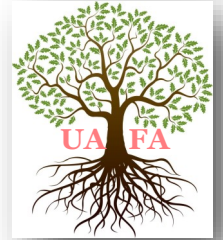


February 15, 2023

# UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



UAFA National Home Office |



## FROM THE EDITOR

An announcement by email to Associate Tree Master volunteers about the 2023 synchronization with our American Upchurch Index Tree and report update was made by Linda Upchurch Sparks, Tree Master Coordinator and head of the **American Upchurch Index Tree** on Ancestry! See page 4.

A message from UAFA President Dr. Tom Upchurch noted that we try to link anyone we discuss in the UAFA newsletter with our family tree. He wrote-

*We were successful in the last bulletin except for **Clinton R Upchurch**, the young man who died while serving in Iraq. I suspected that he was from the Harmon clan but couldn't find the link back.*

So we asked Teresa Lynn Churchill who solved the problem in less than 2 hours. 🙌

Thanks to her work we discovered an interesting coincidence: we published a nice article by Mae about her great grandfather Charles Wesley Upchurch in the same bulletin. It turns out that Clinton's ggreat grandfather was the same man, **Charles Wesley Upchurch**. Clinton is descended from Charles Wesley's son John Jackson U. and Mae is descended from John Jackson's little sister Mary May Upchurch.

This information and much more has been added to the Harmon Upchurch tree in ancestry thanks to work by everyone. Very nice!

Thank you.  
Tom Upchurch

*Cindy Hale*

*Shull's Mill was a small farming community and stopping place on the toll road from Valle Crucis to Blowing Rock, North Carolina. In July 1916, during the worst flood in North Carolina history, my mother came into this world.*

Our grandparents, Wm Brady Norman **Upchurch** and Dora Jane Church Upchurch were tenant farmers and thought Schull's Mill would be a nice place to raise a family. My mother, Virginia Dare U. was 5th of 8 children and born in the midst of the most turbulent weather, still to this date in Western NC. She was delivered by a midwife—my great grandmother, Fanny Norman.



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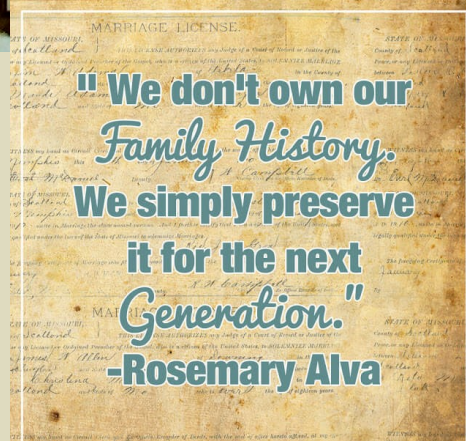
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### *My Family*

My family is the world to me  
My family is a lovely tree

A tree with many branches, a tree that will take many chances

A tree of hope; that will always be my support  
A tree that will disagree, but always remain a family  
A tree that will grow stronger as the years grow longer

I will always be a part of that family tree  
Until I see the limbs break free  
A family that prays together will stay together

My family will be by my side as I take big strides  
My family will be there when no one else cares  
Thank God for my family, for without them, we are twigs standing alone.

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## The Great Flood of 1916

Continued from Page 1

### *A 1917 Southern Railway publication reports of the 1916 flood:*

The run-off from the saturated soil was very rapid, streams rose high above all previous flood records; resulting in the death of about 80 persons and in property damage estimated by the United States Weather Bureau at about 22 million dollars."

Details of fatalities and property damage slowly made their way out of isolated communities. In a neighboring community of Marshall, 53 houses were reported washed away in the narrow valley where the town lies. There, five hundred excursionists from Knoxville found themselves marooned with only one railway bridge left standing in the entire county. The National Weather Bureau recorded 22.22 inches of rainfall in one day at Altapass near Grandfather Mountain.

At the time it was the greatest 24-hour precipitation total ever recorded in the United States. Enormous volumes of water fell over an area of hundreds of square miles and subsequently rushed down the mountain sides and into the rivers, carrying destruction in its path.

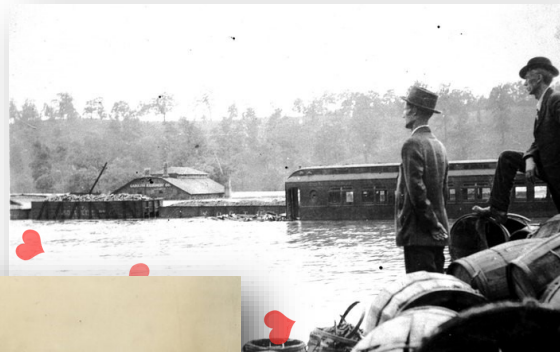
### *This Is What North Carolina Looked Like 100 Years Ago... It May Surprise You*

Long before meteorologists could predict the weather's every move, and a simple broadcast let us know of upcoming storms, a deadly, torrential flood struck Western North Carolina. It rained for two weeks straight, with the second week bringing more torrential downpours. Locals tried to escape, but many found themselves in water up to their neck as dams broke and rivers overflowed into towns.

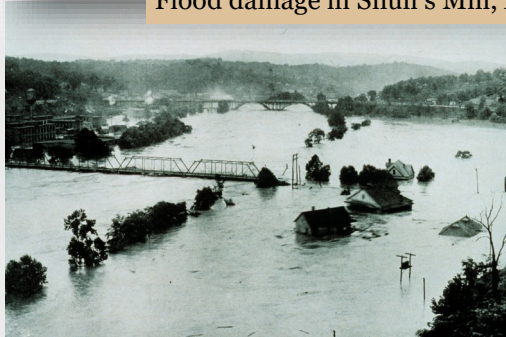
In July of 1916, two category 4 hurricanes swept over North Carolina, causing additional downpours. The first storm caused over 13 inches of rain in just 24 hours to Catawba County. The Catawba River rose 47 ft. and every single bridge was wiped out except one.

Telephone and telegraph lines were severed, North Carolina citizens were essentially stranded amidst growing flood waters.

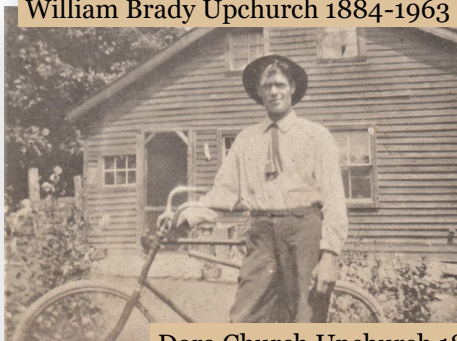
Many found themselves immediately dis-



Flood damage in Shull's Mill, NC



William Brady Upchurch 1884-1963



Dora Church Upchurch 1889-1945 and her sister. Below L and R



Ruby and Dewey Upchurch 1916



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## The Great Flood of 1916

*Continued from Page 3*

placed. The spaces they once called home, vanished beneath the rushing water.

Mills along the Catawba Riverway were destroyed. Thirteen people died when a double-track railway over a river between Charlotte and Gastonia gave way. It seems no one could escape the damage the great flood of 1916 caused.

Over time, the residents recovered, new buildings and railways were rebuilt, but there is truly nothing like the devastating flood of 1916 in North Carolina.



Virginia Dare Upchurch 1916-1996  
(Above 1919 and below about 1932)

### **This family descends from John III Upchurch Clan**

Sanford Upchurch + Fanny Norman  
1860-1933      1861-1911  
Wm Brady Upchurch + Dora Church  
1884-1963      1889-1945

Carl Ernest U. 1905-1974  
"Jack" Carnel Edward U. 1907-1979  
Dewey Arthur U. 1909-1992  
Ruby Cleo U. 1911-2004

**Virginia "Gini" Dare U. 1916-1996**  
Arcillas Sydney Dennis U. 1919-2005  
Helen Elizabeth U. 1922-1991  
Erma Jean U. 1929-1987



### **Remembering the Great Flood of 1916**

**COME HELL OR HIGH WATER**

Click here



For more information and  
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[Great Flood of 1916 - Save Culture](#)

[Come Hell or High Water Movie/Film](#)

## Message from UAFA Tree Master Coordinator Linda Upchurch Sparks

### **Happy New Year to you**

**all!** I hope 2023 has gotten off to a great start for everyone.

The 2023 American Upchurch Index Tree has been finished and is ready for public viewing. Here's a quick link if you'd like to check it out. <https://www.ancestry.com/family-tree/tree/187444495/family?cfpid=232452824005>.

Each of you who accepted the invitation to the 2022 Index will automatically be issued an invitation to the new Index. It will be Guest access only, but will in-

clude the ability to see living people. If anyone doesn't receive the automatic invitation and would like one, all you have to do is ask. And just to remind you, the 2022 Index will be retired in a few days.

The 2023 Index has 129,143 people in it—that's almost 10,000 more than it had in 2022! In addition to the increase in size, there should be numerous additional people visible in the public tree since there have been several people working the Find-A-Grave hints to update death dates. All of this is thanks to the hard work of those who are so willing to give their time and attention to these trees. That es-

pecially includes Carla Michaels, Brenda Carbon, Judy Rysdon and Judy Newman. Those ladies are not even members of this large Upchurch family (that I know of), but they meet regularly at our Cary office and give their time nonetheless to improving our trees.

A big THANK YOU to all who have contributed to a great 2022 for UAFA.

*Linda Upchurch Sparks*

UAFA Tree Master Coordinator—  
Upchurch Trees

Email: [lusparks@eplus.net](mailto:lusparks@eplus.net)