

Commentary: James S. Upchurch, a son of Stephen Upchurch, was born in 1817 in North Carolina most likely in the Upchurch enclave established by his Grandfather John Upchurch III, head of Upchurch Clan # 14. Stephen moved his family to central Tennessee in the 1800s where they were found in Rutherford, Davidson, and Wilson counties. About the time of the Civil War, and probably before 1860, the James S. Upchurch family moved on the Cherokee County, TX. Only by diligent research have we been able to establish the family linkage and migration route for this part of our Upchurch family.

RPU 24 Apr 2017

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by Marilyn Butler, a volunteer at our Cary Facility in Wake County, NC.

(1) See Letter 20 Jan 1978 Mary Afton Irvin to RPU

The James Upchurch on the 1850 Census of Wilson County, TN as Head of Household was not the James Upchurch who was the youngest son of Samuel Upchurch (Head of the John Upchurch, III/Samuel Upchurch subclan) but rather the son of a Sarah Upchurch listed as Head of Household in Wilson County TN in 1840 with one male 20-30 years of age. [Note: As of 24 Jun 1994 I agree with this analysis – RPU]

(2) See Letter 25 Aug 1983 Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU

A James Upchurch stayed with the family of Samuel Abner Upchurch I in TN. This James Upchurch married 18 Jul 1843 Martha Bond when she was 16 years old and he was 27. [Note: Need more evidence that a James Upchurch stayed with Samuel Abner Upchurch I (ancestor of Billye Marie Upchurch) and when the visit took place. RPU]

(3) See 1850 Census Wilson County TN - #444857

20th Civil District 4 Oct 1850 Page 493 Dwelling 838 Family 838

James Upchurch 33 M \$200 born TN Cannot read or write

[James S. Upchurch]

Martha Upchurch 22 F born TN Cannot read or write [Martha Bond]

Sarah Upchurch 5 F born TN [Sarah F. Upchurch]

John Upchurch 3 M born TN [John B. Upchurch]

Robert Upchurch 7/12 M born TN

No Occupation given

(4) Families ----- Cherokee County TX (61, Page 138-142)
Presumed line of James S. Upchurch in this book.

- I. John Upchurch III – Head of Clan
 - A. Stephen Upchurch
 - 1. James S. Upchurch born 1817 (NC)

CHAPTER TWENTY

JAMES S. AND MARTHA UPCHURCH

James S. Upchurch, born 1817 in North Carolina, died August 31, 1888, Cherokee County TX, married July 18, 1843, in Rutherford County, TN, Martha Bond, born 1830 in TN, died September 18, 1879, Cherokee County. They are buried in Knoxville Cemetery of Cherokee County.

The Upchurch family moved to the Knoxville Community in Cherokee County after James purchased three hundred seventy eight acres of land from Moses Dickey, December 1859.

During the 1850's the Upchurches were residents of Wilson County, Tennessee. The Upchurch family loved music, and among them were talented musicians. Their violins made music, and family members joined in group singing. The Upchurch sons became farmers and entertainers. They fiddled, sang and jested at Saturday night square dances. A few people live today who remember music from the violins of Stacey, Tom and Sam Upchurch.

In the 1870 Census of Cherokee County, James S. Upchurch had real estate valued at one thousand dollars and personal property valued at five hundred. After his death in 1888, his three hundred seventy eight acres of land was appraised in the estate at one dollar and seventy five cents per acre.

James S. and Martha Upchurch had ten children. Here are notes on them.

SARAH F. UPCHURCH born 1845, Tennessee, died about 1873, married January 31, 1866, Robert James "Bob" Dickey (See Chapter Eighteen).

JOHN B. UPCHURCH, born 1847, Tennessee, died about 1878, married September 26, 1874, Cherokee County, Lydia Susan Griffin, born 1856 in Texas, died before 1880. She was the daughter of Alvis Lee Griffin and Malinda Fitch Griffin. They had one daughter, Martha Lou Upchurch, born 1877. In the 1880 Census, Martha Lou Upchurch is listed as a resident in the home of her grandfather, James S. Upchurch. When her grandfather died in 1888, she was named in the estate papers as an orphan grand daughter.

ROBERT UPCHURCH, born 1850, Tennessee, died before 1880.

NANCY JANE UPCHURCH, born 1854, Tennessee, died August 29, 1910, married January 12, 1875, Cherokee County, William Vinson/Vincent Griffin, born 1851, North Carolina, died after 1890 before 1900. He was the son of Alvis Lee Griffin and Malinda Fitch Griffin. Nancy Jane and William V. Griffin are said to be buried in Knoxville Cemetery of Cherokee County. They had seven children, all born in Cherokee County.

(1) **WILLIAM FLOYD GRIFFIN**, born November 28, 1875, died January 5, 1961, married August 20, 1899, Cherokee County, Clara Ella Brandon, born December 11, 1882, Smith County, Texas, died April 1, 1963. They are buried in Providence Cemetery of Cherokee County. William F. Griffin became constable of Precinct 5, Cherokee County about 1910. He held this position for a number of years. William Floyd and Clara Ella had four children, all born in Cherokee County:

(1a) Ethel Lee Griffin, born July 16, 1900, at Blackjack, died December 12, 1987, married July 25, 1925, Thomas Jefferson Burke, born February 7, 1889, died January 31, 1967. They are buried in Thompson Cemetery at Forest in Cherokee County. Ethel taught school for many years. After retirement, she served as a foster grandmother at the Lufkin State School. Thomas J. and Ethel Burke had two sons: Richard Gary Burke, born December 3, 1929, married Gwendolyn Jordon and Shirley Glenn Burke, born January 17, 1932, unmarried and resided with his mother until her death.

(2a) Lillian Ora Griffin, born November 20, 1901, died February 13, 1975, married March 16, 1936, Arch Dyess.

(3a) Alma Lucille Griffin, born November 17, 1905, married first, Edgar Croley, married second, Leroy Baldwin.

(4a) Frances Mildred Griffin, born January 2, 1909, married Marshall Hackett.

(2) **JODIE GRIFFIN** died young.

(3) **BRADY VINSON/VINCENT GRIFFIN**, born August 1, 1877, died July 31, 1943, married December 25, 1908, Smith County, Addie Alexander (See Chapter Seven, heading of Addie Alexander).

(4) **MARTHA GRIFFIN**, born August 9, 1879, died May 16, 1950, never married, is buried in Knoxville Cemetery.

(5) **BERA GRIFFIN**, born 1883, died after 1969, married November 14, 1901, Cherokee County, James F. "Jim" McMinn, born 1878, died 1969. They are buried in Resthaven Cemetery of Jacksonville.

(6) **JONATHON GRIFFIN**, born 1887, died 1971, married Bertie Obar, born 1890, died 1976. They are buried in Bradford Cemetery at Troup in Smith County.

(7) **ODIE/OTA LEE GRIFFIN**, born January 2, 1890, died February 12, 1978, never married, is buried in Resthaven Cemetery.

JAMES S. "JESSIE STACEY" UPCHURCH JR., born March 15, 1856, Tennessee, died February 1, 1942, Cherokee County, married first, September 7, 1887, Emma E. Grubbs, and they had a daughter, Irene/Iren Upchurch, born November 1892. Irene Upchurch is listed in 1900 as a resident with her mother and stepfather, Robert Lee McMinn. In the 1910 Census Irene is listed as a niece in the residence of Tollie O. Pryor in Wilson County, Texas.

James S. Upchurch, best known as Stacey, married second March 24, 1896, Minnie Brandon, born 1882, died 1968. Stacey and Minnie Upchurch are buried in McDonald Cemetery of Cherokee County. They were residents of the Summerfield Community and had one daughter:

- (1) **JEWEL C. UPCHURCH**, born July 1, 1900, died May 19, 1967, married July 4, 1923, Cherokee County, Ira Magee "Gee" Tipton, born July 7, 1898, in Texas, died May 25, 1955. They are buried in McDonald Cemetery. Gee Tipton was the son of Alexander Tipton and Lula Clay Thomason Tipton. Gee Tipton was postmaster for a little while in Summerfield, then moved to Houston. He was a World War I veteran. Jewel and Ira Magee Tipton have one son: I. M. Tipton Jr. married Johnnie Simmons, and they have two sons. I. M. Jr. served in the Navy during World War II. He was living in Canada in 1985.

STEVEN P. "STEVE" UPCHURCH, born 1858, Tennessee, married December 31, 1891, Cherokee County, Effie Clayton. Stephen is said to have had one daughter, Arma Upchurch, who grew up in the home of Stacey and Minnie Upchurch. Arma married a Moore and was living in Houston in 1985.

LOUISA ADELIA "DEELIE" UPCHURCH, born November 6, 1860, Texas, died February 23, 1938, married June 3, 1883, Elias Conal "Larce" Stockton (See Chapter Nine).

THOMAS "TOM" UPCHURCH, born December 1, 1863, Texas, died February 14, 1922, never married, is buried in Knoxville Cemetery.

SAMUEL U. UPCHURCH, born May 1867, Texas, died November 28, 1920, married December 27, 1915, Mrs. Johnny Lowe in Cherokee County.

MARTHA ANN "TUP" UPCHURCH, born October 10, 1868, Texas, died December 10, 1930, married February 16, 1896, Hugh Koen Sr., born June 13, 1857, Marshall County, Mississippi, died July 29, 1912. They are buried in Tecula Cemetery. Hugh is said to have been a railroad employee. From his previous marriage he had two sons: James S. Koen, born August 1885, Texas, and Hugh Koen Jr., born August 1887, Texas.

Here are notes on the four children of Hugh Sr. and Martha Upchurch Koen, all born in Cherokee County.

(1) LIGE STEPHEN "STEVE" KOEN, born February 13, 1897, died January 14, 1972, is buried in Tecula Cemetery. Steve married 1935, Mrs. Vera Gertrude Crocker Surber, born April 15, 1905, at Walnut Springs, Bosque County, Texas. Vera is the daughter of Curtis Crocker and Nettie Elizabeth Fulton Crocker. Vera had one son from her previous marriage, Billie Joe Surber, born April 24, 1931. Steve and Vera Koen have three daughters.

(1a) Martha Louise Koen, born October 1, 1936, married first, a McCoy and had one son, Ricky Dale McCoy. Martha married second, Claudean Ray, and from his previous marriage he had one son, Jimmy Dean Ray. Martha and Claudean Ray have four sons: Gregory Alan Ray, twins, Donald Dean Ray and Ronald Gene Ray, and John Kevin Ray.

(2a) Margaret Ann Koen, born August 30, 1944, married James Harold Benedict, and they have three children: Stephanie Suzanne Benedict, Donald Duane Benedict and Todd Thomas Benedict.

(3a) Catherine Pearl "Cathy" Koen, born June 12, 1948, is unmarried at this writing in 1991.

(2) GEORGE W. KOEN, born October 17, 1898, died March 1, 1969, never married, is buried in Tecula Cemetery.

(3) INFANT KOEN, born August 29, 1904, died September 18, 1904, is buried in Tecula Cemetery.

(4) BYRON C. KOEN, born September 11, 1906, died September 11, 1915, is buried in Tecula Cemetery.

(5) See Letter 25 Jun 1994 Mae Gean McElroy to RPU

I have not been able to locate the family of **James S. Upchurch** on the 1860 Census. I believe they were already in Cherokee County Texas and the enumerator missed them.

(6) See Letter 10 Aug 1990 Billye Joyce Maynard to RPU

James Upchurch married 18 Jul 1843 (Davidson County, TN) Martha Bonds.

(7) Cherokee County Texas Census Records In Letter 25 Jun 1994 to RPU from Mae Gean McElroy

1870

#279 Farmer

XID

UPCHURCH,

James S.	53	MW	NC	far	<u>James S. Upchurch</u>	41975
Martha	40	FW	TN	kh	nee Martha Bond	41976
John B.	23	MW	TN	wof	John B. Upchurch	41978
Robert	20	MW	TN	wof	Robert Upchurch	41979
Nancy	15	FW	TN		Nancy Jane Upchurch	41980
James S.	14	MW	TN	wof	James Stace Upchurch	41981
Stephen	12	MW	TN	wof	Stephen P. Upchurch	41982
Delila	9	FW	TX		Louise Adelia Upchurch	41983
Thomas	6	MW	TX		Thomas Upchurch	41984
Samuel	4	MW	TX		Samuel Upchurch	41985
Martha	2	FW	TX		Martha Ann Upchurch	41986

1880

UPCHURCH

J	WM	63	w	Fmr	NC	NC	GA	<u>James S. Upchurch</u>	41975
Stace	WM	24	s son	Fmr	TN	NC	TX	James Stace Upchurch	41981
Steven	WM	21	s son	Fmr	TN	NC	TX	Stephen P. Upchurch	41982
Dela	WF	18	s dau	Hk	TX	NC	TX	Louisa Adelia Upchurch	41983
Thomas	WM	16	s son	Fmr	TX	NC	TX	Thomas Upchurch	41984
Sam'l	WM	14	s son	Fmr	TX	NC	TX	Samuel Upchurch	41985
Martha	WF	12	s dau		TX	NC	TX	Martha Ann Upchurch	41986
Marthy	WF	3	s gda		TX	TN	TX	Martha Lou Upchurch *	42464

* Daughter of John B. Upchurch XID 41978

(8) Marriage Records - Rutherford County TN – In Letter 25 Jun 1994 Mae Gean McElroy to RPU

James Upchurch married 18 Jul 1843 Martha BONDS.

[Note: Other records do not use the “S” on BOND. – RPU]