



UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.

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EDITOR'S DESK Happy Valentines Day from UAFA!

A couple of notes— On page 4 of this newsletter is a warm letter home from our immigrant ancestor Michael Upchurch, written in 1652.

Regrettably in last issue we forgot to mention **Becky Bradley**, among our volunteers who work with Carla Michaels transcribing biofiles. Her family descends from the Nathan Upchurch I/Gilbert Upchurch sub-clan. Pictured is Beckys grand-mother **Eleanor Marks Upchurch**.



We would like to hear from you! As always, your comments and suggestions are always welcome. Please consider sharing family stories, photos, family recipes and memories.

Thank you Shirly Obed and Viola Tabor Upchurch of Tennessee and Barbara Phillips Frost for your kind, inspiring words.

Cindy Hale —Editor

A Cotton Picking Love Story

Hope you enjoy this excerpt from the Hal Upchurch Chronicles: *Stories Our Mama Told Us*

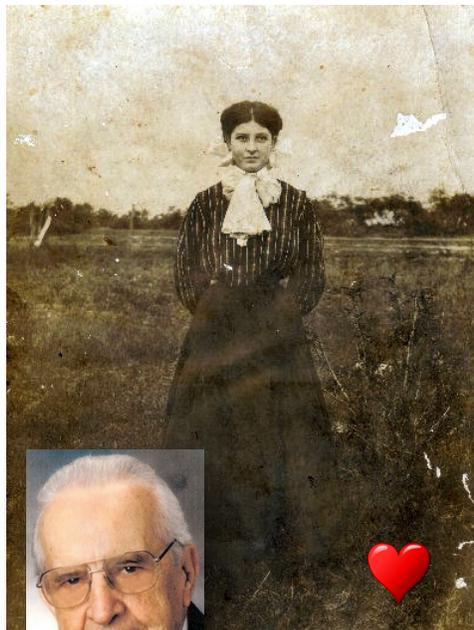
In the late summer of 1910, as the cotton-picking season began in central Texas, Grandpa Scott brought his five children to Hill County to live in a tent and pick cotton as they moved from field to field. It was during this time that Mama and Papa first met. Mama has just turned 16, and Papa was nearing, or had just turned, 24. They met when Papa, by happenstance, appeared to pick cotton in the same field in which Mama and her family were picking.

When the cotton-picking season ended, Grandpa Scott took his children back to their home near Alvarado, and Papa went back to his home and regular farm work, but they somehow managed to stay in

touch with one another across the next few months. One evidence that they stayed in touch is in a postal card that Papa wrote to Mama shortly before

Christmas in 1910. In her later years, Mama gave this card to Alice. The card began: "Dear Winnie, I take my pen in hand ..."

The best evidence that they stayed in touch is in the fact that they were married on January 1, 1911, and in the fact that "in sickness and in health, in poverty and in wealth, in the good that brightened their days, in the bad that darkened their ways, and forsaking all others," they clove



only unto one another for 61 years, 6 months, and 7 days, and were finally parted only by death.

[Upchurch Chronicles](#) Preacher Hal Upchurch (1918-2008) and family descend from Clan 4—Richard Upchurch III.

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UAFA NEWS & INFORMATION



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UAFA is primarily a volunteer organization, but we must have money for computers, insurance, accountants, office expenses, software and on-line access. Contributions are usually tax deductible. To see how we can work together [Click Here](#).

Please consider a donation so we can continue this work.

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A Reminder to the guy's from Brenda Carbon, 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.

When our hearts turn to our ancestors, something changes inside us. We feel part of something greater than ourselves.

President Nelson

Children Through the Mail?

In 1913 it was legal to mail children. With stamps attached to their clothing, children rode trains to their destinations, accompanied by letter carriers. One newspaper reported it cost fifty-three cents for parents to mail their daughter to her grandparents for a family visit. As news stories and photos popped up around the country, it didn't take long to get a law on the books making it illegal to send children through the mail.

It certainly was a different time, wasn't it? —Editor





Ancestry Says It Fought Two Police Requests to Search Its DNA Database



The Utah-based company disclosed the two requests in its latest transparency report covering the latter half of 2020. The report said Ancestry “challenged both of these requests, which were withdrawn,” and that the company “provided no data” at the time of the report, published Tuesday.

what was in the report.

The company also said in its most recent report that it “refused numerous inquiries” from U.S. law enforcement for failing to obtain the proper legal process. The report also said the company received four valid law enforcement requests, but that it did not provide any data in response.

Consumer genomics company [Ancestry](#) has confirmed it fought two U.S. law enforcement requests to access its DNA database in the past six months, but that neither request resulted in turning over customer or DNA data.

Ancestry did not say which agencies or police departments requested the DNA data or for what reason the company challenged the request. Ancestry spokesperson Gina Spatafore confirmed the search warrants were to obtain DNA data but declined to comment beyond

You can learn more in an article by Zack Whittaker in the *TechCrunch* web site at: <https://techcrunch.com/2021/02/10/ancestry-police-warrant-dna-database/>



An Upchurch Bulletin Excerpt — By Robert “Phil” Upchurch, PhD

Allegheny Co., NC



VOLUME 21. NUMBER 2.

CLAN 14. JOHN U., III

As mentioned in "From the Editor" an opportunity presented itself to have a brief look at Upchurch footprints in Allegheny Co., NC on **19 OCT 2000**. We were to stay the nights of the 18th

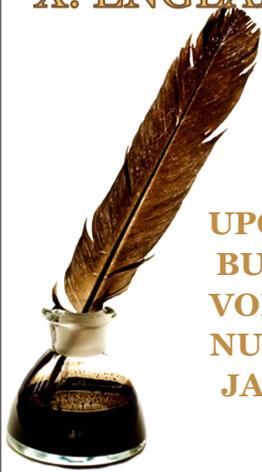
and 19th at the mountain home of Linwood Penny which abuts the Blue Ridge Parkway in eastern Allegheny Co., NC. As we toured the county to view fall colors on the 19th, your editor was granted some leeway to think UPCHURCH. We spent an hour in the Allegheny Co., NC Public Library in the County Seat of Sparta and found a number of useful Upchurch references. Some of these were copied and are yet to be digested. Next we traveled from Sparta to Laurel Springs as I kept my eye out for cemeteries. Along the way we encountered Laurel Springs Baptist Church and Cemetery where several Upchurch monuments were noted. They appear to be of the William Thomas U. (MD 7887) family in the John Wesley U. (MD 7882) Line in the John U. III/John U. VII Subclan (MD 157/4168). Then we backtracked a few miles to the Cranberry Primitive Baptist Church Cemetery where more Upchurch monuments were found, including one for John Wesley U. himself (MD 7882). This cemetery is on the Allegheny/Ashe

County line. The details will be sorted out in due course. We know that the John U. VII family first settled next door in Wilkes Co., NC where they are heavily documented. It is clear some of them slipped over into Allegheny Co. and in due course to Ashe County, the northwestern most county in NC. Two things were especially impressive about these several counties. One is the sheer beauty of the area - much rolling countryside with streams and vistas in abundance. The other is how the valleys run to the northeast leading readily into the VA counties of Grayson and beyond to Carroll. It is, therefore, understandable that later generations of the John U. III/John U. VII Subclan were found in these VA counties. In conclusion I spent a most enjoyable day in this lovely county and hope some day to return for a more leisurely visit for family history purposes. I must express my appreciation for the other members of our party who tolerated my excited state with good grace.





X. ENGLAND THE 1652 MICHAEL UPCHURCH LETTER XIX



**UPCHURCH
BULLETIN
VOLUME 2.
NUMBER 1.
JANUARY
1981**

Robert "Phil" Upchurch PhD wrote:

A decade or so ago the *Virginia Historical Society Magazine* carried an article about the Ferrar Papers located in Magdalene College of Cambridge University in England. Reference was made to a letter received by Virginia Ferrer from one Michael Upchurch, a colonist 146 in Virginia. The letter was dated March 27, 1651. Virginia Ferrar was the daughter of John Ferrar who was the brother of Nicholas Ferrar, the latter being the individual who originated the Little Gidding Religious Community in Huntingdonshire, England in 1625. John took over the management of the community when brother Nicholas died in 1637. Virginia served as a corresponding secretary for the community. Upchurch genealogists in America pursued the Virginia Historical Society Magazine article and while not locating the 1651 letter they were able to locate in Magdalene College the original of a May 4, 1652 letter from Michael Upchurch I in Virginia to his father at Little Gidding, England. The contents of the 1652 letter are as follows:

"Loveing and kinde Father my duty with my wife's humbly I senhed to you and to my mother as alsoe to my sister trusting that you are in health as at present I am blessed bee God desireing you to remember me to all my friends in generall. These

are to notifie you that as yett I have not received your letter but I here it is in ye country but I have received the letter wch Mr. Farrer sent mee as alsoe the tokens which the faire lady his daughter sent mee for the which I am deeply engaged for her favor and courtesie. Truly I am very sorry I have not had your letter sooner for I did preserve you a Hogshed of the best tobacco I had on purpose to send you but not hearing from you made me lay it out and yett if I can possible I will send you some tobacco this yeare although mine bee layd out. But however I intend God willing to send you some tobacco; the next yeare without faile and pray lett me heare from you the first shippe that come to Yorke River and pray direct your letter for mee to one Mr. James Brune liveing neere unto Esquire Ludlow in Yorke and I shall be sure to have it delivered. Pray father bee not un-mindful to present my service to Mr. Farrer informing I understand that he did not receive half the tokens I sent, but it was none of my fault for I being illiterate desired him to writ my letters to send both the name of the man and alsoe of the shipp but I think that he did neglect it therefore I desire to be informed wt the meaning of the hitting of the naile on the head is and wt it doth signifie and conserning the earth it is the common mould of Virginia onely I sent a young turtle or terrapine as the indians call them and the earth was onely to pserve it alive whilst it came to London. I sent my father tow roundes of tobacco; the matter of 20 lb and I sent my Mother an Indian baskett and a pepper box. And I sent to Mr. Farrer 8 lb of principal good tobacco for his owne drinking and a half a dozen of Indian Pipes and a box full of tobacco seeds and I sent to Mrs. Virginia Farrer a muskrat skin two musk codd's an Indian basket two woodpeckers crownes

wch were redder than any scarlet and with all I sent a paire of flying hart's homes and a pair of burds homes and pease of mine several sorts and beans of all colors wheate and Indian come of all sorts and I sent some heavy earth and a peece of fullers earth and as concerning the Indians making of bowes and arrowes they make there bowes of Locust and there arrowes of reeds and their arrow heads bee of glass or else from turkicock spurs or tips of deer's hornes and they do gett glasse from the English and make tryangle just * as this mark is and they did not cut it with diamonds only with a conce knife or a pipple stone and as concerning mettles I am ignorat there is diverse sorts of mettle stones but I cannot gett any because the Indians are at war one with the other but I shall promise some against the next yeare. however I know not how to make Mrs. Farrer amends for all her manifold favorer bestowed upon mee howsoever I shall remaine very thankful for her kindness though unknowne soe at present I comitt you to God and your dutiful sonne/ MICHAEL UPCHURCH "My Wife's name is Frances Upchurch/Virginia May 4/1652/" The cover or envelope bears the inscription: A. "Mich. Upchurch, Virginia, to Mr. Ferrar Gidd, May 4, 1652" and B. "for my hon'rd friend Mr. Farrer Liveing in Little Gidden in/ Huntingsh Leave this at Mr Nicholas Collets: in Lombard Street at the White Hinde..... nere the Cardinals Capp." C. "Mr John Grot....Cooper(?) unto Mr Greene in Spruses Iland in Ratliffe".

There are 4 letters from Michael Upchurch I. For more information:

The Upchurch Bulletin [Archive of Phil Upchurch Publications - Allied Families](#)

Michael Upchurch : His Life, His Times, His Legacy, 1624-1681 (Book by Mae Davenport Cox, 2012)

