

Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch**XID – 2720**

Commentary: Georgia Ann Matilda Upchurch married John Michael “Dump” Upchurch. He was the son of Charity and grandson of Charles, head of Upchurch Clan 2.

Acknowledgements: The following Biofile was transcribed by Carla J. Michaels, a volunteer and tireless contributor, who administers the UAFA center in Cary, NC

(1) See 2 Feb 1978 letter Elna E Burkhalter to RPU – Page 2

A. Matilda D Upchurch was the daughter of Lunsford Upchurch (son of Claburn Upchurch). She married J Michael “Dump”, a son of Charity Upchurch. (Note – assume J Michael was an Upchurch – RPU

(2) See letter 10 Jul 1980 Elna Ear Burkhalter to RPU

Page 12 Matildy D Upchurch born 22 Feb 1840 (Henry Co, GA). Married 1856 J Michael Upchurch

Page 17 Matilda D Upchurch died 22 Jan 1921 (Wellington, TX, Collinsworth Co) – married 1856 J Michael Upchurch at Henry Co, GA.

(3) See letter 30 Jun 1983 J Marie Bell to RPU (Info from Elna Era Burkhalter)

Confirms (1) and (2) above using name of Matildy D Upchurch. However, husband is shown as M J “Dump” Upchurch rather than J Michael “Dump” Upchurch.

Note: 10 children of Matilda D Upchurch are shown born from 12 Jan 1857 to 4 Aug 1885. The 1st two have no birth place shown but the last 8 children are shown as born AL – other info shows #3 and #4 born in GA. Hence a discrepancy.

(4) See letter 15 Sep 1983 Jewel Marie Bell to RPU

For Matilda D Upchurch I have just the census which doesn’t not give the name. I have the family of Michael J Upchurch [J Michael Upchurch – RPU?] on the 1880 census in Marshall Co. Beat #20 which is my source of info.

(5) See letter 18 Jun 1988 Virginia Diann Kenney to RPU

1860 Census – Randolph Co, GA (800)

Michael Upchurch	30	m	farmer	born GA	[J Michael Upchurch]
Georgia A M Upchurch	19	f	housewife	born GA	<u>[Georgia A Matilda D Upchurch]</u>
Charity S Upchurch	3	f		born AL	[Charity Serina Upchurch]
Mary D Upchurch	6/12	f		born AL	Mary Delaney Upchurch]
Charity S Upchurch	66	f		born NC	

(6) See Census 1880 – Marshall Co, AL

Michael Upchurch	w	m	51	born GA	[J Michael Upchurch]
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Matilda Upchurch	40	born GA	wife [<u>Georgia A Matilda D Upchurch</u>]
+6 children			
Charita Upchurch	82	born NC	mother [Charity S Upchurch]

(7) See 1850 Census – Henry Co, GA

L Upchurch	40	m	farmer \$700	born NC	[Lunsford Upchurch]
M A Upchurch	36	f			[Mary Ann Ballard]
M D Upchurch	10	f			<u>Matilda D Upchurch</u> [AKA <u>GAMD Upchurch</u>]

+3 older siblings
+5 younger siblings

(8) See letter 28 Mar 1989 Elna Era Burkhalter to RPU

Micon Upchurch [J Michael Upchurch] born 1831 (Hancock Co, GA) married circa 1856 Georgiana Ann M [**GAMD Upchurch**] born 1840 (GA).

(9) From letter 2 Dec 1996 Doris Jean Acklin to RPU

I found a microfilm of Confederate's Widow's Application for a Pension in the Okla. Historical Library. I have a copy of Michael's widow, **Matilda**, application with Affidavits showing Michael was a member of Co K, Regiment 46th Ala Infantry. This was verified Aug 11, 1915 by the War Dept showing he enlisted April 24th (no year). He was listed on a bounty roll May 16, 1862 and listed as captured May 16, 1863 at Champion Hill (also shown captured May 17, 1863 at Big Black) paroled July 3, 1863 at Fort Delaware, Delaware.

(10) See letter 24 Feb 1997 Doris Jean Acklin to RPU

"I cannot find J Michael Upchurch but only find him as Michael Upchurch. He was born 1 Jul 1829 (Henry Co, GA). Family Records show he died 3 Mar 1903 (Clay Co, TX) but his widow filed in Marlow, Stephens Co, OK on 6 Jul 1916 and in it reported that her husband d9ed 5 Mar 1905. This application also shows she (**GAMDU**) married Apr 1854 (Randolph Co, AL). She was born 22 Feb 1840 (GA) died 20 Jan 1921 (Wichita Co, TX) per the Texas Death Records. She and Michael had only ten children.

(no number) See Page 2 of letter 26 Oct 199- Clyde Charles Upchurch, Jr to RPU for Upchurch details provided by Mrs Hazel Robertson

Hazel shows Matilda D Upchurch [actually **Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch** – RPU] as the daughter of Lunsford Upchurch of the Richard Upchurch, III/ Claburn Upchurch, I Sub-clan – but then enters a footnote: "**Matilda** could be Mary Upchurch born about 1840 (GA) married David Isaac Chaffin on 24 Oct 1894 (Columbia, AR)

[Note: The first listing by Hazel is correct. We still need to sort out how the footnoted couple fits unto the Upchurch Family – RPU]

For **Matilda D Upchurch** Hazel shows born 22 Feb 1840 (Henry Co, GA) died 22 Jan 1921 (TX) married 1856 () J Michael Upchurch.

(no number) From letter 26 Oct 1999 Clyde Charles Upchurch, Jr to RPU, Page 3
Re: Mary Ballard and husband Lunsford Upchurch, son of Claburn Upchurch, I and grandson of Richard Upchurch, III – Head of Clan

GS 325727 Newton Co Marriages, 1822 – 35, Vol A, p 239
Lunceford Upchurch and Mary Ballard md January 30, 1834 by John Edge, JP

#7069, 1850 census Henry Co, Georgia, Sept 21, p 225a, entry 534

L Upchurch	40	farmer \$700	born NC	[Lunsford Upchurch]
M A	36		born GA	[nee Mary Ann Ballard]
C A (f)	15	school	born GA	[Samantha A Upchurch]
T (m)	14	school	born GA	[Thomas C Upchurch]
S (f)	12		born GA	[Sophronia Upchurch]
M D (f)	10		born GA	<u>[Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch]</u>
E J (f)	8		born GA	(1853 still in Henry Co, Georgia) [Elizabeth J Upchurch]
J G (m)	7		born GA	[Joseph G Upchurch]
T A (f)	4	school	born GA	[Tabitha A Upchurch]
J J (m)	2		born GA	[James John Upchurch]
E E (f)	5		born GA	[Ella Eleanor Upchurch]

1840 census Henry Co, GA, Pt 14, Page 344 (at end of roll) 638th District G M

Lunsford Upchurch	30 – 40		
*1 male	10 – 15		[unidentified as of 11 Nov 1999 – RPU]
1 male	under 5		[Thomas C Upchurch]
1 female	20 – 30		[nee Mary Ann Ballard]
1 female	5 – 10		[Samantha A Upchurch]
2 females	under 5		[Sophronia Upchurch & <u>Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch</u>]

(no slaves)

#175364 Henry Co, GA Deeds, Ga Deeds Vol N

p 112 June 12, 1852 Lunceford Upchurch to Levi H Turner for \$700, 100 acres in lot 76
p 389 Dec 10, 1853 Lunceford Upchurch to Thos H Bryans, part of lot 177, 100 1/4 acres (for a promissory note for \$300 by Nov 1)

1860 Henry Co, GA nil (read by granddaughter Heather and me)

1860 Kemper, Miss p 882 nil

186- Georgia nil (U-126)

Ancestral File Submissions by

1. Jackie R Fincher, Rt 1, Bo 149E, Queen City, Texas 75571 (1988)
2. Donald F Maddox, 600 Ates Road, Pineville, Louisiana 71360 (1992)
3. Clyde C Upchurch, 2211 East Glencove, Mesa, Arizona 85213 (1995)
4. Jewel Marie Bell Wood, 1029 Johnston St, Napa, Calif 94558-5505 Ch#4 (Matilda D Upchurch entry) (1997)
5. John J Chaffin, 4721 So Harvey, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73109 (1989)
also Donald F Maddox (1992) Ch#4 Mary Upchurch

(no number) See letter 27 May 2003 Phyllis Annie Campbell to RPU
[P A Campbell's contacts: Shirley Scott, Deborah Battenfield, Reba Iselin]

I. Richard Upchurch, III – Head of Clan

1. Lunsford Upchurch

a. Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch

lived in the
Sequoyah
Co Area

- i. La Murse Upchurch born 7 Oct 1881 (AL) died 2 May 1966
() (buried Green Hill Cemetery, Muskogee, Muskogee Co, OK)
married (1st) 18 Jul 1897 () Silas James Watts – divorced about 1925
married (2nd)) --- --- Benham

a. --- --- ---

i. Shirley --- --- [was nee Shirley Scott or
married () --- --- Scott

[Shirley had “Matildy” (**GAMDU**) as born 22 Feb 1840 () died 28 Mar 1940. They are the same dates as found on markers in Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Clay Co, TX. Another stone has M Upchurch and a 3rd has L M Brown]

ii. Mary Delaney Upchurch

a. Charles Washington Sparks “Charlie”

[He stayed in OK when Mary moved to TX]

i. --- --- ---

(I) Deborah --- ---

[nee Deborah Battenfield or
married a --- --- Battenfield]

b. Nettie Bell Sparks

i. Mattie Ilene McGowan

(I) Phyllis Annie Campbell

iii. Charity Serina Upchurch

a. --- --- ---

i. Reba Iselin

(no number) See letter 18 Feb 1996 Ray Olan Sparks to RPU – for picture of 36 people at Sparks Reunion – Jun 1929

Individuals new to RPU files from the picture are as follows (In CAPS); * = not new, in picture; [] name used in picture

I. *Mary Delaney Upchurch of the Richard Upchurch, III/ Claburn Upchurch Sub-clan – Lunsford Upchurch Line [Mrs Mary D Sparks]

A. *Robert Michael Sparks [ROB]

- | | |
|--------------------|------------------|
| 1. ELMO SPARKS | 4. LOUISE SPARKS |
| 2. STERLING SPARKS | 5. VIRGIL SPARKS |
| 3. GLADYS SPARKS | |

B. *James William Sparks [Will, Preacher] married () *Belva --- ---

C. *Pearl Leola Sparks married () *A CALYER JONES [COL JONES]

1. EDNA JONES

D. *Nettie Belle Sparks married () *George McGowan

- | | |
|-----------------------------|---------------------------------|
| 1. George Lee McGowan [LEE] | 3. Elsie Ione McGowan |
| 2. *Mattie Ilene McGowan | 4. Lillie Belle McGowan [LILLY] |
| | married () BEN WHITE |

E. *Mattie Ella Sparks married () *Jackson Douglas Thompson

1. CORENE THOMPSON

F. 2 each Frank Sparks

G. *Doy Oral Sparks [ORAL] married () *Frances Rogers

- | | |
|-----------------------|-----------------|
| 1. WYATT SPARKS | 2. JAMES SPARKS |
| 3. BILLIE JEAN SPARKS | |

Also in picture: ***Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch** [Matilda Upchurch] – mother of Mary Delaney Upchurch + Mary’s brother *Marion Franklin Upchurch [Marion Frank Upchurch] and Mary’s sister *Eula Falley Upchurch [Eula Upchurch Inman] and 9 not identified/ linked by RPU.

(no number) See Sparks Family for article “Tracing the Sparks Family History”, Page 13 -16, Received 18 Feb 1996 from Ray Olan Sparks

I. Richard Upchurch, III – Head of Clan

A. Claburn Upchurch, I

1. Lunsford Upchurch

a. **Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch**

i. Mary Delaney Upchurch
married James Harris Sparks

This excerpt based on Sparks research tracks Mary and James from AL to TX. **Matilda** traveled with her daughter Mary. **Matilda** married John Michael Upchurch “Dump”, son of Charity Upchurch and grandson of Charles Upchurch – Head of Clan. There is no sign of “**Dump**” in this excerpt.

At that time the West was starting to attract settlers from the southern states who were suffering from the stultifying aftermath of the Civil War, the influx of "carpetbaggers" from the North, and the general social upheaval. Moving was made easier by the railroads that were penetrating into areas that had formerly only been accessible by horseback or wagon. The rails got to Nocona, Texas about 1887 from the East. Then Bowie was connected to the rail system on July 1, 1882, as the Fort Worth and Denver City Railway Company laid track toward Wichita Falls. To attract customers and develop freight business the various railway companies advertised heavily in the southern states about the bountiful conditions out west, where land was cheap, fertile, well watered, and available at the end of the rails. That was all true, of course, but they didn't talk much about the Indians.

Well, James and Mary surely read the advertising and made the decision to move. It is even likely that other members of the very large families, both the Sparks and the Upchurches, had already preceded them and wrote them letters of encouragement. The gravestones in the various cemeteries in Texas and Oklahoma attest to their presence in those days.

So James and Mary traveled to Texas probably by rail to Nocona, and by wagon over to Pleasant Valley where they bought eighty acres of farm land in what was known as Block No. 87 of Wood Co. School Lands. Their next three children were born there in Clay County.

We can only guess what happened to make them dissatisfied in Pleasant Valley. It is likely that some of the extended family, both Sparks and Upchurch, had moved into Indian Territory and had written letters about the fertile land, with abundant rainfall, and how much more profitable it was to farm up there. Probably James made a trip to Sallisaw to check it out for himself. Anyhow, the decision was made and they sold their eighty acres on Sept. 27, 1893 to J. C. McGowan for \$625. The legal document of sale is found at the Court House, Henrietta, in book #4537. Both James and Mary signed their names with an x.

The family moved to the area around Sallisaw where the rest of their children were born. We do not know where their farm was located but they apparently did fairly well. It is likely that they had cattle and horses, pigs and chickens as was customary in those days. Probably the children did not receive much schooling. The worst part of it was the lack of protection from bands of rebellious Indians. Sure, peace treaties had been signed, and the leaders and most of the tribes were willing to abide by the laws. But, even as now, some Indians were poor, resentful and willing to steal in order to even things up. And so James and the family experienced repeated thefts of their horses, cows, etc. and when they would hole up in their log cabin, aim their guns through the cracks to shoot at the intruders they got return fire. We are told that on one of these raids, James was shot by an Indian and he died January 23, 1902. As of now, June 1993, we do not know how the estate was settled, but somehow Mary got some money out of it and returned to the same area in Clay County where she and James had lived before.

The County Clerk of Clay County in Henrietta has in the book of records Vol. 44, page 184 a deed dated Nov. 20, 1902 showing that Mrs. M. D. Sparks paid \$1450, cash, to buy 145 acres of land in Pleasant Valley from Mr. and Mrs. H H. Morgan. It was again, a part of the Wood Co. School Land. Mary at that time was almost 42 years old, widowed, with eight or nine children at hand. Charles had stayed in Sallisaw, but she had her granddaughter, Ida Mae Rogers, to rear following the death of Leola, who was Mary's firstborn. Mary must have been a very courageous and tough frontier woman in order to cope with that situation. We can just guess that some kindly neighbors, friends and relatives helped her from time to time.

There was at least one big improvement over Sallisaw, no renegade Indians. And there was a nearby school and a Freewill Baptist Church, occupying the same small building, making it possible to expose the kids to a bit of civilizing polish. The children gradually grew up and by 1918 they were all married and gone. Mary was 58 years old. In order to keep the farm going, she had a small three room house built about 150 feet from the main farm house where she could live alone, while she rented out the main house to whatever family that would come in and work the farm for her. At various times there was R. M. (Rob), and James W. (Will), and Mattie's husband, J. "Doug" Thompson, and Nettie's husband, George McGowan. Maybe there were some others. The farm was not well managed nor consistently. Farm animals were sold to cover bad management, and a debt was incurred of \$350. against the property. Mary's mind began to slip about 1927, and for several years the land taxes were not paid. Family members took advantage of her. Finally some of the family arranged to have the County Judge declare her incompetent, and let her affairs be handled by an administrator. Mary died November 11, 1933 without leaving a will.. It was in the midst of a general depression, and farms were not worth much money. When the Judge had the property appraised, and sold to the highest bidder on the courthouse steps in Henrietta, there was only one bidder, and that was A. D. Cozart. He paid about \$9.00 an acre, but only \$600 in cash, assuming all the unpaid taxes and the debt incumbering the property. When all the doctors bills, and other final expenses were paid, there was only about \$290. of Mary's estate to be distributed to her ten heirs. About \$29. for each family, or their heirs.

(no number) See Sparks Family for article "Tracing the Sparks Family History", Page 13 -16, Received 18 Feb 1996 from Ray Olan Sparks

New Information:

I. Francis Marion Sparks – a blacksmith [see reference for ancestors] born about 1813 (SC) died after 1870 (AL)

married (probably SC) Elizabeth Horn. This couple was in Butts Co, GA for 1850 but soon moved to Aurora, Etowah Co, AL [which is about 8 miles from Boaz, Marshall Co, AL where John Michael Upchurch "Dump" lived.]

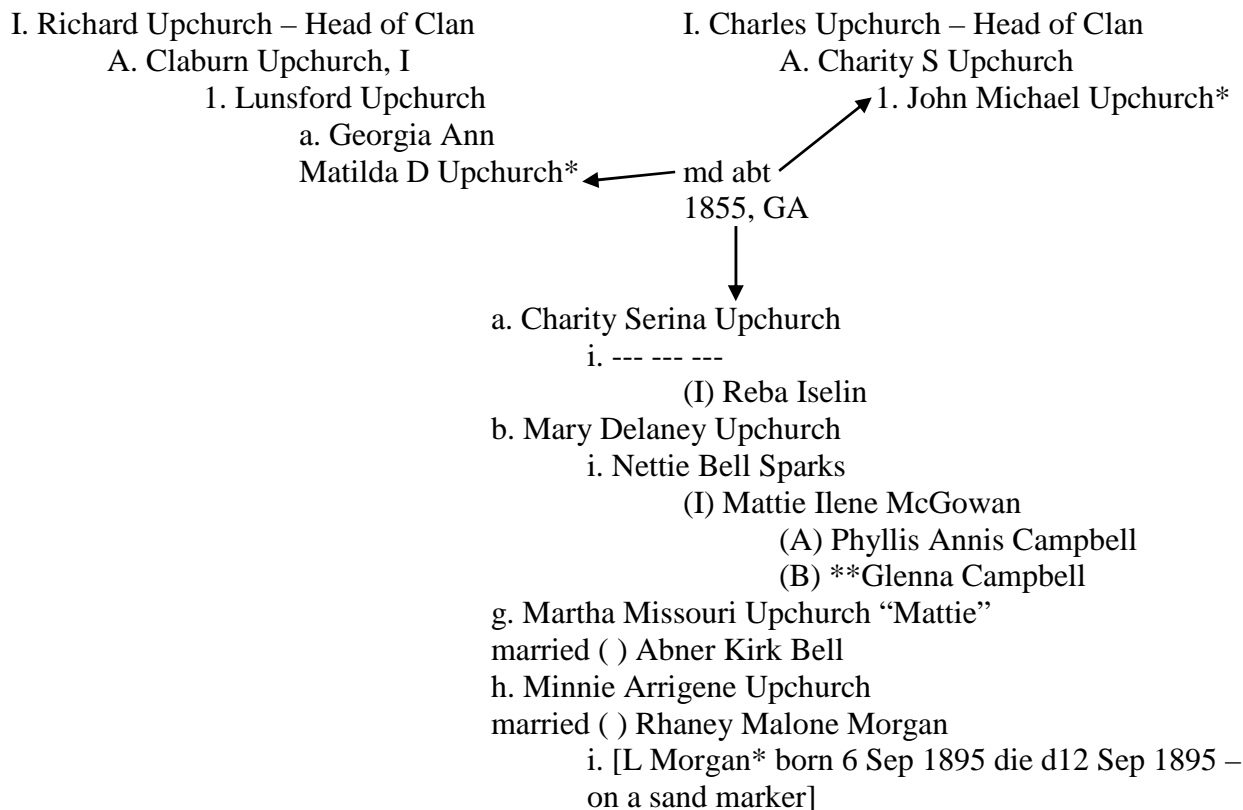
A. James Robert Sparks "Bob" born 8 May 1832 (SC) [born just before parents married but made legitimate by adoption in Marshall Co, AL in 1859] married 4 Jan 1855 (DeKalb Co, AL) Margaret E Brock died 8 Oct 1895. They soon moved to adjoining Marshall Co, AL. [They were in Marshall Co, AL for 1860 and 1870 Census but about 1880 moved to Eutaw, Greene Co, AL after selling inheritance in Marshall Co, AL of 160A in 1877 & 500A in 1878]. [*Richard Upchurch, III Clan and Charles Upchurch Clan, respectively.]

1. James Harris Sparks born about 1861

married 29 Aug 1878 (Marshall Co, AL) *Mary Delaney Upchurch born 26 Dec 1855 [married by Jesse F Miller, JP in hoe of her father D Upchurch – presume D = "Dump" = *John Michael Upchurch – RPU]. James was underage and required permission of his father to marry. Mary was 7 months older than James. Their first child "Leola" was born a month after the marriage. Their 10 children were born – 4 in AL, 3 in TX. **Georgia Ann Matilda D Upchurch**, her daughter Mary Delaney Upchurch and Mary's son Zea Frank Sparks are buried at Pleasant Valley Cemetery, Clay Co, TX. **Matilda** in an unmarked grave. James Harris

Sparks and his mother are buried in Drakestand Cemetery, 8 miles from Sallesaw, OK. Earlier reports had James an Indian and born in TN, but not so per Iva Edmonson of Albertsville, AL.

(no number) Extract of details provided in letter 7 May 2004 Phyllis Annie Campbell to RPU – info provided = [].



**Glenna lost her husband Oct 2003 – placed in her biofile

Reba and Phyllis joined forces to have grave markers place in Pleasant Valley Cemetery for 3 individuals * shown as follows:

1. Michael Upchurch 1830 – 1903 Civil War Veteran
2. Matilda Upchurch 1840 – 1941 on her marker. Mrs Upchurch age 100, 1 month and 6 days
3. L Morgan “He is a grandchild of Michael and Matilda and he is buried close to grave of Michael

[From Clay Co, TX Marriages 1893 – 1896

R M Morgan married 11 Nov 1894 Minnie Upchurch
 Rainey Morgan born AL thought to be son of Hilliard Morgan and M E ---
 A K Bell married 11 Nov 1894 Mattie Upchurch]

[Rainey Morgan paid \$1/ month for 2 months per the Pleasant Valley Cemetery Book – mailed from Duncan, OK; Dirk Bell also paid \$1/ month for 2 months – mailed from Marlow, OK]