

Mark Wesley Upchurch

XID-4345

Commentary: Mark Wesley Upchurch was the son of Moses Upchurch and the grandson of Courtney Upchurch of the Moses/Courtney sub clan. Courtney had moved from NC to AL about 1835. There his grandson, Mark, was born on 1 Sep 1851. Mark later lived in Mississippi. In subsequent years, many Upchurch family reunions were held involving the descendants of Mark, who died in 1901. Mark Upchurch was a Lutheran minister.

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by Carla Michaels, director of volunteers at the UAFA office in Cary, NC.

(1) On 26 Apr 1872 the B. J. Rivers & Co. loaned Moses Upchurch and his son **Mark Wesley Upchurch** \$300. The security used for this loan was the stock and crops produced on the Valentine farm in Oktibbeha Co, MS. (42, Page 75)

(1.1) [See letter 22 Mar 1980 Genevieve Little to RPU
Mark Wesley Upchurch born 1 Sep 1851 was son of Moses Upchurch and grandson of one Courtney Upchurch of Moses/Courtney Upchurch Clan.

(2) See letter Genevieve Ellen Thorp 26 Aug 1980 to RPU
The reunion held 21 Jun 1980 at Leroy Percy State Park at Hollandale, MS was called the Mark Wesley Upchurch Family Reunion. In 1981 will be 20 Jun 1981. Mark Wesley Upchurch born 1 Sep 1851 (AL). Moved with his family to MS between 1852 – 1856 where he died 21 Nov 1901. He married (1st) Betsy “Bettie” An Langford
He married (2nd) Martha A. McKay
He married (3rd) Joseph Martha Edmonia Hughes
There are a total of 10 children known from the 1st and 3rd marriages, two of which died before reaching adulthood.
85 descendants attended the 21 Jun 1980 reunion representing 6 of Mark Wesley’s children.

(3) See letter Mary Catherin Upchurch to RPU 20 Sep 1981
Mark Wesley Upchurch married Joseph Martha Edmonia Hughes born 22 Jun 1862 died 20 Mar 1911.

(4) See 1880 Census – Oktibbeha Co, MS [added from Item (7)]
[District #4 22 Jun 1880 page 414, dwelling 289, family 296]

Wesley Upchurch	WM	29	born AL	[MOT & FTR born NC] [laborer]
Martha Upchurch	wife	33	born AL	[MOT & FTR born NC] [keeping house]
William Upchurch	son	9	born MS	
Lucinda Upchurch	dau	6	born MS	
Lanie Upchurch	dau	3	born MS	

(5) See letter 1 Mar 1983 Mary Catherine Upchurch to RPU

Mark Wesley Upchurch – don't know where born. He died near Sturgis, MS. Assume he was married in the Sturgis area. No issue* of 1st marriage. Married 3rd 3 Oct 1886 Joseph Martha Edmonia Hughes probably born in MS. [*Not true – RPU]

(6) See letter 5 Jun 1983 Mary Catherine Upchurch to RPU

Mark Wesley Upchurch married 1st Betsy “Bettie” Ann Langford on 23 Jan 1870. She was born 12 Oct 1855. They had issue. I have no info on place of birth of Mark Wesley Upchurch in AL. He was born in Winston Co, MS. He married 3rd Joseph E. M. Hughes but I don't know where – assume it was in MS – probably Oktibbaha Co. She was buried in Craig Springs Cemetery in Oktibbaha Co, MS. She and Mark were buried at different places because of distance and travel problems.

(7) See letter 9 Sep 1995 Charles John Peterson, Jr. to RPU

Mark Wesley Upchurch born 1 Sep 1851 (Perry Co, AL) died 21 Nov 1901 (Oktibbeha Co, MS) (Buried – Bradley, Oktibbeha Co, MS). [He was a farmer and a Lutheran minister] married 1st 28 Jan 1870 (Oktibbeha Co, MS) Elizabeth Ann Langford “Betsy”. “Betty” born 25 Oct 1845 (MS) died 1876 – 1879 (Oktibbeha Co, MS). Note that Langford was sometimes spelled Lankford.

1870 Mississippi Census Police Beat #5, P. O. Starkville, Oktibbeha Co, MC 11 Jul 1870 page 348, dwelling 665, family 657

Wesley Upchurch [<u>Mark Wesley Upchurch</u>]	18	born AL	farmer married Jan
Betsy A. Upchurch	24	born MS	keeping house - \$100 RE
John Morris	8	born MS	[probably niece of Betsey]

Note that this reference provides considerable detail on Elizabeth Ann Langford [1st wife of Mark Wesley Upchurch] and of her family including the matter of the spelling Langford versus Lankford.

(8) From 42 page 75, 76 – Mark Wesley Upchurch was son of Moses Upchurch, grandson of Courtney Upchurch and great grandson of Moses Upchurch, Head of Clan.

Mark Wesley Upchurch (499)

Mark Wesley Upchurch (499) was born 1 September 1851⁴¹⁸ in Alabama,⁴¹⁹ died 21 November 1901, and was buried at Bradley, Oktibbeha County, Mississippi. He was a farmer and Lutheran minister.⁴²⁰ One of his 1899 sermons has survived, entitled “Make this valley full of ditches.” The four page handwritten sermon included eight lines of poetry that Mark Wesley probably wrote himself.⁴²¹ Mark Wesley was married three times in Oktibbeha County. On 28 Jan 1870 he married his first wife, Betsy “Bettie” Ann Langford,⁴²² who was born 12 October 1855 and died 1876 – 1879, the daughter of John Langford and Lucinda__?__ Mark Wesley and Betsy had three children. On 23 Dec 1879 he married his second wife, Martha A. McKay,⁴²³ who was born about 1847 and died 1880 – 1886. No children have been found for this marriage. On 30

Oct 1886 he married Joseph Martha Edmonia Hughes,⁴²⁴ the daughter of Joseph Hughes and Martha Ellison, who was born 22 Jun 1862 in Sturgis, died 20 Mar 1911, and was buried at Bradley. Mark Wesley and his third wife had seven children.⁴²⁵

Mark Wesley Upchurch (499) had ten known children: William Harrison Upchurch (509); Lucinda Upchurch (510); Delanie Upchurch (511); Bertie Elvira Upchurch (512); Frederick Sylvester Upchurch (513); Ellen Airmonta Upchurch (514); Wesley Ira Upchurch (515); Renna Lee Upchurch (516); Rosalee Mae Upchurch (517); and Troy Calvin Upchurch (518).⁴²⁶ Lucinda Upchurch (510) was born 26 December 1873 in Sturgis and died 28 Jun 1916. She married an Adams and had three children: Elnora Adams who married Elwood Anderson; Elvira Adams; and Henry Adams. Delanie Upchurch (511) was born 4 August 1876 in Sturgis and died 7 July 1913.⁴²⁷ On 31 December 1896 she married J. Q. Wells in Oktibbeha County.⁴²⁸ They had three children: Willie Lou Wells; Polly Bell Wells; and Bessie Wells.⁴²⁹ Frederick Sylvester Upchurch (513) was born 17 April 1890 in Sturgis, died 5 Mar 1924, and was buried at Inverness.⁴³⁰ He was remembered as being sort of an oddball and a drifter with a really bad temper. He would live with his parents until he got mad about something and then he would move on for a little while.⁴³¹ Rosalee Mae Upchurch (517) was born 17 August 1898 in Sturgis, died 12 February 1901 and was buried at Pleasant Hill Methodist Cemetery in Winston County.⁴³² Troy "Roy" Calvin Upchurch (518) was born 27 March 1900 in Sturgis, died 1 March 1910⁴³³ of an unknown three week illness, and was buried on 2 March at the Craig Cemetery in Oktibbeha County.⁴³⁴

Other notes from 42 page 75, 77, 79

On 26 Apr 1872 in Oktibbeha Co, MS the B. J. Riners & Co loaned Moses Upchurch and his son **Mark Wesley Upchurch** \$300.

On – Nov 1872 in Oktibbeha Co, MS Moses Upchurch & son **Mark Wesley Upchurch** gave \$490 and a promissory note to James A. Valentine for 320 acres to be paid over 5 years. By 19 Dec 1874 they were having trouble meeting payments and they brought another son of Moses Upchurch, John Thomas Upchurch, into the deal.

In 1978 all the descendants of **Mark Wesley Upchurch** started getting together.

(9) To RPU from Mary Catherine Upchurch in letter 1 Mar 1983

[Note: transcription of handwritten pages found below photocopy of original – CJM 14 Apr 2019]

Two troubles had come upon Israel at this time. The kings of Israel, Judah and Edom were gone forth to battle against the king of Moab. Strife is an evil between nations or individuals; it takes years for a nation to recover from the devastating effects of war. Terrible is the destruction of life and property which war causes. To the horrors and perils of war in this case was added a fresh difficulty. Their armies passing through the desert had no water to drink. It was no wonder then that with the soldiers weak and languishing from thirst, with no water either for them or for their horses and cattle, they began to despair and regard defeat as certain. But the Prophet Elisha was sent for, as we have seen and on being consulted by the Kings of Israel and Judah he said; "Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the Lord ye shall not see wind neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water that ye may drink. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord; he will deliver the Moabites into your hand." We have here God's power and love manifested in its fullness.

God's promises are all fulfilled when we obey his commands. We should be willing to do whatever he has commanded us to do. A strange command make this valley full of ditches. It was a strange command that ditches should be dug in a desert place. But so it is also in the spiritual kingdom. God often chooses the most unlikely persons for the operations of his grace. Is it not a fact that in thinking of the spread of the gospel and in engaging in christian work we are too much guided by human calculations? We judge too much by outward appearance. We forget that God's ways are not as our ways, nor his thoughts as our thoughts. Is God's arm shortened that it cannot save. It is time for us, as christian churches, and as christian people to work wherever God gives us the opportunity even though it should be in the most unlikely and unpromising sphere. God calls us wherever we are to dig up the wells in the valley. One other thought this strange command of God's suggests. God wants us to be fellow workers with him. We find human agency as a rule, accompanying divine grace. Christ's own command is clear. "Go ye therefore and teach all nations - and lo I am with you, alway." How do we stand in regard to the

Fig. 999. Command of God! So there are commands that we are
deliberately and constantly disobeying. It ought to be the
daily prayer of every Christian, "Pray, Lord, that I may go in the path
of thy commandments; for therein do I delight." The way of
salvation is clear; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and
thou shalt be saved. Is it not better for us as these soldiers
did to take God's plan to believe that whatever he com-
mands is for our good to accept his loving offers of sal-
vation purchased for us by the precious blood of his
beloved Son, and to yield ourselves to him as willing
servants doing the will of God from the heart?

Streams of refreshing and safety) And it came in
the morning, when the meat offering was offered that be-
hold there came water by the way of Edom, and the country
was filled with water. Not more eagerly do the weary
watchers watch for the morning than those languid
soldiers watched for the coming of the water. It was
a welcome sight. So it is with the blessings of the gospel.
Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteous-
ness, for they shall be filled.

As dew upon the tender herb

Diffusing fragrance round

As showers that usher in the spring

And cheer the thirsty ground,

So shall his presence bless our souls

And shed a joyful light;

That hallowed morn shall chase away

The arrows of the night.

(9) CONTINUED
 Page 4th It is the same with the blessings of the gospel. The gospel which satisfies and saves the soul, and it satisfies because it saves. Hence all human religions and philosophies fail. They may point out a high ideal, but they give no little help to attain it. They may point out the evil of sin but they cannot strengthen us to overcome it, or deliver us from its power. And all they can offer us is only for the present life but the gospel not only puts before us the high ideal but enables us through divine grace to attain to it. It not only shows us the guilt of sin but it points us to the cleansing blood. It not only shows the evil of sin but gives us the victory over it through Christ Jesus our Lord. It not only gives us blessing for the present life, but secures to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ the life of heaven, life with God, life that shall never end. Make the valley full of ditches. Open your heart to receive this satisfying saving Gospel. Children of God if you want God's blessing to flow in upon you in unmining refreshing streams, prepare the for it. Dig up wells in the desert. Make your Sundays, your opportunities for private prayer, the house of God, the prayer meeting. You need them all to refresh your souls, and to receive your spiritual life amid the paralyzing chilling influences of the world. And then in your short life do what you can to make channels through which blessings may flow to others. In this aspect what a privilege it becomes to help missions to build churches and to take part in every effort for the benefit of others. You may never see the streams of blessings flow, but at any rate you will have dug the channels for them. Such labor is not in vain in the Lord.

2 Kings 3 x 16 x 25 1899

M. W. Upchurch

Text - Make this valley full of ditches

Page 1st Two troubles had come up on Israel at this time. The kings of Israel Judah and Edom were gone forth to battle against the King of Moab. Strife is an evil between nations or individuals; it takes years for a nation to recover from the devastating effects of war. Terrible is the destruction of life and property which war causes. To the horrors and perils of war in this

case was added a fresh difficulty. Their armies passing through the desert had no water to drink. It was no wonder then that with the Soldiers weak and languishing from thirst, with no water either for them or for their horses and cattle, they began to despair and regard defeat as certain. But the Prophet Elisha was sent for, as we have seen and on being consulted by the Kings of Israel and Judah he said; “Make this valley full of ditches. For thus saith the Lord ye shall not see wind neither, neither shall ye see rain; yet that valley shall be filled with water that ye may drink. And this is but a light thing in the sight of the Lord, he will deliver the Moabites into your hand.” We have here God’s power and love manifested in its fullness.

Page 2nd God’s promises are all fulfilled when we obey his commands. We should be willing to do whatever he has commanded us to do. A strange command makes this valley full of ditches. It was a strange command that ditches should be dry in a desert place. But so it is also in the spiritual kingdom. God often chooses the most unlikely persons for the operations of his grace. Is it not a fact that in thinging of the spread of the gospel and in engaging in Christian work we are too much guided by human calculations? We judge too much by outward appearances. We forget that God’s ways are not as our ways; nor his thought as our thoughts. Is God’s arm shortened that it cannot save. It is time for us as Christian churches and as Christian people to work wherever God gives us the opportunity even though it should be in the most unlikely and unpromising sphere. God calls us whereve we are to dig up the wells in the valley. One other thought this strange command of God’s suggests – God wants us to be fellow workers with him. We find human agency as a rule accompanying divine grace. Christ’s own command is clear. “Go ye therefore and teach all nations – and lo I am with you always. How do we stand in regard to the

Page 3rd command of God? Is there any command that we are deliberately and constantly disobeying. It ought to be this daily prayer of every Christian. “Make me to go in the path of thy commandments; for therein do I delight. The way of salvation is clear; believe on the Lord Jesus Christ and thou shalt be saved. Is it not better for us as these soldiers did to take God’s plan to believe that whatever he commands is for our good to accept his loving offers of salvation purchased for us by the precious blood of his beloved son, and to yield ourselves to him as willing servants doing the will of God from the heart. Streams of refreshing and safety, And it came in the morning, when the meat offering was offered that behold there can water by the way of Edom, and the county was filled with water. Not more eagerly do the weary watchers watch for the coming of the water. It was a welcome sight. So it is with the blessings of the gospel. Blessed are they that hunger and thirst after righteousness for they shall be filled.

As dew upon the tender herb
Diffusing fragrance round
As showers that usher in the spring
And cheer the thirsty ground,
So shall his presence bless our souls
And shed a joyful light;
That hallowed morn shall chase away
The arrow of the night.

Page 4th It is the same with the blessings of the gospel. The gospel which satisfies also saves the soul and it satisfies because it saves. Herein all human religion and philosophies fail. They may point out a high ideal but they give us little help to attain it. They may point out the evil of sin but they cannot strengthen us to overcome it or deliver us from its power. And all they can offer us is only for the present life but the gospel not only puts before us the high ideal but enables us through divine grace to attain to it. It not only shows us the guilt of sin but it points us to the cleansing blood. It not only show the evil of sin but gives us the victory over it through Christ Jesus our Lord. It [unreadable] gives us blessings for the present life, but secures to all who believe on the Lord Jesus Christ the life of heaven, life with God, life that shall never end. Make the valley full of ditches. Open your heart to receive this satisfying saving Gospel. Children of God if you want God's blessings to flow in upon you in reviving refreshing streams, prepare the for it. Dig up wells in the desert. Make your Sundays your opportunities for private prayer, the house of God, the prayer meeting. You need them all to refresh your soul, and to receive your spiritual life amid the parching chilling influences of the world. And then in your short life do what you can to make channels through which blessings may flow to others. In this aspect what a privilege it becomes to help missions to build churches and to take part in every effort, for the benefit of others. You may never the see the streams of blessings flow but at any rate [unreadable] will have dug the channels for them. Such labor is not in vain in the Lord.

(10) From: Those Mississippi Upchurch's (42, page 126)
Miscellaneous Holmes County Upchurch's

Holmes County, Mississippi presented a big mystery in the Upchurch history. Two of the children of Moses Upchurch (498) went to Holmes County to marry, Walter Lane Upchurch (506) and Peter J. Upchurch (505). William Harrison Upchurch (509) some of **Mark Wesley Upchurch** (499) and nephew to the above men, also married here. However, there are additional Upchurch members in Holmes County that have not been tied in with any of the other Upchurch lines. Family history has it that Moses Upchurch (498) had one or two additional daughters that are not accounted for in this history. Perhaps part of all of these Holmes County lines are some of his descendants.

On 24 January 1894 Mrs. L or T. M. Upchurch married W. S. Madison. The bride was eighteen and the groom twenty-one.⁶⁸⁷ On 3 January 1895 Maude Upchurch married Henry Alston.⁶⁸⁸ Nothing more is known about these girls. Due to the age of the first bride, the Mrs. could be in error. The two brides could be Upchurch sisters, sisters who had previously married Upchurch men, or totally unrelated.

In 1900 Holmes County, two widowed sisters lived in the same house hold, Eveline Lucas and Fannie Upchurch. Eveline was born in June 1854 and Fannie in February 1872. Fannie had three children by her Upchurch husband: Mable Upchurch (964) born in October 1892; Fannie Upchurch (965) born in January 1895; and Jimmie Upchurch (966) born in June 1896.⁶⁸⁹ Fannie Upchurch (965) married Lee Burge on 27 Jun 1913 in the same county.⁶⁹⁰ The father of these Upchurch children has not been found.

I. Moses Upchurch

A. Courtney Upchurch

1. Moses Upchurch

a. Peter J. Upchurch

b. Walter Lane Upchurch

c. **Mark Wesley Upchurch**

i. William Harrison Upchurch

L. Upchurch (F) born 1876 or T. M. Upchurch (F) born 1876 married 24 Jan 1894 W. S. Madison born 1873 married in Holmes Co, MS.

Maude Upchurch married 3 January 1895 (Holmes Co, MS) Henry Alston

I. --- --- ---

A. *Eveline --- --- (Mrs. Eveline Lucas) born Feb 1872

Married () --- --- Lucas

B. *Fannie --- --- (Mrs. Fannie Upchurch) born Jun 1854

Married () --- --- Upchurch

1. Mable Upchurch born Oct 1892

2. Fannie Upchurch born Jan 1895

Married 27 Jun 1913 (Holmes Co, MS) Lee Burge

3. Jimmie Upchurch born Jun 1896

*These two widowed sisters on 1900 Holmes Co, MS census.