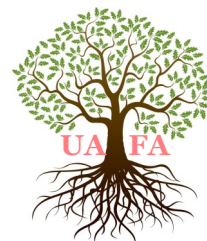


May 15, 2022

# UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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

## FROM THE EDITOR

Free ONLINE genealogy programs are being offered next month at the [Midwest Genealogy Center](#).

To name just a few:

Using HeritageQuest: Thursday, June 2nd 10:30am CDT

Newspaper Databases at Mid-Continent Public Library: Tuesday, June 7th 6:30pm CDT

Spit or Swab: Should You Use DNA for Family Research: Tuesday, June 28th 6:30pm CDT-- Presented by Kathleen Brandt

Using Fold3: Thursday, June 30th 6:30pm CDT

All programs are free to the public. Classes will be held in person as well as virtually via Zoom simultaneously, excluding Kathleen Brandt's Spit or Swab. Registration is required and closes 1 hour before the start of the program. Please indicate whether you will be attending in-person or virtually when registering. An email address is required when registering to attend on Zoom.

Explore other Midwest Genealogy Center classes at:

<https://www.mymcpl.org/genealogy/events>



## Early-Day Home for Unwed Mothers By Myra H. Mcilvain

In a plan to redeem prostitutes and “combat the social evil of fallen women” in 1894, the Rev. J. T. Upchurch and his wife Maggie Mae organized the Berachah Rescue Society in Waco. One newspaper account claims he was “driven away [from Waco] by angry fellow Methodist church members who opposed his missionary work with prostitutes.” Regardless of the reason, the Upchurches moved in 1903 to the Dallas slums to continue their “mission.”

Sometime in 1903 Mrs. Upchurch's father donated twenty-seven acres in Arlington between Dallas and Fort

Worth and the Upchurches opened the Berachah Industrial Home for homeless, often pregnant, girls from all over Texas and the surrounding states.

Although Upchurch held conservative theological views, his ideas for social reform were liberal for the time. His home, unlike others for unwed mothers, required that children remain with their natural parent and that the mothers learn to care for themselves and their children.



Rev. J. T. Upchurch, and Wife,  
Founders of the Berachah Rescue Work

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## UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION

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Over 35 videos featuring Phil Upchurch telling family stories, along with UAFA President, Dr. Tom Upchurch.

These are available and FREE. Go to [https:// www.youtube.com](https://www.youtube.com)



After opening YouTube, enter "Upchurch and Allied Families" into the search box. This will open the UAFA channel and display the videos.



### UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES LINKS

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[Upchurch & Allied Families on Facebook](#)



A Reminder to the guy's from Brenda Carbon, [Italia19@aol.com](mailto:Italia19@aol.com), UAFA's DNA Project Coordinator:

Have you taken the Y DNA test? We are in need of additional Upchurch male testers. Thank you for considering this request.



## Early-Day Home for Unwed Mothers

*Continued from Page 1*

He believed that there were no illegitimate children, only illegitimate parents.

Upchurch published *The Purity Journal* for financial contributors who were primarily Dallas-Fort Worth businessmen. In the journal articles Upchurch wrote of the evils of brothels, saloons, and social corruption. His stories about the slums and shelters included accounts of redemption and salvation. He also described the work being done at the home and detailed individual case histories. The residents worked in the home's handkerchief factory, operated the press for the *Purity Journal*, and maintained the large gardens and orchards. Upchurch required all residents and staff to attend worship services on the premises and to refrain from using the phone on Sundays, eating pork, or consuming coffee, tea, or tobacco.

At the height of the operation in 1928, the home added an additional forty acres and expanded to at least ten buildings including a hospital/clinic, nursery, dormitory and dining room, handkerchief factory, school, auditorium, and barn. The home closed briefly in 1935 and Upchurch's daughter and son-in-law Allie Mae and Reverend Frank Wiese reopened the facility as an orphanage that served until 1942.

Today the property is on the campus of the University of Texas at Arlington and the only physical reminder of the history of the site is the cemetery opened in 1904 that contains over eighty graves of unwed mothers, stillborn babies, children who died in measles epidemics, and employees and their children.



*Berachah Home* dedication service – people standing on lawn looking toward front porch, May 14, 1903. The label on the image reads: "No. 3. Berachah Industrial Home for Redemption and Protection of Erring Girls. Taken during the dedication service, conducted by the Superintendent. The picture only shows a small part of the crowd present and was taken, May 14th, 1903. after the speaker had been addressing the congregation for nearly an hour."

For more information see also: <https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/berachah-home>

[The Erring Girls of Arlington, Texas – ENTROPY \(entropymag.org\)](https://www.tshaonline.org/handbook/entries/berachah-home)

Rev. J. T. Upchurch and family  
descend from the  
**Moses Upchurch Clan I**

Courtney U. /C. Richardson

James C. U. / Nancy A. Hickson

Rev. James Toney U. / Margaret (Maggie) Mae Adams



*"He believed that there were no illegitimate children, only illegitimate parents"*



Myra H. McIlvain is author of award-winning *Stein House*, historical fiction set in the 19th century Texas seaport of Indianola which blew away in the 1886 hurricane.

