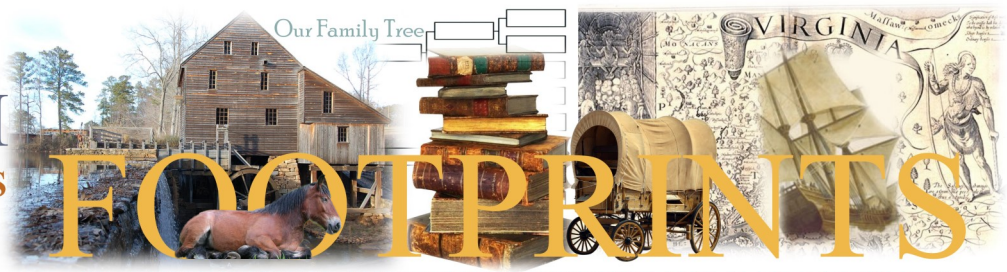
UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOCIATION



FOOTPRINTS

"THE MIGRATION OF AMERICAN UPCHURCH'S AND ALLIED FAMILIES"

UAFA National Home Office | 1130 Kildaire Farm Road, Suite 120 | Cary, NC 27511-4594
Founded by Robert Phillip "Phil" Upchurch, PhD
January 15, 2026

EDITOR'S DESK

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Send me stuff! I need ideas for future newsletters, stories, family tales, photos and such!

Also, please help keep 40 plus years of Upchurch Family History research free and available to all.

Volunteers at Upchurch and Allied Families have continued to provide additional resources such as access to family trees, Phil Upchurch's genealogical and biographical records, UAFA newsletters, videos, and more. Please consider making a one-time or recurring donation by clicking on the following link. Thank you from everyone at Upchurch and Allied Families!
https://www.alliedfamilies.com/donate-to-uafa.html

Click here if you haven't looked at Upchurch and Family Association recently, on Facebook—please take a look! There are many very interesting posts to revue!

Valentine's Day is Coming!

Cindy Hale

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

THANK YOU FOR YOUR SUPPORT

UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION

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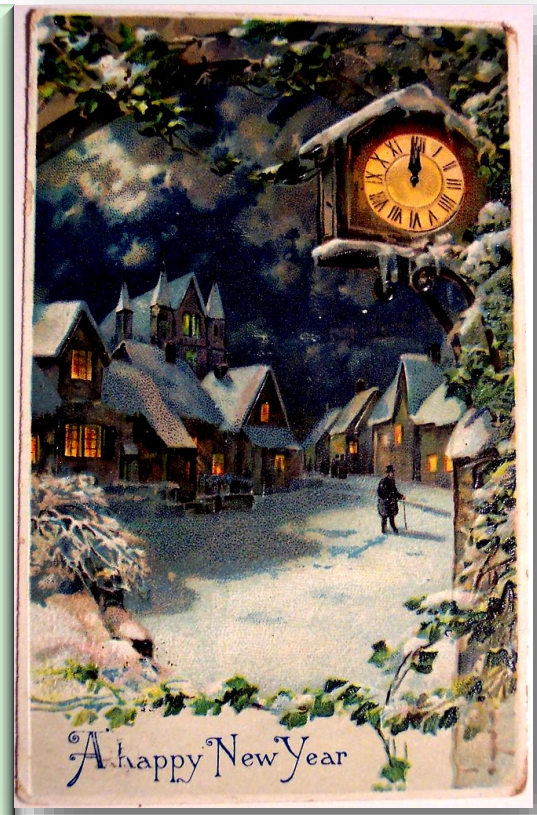

Upchurch & Allied Families
A Genealogy Project

A lifelong Cary resident with deep local roots, ***Carla Michaels*** embodies passion for preserving the town's rich history. Her ancestors helped shape Cary centuries ago, and today she continues that legacy through her tireless dedication to historical research and education. As a board member of the Friends of the Page-Walker and a volunteer with the Upchurch and Allied Families, Michaels has spent countless hours uncovering, documenting, and sharing the stories of Cary's early citizens, landmarks, and cemeteries. Whether leading walking tours dressed as an early 1900s schoolteacher, presenting at lectures, or contributing to local media and town projects like CARY at 150, Michaels brings Cary's past to life for all ages. Her advocacy for historic preservation has been instrumental in efforts to protect landmarks such as the Nancy Jones House and Ivey-

Continued

The 2025 Hometown Spirit Award Winner

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES LINKS

UAFA—Home

Description of UAFA

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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

Ellington House, as well as to honor veterans and forgotten historical figures. As a leader in the Daughters of the American Revolution Asbury Station Chapter, she furthers initiatives supporting education, patriotism, and preservation. Known for her warmth, generosity, and humility, Michaels uplifts her community through service, storytelling, and an unwavering devotion to the Cary way of life.

Unchurches in the News

Compiled by Jay Buck

Jay Buck would like to thank one of our readers Carl Smith, and now a new member of Upchurch and Allied Families, for the following contribution to Upchurches in the News.

On May 24, 1917, the *Carroll (GA) Free Press* printed a memorial to Mary Elizabeth (Burnett) Neal who passed away at the age of 93. Mary was the daughter and only child of Valentine (Vollie) and Mildred Upchurch Burnett. She was, in turn, the granddaughter of Sherwood Upchurch and his wife Elizabeth Tomberlinson. Sherwood was the head of Upchurch Clan #10.

It appears that Sherwood, his son-in-law, Vollie and granddaughter Mary Elizabeth, and other family members, all migrated from Rutherford County, NC to Carroll County, GA.

Once again, as our founder Phil Upchurch loved to point out, the history and growth of America is reflected in the lives of the Upchurch family.

More information about Sherwood and his children and grandchildren can be found on our website.

Thank you Jay

She leaves one son, Brother J. T. Neal, and one daughter, Mrs. Laurah Attaway, of Newson, Texas. She also had one son who died when a boy several years ago, besides the immediate family, and a host of friends to mourn her departure. She leaves four brothers and six sisters, or rather half brothers and sisters. Her brothers are W. C. Burnett, Winston, Ga.; J. W. Burnett, Roopville; J. A. Burnett, Carrollton; Dr. G. W. Burnett, Whitesburg. Her sisters are Mrs. Francis Pentecost, Roopville; Mrs. Martha Camp, Whitesburg; Mrs. Elisha Camp, Key, Ala.; Mrs. Emily Brown, Birmingham, Ala.; Mrs. Julia Neal, Rule, Texas; Mrs. Lena Story, Arcada, La.

Sister Neal was a good mother, a kind friend, and a loving wife, and while our hearts are bowed down with sorrow at the thought of her being gone, we have a consolation that we can meet her in the home above.

It was her reuest some time before her death that her funeral be preached at the church some time after her burial, so her funeral was preached at Mt. Zion Baptist church by her pastor, Rev. D. W. Carter, on the first Sunday in May.

Her remains rest in the family cemetery near the residence where she lived so long, there to await the morning of the resurrection.

Therefore be it, Resolved, First, That we extend to the family and other relatives our deepest sympathy.

Second, That a copy of this be furnished the Carroll Free Press and the Carroll County Times and the Douglas County Sentinel for publication.

Read and adopted by the church in conference May 6th, 1917.

J. N. Morris,
Mrs. J. N. Morris,
Mrs. Mary Capes,
Mrs. Louvenia Morris,
Committee.

IN MEMORIAM

Again the Death Angel has visited our number and taken from our midst our much beloved sister, Mary E Neal, who departed this life March 24th, 1917. Sister Neal was born in Rutherford county, North Carolina, January 15th, 1824, living to the good old age of 93 years, 2 months and 9 days. She was the oldest daughter of Vollie Burnett, a pioneer citizen of this section, having moved to this conuty from North Carolina years ago.

Sister Neal's mother having died when she was an infant, her grandmother, Mrs. Upchurch, took charge of her and raised her. She came to this county when about 20 years of age to visit her father, who had preceded her a few years before; he having married again.

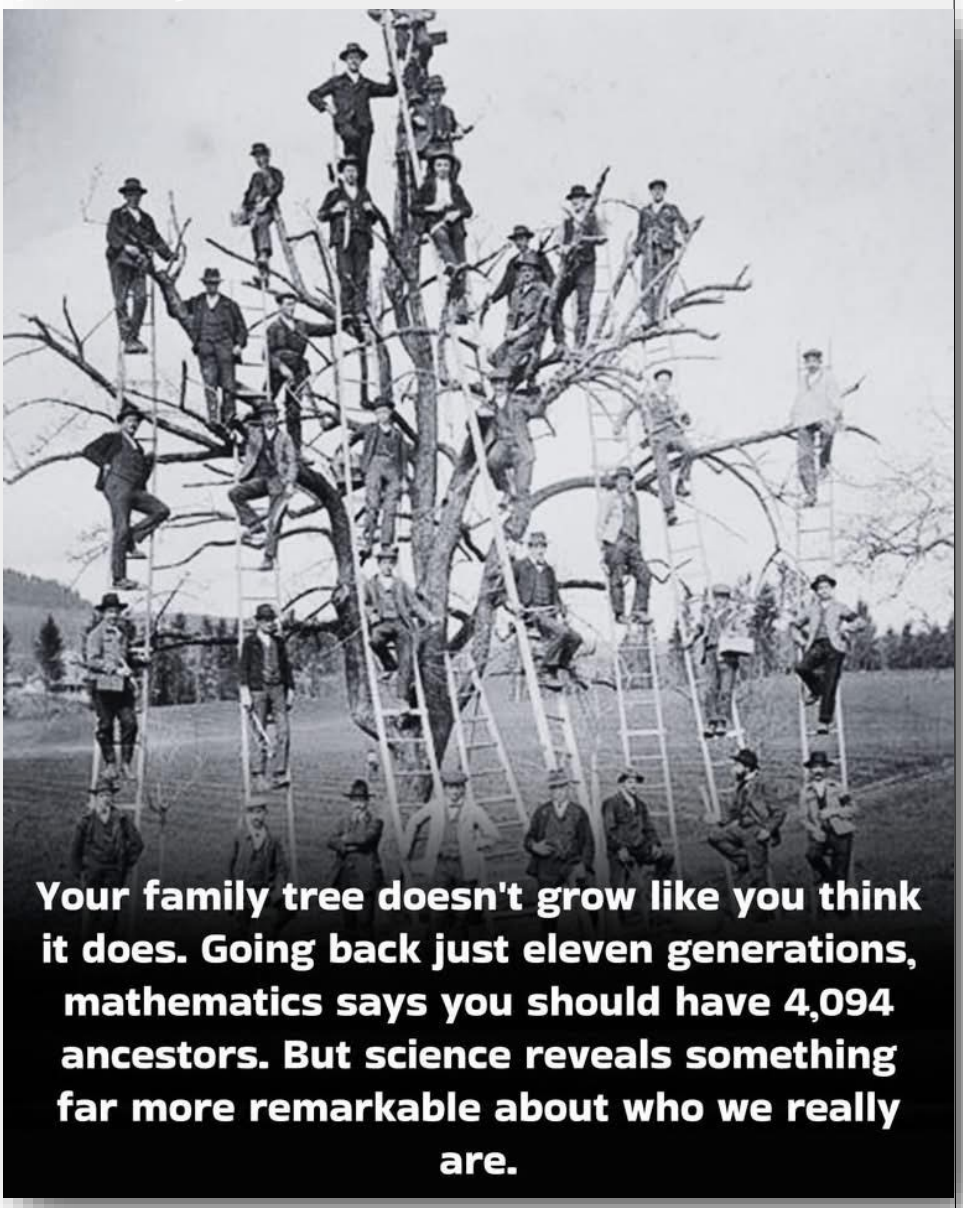
She was married to Major Stephen H. Neal March 6th, 1849. He did service in the Indian war. He died several years ago, at a little over 90 years of age.

Sister Neal joined the Missionary Baptist church at Mt. Zion, July 28th, 1853, and was baptized by Rev. Trustin Phillips, the pastor of the church. She remained a true and loyal member until her death. She always stood for God and right. Always ready to visit and wait on the sick and administer to the poor and needy. She will be greatly missed by this church and community.

Jay Buck
Upchurch and Allied Families Association
P.O. Box 3856
Chesterfield, MO 63006

Old Past Days

December 5, 2025



There's a simple mathematical formula that seems to explain where we come from.

You have 2 parents. They each had 2 parents, giving you 4 grandparents. Those 4 grandparents each had 2 parents, giving you 8 great-grandparents. The numbers double with each generation, climbing steadily backward through time. Go back just eleven generations—roughly 300 years, about the time when the American colonies were being established—and the mathematics tells you that you should have 4,094 direct ancestors. That's 2 parents, plus 4 grandparents, plus 8 great-grandparents, all the way back through 2,048 ancestors in that eleventh generation alone.

It's a staggering number. And if you keep going backward, the numbers become absurd. Go back 20 generations to around the year 1400, and you'd theoretically have over one million ancestors. Go back 30 generations to around the year 1100, and you'd have over one billion ancestors—more people than were alive on Earth at that time.

Something doesn't add up. And that's because the simple doubling formula, while mathematically correct on paper, misses something fundamental about how human families actually work.

Continued on page 5

Cindy Hale

Old Past Days

Continued from page 4

The reality is far more interesting—and far more beautiful—than simple multiplication.

What the formula doesn't account for is something geneticists call "pedigree collapse."

Pedigree collapse happens when the same person appears in multiple places in your family tree. This occurs when relatives marry each other—and before you recoil at that thought, understand that we're talking about cousins, often distant cousins, marrying each other. Throughout most of human history, this wasn't just common—it was virtually inevitable.

Think about it. For most of human existence, people lived in small communities. Villages of a few hundred people. Towns where everyone knew everyone. Travel was difficult and rare. Most people married someone from their own community or a neighboring one.
When your 5th great-grandfather in one line of your family tree married his wife, there's a very good chance that she was also his third or fourth cousin. They might not have even known they were related—genealogical records weren't kept carefully, and family connections beyond a generation or two were often forgotten. But genetically, biologically, mathematically—they were related.

This means that the same ancestor appears multiple times in your family tree. Your father's family and your mother's family, if you trace them back far enough, start to overlap. Lines that seem separate on paper merge when you discover that two supposedly different ancestors were actually siblings, or cousins, or otherwise related.
The technical term for this is "pedigree collapse," but a better way to think about it is as the interconnectedness of humanity.

So how many actual, unique ancestors do you really have? Scientists estimate that going back eleven generations, instead of having 4,094 unique individuals, you probably have somewhere between 500 and 1,000 unique ancestors—maybe fewer if your ancestry is from a relatively isolated community, possibly more if your ancestors came from diverse geographic regions.

That's still a significant number. But it's a fraction of what the simple mathematics suggests.
And here's where it gets even more remarkable. Because of pedigree collapse, if you're of European descent and you go back far enough—say, to the year 1400—you don't just share a few ancestors with other Europeans. You share most of them. Studies suggest that anyone of European ancestry alive today is descended from nearly every European who was alive in 1400 and left descendants.

Read that again: nearly every European who was alive in 1400 and left descendants is your ancestor.

The same principle applies to other populations. If you're of Asian descent, African descent, or from any other region, the same mathematical reality

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Old Past Days

Continued from page 6

holds: go back far enough, and you're related to essentially everyone from your ancestral region who lived at that time and has living descendants today. This means Charlemagne is your ancestor. So is the peasant who worked his fields. The merchant who sold spices in the market. The woman who baked bread in a tiny village whose name has been forgotten. The soldier who fought in a war no one remembers. The midwife who delivered babies in the darkness of medieval winters.

All of them. Every single one who left descendants is your grandfather or grandmother, many times removed.

We are all far more closely related than we realize. But does this make your ancestry less meaningful? Does it diminish the significance of the people who came before you?
Not at all. In fact, it makes it more profound.

Consider what each of those ancestors endured just to survive long enough to have children.

They lived through plagues that killed one-third of Europe's population. They survived famines when crops failed and entire communities starved. They endured wars—religious wars, territorial wars, wars over succession and power—that swept across continents and destroyed everything in their path.

They survived childbirth in an era when both mothers and infants died with heartbreaking frequency. They survived childhood diseases that killed half of all children before they reached age five. They survived infections from simple cuts that, without antibiotics, could turn deadly within days. They worked brutal hours in fields, in workshops, in dangerous conditions that would be unthinkable today. They faced cold winters without adequate heating, hot summers without clean water, constant uncertainty about whether there would be enough food to last until spring.

And yet they lived. They survived. They found love, built families, raised children who survived to do the same.

Every single one of them faced a thousand moments where survival was uncertain, where the chain could have broken, where your existence could have been prevented by illness, accident, violence, or simple misfortune.

But they made it through.

Not all their siblings did. Not all their neighbors. Not all their children, in many cases—infant and child mortality was so high that most families lost at least one child, and many lost several.

But the ones who became your ancestors—those specific individuals in that specific lineage—survived. And more than survived: they thrived enough to raise children who thrived enough to raise children of their own.

That survival required not just luck but strength. Resilience. Adaptability. The ability to endure hardship and keep going.

And all of that—all of that survival power, all of that resilience—is encoded in you.

You exist because hundreds of your ancestors refused to give up.

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Old Past Days

Continued from page 6

Because they kept going when giving up would have been easier. Because they protected their children fiercely. Because they found joy even in hardship, love even in difficulty, hope even when circumstances seemed hopeless.

Geneticists talk about "survival of the fittest," but fitness doesn't mean physical strength alone. It means adaptability. The ability to survive whatever circumstances you're born into. The capacity to endure and persist.

Your ancestors demonstrated that capacity, generation after generation.

So yes, you have fewer unique ancestors than simple mathematics suggests. But each one of those ancestors appears in your family tree multiple times, which means their influence on you—their genetic contribution, their survival traits—is actually stronger, not weaker.

The question then becomes: What do we do with this inheritance?

Every one of us carries the genetic legacy of survivors. We carry the resilience of people who endured plagues, famines, wars, and hardships we can barely imagine. We carry their strength, their adaptability, their refusal to surrender. But we also carry their capacity for love. For building families and communities. For finding meaning in difficult circumstances. For creating beauty and joy even when life was brutally hard.

That's our inheritance. Not just survival, but the ability to thrive. To build. To love. To persist.

In many cultures around the world, ancestor veneration is a central practice. Not worship, but deep respect and gratitude for those who came before. A recognition that we stand on the shoulders of countless generations, that our existence is a gift purchased at great cost by people whose names we'll never know.

In modern Western culture, we've largely lost that practice. We focus on the individual, on the present moment, on our own achievements. We forget that we're part of an unbroken chain stretching back thousands of years. But remembering our ancestors—honoring them, feeling gratitude for them—doesn't diminish our individuality. It enhances it. It reminds us that we're part of something larger than ourselves.

Every time you overcome a challenge, you're channeling the resilience of ancestors who overcame far greater challenges with far fewer resources.

Every time you show kindness, you're expressing the capacity for love that allowed your ancestors to build families and communities that endured.

Every time you persist through difficulty, you're demonstrating the same refusal to surrender that kept your ancestral line alive through centuries of hardship.

You are the culmination of countless acts of survival, love, courage, and persistence.

So take a moment today to acknowledge that inheritance.

You don't need to know their names.

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Old Past Days

Continued from page 7

You don't need to trace your family tree back through centuries. You don't need to visit gravesites or research genealogical records.

Just pause and recognize: you exist because hundreds of people you'll never meet faced impossible odds and survived. Because they loved fiercely enough to protect their children. Because they held onto hope when there was little reason for hope.

Their legacy isn't just genetic. It's also the gift of life itself—the opportunity to experience this world, to build your own meaning, to create your own legacy.

What will you do with that gift?

Will you honor their persistence by persisting through your own challenges? Will you honor their love by loving fiercely? Will you honor their courage by facing your fears?

And perhaps most importantly: What will you pass on to those who come after you?

Because someday, if you choose to have children or influence the next generation in other ways, you'll become an ancestor yourself. Someone in the future—maybe 300 years from now—will exist because you existed. Because you survived. Because you persisted.

What legacy will you leave them?

The answer to that question is being written right now, in how you choose to live today.

Your ancestors gave you the gift of life. What you do with that gift—how you face hardship, how you love others, how you persist through challenges, what meaning you create—that's your gift to the future.

We are all connected—not just to our own direct ancestors, but to the vast web of humanity stretching back through time.

We carry their resilience in our genes and their legacy in our hearts.

Now it's our urn to be worthy of that inheritance.

Old Past Days by Gordon Scherer on Facebook

20 Tips for Using Google Search for Genealogy

Normally when people think of Google, they think of the search engine. As genealogy researchers, it is imperative that we learn to use the Google search engine effectively, since it can helps us find ancestors, relevant documents, and many more pertinent things to help find our ancestors.

- **Basic Search** – A basic search in Google requires us to enter search criteria in the Search box. This can be something simple such as a full name or surname. Or a much more complicated entry. When using multiple words in the criteria it is assumed to be a Boolean AND. For example, *Word1 Word2 Word3* as your search criteria means that all words must appear in order to provide a positive search result.
- **Phrase Search** – If you are searching for a multi-word phrase that must appear as the phrase, simply, put double quotes before and after the phrase. For example, *"Word1 Word2 Word3"*
- **Exclude Words** – If you wish to exclude a word from your search, simply put a minus sign before the word that you wish to exclude. For example, *John Dulles –Foster*
- **Synonyms** – Want to include synonyms in your search? Just place a tilde symbol in front of the word that you are looking for a synonym, for example, *Word1 ~Word2*
- **Site Search** – To search within a specific site, enter the word *site:* in front of the URL of the site. For example *site:youtube.com*
- **Exclude Site Search Results** – To exclude results from a specific site because you have already searched it or it dominates the results and you don't wish to see results from that site, just put a minus sign in front of the site term. In our previous example where you want to exclude results from YouTube, just enter *–site:youtube.com*
- **Include Multiple Words** – Use the OR operator to include multiple words or phrases in a search. For example *Lincoln OR "Emancipation Proclamation"*
- **Search Multiple Words** – Although Google's searches with multiple words assume an AND operation, you can use the AND operator. This is useful when you have more complicated criteria combining OR and AND processes in your search criteria.
- **Wildcards** – Wildcard searches can be performed by entering an asterisk (*) in your search criteria.
- **Find an Older Website Version** – To return to a prior version of a web page enter *cache:xyz.com*. It is different from the Internet Archive's Wayback Machine. Google presents just the most recent version of a web page, whereas the Wayback Machine presents multiple versions.
- **Restrict to Specific File Types** – To restrict results to specific filetypes, enter your criteria as follows: *searchword filetype pdf*
- **Search Related Websites** – To find results from related websites enter *related:website1.com*
- **Search Within a Title** – To find results for a search for a word within the title, enter *intitle:cemetery*
- **Search Multiple Words in a Title** – To find results for multiple words that appear within the title, enter *allintitle:cemetery burial*
- **Search Within a URL** – To find results for a word (or text string) that appears in a URL, enter *allinurl:textstring*
- **Proximity Searches** – To perform a proximity search, i.e. finding words within a specified number of words from one another, use the AROUND function. For example, *Word1 AROUND(5) Word2* finds occurrences where Word1 is within 5 words from Word2
- **Restrict Results to Year Range** – To restrict results to a range of years, enter *[year1]…[year2] in your search criteria*
- **Translate a Word to Another Language** – Just enter *Word in Language* in the search bar. E.g., "Cemetery in German"
- **Perform a Country Specific Search** – Use the *site* search operator plus the Top Level Domain for that country. For example, if you're looking for cemetery websites and only want cemetery websites in Germany, the search term would be *cemeteries site:.de*
- **Google Advanced Search Page** – useful when you don't remember many of the techniques described above. Just go to https://www.google.com/advanced_search

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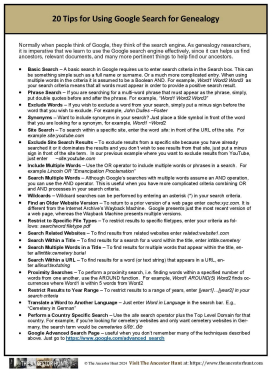
20 Tips for Using Google Search for Genealogy - Updated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- **Synonym Search** – If you are not sure what word to use, place a tilde symbol in front of the word that you are looking for a synonym, for example, Word1 ~Word2
- **Site Search** – To search within a specific site, enter the word site: in front of the URL of the site. For example site:youtube.com
- **Exclude Site Search Results** – To exclude results from a specific site because you have already searched it or it dominates the results and you don't wish to see results from that site, just put a minus sign in front of the site term. In our previous example where you want to exclude results from YouTube, you'd enter -site:youtube.com
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- **Google Advanced Search Page** – useful when you don't remember many of the techniques described above. Just go to https://www.google.com/advanced_search

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Are you using Google Search to its fullest? Get the Quicksheet to discover different ways to find more genealogy treasures via Google.

By Kenneth R Marks and The Ancestor Hunt

Go To: https://theancestorhunt.com/blog/17-tips-for-using-google-search-for-genealogy/

Advanced Search Page Go To: https://www.google.com/advanced_search

More Upchurch Stuff

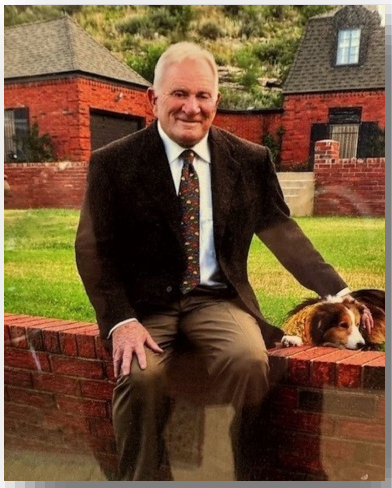
RARE UPCHURCH POTTERY SUGAR POT BOWL STUDIO ART ENGLAND

A stunning Upchurch blue/green drip glaze Pottery Lidded Sugar (most likely) though could also be used as a Jam/Jelly or Honey pot ? Upchurch was a most important high end English pottery originating in 1909 supplying outlets such as Liberty & Co , the business eventually ceased trading in the 1970s , Reginald Wells was a major force within the Kent Pottery whose patron was Queen Mary. Piece with early scripted mark (not printed) Upchurch is situated between Rainham and Sittingbourne in Kent, England . Measuring approx. 3½" high x 5" wide. Condition. one small glaze miss as can be seen in pictures. For Upchurch genealogy researchers I must mention that our immigrant ancestor Michael Upchurch and related Upchurches did not come from the village of Upchurch through the great research done through UAFA.

A family tree is a visual representation of an extended family, based on names, dates, places, and relationships. It shows how individuals are connected across different generations.

START A FAMILY TREE THEY SAID. IT WILL BE FUN. YOU KNOW YOUR AUNTS AND UNCLES AND KIDS. DIGGING, BRICK WALLS, RABBIT HOLES, LATE NIGHTS. SOME 2300 PEOPLE LATTER SO FAR. IT'S NOT A TREE, IT'S A FOREST. WHEN DOES THIS MADNESS STOP? IN THE END IS THERE A FTA? FAMILY TREE ANONYMOUS GROUP? HI MY NAME IS BILL AND I HAVE BEEN DOING THIS FOR YEARS. *(Read this on Facebook)*

Remember



Thomas "Tom" Jewell Upchurch, Jr.

passed away peacefully on December 14, 2025 at his home with his loyal companion and collie, Scotch, by his side.

Private services were held by the family.

Tom was born on October 12, 1935 in Magnolia, Arkansas. He lived a full and wonderful life. Growing up in Amarillo, Tom attended Horace Mann Middle School and Amarillo High School graduating in 1954.After graduating from Amarillo High School, Tom went to Texas A&M University where he served in the Corps of Cadets. After graduating from Texas A&M in 1958, Tom went on to serve in the U.S. Army in Texas, Alaska, and California. During Tom's military service he was involved with the Nike Hercules Missile Program. After an honorable discharge from the U.S. Army, Tom went to SMU law school in Dallas. After graduating from law school Tom began his long and distinguished career as a lawyer working with the Law Offices of Charles Tessmer where he met his wife, Judith "Judy" Ann Hanner Upchurch. Shortly thereafter, Tom and Judy moved to Amarillo, Texas where Tom established a very successful law office. After his wife, Judy, passed away in 1999. Tom was 90 years old when he passed away and was preceded in death by his wife, Judy. Tom is survived by his 3 daughters – Karen Upchurch Isern and her husband, Kevin Isern and their children, Madison Claire Isern, and Spencer Upchurch Isern, Lucy Diane Upchurch, Laurie Upchurch Ricks and her husband, Steve Ricks and their daughter, Ellen Ricks.

Lawson Upchurch III

HAMLET — Lawson Rush Upchurch III, 81, of Hamlet, NC, passed away October 16, 2024 in Westchester County, New York.

A memorial service in honor of Lawson and his late wife, Libby Bostian Upchurch, (also of Hamlet, NC) was held at 11 a.m. on December 24, 2025 at the First United Methodist Church in Hamlet, NC. The service honored the 59th anniversary of their wedding in that same chapel in 1966.

Lawson was born in Charlotte, NC, on December 31, 1942. He attended Hamlet High School and later St. Andrews Presbyterian College. He and Libby moved to the Hudson Valley in New York in 1968 and lived there for the rest of their lives.

Lawson was a skilled craftsman making bamboo fly fishing rods and later working for an environmental services consultancy firm monitoring and sampling marine life on the Hudson River and other waterways. Lawson was also an avid photographer and lover of books, poetry and art.

He is survived by his children Charles Upchurch of Clover, SC and Mary Stephens of Houston, Texas; his three sisters, Andrea Warr of Huntsville, Ala.; Beverly Student of Elkhorn, Neb.; and Katherine Kast of Gastonia, NC; as well as five grandchildren: Cordelia, Conrad, Caleb, Grace and Katherine.

Robin Ann Upchurch

1961 — 2025

With no more pain or suffering, she went to be with her lord and savior.

She is survived by her loving husband Eddie (Aloha Eddie), her soul mate, her daughter Jessica Hayes, a grandson, son Thomas Hayes, sister Dawn Foley, and many nieces, nephews and countless friends. She has lived in Montgomery County long enough to know too many people to list here, but she treasured each of you.

She is preceded in death by her infant daughter Megan, her Mother Grace Poluch, Father Jerry Poluch and brother Tom.

Anyone that had the pleasure of meeting Robin can attest to her amazing cooking skills. She was the chef for the town concession stands, The Bridge, The Place, Great Roads, just to name a few. She catered many events in town, including MCEAP's Volunteer Dinner every February. Her calling was to cook for her "special friends", which gave her much joy. If you were lucky enough to have her food, you know what we mean.

There was a celebration of her life on Tuesday, September 2, 2025 at 1:00 at the Waterfall in the Crosse Point Conference Center, 936 Life Drive, Christiansburg, VA.

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Remember

Elizabeth Ann Comer Upchurch

Elizabeth Ann Comer Upchurch was born on December 4, 1936, in Hill County, Texas, to James and Vada Comer. She passed away peacefully on Sunday, August 17, 2025, in Waco, Texas, at the age of 88. On May 30, 1953, Elizabeth married F.L. Upchurch at Loveview Baptist Church. Together they built a life filled with love, family, and faith.

Elizabeth was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She spent much of her life working in the school cafeterias of Denver City, Texas, and Whitney, Texas, where she was admired for her hard work and kindness. She loved cooking for her family and was known for being an excellent cook. She also had a passion for the outdoors and enjoyed hunting and fishing. Known for her fun-loving spirit, she brought joy to her family and friends and lived life to the fullest. She is survived by her children: Wayne and Bobbie Upchurch of Peoria, Texas; Leonard and Josie Upchurch of Denver City, Texas; and Cynthia and Keith Anderson of Hillsboro, Texas. She is also survived by nine grandchildren, twenty-one great-grandchildren, and ten great-great-grandchildren.

Elizabeth was preceded in death by her parents, James and Vada Comer; her husband, F.L. Upchurch; her daughter, Shirley McCreary; her son, Kenneth Upchurch; and her siblings, Hollis Comer, Dorothy Comer, and Richard Comer. Elizabeth will be deeply missed by her family, friends, and all who were blessed to know her.

Clarence Luder Upchurch, Jr.

Coats, NC: Mr. Clarence L. Upchurch, Jr., age 82, of Ethel Cooper Lane passed away on Thursday, October 16, 2025 at Betsy Johnson Regional Hospital in Dunn, on October 20, 2025 in The Upchurch Family Cemetery at the home.

Mr. Upchurch was born on March 27, 1943 in Harnett County to the late Clarence L. Upchurch, Sr. and Era Alta Johnson Upchurch. Clarence spent his life working hard and caring deeply for those around him. He was a farmer for many years and worked as a sewing machine mechanic at Terry Hill Sewing Factory in Coats. He retired after a dedicated career as a prison guard at Harnett Correctional Institution in Lillington.

Clarence loved the simple joys of life — riding horses, hunting, and fishing. The outdoors was his favorite place to be, and he shared that love with those closest to him.

He is preceded in death by his sister Eloise Naylor and survived by his significant other, Nora Lou; his sisters, Ruby Stephenson, and Jo Ann Denton; his children, Travis Upchurch (Donna) and Debbie Lucas (Dale); and his grandchildren, DeAnna Willis, Justin Lucas, Allison Upchurch, and Brian Upchurch (Elizabeth). He was also blessed with one great-granddaughter, Gracie Willis, who brought him great joy.

William Upchurch
1960—2025

The memory of William Upchurch (Pecos, Texas), who passed away on March 5, 2025 at the age of 65, will forever remain in the hearts of those touched by this precious presence in their lives. Family and friends are welcome to leave their condolences on this memorial page and share them with the family.

As we bid adieu to William's earthly form, let us not dwell on the void left in his wake, but rather celebrate the legacy of love and inspiration William has bequeathed us. For though he may have departed from our sight, his spirit remains a timeless beacon, guiding loved ones through the labyrinth of life's journey.

He was predeceased by: his wife Terry Upchurch. He is survived by: his son Mitchell Upchurch (Kristen); and his grandson Wyatt.

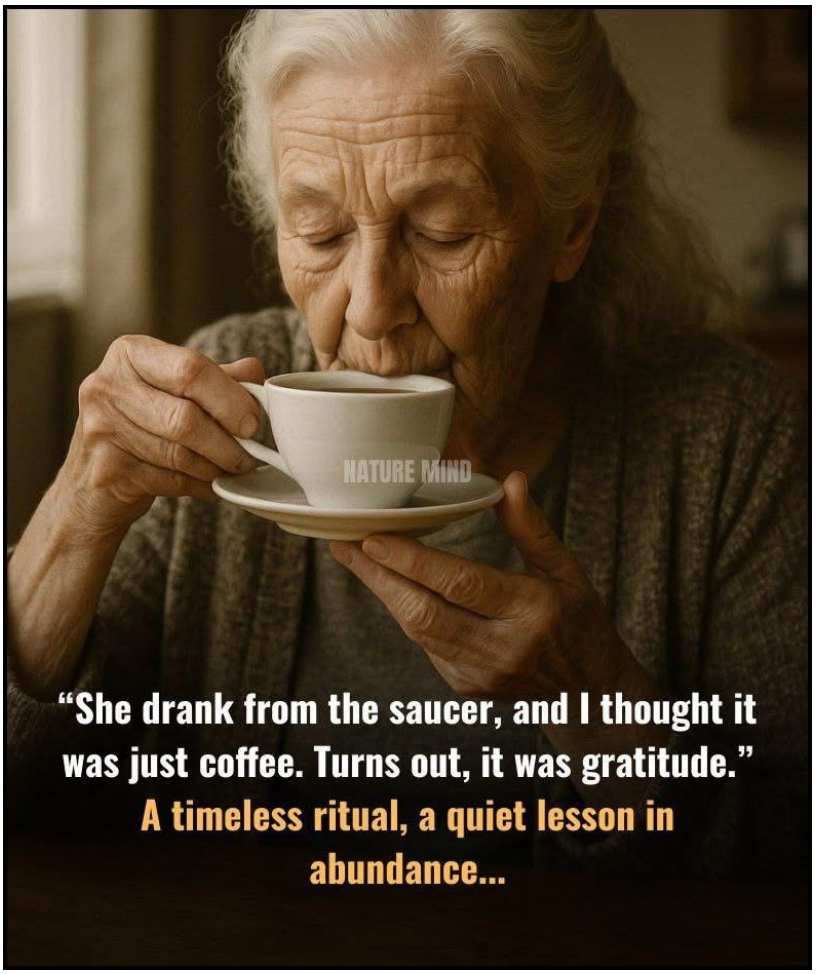
Drinking From My Saucer

She Drank From the Saucer
But It Meant More Than I Knew

When I was young, I watched my grandmother drink her coffee in a way that puzzled me. She would pour a little from her cup into the saucer, then sip from it gently.

I always assumed the coffee was too hot. I never asked. I just thought, that's how old folks drink.

But today, I came across a poem that gave that memory a new meaning. Suddenly, her simple act felt deeper like she was savoring something bigger than just coffee.



John Paul Moore

I've never made a fortune and it's probably too late now.
But I don't worry about that much, I'm happy anyhow.
And as I go along life's way, I'm reaping better than I sowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I don't have a lot of riches, and sometimes the going's tough.
But I've got loved ones around me, and that makes me rich enough.
I thank God for his blessings, and the mercies He's bestowed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
I remember times when things went wrong, my faith wore somewhat thin.
But all at once the dark clouds broke, and the sun peeped through again.
So God, help me not to gripe about the tough rows that I've hoed.
I'm drinking from my saucer, 'Cause my cup has overflowed.
If God gives me strength and courage, when the way grows steep and rough.

Don’t Overlook Old Postcards!

That vintage postcard in Grandma’s drawer isn’t just pretty — it could be a clue.

✅ Return address — find where they lived.

✅ Handwriting — match to letters or documents.

✅ Postmark — discover travel dates and destinations.

✅ Recipient — connect to relatives you didn’t know about.

Sometimes the picture on the front is a family location too. One little card can open a whole new research trail.

Have you ever found a surprise in a postcard?

Heritage Recipes

Recipe by Kay Upchurch

This Recipe Takes the Cake

BY JESSICA MOZO | POSTED ON FEBRUARY 15, 2011
UPDATED DECEMBER 5, 2024

When it comes to baking, Kay Upchurch's recipe for Sour Cream Pound Cake proves simple is best. It uses only six ingredients, most of which are staples you probably already have in your fridge and pantry.

"It's a really simple, easy recipe for plain pound cake, and you can dress it up a lot of different ways," says Upchurch, wife of Tennessee Farm Bureau Federation President Lacy Upchurch. "We enjoy the cake a lot in the spring and summer with fresh or frozen strawberries or fresh peaches."

Upchurch discovered the Sour Cream Pound Cake recipe in a cookbook compiled by ladies from the Cumberland Homesteads area. A Jamestown native, she is a self-taught cook who learned by trial and error, with lots of "flops" along the way.

"My mother was a beautician who didn't really like to cook, but my mother-in-law was a great cook and a real inspiration to me in the kitchen," Upchurch says. "The best compliment she ever gave me was when she told me I turned out to be a better cook than she was."

The Upchurches have three grown children and seven grandchildren, and they gather at holidays for "lots of home-cooking," Upchurch says. Her oldest daughter also loves to cook and is a big help in the kitchen.

Their permanent home is in Crossville, and they have a second home in Columbia while her husband is serving as Farm Bureau president. He is an avid gardener and grows potatoes, green beans, corn, peppers, cabbage, onions, blueberries, apples and blackberries at their Crossville home, where they spend most weekends.

"We do a lot of our own canning and freezing of fruits and vegetables," Upchurch says. "In the summer we love to make barbecue chicken on the grill, and I do homemade potato salad and coleslaw. I also like to make coconut and chocolate cream pies, fried pies, and homemade cookies and brownies."

Sour Cream Pound Cake

This easy pound cake recipe uses ingredients you probably already have in your pantry and can be dressed up with fruit toppings of your choice.

Recipe Created By: Kay Upchurch and featured in Tennessee Home & Farm

Ingredients:

2 sticks butter
3 cups self-rising flour, sifted (If using plain flour, add ½ teaspoon baking powder.)
8 ounces sour cream
3 cups sugar
5 eggs
1 teaspoon vanilla
strawberries as topping, optional

Instructions

Cream sugar and butter well.

Add eggs one at a time, beating after each addition. Mix in vanilla.

Add flour and sour cream alternately. Beat well, and bake in greased tube pan at 325 degrees for 1 hour and 30 minutes.

Top with fresh or frozen strawberries or other fruit if desired.