

## Moses Upchurch

XID – 1111

**Commentary:** Moses Upchurch (XID 1111) was born about 1822 in Chatham County, NC. He was the son of Courtney Upchurch and the grandson of Moses Upchurch, head of clan #1. As a youngster, he moved with his family to Alabama about 1830. We find him marrying Emily Wilson in Perry County, AL in 1850. Later we find Moses and his descendants in Mississippi. The story of the Upchurches in MS is a complex one and several serious researchers have helped to bring clarity. Notable among them are Mary Ann Livingston and Sharon Kay Rone, both of whom continue as long-term supporters of our Upchurch Family history effort.

RPU – 12 Aug 2018

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by Carla Michaels of Cary, NC

(1) Per letter to RPU from Mrs. Mike Lomas 26 Apr 1975

Moses was son of Courtney Upchurch (born circa 1794 died <1850) and wife Cynthia Richardson. See Courtney. Courtney Upchurch born circa 1794 and died < 1850 married 21 Apr 1814 Cynthia Richardson in Chatham Co, NC. Children were Moses, Burnett, Calvin B, Sion, Delicea, Cynthia, and James Co. (I assume Co = Courtney – RPU). Between 1834 & 1836 they moved to Dallas County, Alabama.

(2) See letter 22 Mar 1980 Genevieve Little to RPU

“My 3<sup>rd</sup> great grandparents are Moses Upchurch and Emily ---. Their children are:

Mark Wesley Upchurch	born 1 Sep 1851
John T Upchurch	born Aug 1852
Robert Alkron Upchurch	
William Calvin Upchurch	born Aug 1856
Monroe Franklin Upchurch	born circa 1859
Troy D Upchurch	born circa 1860
Peter J Upchurch	born circa 1867
Walter L Upchurch	born circa 1869
Araminta Upchurch	born circa 1874

Moses was born in NC and probably married Emily in Dallas Co, AL. Moses mother was Cynthia. Moses siblings that I know about are:

Burnett Upchurch	Sion Upchurch	Larrier Upchurch	Delisia Upchurch
Cynthia Upchurch			

(3) See 1880 Census – Oktibbeha Co, MS

Moses Upchurch	W	M	age 68	born NC
Emily Upchurch	wife		age 47	born NC
William C Upchurch	son		age 24	born MS

Monroe F Upchurch	son	age 20 born MS
Troy Upchurch	son	age 18 born MS
Peter Upchurch	son	age 13 born MS
Walter Upchurch	son	age 10 born MS
Araminta Upchurch	dtr	age 6 born MS
Lenora Upchurch	granddtr	age 4 born MS

**(4)** From 42 Page 75, 76 – Moses Upchurch is son of Courtney Upchurch and grandson of Moses Upchurch, Head of Clan

Moses Upchurch (498), the son of Courtney Upchurch and Cynthia Richardson, was born about 1822 in Chatham County, North Carolina.<sup>399</sup> On 28 November 1850 he married Emily Wilson in Perry County Alabama.<sup>400</sup> Emily was born about 1834 in North Carolina or Alabama. The couple settled in either Dallas or Perry County, Alabama. By August 1856 Moses Upchurch had moved his family to Mississippi.<sup>401</sup> The first record of Moses Upchurch in Mississippi was on 2 September 1859 in Oktibbeha County when he signed a quit claim to buy land from Thomas Carroll. Moses paid \$140 down and owed \$140 due on 1 January 1860 and \$240 due on 1 January 1861.<sup>402</sup> Apparently Moses was unable to meet his notes because J. B. Champion paid him \$430 for the land in an annexed quit claim deed on 31 March 1860.<sup>403</sup> Moses was caught up in the Civil War shortly after this when he enlisted as a private into Company E, 3 Battalion Mississippi Infantry (State Troops) at Starkville. He was captured at Vicksburg, Mississippi on 4 July 1863 and on 10 July he signed a parole oath declaring that he would not bear arms against the United States or serve in any capacity for the Confederate Army.<sup>404</sup>

On 20 August 1870 Moses and his family were still living in Oktibbeha County. It is interesting to note that the one-year old child of Moses and Emily, Walter Lane Upchurch (506), was not living with his parents at this time and was found in the household of Jacob Junary instead.<sup>405</sup> The reason for this is unknown. Perhaps Emily was ill or someone else was having to nurse the child. By 2 May 1871 Moses was working land on the Valentine Plantation when he signed a lien mortgage to James A. Valentine. Moses owed \$80 for two cows and calves named Lill and Buggs and \$146.10 for pork. The money owed for this stock was to earn 8% interest. Moses would also owe Mr. Valentine for a running account for supplies used to make a crop on the land.<sup>406</sup> On 26 April 1872 the B. J. Rivers and Company loaned Moses Upchurch (498) and Mark Wesley Upchurch (499), the son of Moses, \$300. The security used for this loan was the stock and crops produced on the Valentine Farm.<sup>407</sup> On November 1872 Moses and Mark Wesley gave \$490 and a promissory note to James A. Valentine for 320 acres. The note was for \$4190 at 8% interest to be paid in five installments of \$838 each, due 30 November 1873 through 1877.<sup>408</sup> By 19 Dec 1874 Moses and Mark Wesley had trouble paying for the land. John Thomas Upchurch (500), another son of Moses, joined Moses and Mark Wesley in an agreement with James A. Valentine to pay off the land with promissory notes of cotton bales produced at 10% interest.<sup>409</sup> The last record found of Moses and Emily after this was the 1880 Oktibbeha County census. No tombstone, obituary, or probate records have been found for either Moses or Emily in Oktibbeha County. Family history has it that they are buried in unmarked graves in the

Old Colcolough Cemetery about ten miles south of Starkville on property now owned by the Mississippi State University and the United States Department of Wildlife.<sup>410</sup>

Moses Upchurch (498) had ten known children: Mark Wesley Upchurch (499); John Thomas Upchurch (500); twins, Robert Albron or Alvin Upchurch (501) and William Calvin Upchurch (502), Monroe Franklin Upchurch (503); Troy McDonald Upchurch (504); Peter J. Upchurch (505); Walter Lane Upchurch (506); Martha Upchurch (507); and Ara Minta Upchurch (508). Family history has it that one or two additional daughters were born to Moses and Emily. Little is known about three of these children. Monroe Franklin Upchurch (503) was born about 1859 in Oktibbeha County.<sup>411</sup> No other record has been found for him except for his appearance on the 1870 and 1880 census records for Oktibbeha County. He supposedly left home and was never heard from again.<sup>412</sup> Peter J. Upchurch (505) was born about 1867 in Oktibbeha County.<sup>413</sup> His name was found as Peter J., Peter, and J. P., but Peter J. is assumed to be the correct one. On 18 Nov 1891 in Homes County, he married Lizzie Cobb.<sup>414</sup> Peter J. died young and is believed to have left no descendants. Peter J. supposedly had the talent of being able to talk the fire out of a burned person.<sup>415</sup> On 23 January 1901 his wife married Robert P. Allen in Homes County.<sup>416</sup> Martha Upchurch (507) was born in Oktibbeha County sometime between 1870 and 1873. She is believed to have died young though one family version thought she had married and gone to Georgia.<sup>417</sup>

**(5)** See letter 22 Nov 1995 Charles John Peterson, Jr. to RPU.

He tracks **Moses Upchurch** through the census records as follows:

1840 born 1830 – 1835

1850 born 1822

1860 born 1833

1870 born 1832

He concludes **Moses Upchurch** born 1832.

1840 Census – Perry Co, AL Synthya Upchurch (nee Cynthia Richardson) age 40 – 50 is head of household with six children including a male 0 – 5. (**Moses Upchurch**)

1850 Census Athens, Dallas Co, AL 15 Nov 1850

Moses Upchurch	28	born NC	Farmer
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Cyntha Upchurch	55	born NC	(nee Cynthia Richardson)
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+ 5 siblings of **Moses Upchurch**

1860 Census Starkville, Oktibbeha Co, MS 14 Oct 1860 Page 72, 545/4.

Moses Upchurch	27	born NC	farmer
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Emily Upchurch	25	born AL	
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Wesley Upchurch	8	born AL	
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John Upchurch	6	born AL	
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Allvon Upchurch	4	born MS	
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Calvin Upchurch	4	born MS
Franklin	1	born MS

1870 Census, Choctaw Agency Post Office, Oktibbeha Co, MS 19 Aug 1870 page 424, D217, F217

Moses Upchurch	38	born NC	farmer
Emily Upchurch	38	born NC	keeping house
John T Upchurch	17	born AL	farm laborer

1880 Civil District #4 Page 413 Oktibbeha Co, MS D284, F291

Moses Upchurch	48	born NC	(as were both parents)	farmer
Emily Upchurch	47	born NC	(as were both parents)	wife

See Item 3, Page 1 for rest of list. The 5 boys were “working on the farm”. Also in the household was Thomas Lankford 22 born MS (his parents born TN). He was a servant and laborer.

**(6)** From letter 11 Sep 2008 Sharon Kay Rone to RPU

I. Moses Upchurch – Head of Clan

A. Courtney Upchurch

1. **Moses Upchurch** born 1822

**Moses Upchurch I** – He was born 1822 in Chatham, North Carolina, USA. Residence 1850 in Athens, Dallas, Alabama. He died 1880 in Oktibbeha, Mississippi, USA.

Emily Wilson. She was born 1832 in North Carolina, USA. Residence 1880 in Oktibbeha, Mississippi, United States. She died Aft. 1880 in Oktibbeha, Mississippi, USA.

**Moses Upchurch** and Emily Wilson. Their marriage on Nov 28, 1850 in Perry, Alabama, USA (from Early American Marriages: Alabama 1800 – 1920/ Selected Counties). They had 10 children.

**(7)** AL Marriages 1800 – 1920 In letter 21 Oct 2002 Charles John Peterson, Jr. to RPU

Alabama Marriage Records, 1800 – 1920

Husband	Wife	Marriage Date	Place (County)
<b><u>Moses Upchurch</u></b>	Emily Wilson	25 Nov 1850	Perry
William Scarborough	Cinthia Upchurch	07 Feb 1852	Perry
John S McCulley	Frances Upchurch	19 Feb 1866	Perry
*James M Carson	Sarah Upchurch	06 Oct 1835	Perry

\*CJP, Jr. add note: “Referred to in other records as James M. Cann.

**(8)** 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), son 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.<sup>687</sup> On 3 January 1895 Maude Upchurch married Henry Alston.<sup>688</sup> 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 household, 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 October 1892; Fannie Upchurch (965) born January 1895; and Jimmie Upchurch (966) born in June 1896.<sup>689</sup> Fannie Upchurch (965) married Lee Burge on 27 Jun 1913 in the same county.<sup>690</sup> The father of these Upchurch children has not been found.

#### I. Moses Upchurch 0 Head of Clan

##### A. Courtney Upchurch

##### 1. Moses Upchurch

- a. Peter J. Upchurch
- b. Walter Lane Upchurch
- c. Mark Wesley Upchurch
  - i. William Harrison Upchurch, Sr.

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 Jan 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.

**(9)** See letter 7 Jun 1997 William Lee Pattillos to RPU

**Moses Upchurch** born about 1822 (Chatham Co, NC) died after 1880 married Emily Wilson born 1832 (NC) died after 1880 (Attala Co, MS)

**(10)** Email 21 Feb 2010 Sharon Kay Rone to RPU

Subject: news

From: Sharon Self <s\_rone@msn.com>

Date: Sun, Feb 21, 2010 2:16 pm

To: Phil Upchurch <phil@upchurchstory.com>

A friend of mine is in a MS Civil War reenactment group and we were talking yesterday and I mentioned that my Moses Upchurch ancestor (my 2 x great-grandfather) was captured and pardoned in the Vicksburg in 1863. And that he lived in Oktibbeha County, MS – the same as my friend. He asked where he was buried and I told him “presumably at Old Colcolough Cemetery” near Dorman Lake south of Starkville”. At least that’s what anything I’ve found says – although there is no headstone and no confirmed death date.

I told him how overgrown and abandoned the cemetery was. He volunteered his reenactment group to clean it up AND they will erect a Civil War veteran headstone, complete with Confederate ceremony. I was amazed! I just need to fill out some paperwork and provide a copy of his pardon at Vicksburg – which I have on photocopy.

I was very excited and wanted to share.

Sharon Rone Self  
S\_Rone@msn.com

[Note: A copy of this email sent to Charles John Patterson, Jr. on 21 Feb 2010. No response as of 1 Mar 2010. RPU]

CC to biofile of Moses Upchurch born about 1822, son of Courtney Upchurch and grandson of Moses Upchurch, Head of Clan.

**(11)** 6 Oct 2010

Subject: ceremony for Moses Upchurch

From: Sharon Self <s\_rone@msn.com>

Date: Wed, Oct 6, 2010 1:52 pm

To: Mary Ann Livingston <maliving@bellsouth.net>, Patty Rushing <rush3634@yahoo.com>, Stan Marks <swmarks@yahoo.com>, Phil Upchurch <phil@upchurchstory.com>, <scothran1@live.com>, <upchurch\_0707@yahoo.com>, Sylvia 2 <turkeycreek1017@yahoo.com>

We have set the date of Sunday, Nov. & at 2:00 pm for the Civil War headstone and honor ceremony for Moses Upchurch, b. 1822, buried in Colcolough Cemetery, Oktibbeha Co. He was the father of Walter Lane Upchurch, my great grandfather. Please feel free to invite any Upchurch kin that you know of and I will do the same. The ceremony will be conducted by the local CW re-enactment group – 1<sup>st</sup> Mississippi Light Artillery, Co C (Turner's Battery).

I will also put up the new cemetery sign at that time. I will write up something for the Starkville Daily News – can you let me know what their printing deadlines are and to whom it should be sent.

Could you also please check to see if Starkville Café is open on Sunday afternoons – maybe we can all gather there afterwards to meet, greet and share. Thanks. If not there, I will check on a room at the MSU student union. It's a great place since the renovation.

For those that will need directions: Old Colcolough Cemetery is on Highway 25 south of Starkville on the new 4-laned section going toward Louisville. It is at the junction of the highway and Dorman Lake Road – it is unmarked so look closely – there is a trailer park on the south side of the Dorman road and a large power line clearance runs through the middle of the cemetery on the north side of Dorman. Road. Headstones are visible only after you enter the property

Sharon Rone Self  
S\_Rone@msn.com

**(12)** Item to RPU via email 8 Nov 2010 Sharon Kay Rone  
Appeared in the newspaper Starkville Daily 8 Nov 2010 Starkville, MS – The email included a picture of the headstone.



## Genealogists preserve history in way that is increasing in popularity

November 8, 2010

Descendents of Moses Upchurch, born 1822- died 1880, gathered Sunday, in the Old Colcolough Cemetery for an honor ceremony for the newly erected Civil War headstone.

The special service is one of the ways genealogists are recognizing the accomplishments of their family, as well as preserve family and local history.

Descendents and relatives attend the Sunday afternoon service which was conducted by local Civil War re-enactment group, the 1st Mississippi Light Artillery, Company C (Turner's Battery). The Old Colcolough Cemetery is located at the junction of Hwy. 25 South and Dorman Lake Road, about seven miles south of Starkville.

Sunday's service is one of a growing trend among genealogists. Researching family history can take a genealogist in several directions, even to cemeteries to find relevant information.

As more and more information is revealed about a name from the past, families discover crumbling grave markers, if any markers can be found.

As a way of honoring the past and providing a marker for future research, the trend to replace the marker and honor military service is important.

As part of Sunday's service, visitors learned more about the life of Moses Upchurch.

Moses and his wife, Emily Wilson, moved into Oktibbeha County around 1856 from Perry County, Ala.

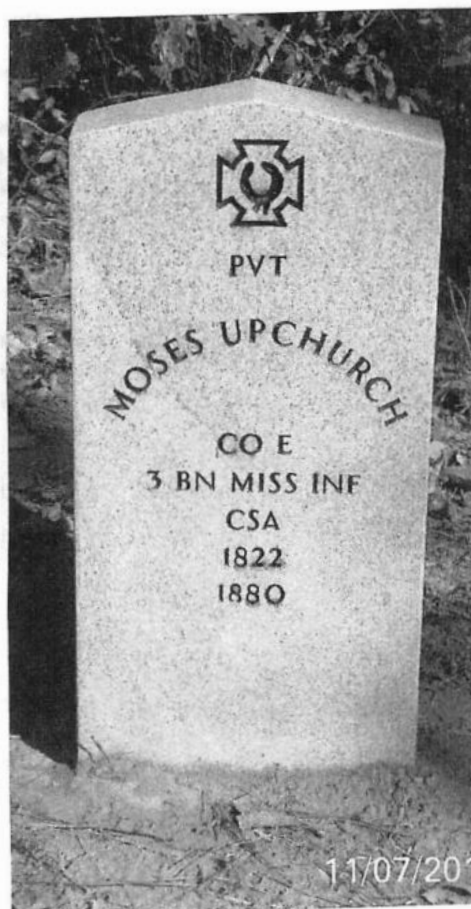
In 1862, Moses joined the Mississippi military and served as private in Co. E, 3rd Battalion MS Infantry, State Troops. On July 4, 1863 he was captured during the siege of Vicksburg and later paroled when he swore allegiance to the United States.

Returning to Oktibbeha County, Moses and Emily lived south of Starkville and in 1871 he was working as an overseer on the Valentine Plantation. The last record of Moses and Emily is the 1880 US Census for Oktibbeha County.

Moses and Emily were the parents of ten known children, several of whom continued to live in the Oktibbeha County area. Many descendants can be found today in surrounding counties. The ten children were Mark Wesley U., John Thomas U., twins- Robert Albron/Alvin and William Calvin U., Monroe Franklin U., Troy McDonald U., Peter J. U., Walter Lane U., Martha U., and Ara Minta U.

Moses was a fourth generation descendent of the immigrant ancestor, Michael Upchurch, who arrived in America in 1650.

He is also the grandson of the first Moses Upchurch, who served for America in the Revolutionary War.



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