

FRANCES GAY

Commentary: Frances Gay, the daughter of Thomas Gay is without question the Frances who married Williford Upchurch in 1820 in Franklin County, NC. Williford (XID 49358) was the s/o James Upchurch VII and the gs/o Richard Upchurch III, head of Upchurch Clan # 4. These are solid records, but after the presumed death of Williford, speculation continues as to whether she, being the widow of Williford, was the same Frances Upchurch who in 1829 married Blake Baker. An alternative suggestion is that the 1829 marriage involved nee Frances Upchurch, a d/o Jubal Upchurch I. Definitive research is needed.

A special note is in order about Willis Alton Reid, Jr. He was a superior family historian who died in his mid-years. It would be a great step forward to locate his collections. A further note is that his father was a professor at NCSU and taught me organic chemistry. He was a kind and gentle man in addition to being a Wake County fisherman. At the time I had no idea he had married into the Upchurch family.

- RPU 11 Sep 2017

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by Chris Monteleon of Morehead City, North Carolina

(1) Franklin Co, NC Marriages. Williford Upchurch married **Frances Gay**. Bond: 19 DEC 1820. Bondsman/Witnesses: Simeon Carpenter, S. Patterson

(2) Thomas Gay executed a deed of gift to his daughter, Frances Upchurch (nee **Frances Gay**), who intermarried with Willifred Upchurch. Deed: 2 OCT 1824, Deed Bk 21, Pg 315, Franklin Co, NC (41, Pg 153).

(3) See Biofile of Thomas Gay for his will written 1837, Probated 1839, Franklin Co, NC.

Thomas Gay leaves his estate to his wife, Agnes, for her life and thence to six named children and to one married grandson, Fenner Young. One named daughter was Frances Baker, hence **Frances (Gay) Baker**.

(4) See letter 4 SEP 1996, Fannie Mae Gay to RPU.

The writer presents a strong case that **Frances Gay**, the daughter of Thomas Gay, married Williford Upchurch in 1820, when she was about 15 years, and then became his widow (or became estranged) and married, second, in 1829, Blake Barber.

(5) Franklin Co, NC, will of possible interest – RPU extract.

30 JUN 2007, from: Franklin Co, NC Original Wills, Vol 2, 1862-1900, by S. E. Bradley, Jr., Pg 28.

116. Thomas(x)Gay 1 FEB 1837 Jun Ct 1839 (Bk K, folio 217).

To my wife AGNESS – lend to her all my property for her life, & after her death as follows. To my son OZBON – 640 acres including where I now live. To my daughter MARRY GAY – negro girl Cynthia, 1 bed & furniture, & 1 of her sisters to take her & to take care of her for life & after her death whichever sister takes her is to have her property. To my children BAILEY GAY, OZBON GAY, MARY GAY, AGNESS PERRY, MORNING JONES, FRANCES BAKER & my grandson FENNER YOUNG – all my property not otherwise disposed of.

Ex. my son Bailey Gay, my friend and son-in-law Ephraim Perry

Wit. Brian Greer, Nathan Pearce, Benjamin

Notes by RPU 1 Jul 2007

Note #1 This same will appears in Will Book K, Franklin Co, NC.

1834-1840, By S. E. Bradley, Jr., #348 Pg 82 – ADDED INFO: OZBON = OZBORN; MORNING = MOURNING; BRIAN GREER = BRIAN GREEN.

Note #2 AGAIN IN BOOK K –

#385, Pg 90 – The SEP 1830 Court addresses a petition by the heir which says the widow AGNES is now deceased & assets (slaves) should be sold. ADDED INFO: BLAKE BAKER (husband of FRANCES); EPHRAIM PERRY (husband of AGNES); HENRY R. JONES (husband of MOURNING); JAMES BAKER (NEW EXECUTOR) [How related? - RPU], [ORDERED BY DEC 1830 COURT TO SELL ASSETS].

SALE 23 JAN 1840

Slaves purchased by: Wright Young, BRYAN Green, Thos R. Debnam, Blake Baker, Ephraim Perry, Calvin Upchurch, Fenner Young, Nathan Pearce, JOHN GRIFFIN – MAR COURT 1880

NOTE: From Kinfolks, Pg 153, 2 deeds – Thomas Gay on 2 OCT 1824 gives land to Grandchildren Agnes Young [Pg 193 Md Calvin Upchurch], & Fenner Young, children of Joseph Young & Agnes (Gay) Young, & to **Frances (Gay)** Upchurch, his Daughter, who married Williford Upchurch [Pg 193, Joseph Young had son, Bryant Young] [& WRIGHT YOUNG]

* NOTE: A reasonable interpretation (RPU 1 JULY 2007) -

I. Thomas Gay will probated 1839, written 1837 -

A. **FRANCES GAY-**

Married (1st) WILLIFORD UPCHURCH [S/O JAMES UPCHURCH, VII, GS/O [CJM 09-09-2017, ES=?] Richard Upchurch, III – Per 1824 DEED
Married (2nd) BLAKE BAKER [PER 1837 will]

(6) From Letter 7 DEC 1996 Willis [CJM 09-09-2017?] Alton Reid, Jr. to RPU

[CONCERNS ISSUE OF WHETHER THE FRANCES UPCHURCH WHO MARRIED 16 NOV 1829 (WAKE CO, NC) WAS DAUGHTER OF JUBAL UPCHURCH, HEAD OF THE RICHARD UPCHURCH, III / JAMES UPCHURCH, VII SUBCLAN.]

Dear Cousin Phil:

I really did receive your letter regarding Fannie GAY Wootton's speculation that Frances UPCHURCH was actually the daughter of a GAY/widow of an UPCHURCH rather than the daughter of Jubal UPCHURCH. You will recall that you asked my opinion of this. Mrs. Wootton's claim probably has merit. Although it is not prima facie evidence for the relationship, it is basically founded on two primary sources:

(1) the Franklin County Marriage bond of Williford UPCHURCH to Frances GAY (19 December 1820).

(2) the Franklin County will of Thomas GAY (written 2 February 1837), which names his daughter Frances BAKER, ~~and~~

However, Mrs. Wootton asserts that the Frances GAY of the marriage bond was the daughter of Thomas and Agnes GAY. What evidence does she have for this, i.e. that the Frances GAY of the 1820 marriage is indeed the same person as the Frances BAKER daughter/heir of Thomas GAY in 1837? She also states that the Frances GAY of the 1820 marriage bond "would have made her about 15 years old when she got married." Although 15 years is a reasonable marriageable age for a girl, I know of no evidence that this particular Frances [GAY][UPCHURCH][BAKER] was born around 1805. I estimated that Blake BAKER's wife Frances was born about 1800, but this was based on census records of age ranges of white females in the household. Neither of these gaps, however, detract from the importance and significance of two primary sources.

On the other hand, my speculation that Frances UPCHURCH was the daughter of Jubal UPCHURCH is just as shaky, if not less so. I am enclosing a copy of my 1989 letter to you, rather than repeat my arguments at the time. My argument, however, is at a disadvantage - it is not based on any primary source documents, only assumptions and unusual similarities (which may themselves have value here). On this basis, Mrs. Wootton's claims should probably have precedence. I would not make an out of hand dismissal of either.

You added some important information with the 1829 James UPCHURCH deed to Frances UPCHURCH. To me, the location of this property (in Wake County on the south side of Moccasin Creek) is most intriguing. I have detailed information on the disposition of Blake BAKER's property in this area but no information as to how he acquired some of it in the first place. I know that he acquired 418 acres in an equity deed in 1856, but he had about 355 acres more for which there are no Wake County land records indicating that he ever acquired such property. I have been speculating that he acquired the property in 1829 as a dowry of his first wife, Frances UPCHURCH, though it now seems that she already owned the property at the time of her marriage to Blake BAKER. This is further evidence for Frances UPCHURCH nee GAY rather than nee UPCHURCH. All of Blake BAKER's real estate, by the way, was in Wake County, on the south side of Moccasin Creek.

COPIES MADE of said letter for Biofiles of: Frances Upchurch **Frances Gay** Thomas Gay
Jubal Upchurch Blake Baker Williford Upchurch

(7) Items in Letter 14 MAY 1984 Eleanor Grace Williamson to RPU

[NOTE: Grace was looking for evidence re the 1803 UPCHURCH ⇒ CARPENTER NAME
CHANGE

N.C Marriage Bonds [NOT ALL EXTRACTED]

1 Benjamin Carpenter and Nancy Hopson, 29 Nov. 1828
Wake Co. – Bondsman: Robert King and Witness Bondsman: Robert King and B. S. King.

2 Simeon Carpenter and Elizabeth Pierce – 19 March 1808.
Franklin Co. – Bondsman J(ohn) Foster. Witness: G. Hill, Jr.

3 Simeon Carpenter and Martha Bunn – 10 January 1840.
Nash Co. – Bondsman Berkley Cone. Witness B. H. Blount.

4 Churchill Carpenter and Belvey Hopkins – 9 Aug. 1824
Wake Co. – Peter K. Hopkins, Bondsman. Witness B. S. King.

5 Jubal Upchurch and Dicey Mainord – 8 Jan. 1855 –
Wake Co. – Bondsman Josiah C. Mainor. Witness Thomas J. Utley.

6 Wiley Upchurch and Ailsey Adams – 4 Feb. 1822 –
Franklin Co. – Bondsman Jacob H. Cooley, Witness S. Patterson.

7 Williford Upchurch and **Frances Gay** – 19 Dec. 1820
Franklin Co. – Simeon Carpenter bondsman, S.[?] Patterson witness.

8 Williford Upchurch and Frances Royster. 6 Dec. 1854
Wake Co, N.C. – Bondsman Benjamin J. Perk, Witness Thomas J. Utley.

(8) NC MARRIAGES

Williford Upchurch

North Carolina Marriages, 1759-1979, marriage: 19 DEC 1820, Franklin, North Carolina spouse:
Frances Gay

(9) From Letter 22 MAR 1997, Carolyn Edwards to RPU

I. John Perry – will[CJM 09-09-2017?] 1796 “Old John Perry”

A. Ann Perry married Henry Baker

1. Elizabeth Baker married Osborne Gay (Ausborne)

X. Thomas Gay, Sr.

1. Osborne Gay

2. Thomas Gay, Jr.

3 Agnes Gay married Ephraim Perry

4 **Frances Gay** married Williford Upchurch

5 Aley Gay married Joseph Young*

a. Agnes Young married Calvin Upchurch

b. Fenner Young married 21 JAN 1840 (Wake Co, NC) Ruth Perry

* Joseph Young married (1st) Mary [surname?] and had:

- Bryant Young married 18 MAY 1843 Winifred Perry
- Wright Young