

# UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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



## FROM THE EDITOR

**T**he Harnett County Preservation Group is a passionate group of volunteers whose goal is to restore, preserve, document and protect local abandoned cemeteries. Our distinguished director and office manager, Jay Buck brought this fine group to my attention.

What does it mean to "restore" a cemetery?

Raking years of leaf debris  
Trimming tree branches  
Pulling roots and vines  
Cutting leaning or fallen trees  
Leveling the base of leaning or fallen headstones  
Raising fallen stones  
Raising sunken head and ft. stones  
Delicately cleaning stones (D/2 Biological Solution)  
Maintaining weed control  
Document GPS coordinates for each grave (findagrave.com)  
Research the lives of those interred, while encouraging an interest in our shared history and genealogy for future generations.

Video: <https://youtu.be/SeiY5byDVVI?si=eMinObNOEECDZ8>

[www.harnettccp.com](http://www.harnettccp.com)

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## A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS and Happy New Year!

### William Upchurch Named CALS Distinguished Alumnus

When it comes to North Carolina agriculture, it's fair to say that the multifaceted William Burtis Upchurch, Jr. of North Carolina State College of Agriculture and Life Sciences, (2023 CALS Distinguished Alumni Award winner) has been there, done that and has the T-shirt. Fittingly, he was wearing an FFA convention T-shirt recently as he recounted how he came to NC State.

Growing up on the family farm in Cary, Upchurch didn't plan to go to college, but two things changed his mind. To make sure he understood the hard work that farming involved, his dad assigned him the toughest jobs on



*William Burtis Upchurch, Jr. with his family. They are, from left, older son Zachary; wife Amanda (Fountain), who earned a doctorate as a nurse practitioner; and son Will.*

the farm. Meanwhile, he was active in FFA, culminating in his election as state FFA vice president.

"If it hadn't been for the hard, long tobacco rows and for the opportunities that FFA gave me, I may have just tried to stay on the farm, which — fast forward with the changes the industry has seen over the years — wouldn't have been a good long-term game plan for me."

Upchurch's NC State experiences helped set him on a path toward his current role as executive director

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## UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION

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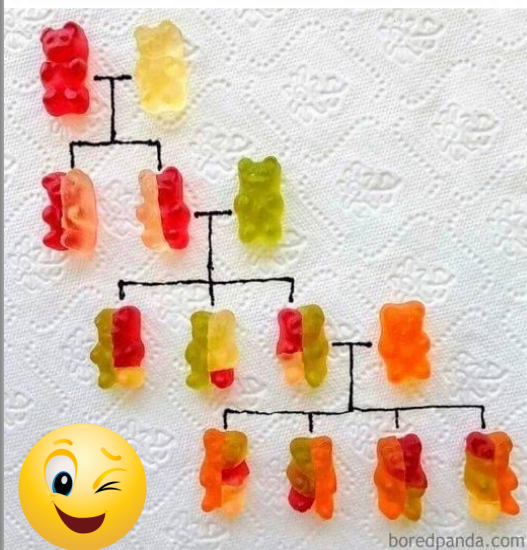
### BOARD MEMBER RESUMES

*Upchurch &*



Check out our great links →  
UAFA is a great research resource! Thank you for your support. It's a good time to renew your membership or become a member of UAFA! Thank You!

**Friend:** you can't make genetics easy to understand in just one image  
**Me:**



### UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES LINKS

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Allied Family Tree — Dr. Steve Terry  
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[Upchurch & Allied Families on Facebook](#)

There are 3 Cemeteries in Harnett County, North Carolina, serving a population of 128,753 people in an area of 595 square miles. There is 1 Cemetery per 42,918 people, and 1 Cemetery per 198 square miles

In North Carolina, Harnett County is ranked 69th of 100 counties in Cemeteries per capita, and 50th of 100 counties in Cemeteries per square mile.

Now to everyone connected to UAFA, you are wished a very Merry Christmas and a Happy and Prosperous New Year!

*Cindy Hale*







## UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION

### *DID YOU KNOW ??*

**UAFA has launched A CHALLENGE MATCH FUNDRAISING CAMPAIGN to celebrate its 10th Anniversary on October 10, 2023!**

***Help us continue to preserve our collective family history now! These are the stories of families that embody the American experience! They are a priceless gift to the future!***



Today, in honor of our 10th Anniversary, we are asking you to please consider making a generous gift in support of the UAFA 2023 Challenge Match Fundraising Campaign. But wait, the news gets better!

We are excited to announce that YOUR gift will be DOUBLED! Yes! Your gift of any amount will be matched, dollar-for-dollar, up to \$15,000! This is a special opportunity for you to have the impact of

your gift doubled!

We sincerely appreciate your support to make the most of our generous donors' pledges to double your impact on the work of UAFA.

Gratefully, for the cause,

*Woody*

Woody Yates  
UAFA Vice President



#### **Dear UAFA Supporter –**

UAFA, with your financial support, continues to build an impressive track record of digitizing the amazing work of Dr. Phil Upchurch, our founder, along with an incredible new body of work under the inspiring leadership of Dr. Tom Upchurch, documenting and preserving (your) family history including:

- ✓ Upchurch and Allied Families Trees in Ancestry.com—The names and genealogy of 196,974 UAFA ancestors along with 640,000 supporting documents
- ✓ Alliedfamilies.com webpage—Digital copies of thousands of pages of original genealogy research by Dr. Phil Upchurch and much more
- ✓ Upchurch Stories on YouTube – Thirty-four 10 to 14 minute videos featuring our master storyteller, Dr. Phil Upchurch
- ✓ The UAFA Newsletter – Published monthly for many years. The January and July editions are 20 or more pages, some include reports of original research.
- ✓ Social media – Our UAFA Facebook continues to grow with around 400 active members.
- ✓ The UAFA Library – A comfortable work space for UAFA, DAR and other volunteers and archive for hundreds of books and other paper-based genealogy-related material.



This preservation work involves hundreds of hours of detailed research, linking and supporting family history, and has been made possible due to your continued generosity, thereby inspiring others to support the mission of UAFA. Through wise stewardship, UAFA has stretched available resources and minimized expenses to the greatest extent possible – but, we still have basic operational expenses that must be covered to continue the mission.

**To contribute to UAFA use any of the modes noted below. You can choose to give to the UAFA Endowment, the UAFA Operating Fund or both. Please let us know your preference. UAFA is a 501(c) 3 non-profit organization.**

**Until January 13, 2024, contributions will be matched 1:1 for up to \$15,000.**

**1) Send check to UAFA, PO Box 3856, Chesterfield, MO 63006**

**2) Pay online using a credit card or PayPal: go to [alliedfamilies.com](http://alliedfamilies.com) then select “donate to UAFA”**

**3) For questions contact Jay Buck, UAFA Office Manager. Email-- [jay@alliedfamilies.org](mailto:jay@alliedfamilies.org) Phone -- 636-346-9165**

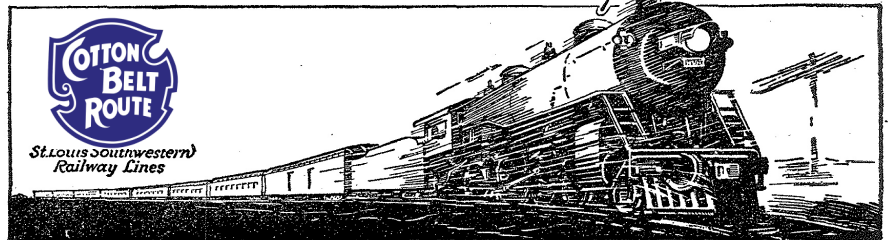




# Unchurches in the News

Compiled by Jay Buck

*A Fine, Fast Train!*



## Ladies Auxiliary Elect Officers.

At the annual election of the Ladies' Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen held on Saturday afternoon at the K. P. hall the following officers were elected to serve the ensuing year: Mrs. Mamie Wilson, president; Mrs. Mary Kilmer, vice president; Mrs. Maude Ratliff, past president.

Mrs. Lola Upchurch, secretary; Mrs. Blanche Merlo, treasurer; Mrs. Nettie Blankenship, collector; Mrs. Delia Gray, warden; Mrs. Nellie Pearce, conductor. Mrs. Rachel Linton, chaplain. and Mrs. Pearl Cooper and Mrs. Bonnie Davis, guards.

In 1922 Lola Upchurch, nee Lyon, was elected secretary of the Ladies Auxiliary of the Brotherhood of Locomotive Firemen and Enginemen. She was married to Arthur Weaver Upchurch, a descendant of Nathan Upchurch, the head of Upchurch clan #16. Lola's husband was life-long fireman employed with the Cotton Belt Railroad in Pine Bluff, AR.



## William Upchurch Named CALS Distinguished Alumnus continued from page 1

of the North Carolina Tobacco Trust Fund Commission (NCTTFC). Since 2001, the commission has invested more than \$114 million in projects that impact farmers, train new agricultural leaders, and support crop research and extension programming. Firsthand knowledge of tobacco production informed his work in helping farmers adapt to seismic changes in the industry, as well as making adjustments on the family farm.

As a teenager in rural Wake County, Upchurch served as a member of the fire department, eventually obtaining captain and later, as a member of the

Apex Rescue Squad. In college, working part-time for Wake EMS in Raleigh, he enrolled in paramedic school at Nash Community College in Rocky Mount.

"Lo and behold, my future wife, Amanda, who was riding with Clayton EMS, decided to sign up for the same class. Mutual friends at a rescue squad down in Garner said, 'Why don't we meet here in Garner and we'll ride together to class?'" The carpool and class time led to their becoming a couple.

Upchurch is proud of his tenure as member and past president of

the CALS Alumni and Friends Society Board. "I wouldn't have traded the time for anything," he says.

He has served on numerous state and local boards, putting into practice his life advice for current students: "Study hard, work hard, pay attention to the details and never close any doors."

William Burtis Upchurch, II and his family descend from the Nathan Clan.

For more information: [An Open-Door Approach to Agriculture: William Upchurch Named CALS Distinguished Alumnus \(ncsu.edu\)](https://www.ncsu.edu)