

**James Upchurch****XID – 4328**

**Commentary:** See under number one below for some discussion of the confusion surrounding James' life. He was a son of Samuel and a grandson of John III, head of Upchurch Clan 14.

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

**(1)** born 20 May 1816 in NC or IL – son of Samuel (whom see) and Mary Ellen (Simmons) Upchurch

12 James Upchurch b 5-20-1816 TN. The 12th child of Samuel and Mary, about whom we should know the most (in point of time), is the one about whom we know the least. No record has been found for him in Illinois. No tombstone, census, church, will or deed. The lack of records in IL leads to speculation that some member of the family may have taken him back to Wilson County, TN to live with them. There is a census record in Wilson Co. for 1850 for one James Upchurch, age 33, which would make his birth fall in 1817, however, census records vary according to the month in which they were taken. Too, the youngest child of the family frequently has been known to leave home and strike out for himself. If he did that, it is logical to suppose that he returned to his birthplace. Census of Wilson Co. Tennessee-1850"

James Upchurch age 33 born TN  
 Martha " " 22 " TN  
 Sarah " " 5 " TN  
 John " " 3 " TN  
 Robert " " 7/12 " TN

Family not found on 1880 Census of Wilson County, TN.

COPIED  
 FROM P 164  
 (29). FOR  
 JAMES SON  
 OF SAMUEL.  
 U.

**(2)** See letter 20 Aug 1983 Leta Nelson  
 James Upchurch born 20 May 1816 in TN or IL

**(3)** See letter 7 Mar 1988 James Newman Upchurch to RPU  
 This letter includes a history of the family of Samuel Upchurch written by his great grandson Robert Franklin Upchurch. In it there is a statement that Samuel Upchurch had 12 children but only 11 are listed. The one left out is **James Upchurch**. [Note: The puzzle about this youngest son of Samuel Upchurch remains. Robert Franklin Upchurch was no doubt writing in his latter years and was using recall and some written reference. He knew enough to claim 12 children but not enough to name the 12th one – RPU]

**(4)** Morgan reports a family on the 1850 Census of Wilson Co, TN

<b>James Upchurch</b>	age 33	born TN
Martha Upchurch	age 22	born TN
Sarah Upchurch	age 5	born TN
John Upchurch	age 3	born TN
Robert Upchurch	age 7/12	born TN

This family was not found on the 1880 Census of Wilson Co, TN. Morgan speculates that this James Upchurch is the same as the James Upchurch born 20 May 1816 (TN), son of Samuel Upchurch of the John Upchurch/Samuel Upchurch Sub-clan. She presumes that the James may have returned to his birthplace in TN from Gallatin Co, IL where Samuel had moved before 1820. (29, Page 164)

**(5)** From letter 25 Apr 1981 Mary Afton Irvin to Richard Dean Upchurch, Page 10. Referring to Morgan's Book, Page 164. She writes:

James Upchurch – never listed in 1840 Census and is not listed as an heir of Samuel Upchurch in deed by heirs. (I could never get Ada Morgan to agree to above – One did not just give away a son – sons were needed to clear land and the more sons at home – more acres one could farm. Besides, his mother was a strict hard shell Baptist and very very active in Bethel Creek Church (I have the church minutes from 1820 – 1847.)

**(no number)** See Deed File Re: sale of 80-acre tract by the heirs of Samuel Upchurch (Head of the John Upchurch, III/ Samuel Upchurch Sub-clan) in Gallatin co, IL on 30 Sep 1842. The land was being sold by the heirs to Thomas L Upchurch, one of the sons of Samuel Upchurch and it was necessary for all heirs and spouses to concur.

Conventional List of the  
children of Samuel Upchurch

1. Sally Upchurch died before 1806  
married ( ) Valentine VanHooser
  2. Rebecca Upchurch died before 1835  
no marriage located
  3. David Upchurch married (2<sup>nd</sup>) 1824  
Elizabeth Orr
  4. John Upchurch married Catharine  
Johnson\*
  5. William L Upchurch married ( )  
--- Moberly, married ( ) Amanda --- ---
  6. Mary Rebecca Upchurch "Polly"\*  
married ( ) Nathan Bramlet
  7. Susannah Upchurch\* married Coleman B  
Bramlet
  8. Nancy Upchurch\* married Isaac Cantrell
  9. Thomas L Upchurch married Mary Davis
  10. Jonathan A Upchurch married Nancy  
Brown\*
  11. Elizabeth Upchurch\* married Joseph  
Thompson
  12. **James Upchurch**
- \* = used mark "x" for signature

Learned from the Deed

Children #1, 2, 12 not mentioned – hence  
presumed deceased with no heirs.

= Names confirmed by  
the deed

For John Upchurch #4, his wife is listed  
(twice) as Katharine Upchurch, hence  
nee Katharine Johnson\*

For William L Upchurch (#5) – no wife  
is listed so he may have been  
between wives

For Nancy Upchurch (#8) she appears as  
Nancy Cantrell but no husband is listed;  
presume he is deceased (He is.)

For Thomas L Upchurch - no wife listed -  
presumably because he is buying the  
property

For Elizabeth Upchurch (#11) – her husband  
is shown clearly as Charles Thompson (not  
Joseph Thompson)

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

“In regard to James Upchurch, the youngest child of Samuel (Head of Clan) – Ada writes that he is listed in the 1850 Census of Wilson County, TN. Two, there is a James Upchurch listed as head of a family and about the same age as our James Upchurch, but I think the James Upchurch in Wilson Co in 1850 was the son of a Sarah Upchurch listed as head of a family in 1840 Census of Wilson County – with one male in the home age 20/30 years. I never could find anything at all in Gallatin – Saline on the youngest child of Samuel and I assumed he was dead. After the book (Morgan) went to press I finally located a deed filed several years after it was made – by the “heirs of Samuel Upchurch” and James was not listed as an heir – so he was dead when his father died.”