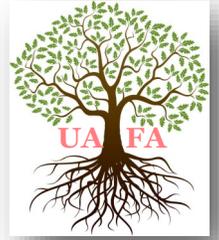


UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.



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FROM THE EDITOR

If you have the privilege of speaking with older relatives this holiday season, please consider some suggestions: 1) Write down family stories so they are not lost. 2) Record your thoughts and experiences for future generations. 3) Interview a relative or grandparent via phone, FaceTime or Skype. Lastly, visit your local library to see what digital or web genealogy offerings they have available. If you are not connected to Ancestry, there is a very good chance your library is! *Lastly*, dial in to our American Upchurch Index Tree on Ancestry!



Thanksgiving —mother and son peeling potatoes—1945

—Cindy Hale

Samuel Earle Upchurch, Sr., MD (13 Apr 1909 - 4 Jun 1968)

Pioneering Plastic Surgeon and Member of an Upchurch Medical Dynasty

By Tom Upchurch, M.D., FACS

Samuel Earle Upchurch, Sr. was born to Edgar Erle and Rhoda Upchurch in the little college town of Montevallo, Alabama but he spent most of his youth in Clanton, Alabama where his family was very respected. His father was a pharmacist, owner of the Upchurch Drug Store and longtime President of the First National Bank in Clanton and his uncle, Harvey Burton Upchurch, Sr. was a well-known physician.



Sam Upchurch photo at the University of Alabama Medical School

Sam wanted to become a doctor also. He began the long education process at the Citadel in Charleston, SC where he worked two years before transferring to Vanderbilt. He studied there for six more years to earn both his Bachelor of Arts and MD degrees. After Vanderbilt, he continued his training at the Surgery and Plastic Surgery training programs at Duke.

While he was at Duke, the United States entered World War II.

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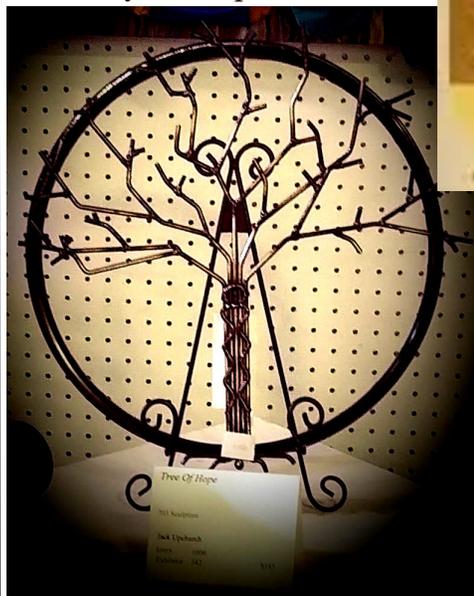
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Tree of Hope
by Jack Upchurch



David Upchurch from South Carolina posted: This is a piece my dad put in the Fair this year. It's called **Tree Of Hope** by **Jack Upchurch**. Jack is an artist of many medias but most often metal. Son, David is also an artist; in fact their artistry goes back many generations. They descend from the **John Upchurch III** clan.

UAFA is looking for Ancestry Tree Master Associates!

Do you or someone you know like genealogy and have access to Ancestry.com? Sign in and work on your own family tree. Our tree is growing and it's fun! Volunteer today! Contact: Linda Upchurch Sparks
lusparks@eplus.net



Samuel Earle Upchurch, Sr., MD (13 Apr 1909 - 4 Jun 1968) *Continued from Page 1*

In 1944 many doctors and nurses at Duke, including Sam, volunteered to serve with the 65th General Hospital in Britain. At that time, bomber crews from the 8th Air Force were flying from England to attack industrial centers in Germany. Many planes did not return and crew members of those that did make it back were often horribly injured by bullets, flack and cold (it was 40 degrees below zero at the flying altitudes). The 65th General Hospital was stationed at Redgrave Park in Suffolk England and the staff there handled a constant stream of front-line casualties from heavy bomber crews.

Injuries were often terribly deforming and Lieutenant Colonel Upchurch who was chief of the plastic surgery division of the 65th and his team did what they could to bring the young men back to normal. For more information about the 65 General Hospital, [click here](#). While Sam was working with the 65th, he was able to collaborate with Sir Archibald McIndoe, a brilliant British surgeon who was one of the founding fathers of modern reconstructive surgery.

Sam was discharged from the Army in 1945 and moved on to Barnes Hospital in St. Louis to complete two more years of plastic surgery training. Finally, at the age of 36, he had completed his training and military obligations and was ready to move to the location of his choice. He selected Birmingham, Alabama where he became the first registered plastic surgeon in the state and the first Chairman of the University of Alabama School of Medicine Plastic Surgery Department. He

remained chairman for twenty-one years until his untimely death from scleroderma when he was fifty-nine years old.

Sam had been so intensively involved with education, training and demands of war that he did not marry until he was 40. His choice for a life partner was Alia Ann Samford, a very strong, highly educated lady from a prominent and respected Alabama family. Ann was also widely known as Alabama's state women's golf champion.

Sam and Ann were distant cousins. Both were descendants of Abel Upchurch.

They were only married for twenty-one years but during that time they were a power duo and accomplished more in medicine, business, ranching and philanthropy than can be discussed in this article. They also produced three children, Katherine, Virginia and Sam, Jr. Katherine and Virginia are identical twins, and both became well known physicians practicing in the Boston area. Sam, Jr. is an attorney and banker in Birmingham. Katherine's daughter, Kathy Takvorian, recently received her MD from Tufts University School of Medicine becoming the fourth-generation physician in this branch of the Upchurch family.

If you have an [Ancestry.com](#) account, you can learn much more about this branch of the **Abel Upchurch clan** by [selecting this link](#). *Note: for privacy protection, you will not see living descendants unless you are a tree editor.*



Alia Ann Samford



*Sam Upchurch M.D.
Department Chair*



*David Thomas "Tom" Upchurch, M.D.
is our distinguished President of UAFA
He can be reached at:
tomupchurch41@gmail.com*



Tomb of the Unknown Soldier



soldiers from World War II, Korea and Vietnam. (The Vietnam soldier was later identified, so that crypt is vacant today.) Did you know that the Tomb has no official name? This is why you hear the names "Tomb of the Unknown Soldier" and "Tomb of the Unknowns" used interchangeably.

Today, the Tomb is a tribute to those American soldiers who gave their lives for their country in these wars, without having their remains identified. The Tomb is guarded 365 days a year, 24 hours a day, in all sorts of weather. The sentinels who guard the tomb are the best soldiers from the elite 3rd U.S. Infantry Regiment. These soldiers go through intense training and testing before they are qualified to be sentinels. The job is considered a great honor.

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On this day in 1921, an unidentified soldier from World War I is interred in a Tomb—the Tomb of the Unknown Soldier. President Warren Harding spoke at the ceremony. He opened with these words:

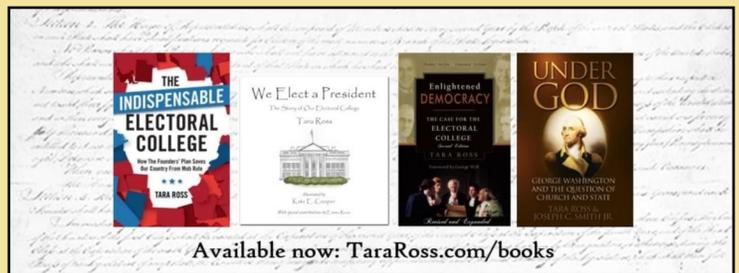
"We are met today to pay the impersonal tribute. The name of him whose body lies before us took flight with his imperishable soul. We know not whence he came, but only that his death marks him with the everlasting glory of an American dying for his country."

Emblazoned on the back of the Tomb are

the words:

*Here rests in honored
glory an American
soldier known but to
God*

Later, other crypts were added, nearby, for unknown



In Loving Memory

Jonathan W. "Jon" Upchurch, 30, of Rockford, IL and Dundee, MI, passed away on Saturday, October 30, 2021 in a tragic vehicle accident. Born January 2, 1991, in Rockford IL, the son of William Upchurch and Jolene (Fennel) Zellers. Graduate of Guilford High School. He worked as a line worker for Chrysler in Dundee, MI. Jonathan grew up playing soccer and basketball, and was an avid Chicago Bulls and Green Bay Packers fan. He truly lived life to its fullest and his friends meant the world to him.

(He is) survived by his parents, Jolene

(Terrence) Zellers and William (Dorothee) Upchurch; sister, Amber; step-sister, Michelle Brummett; grandparents, Marita Fennel, Jacqueline and Richard Willard; and many aunts, uncles, cousins. Predeceased by sister, Jessica Nolan; grandfathers, Bert Fennel and William Upchurch.

Memorial Service was held at Noon on Friday, November 12, 2021 in Olson North Main Chapel, 2811 North Main Street, Rockford, IL. He was buried in Scandinavian Cemetery.

Jonathan descends from John Upchurch III clan.

