

February 14, 2024

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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



♥HAPPY Valentine's DAY♥

FROM THE EDITOR

Last month we showcased a story about Frances, wife of Michael Upchurch as a possible Delke. This version of the story disputes the former with its own proof, a later version by Robert "Phil" Upchurch.

Notice there is a Save-the-Date message in **UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION** for UAFA's Open House June 22, 2024.

Of special interest to my Clan 14 kin, is Jay's column **Upchurches in the News**. John Wesley and Sarah HAPPY Shaw Upchurch are my 3rd great grandparents and directly related to you if you are kin to the group **Upchurch Extended Family** on Facebook.

Volunteers are needed! Let this be the year you volunteer for UAFA! There are several kinds of coordinator or leadership roles available at UAFA! Whether it be transcribing biofiles, working on the Upchurch Tree on Ancestry or something different. UAFA realizes, for our cause to advance and flourish, everyone who volunteers needs to be able to use their own special skill-sets and enjoy their contribution. Let us hear from you if you have a special skill to offer UAFA!

Cindy Hale

Michael Upchurch I and His Wife

By Robert "Phil" Upchurch, PhD

In volumes 8 and 9 (1987 and 1988) of the Upchurch Bulletin, details on Michael Upchurch I were published along with commentary. This included the speculation that the "Frances" whom Michael Upchurch, I, married was Frances Delke, the daughter of Roger Delke. The continuing work of our Cousin Cleora Maxine (Beard) Gill has led us to understand that current Delk(e) family members have delved into Delke history of the Colonial era. This has led to several exchanges, the key letter being as follows:

"March 10, 1991
V. Randolph Delk, Esq.
Attorney At Law
P. O. Box 221107
El Paso, Texas 79913

Dear Randolph:
Many thanks for the 34 page document "Some Descendants of Roger Delk I". I have read this with much interest because of related Upchurch history. Michael Upchurch I, b. 1620 (England) came to Virginia about

1649 as the first Upchurch to come to America. He was in Surry County, VA, and was closely associated with the Delk (Delke) family as shown by several documented references.

One of our best Upchurch researchers, the late Belle Lewter West, concluded that Frances, the wife of Michael Upchurch I, whom he married about 1650-1652 in VA, was possibly the daughter of Roger Delke. This was pure conjecture on her part. Now that I have read your 34 page document I see that Roger Delk I, had only one son and no daughters. Roger Delke II could not have produced a daughter old enough to have married 1650-1652. Unless more evidence can be found I will conclude that it is not reasonable to presume that the wife of Michael Upchurch I was, nee: Frances Delk(e). However, the close proximity of the Upchurch and Delk(e) families in VA in the 1600's and 1700's should cause us to be constantly alert for evidence

Continued on Page 4

IN THIS ISSUE

From the Editor	1
Michael Upchurch I and His Wife By Phil Upchurch PhD	1
UAFA News, Information and Links	2
A Romance By R. "Phil" Upchurch PhD	3
2023 Year End Report from Linda Upchurch Sparks	3
Upchurches in the News By Jay Buck	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



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!



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.buck@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 OPEN HOUSE

June 22, 2024

1130 Kildaire Farm
Road, Suite 120 | Cary,
NC 27511-4594

Time to be determined

Save the Date!



Mike Upchurch, Nancy Saul, Carla Michaels & Woody Yates



A Romance By R. “Phil” Upchurch, PhD.

Dr Phil wrote copiously about the family. Very seldom did he write anything about “romantic” liaisons, this is as close as I could find within the UPCHURCH BULLETINS archive.
-Editor

CHAPTER XXIV “A ROMANCE”

Some one, after reading the manuscript of our book said: “Very interesting, but one thing it lacks. A romance.”

Now this book is the story of a Mother, one of her sons and three daughters, and their children, ranging in age from twelve years down to two.

But wait a minute! Let's look over that page of description of our caravan personnel. Here we find Miss Annie Smiley, sister of Brother Virgil's wife. She almost had to go with her sister, as their parents were dead and she could not stay be herself.

She was a pretty, sweet little blond of eighteen years of age. And Mr. Tip Hall was a handsome brunette twenty-four years old. Now can you read anything between those lines? But, let's just wonder about it - don't tell anyone! Wonder how he came to be such a 'good friend of the family' as to want to take all his belongings, the nice roll of greenbacks that he had, made on a rented farm, and a fine horse, good under saddle, in harness or pulling a plow. We WONDER.

We WONDER, too, why Annie Smiley was so industriously piecing pretty quilts and making pretty home-made rugs. We W-O-N-D-E-R! Her sister didn't need them; she had plenty of her own.

After they arrived in Texas, they could “take up a claim” of sixty acres of rich prairie land, by building a small house on it and living in it a

year. Many did this, building two rooms with a wide hallway between them, a porch in front, the width of the house, and a lean-to in the back, which served as kitchen and dining room. This gave them a good title to sixty acres of very rich land. Of this sixty acres of land, fifteen would be enough for a home plot, garden, yard and orchard. The other forty-five acres could be planted in trees for firewood. Pecans grown there were the finest in the South, which in itself is a fine money crop. It would also produce fine peaches for home use and canning.

I wish I could have followed this young couple further, but they - with Brother Virgil's widow - went into a distant county.

Brother Virgil's widow married again, a vastly different sort of man. She died soon after her second marriage, and I had a few letters from her oldest daughter. I imagine she either married or went to live with Annie, her aunt.

THE END



2023 Year END REPORT FROM LINDA UPCHURCH SPARKS

A big thank you to all who have been working on the Upchurch trees this year. Over 12,000 family members have been added to the trees this year! The complete report is available.

The **2024 American Upchurch Index Tree** is also ready for your use. It has over 140,000 people in it with links to the individual Clan trees. Those of you who accepted your invitation to last year's tree will automatically receive an invitation to the new tree. If any of you who don't receive the automatic invitation would like to have one, all you have to do is ask. It will be guest access only, but will include the ability to view living people.

Thank you for your continued interest in improving our family trees. Without volunteers none of this would be possible.

Have a blessed 2024!

Linda

lusparks@eplus.net

CLAN	TREE MASTER	1/1/2024	Change	Total Change
Photos/Stories		28521	799	9680
Records		329637	11731	136773
Total in Upchurch trees		150038	4079	74768

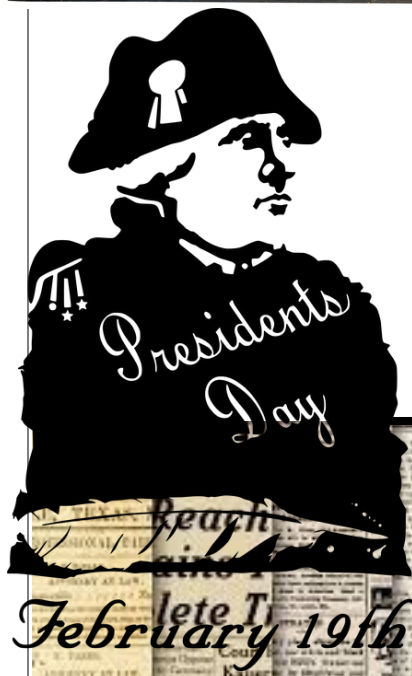
Just the bottom line, but the full report is available. Contact Linda if you would like an email copy in .pdf format. -Editor



Unchurches in the News

By Jay Buck

This month's story involves G. W. Upchurch of Wilkes County, NC. G.W. was born in 1849 in Surry County NC to John Wesley and Sarah HAPPY Shaw Upchurch. G.W. was a member of Upchurch Clan 14, headed up by John Upchurch III. G.W. was a carpenter by trade in addition to his role as Justice of the Peace for this section of Wilkes County. I could not honor Valentine's Day by finding a news story on George Valentine Upchurch of Franklin County, Illinois. But we can acknowledge Presidents Day, by featuring G.W. Upchurch. And now everyone knows what the initials G.W. stand for in his name.



Married and Separated Immediately.

Last Friday a couple appeared at the temple on the corner before Justice of Peace G. W. Upchurch, having secretly plighted their troth and requested that such lawful words of love be spoken as to secure them in the bonds of matrimony. A few friends and neighbors within the shadows of the temple appeared also with and without invitation to become legal witnesses to the matter there coming up from the county of Ashe—among whom were Messrs. W. T. Cranor, J. E. McLean and T. Y. Brown—when Miss Effie Jenkins and Mr. H. M. Darnell, both of Ashe county, were married to each other. The bride is a daughter of Mr. Vance and Mrs. Jenkins. Immediately after the ceremony the bride and bridegroom parted, the bride taking the train for Elkin, and the bridegroom boarding his covered wagon for Ashe returning home.

Michael Upchurch I and His Wife *Continued from page 1*

of interactions between the two families. We need to make the best possible use of each piece of information available to us from this era. Please accept my deep appreciation for your interest in our related family histories. I hope we will be able to help each other some more as time goes by.

Our conclusion is that we must continue to search for the family name of the wife of Michael Upchurch I. Perhaps, we shall never know. In spite of the above new information, she could still somehow turn out to be a Delk(e). Only time will tell.



Sincerely yours,
Robert P. Upchurch, Editor
UPCHURCH BULLETIN

