
Italia19@aol.com

Access to Upchurch Office/Library
in Cary, NC – Carla Michaels
cjm400@gmail.com

UAFA Tree Masters:

Upchurch Tree — Linda Upchurch Sparks
lusparks@eplus.net

Allied Family Tree —Dr. Steve Terry
sdterry@ncsu.edu



[Upchurch & Allied Families on Facebook](#)

UAFA: A resource for linking, preserving, and supporting family history.



Introduction to Genealogy Course!

About this course —If you're looking to learn more about your family history, you're in the right place! In this free online course you'll learn genealogy for beginners and gain a detailed understanding of how to kickstart your family history research. Each lesson will provide a step-by-step walkthrough of different topics in the world of genealogy. You'll learn firsthand from top experts, and once you complete the course you'll have all the tools you'll need to grow your family tree and make exciting discoveries about your ancestors. ***The entire Intro to Genealogy course is completely free of charge!!***

You'll learn firsthand from top experts, and once you complete the course you'll have all the tools you'll need to grow your family tree and make exciting discoveries about your ancestors. The entire Intro to Genealogy course is completely free of charge.

What will you learn?

How to build your family tree online

Researching your ancestors using historical records

Leveraging different technologies to grow your tree

Advantages of DNA testing for genealogy research

[Sign Up ►](#)



Possible Cousins of Michael Upchurch, I in America in the 1600's

Continued from Page 1

toration of historic Williamsburg, VA - the Colonial Capital. Counties in West Virginia and Texas were named UPSHUR in honor of this family. The book by John Andrews Upshur was chosen by The National Genealogical Association of America as the "best genealogy of 1955". The following six quotations from the 1955 book are relevant to our continuing interest

"About 1637 Arthur Upcher, a boy of Twelve, came to Virginia from Essex County, England. Perhaps his original home was Colchester or one of the nearby towns of Coggeshall, Socking, Dedham or Wormingford where Upchers were living at the time".

"of the Upcher Family in England there are numerous records indicating that by the beginning of the sixteenth century this name was generally spelled Upcher although earlier Essex records show many variations including Upchare, Upshire, Upshor, and others"..

"For many years following his immigration to Virginia Arthur Upcher's name appeared most frequently as Upshott, but his name ultimately became established as Upshur, a spelling to which his descendants have adhered". .

"The parentage of Arthur Upcher is at present unknown, however, no comprehensive search of the English records has been made". .

"Other members of the Upcher Family may have emigrated from England to America in the seventeenth century for early records furnish evidence that persons of similar name embarked for or were in the colonies at that period".

"Richard Upcott, age 26, took passage to Virginia from Gravesend, England, in June 1635. The New England Historical and Genealogical Reg-

ister, 3 (1849 184. Michael Upchurch is listed as an immigrant to Virginia in 1654. George Cabel Greer Early Virginia Immigrants 1623-1666 (Richmond 1912), 336. He was probably the same Michael Upchurch who was in Surry County, VA., as early as 1656. Surry County, VA., Court Records, Orders, Deeds, Wills, 1645-72, 1958". .

"Arthur Upshur I 1624-1709 born Essex Co., England and is buried at "Warwick" his last home near Quimby in Accomack Co. VA".

With the above information in hand a letter was dispatched to Mr. John Andrews Upshur on 3 JAN 1977 asking for his impression on the likelihood of the Upshur and Upchurch families being related. His handwritten note was dated 10 JAN 1976 and stated in part as follows: .

"I have done much research covering a period of over 55 years. A study of English church and probate records and books on English surnames - all indicate that the Upshur, Upcher, Upchurch, Upshaw, Upshear, etc., etc. are derivations of same family years ago. Afterall, it has only been in recent times that names were spelled other than phonetically - 99% plus of the people could not read or write and spelling and writing was left to the scribes. Even in the early Virginia Court records, one will find the name of the same person spelled three or more different ways in one paragraph".

In 1995 a second edition of UPSHUR FAMILY in VIRGINIA appeared and funds donated to the Upchurch Research Fund were used to purchase a copy. This second edition was dedicated to the author of the original edition who died in 1993. The second edition authors are Robert Irving Upshur and Thomas Teackle Upshur, IV.

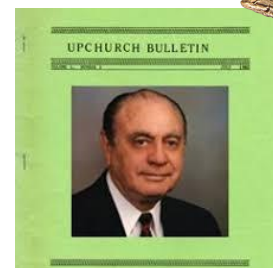
As a follow up, a letter to Eleanor Walton Upshur, the widow of John Andrews Upshur, brought a lovely reply and the addresses of the two authors who are brothers and also cousins of the original author. Subsequently on 12 SEP 1995, a

letter was dispatched to the new authors inviting comment on the possible relationship between the Upshur/Upchurch families and offering to "stay in touch".

Dr. Thomas T. Upshur, IV, on 29 OCT 1995, responded cordially to the request of 12 SEP 1995. In part he replied: .

"The relationship between the Upchurches and the Upshurs is something that I haven't been alerted to until your interesting letter came while I was overseas. It is certainly possible. ---- we would be happy to find an Upchurch relationship if one existed".

For anyone who would wish to pursue the linkage of the numerous groups who went by Upchurch and related names in England in eras before 1650, additional details can be brought to the fore. One understands that this research is difficult from several standpoints. Over time we trust progress will be made. For the present, we are pleased to know that Upchurch family lines parallel to the one established by our ancestor Michael U. I, started unfolding in the early years in America. The Upshur family has a long and illustrious history. We would be honored to have our potential kin to the Upshur family further documented.



Dr. Phil Upchurch, founder of Upchurch and Allied Families, was editor of the Upchurch Bulletin between 1980-2016. This article appeared in Vol. 16 No. 4 October 1995. "Reference Materials"—Page 146.



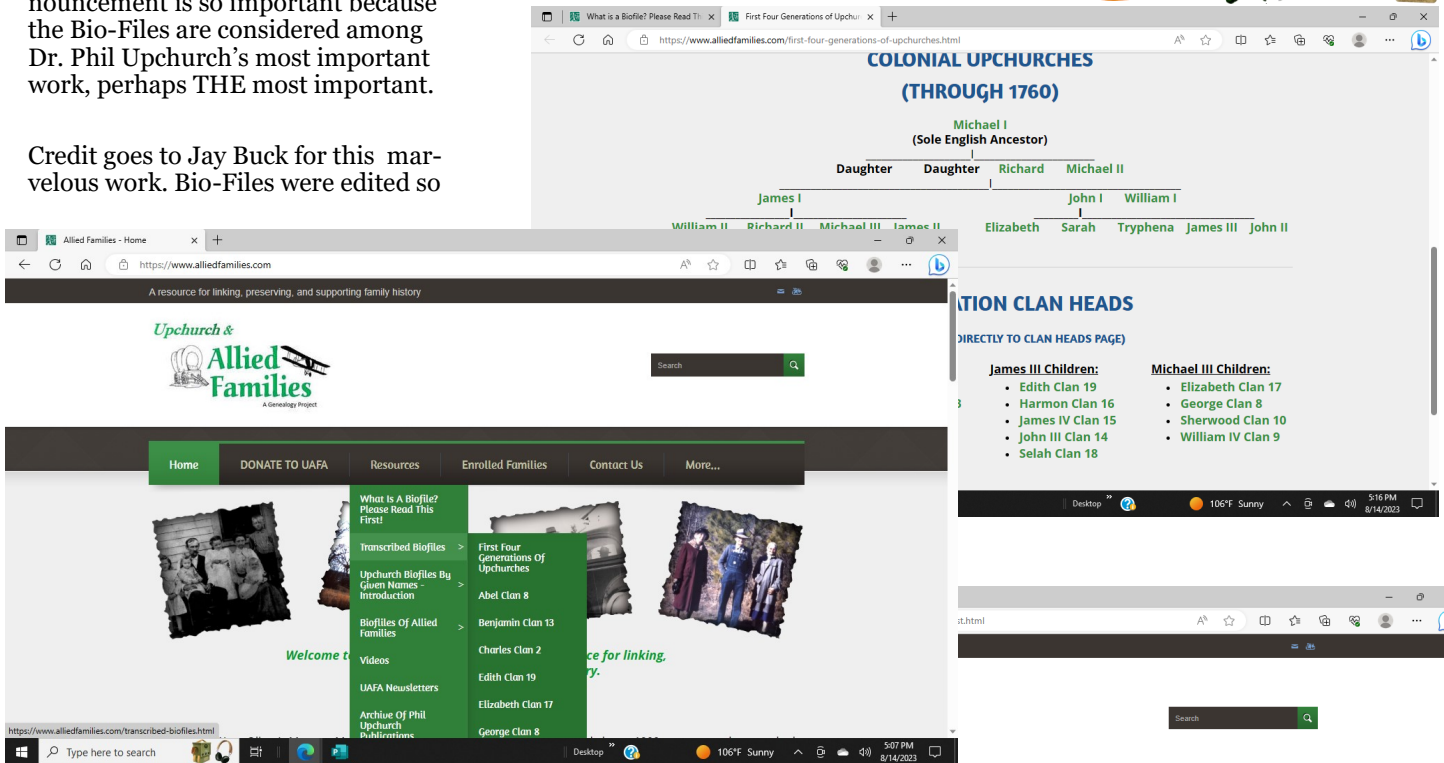
The Bio-Files are Back Up!!

Jay has also compiled an index to our newsletters for the past four years—since I took over as Editor! You may locate this new index on the same page you find the Newsletters. Jay has indexed all the stories, people, places and authors and now everything is easy to find using the index. If anyone notices any glaring errors, please contact jay@alliedfamilies.org

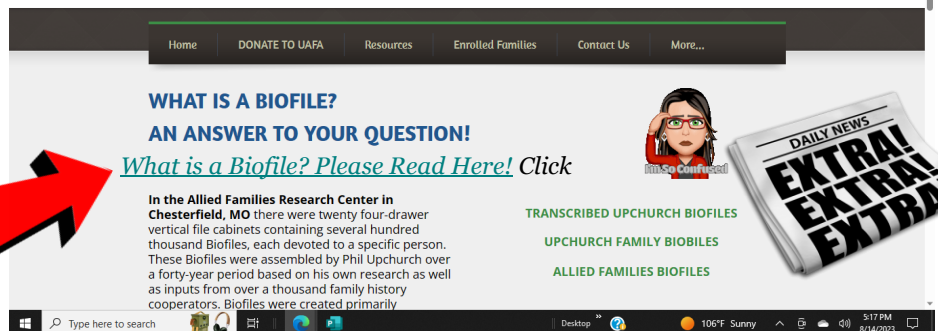
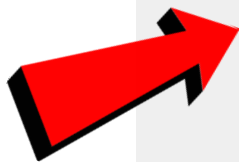


Once more Jay Buck has come to our rescue. All of the Bio-Files (including Upchurch and also Allied Families) are once again accessible via our UAFA Website! This announcement is so important because the Bio-Files are considered among Dr. Phil Upchurch's most important work, perhaps THE most important.

Credit goes to Jay Buck for this marvelous work. Bio-Files were edited so



that any personal information would not appear—such as the age of a living person. Most of these redactions were done on the Allied Bio-Files since so many of those included living persons.



**BREAKING
NEWS**

...IMPORTANT UPDATES FOR UAFA...