

**Commentary:** Samuel Abner Upchurch was born in Chatham County, NC in 1807 and died 1884 in Rutherford County, TN. He was the son of Stephen Upchurch and the grandson of John Upchurch III, head of Upchurch Clan # 14. A major part of the adult lives of Stephen and his son Abner played out in Wilson and Rutherford Counties in Tennessee. In the 1980s, Billye Marie (Upchurch) Purdom, a descendant of Abner lived in Rutherford County. She was a prolific cooperator and together we established her heritage. Unfortunately, she had no children. More the Rutherford/Wilson County TN Upchurch enclave needs to be learned and shared.

RPU – 27 Jun 2017

Acknowledgements: This Biofile was transcribed by Terri Burns, an outstanding volunteer and collaborator at our Cary facility in North Carolina.

**(1)** In West letter 25 Jan 1977—Page 16

Robert E. Upchurch  
7308 Muncaster Mill Rd  
Derwood, MO 20855



In Allied Families file with  
more current Mill Creek Dr.  
address—RPU

in a 14 Feb 1973 letter to West states:

“The particular family of current interest to me is that of **Abner Upchurch**, born about 1807 somewhere in North Carolina. Abner died in 1884 in Rutherford County, Tennessee, and was my Great, Great Grandfather. The earliest available census for Abner, his wife and young family is that for 1840 in Wilson County, Tennessee. My information on Abner’s descendants is fairly complete, but I have not been able to locate or identify Abner’s parents.”

“If you are interested I could provide you with information on Abner’s descendants.”

**(2)** See attachment 18 Feb 1978 letter Elva E. Burkhalter to RPU

A. Marriage Bonds—Lebanon-Wilson Co., TN.

**Abner Upchurch** married 1828 Nancy Pyland (extractors note: “Looks like he married twice”

**(3)** See letter 23 Jan 1980 Sam C. Upchurch to RPU

**Abner Upchurch** (Probably Samuel Abner Upchurch)

↓  
Robert Lester Upchurch

↓  
Samuel Abner Upchurch

↓  
(1) Sam C. Upchurch (of Antioch, TN) Dr. Sam Bayliss Upchurch  
(2) Bertrand L. Upchurch of Sparta, TN 38583  
(3) Lola Mai Upchurch lives 9 Windemere Rd. Greenville, SC 29615 (Dr. Joseph Marshall)

**(4)** See letter 18 Jan 1980 Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU

Billye Marie Upchurch is descended from Abner Upchurch born 1806 (NC) married Nancy Pylante born 1802 (NC). Their 9 children (some or perhaps all) born in Lebanon, Wilson Co., TN. They are:

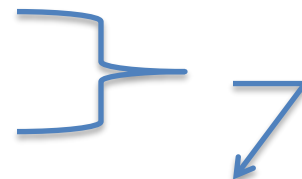
[ ]= 1850 census

- |                              |  |
|------------------------------|--|
| [Cadney Upchurch 21 M b TN]  | 1. Cagney Gilliam Upchurch born 1828           |
| [James Upchurch 18 M b TN]   | 2. James Upchurch born 1832                    |
| [Mary Upchurch 13 F b TN]    | 3. Mary Ann Upchurch born 1835                 |
| [William Upchurch 11 M b TN] | 4. William W. Upchurch born 1837 (Lebanon, TN) |



James William Upchurch born 1872 → Billye Marie Upchurch born 1910

- |                                |  |
|--------------------------------|--|
| [Robert L. Upchurch 10 M b TN] | 5. Robert Lafayette Upchurch born 1838 (Lebanon, TN) |
| [Lutilda Upchurch 9 F b TN]    | 6. Matilda Upchurch born 1840                        |
| [Emaline Upchurch 7 F b TN]    | 7. Emmaline Upchurch born 1843                       |
| [Susan Upchurch 6 F b TN]      | 8. Susan Upchurch born 1844                          |
| [Lerina Upchurch 5 F b TN]     | 9. Levenia Upchurch born 1845                        |



I do not know about these 4 great aunts of mine nor does anyone else in our family today.

**(5)** See letter 2 Feb 1983 Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU.

Billye proposes that her ancestor Abner Upchurch was the son of Samuel Upchurch (XID-4129), Head of the John Upchurch III/Samuel Upchurch subclan. Billye suggests that William L. Upchurch (the 5<sup>th</sup> child of Samuel Upchurch) was actually William **Abner Upchurch**, her ancestor and that the “L” is a mistake. She bases this on an analysis of dates and places and names—all circumstantial. [I am not yet convinced—RPU]

Family tradition holds that Abner Upchurch born NC moved to Lebanon, Wilson Co., TN & married ca 1825 Nancy Pylant. They were married by Luke Rawls. Billye thinks the 9 children are by more than one wife & perhaps even 3 wives [Morgan—pg. 162—shows William L. Upchurch (son of Samuel Upchurch) married ----- Moberly & married Amanda -----].

Morgan’s book shows the Moberly family was in Warren Co., KY 1799-1812 & then were in Franklin Co., IL. One Moberly girl married William L. Upchurch, one married Will Jordan & a 3<sup>rd</sup> Eunice Moberly married Larkin Cantrell. Billye says this Will Jordan stayed with Abner Upchurch near Murfreesboro, Rutherford Co., TN until his death & was called “Uncle Willy” by her father. Abner was under guardianship per court records of Will Jordan as to money & 2 farms. Uncle Willey [Will Jordan] was buried on a hillslope at Lascassas, TN a town outside of Murfreesboro, TN & Grandpa William Upchurch (William W. Upchurch born 1837) was buried there also in 1909. My dad ran a

Percheon Horse Ranch at Lascassas, TN. Will Jordan went to Lebanon, TN also & had a son John Jordan who had a son Will Jordan II (about my Daddy's age). They always called each other cousin. Will & cousin Jim (my dad=Jim=James William Upchurch).

(6) See letter 15 Apr 1980 Billy Marie Upchurch to RPU.

**Abner Upchurch** came from NC to Wilson Co., TN about 1824. He was born in NC 1806 or 1807 per census records. He married in Lebanon, TN & I suppose all 9 of his children were born there. Bob (Robert Lafayette Upchurch) and Bill (William W. Upchurch) were I know for sure as I have their discharge papers from the Civil War in 1862. Both of them & Abner Upchurch are buried near Murfreesboro, TN. Abner Upchurch & son Bill Upchurch were buried 6 miles East of Murfreesboro, TN at Lascassas ? TN—Family burial cemetery. My Dad is buried there also.

Since we received Upchurch Bulletin Sam C. Upchurch and I no longer think **Abner Upchurch** was the son of Samuel Upchurch but rather think he was the son of Gilliam Upchurch as Abner named his 1<sup>st</sup> son Cagney Gilliam Upchurch.

The cemetery at Lascassas, TN is the Tune-Upchurch family cemetery & it is owned even now by a 1<sup>st</sup> cousin of mine.

(7) See 1850 census—Rutherford Co., TN—Valley District 26 Sep 1850 Pg. 294 Dwelling 642 Family 642—**Abner Upchurch** age 43 M Farmer born NC & Nancy Upchurch age 46 born NC are listed with 9 children. See entry (4) for list of children given in [ ].

(8) Letter 23 Jan 1980 Sam C. Upchurch to RPU.

Abner Upchurch (Probably **Samuel Abner Upchurch**)



Robert Lester Upchurch



Samuel Abner Upchurch



(1) Sam C. Upchurch (of Antioch, TN)      (2) Bertrand L. Upchurch      (3) Lola Mai Upchurch



Dr. Sam Bayliss Upchurch

9 See letter 8 May 1984 Martha Meriam Anderson to RPU.

Abner Upchurch I raised in his home James Upchurch, a son of Ambrose Upchurch.

1820 Census—Wilson Co., TN No 418—Stephen Upchurch Family

<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>	
1 (under 10)- <u>Abner Upchurch I</u>	2 (under10)	} Sarah Upchurch born 1810 (NC) Mary Upchurch born 1812 (TN)
0	0	
0	1 (16-18)-----	born 1802-1804 (NC)
0	0	
1 (26-45) Stephen Upchurch	0	
0		

20 Mar 1828 Abner Upchurch I married Nancy Pyland—census records shows he was 21 years old she was 25-26. She was daughter of John Pyland.

1830 census—Stephen Upchurch not found in Wilson or Rutherford Co., TN. Presume he deceased. Presume the older girl on 1820 census married and Abner Upchurch I, Sarah Upchurch & Mary Upchurch are in her home under her husband's married name.

1840 census—Wilson Co., TN #228

<u>males</u>	<u>females</u>
1 < 5	1 <5
1 < 5	1 5-10
1 10-15	1 30-40
1 10-15	
1 40-50 [ <u>Samuel Abner Upchurch I</u> ]	

Note: Abner's sister is head of adjacent household #227

1850 census—Valley View District (later Rutherford Co., TN)—Ages < 1 Jun 1850

<u>Abner Upchurch</u>	43	farmer	born NC
Nancy Pilante Upchurch	46	wife	born NC
Cadney Gilliam Upchurch	21		born TN
James Upchurch	18		born TN
Mary Upchurch	13		born TN
Lutila Upchurch	9		born TN
William Upchurch	11		born TN
Robert Lester Upchurch	10		born TN
Emaline Upchurch	7		born TN
Susan Betty Upchurch	6		born TN
Levina Upchurch	5		born TN

[Family Bible shows Robert Lester Upchurch would have been 12 not 10]

1860 census—Valley Dist—Rutherford Co., TN

<u>Abner Upchurch</u>	54	M	born NC	Farmer	PP 800 RE 500
Nancy Upchurch	58	F	born NC		
G. G. Upchurch	32	M	born TN	Laborer	
Mary Upchurch	25	F	born TN		
[Illegible] Upchurch	26	M	born TN	Laborer	
Robert Upchurch	22	M	born TN	Laborer	
Matilda Upchurch	20	F	born TN		
E. T. Upchurch	18	M	born TN		
Susan Upchurch	17	F	born TN		
Levina Upchurch	16	F	born TN		

A second 1860 census record (perhaps after Rutherford Co. line moved to take in Valley View District.

<u>Abner Upchurch</u>	54		Susan Upchurch	17
Nancy Upchurch	58		Levina Upchurch	16
G. G. Upchurch	32			
Mary F. Upchurch	23			

Nancy Upchurch died between 1850 & 1860 (nee Nancy Pyland, wife of Samuel Abner Upchurch, I).

Abner Upchurch, I remarried 10 Mar 1862. Abner and his new wife lived apart from his children by Nancy Pyland. He married a widow Mrs. Mellisa (Chumley) Williams—14 May 1862. She had two sons by her 1<sup>st</sup> husband—one a son names Billy Williams and the other name unknown. Abner and Mellisa had 3 children:

Annie Upchurch  
Lee Upchurch

Judy Upchurch married Thomas Taylor. They had a son Tom Taylor who cared for Aunt Betty (Susan) Upchurch in the last years of her life.

Ruby Arling (Singleton) Alford of Walter Hill, TN has in her possession a family bible with information dating back to Abner Upchurch (1807—circa 1870).

**(10)** See letter 17 Mar 1984 Martha Miriam Anderson to RPU.

Abner Upchurch had to be the son of Stephen Upchurch because Stephen was the only Upchurch in Wilson Co., TN in 1820. None were listed in 1830. Then Abner Upchurch and his two sisters show up in Wilson Co., TN marriages in 1828, 1832, and 1840. Too, the Pylands daughter, Nancy, and her family seemed to be neighbors of Stephen's family from Chatham Co., NC to TN 1820-1860. Here is the Sequence of events: 1820 Census—TN—Wilson Co.

Stephen Upchurch    Males 100010    Females 2010

Abner Upchurch born 1807+ NC, Sarah born 1810 NC, Mary born 1812 TN, older daughter born 1802-1804 NC (16-18 Yrs. Old).

1828—**Abner Upchurch** married Nancy Pyland -- & may have been in a Wilson Co., TN household other than his own as he is not shown as a head of a household on 1830 census in Wilson Co., TN.

1840—**Abner Upchurch** is on Wilson Co., TN census as a head of a household. His sister Sarah Upchurch is in a nearby household.

1840 (SEP) Sarah Upchurch married Henry Cluck-- Wilson Co., TN.

1850—Wilson Co., TN **Abner Upchurch** and sisters Mary & Sarah all 3 have households.

1860—All 3 children **Abner Upchurch**, Mary & Sarah (+ the Pylands) have separate households but are now in Rutherford Co., TN. The line moved, they did not.

**(11)** See letter 1 Apr 1983 Billy Marie Upchurch to RPU.

I have no idea why **Samuel Abner Upchurch** came to Wilson Co., TN. He was in Lebanon in 1820's or maybe sooner as he was married to Nancy in Lebanon 20 Mar 1828. Both said they were citizens of Wilson Co., TN. They were married by William Rawls. All 9 of their children were born in Lebanon, TN. **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** left a will in Rutherford Co., TN (Court House = Murfreesboro, TN). Administrator was Will Jordan. There were 2 parcels of land—size not mentioned nor was other personal property. The court stated that **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** was buried on a hillside at (near) Lascassas, TN. He may have buried Nancy there earlier.

There is no record of **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** having bought land in Wilson Co., TN (Lebanon County seat). Someone may have bought some for him. **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** bought land in Murfreesboro, TN and owned two parcels there at his death.

The best information is that **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** & his wife Nancy Pyland are buried with their son William W. Upchurch in a cemetery near Lascassas, TN but not in the Upchurch-Tune Cemetery which was established later.

(12) See letter 14 Apr 1984 Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU.

**Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** married 20 Mar 1828 (Lebanon, TN) Nancy Pyland by William Rawls. Nancy died before 1862 as **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** married 2ndly 10 May 1862 the widow Melissa (Chumley) Williams. Melissa had 2 sons by her first husband—Williams (Billy or Willy Williams = 1 of the sons). **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** & Melissa had 3 children—Annie, Lee & Judy. **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** was on a map dated 1879 for Rutherford Co., TN and presumably alive as of 1879.

Part of Wilson Co., TN was added to Rutherford Co., TN. That is how Stephen Upchurch & his son **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** and their neighbor Robert Pyland became citizens of Rutherford Co., TN.

Sam [Sam Clemmons Upchurch] and I want to go to Lascassas, TN to see the farm of **Samuel Abner Upchurch, I** on Valley View Rd. He and his wife Nancy are buried there on the edge of Grandfathers Knob (looks like a mountain peak to me).

(13) TN State Marriages

Name: Abner Upchurch

Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 24 Mar 1828

Marriage Place: Wilson, Tennessee, USA

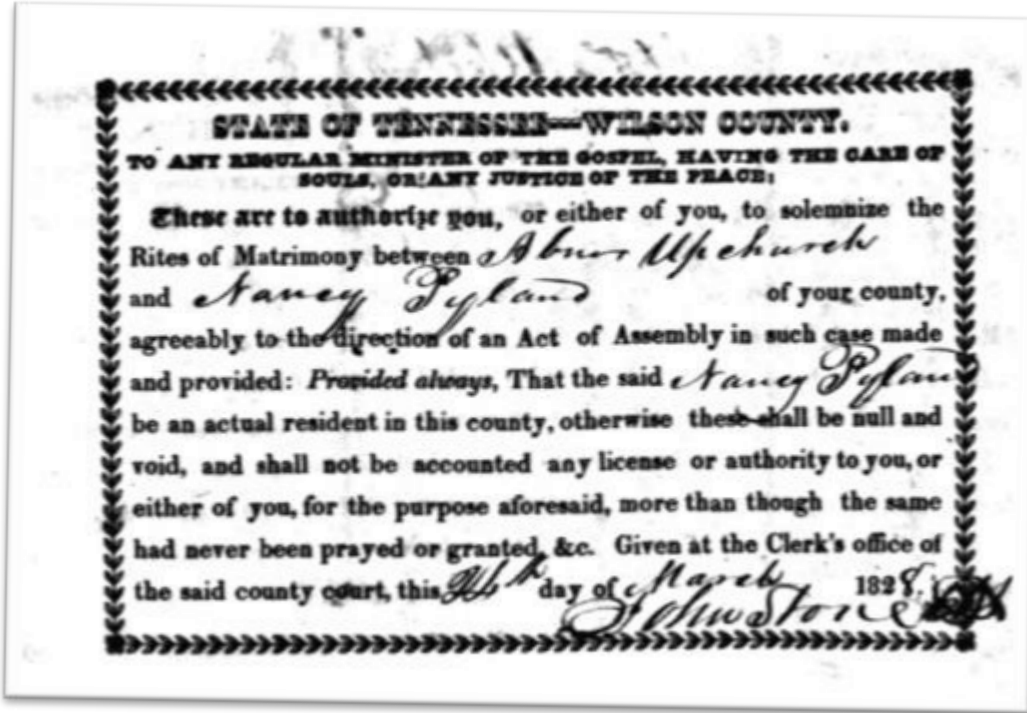
Spouse: Nancy Pyland

- (14) From 26 Apr 1983 Packet Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU.  
[Marriage license of Abner Upchurch and Nancy Pyland]

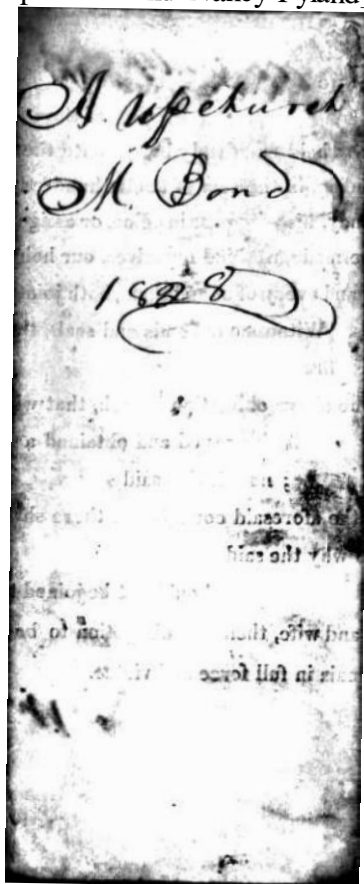
Abner Upchurch  
M Licend  
Nancy Pyland  
Sp. 26 March 1878

Executed by W. B. Sarratt, Jr.





(15) From 26 Apr 1883 Packet Billye Marie Upchurch to RPU.  
[Marriage bond of Abner Upchurch and Nancy Pyland]



Know all men, That we *Abner Upchurch* of the county of Wilson, and state of Tennessee, are held and firmly bound unto the Governor of the said state, for the time being, in the sum of twelve hundred and fifty dollars to be paid to his excellency, his successor in office, or assigns; to which payment well and truly to be made, we bind ourselves, our heirs, executors and administrators, and each and every of us and them, both jointly and severally, firmly by these presents. Witness our hands and seals, this day of 182

**The Condition** of the above obligation is such, that whereas hath prayed and obtained a license to marry; now if the said *Samuel Upchurch* be an actual resident in the aforesaid county, and there shall not hereafter appear any lawful cause why the said should not be joined together in holy matrimony, as husband and wife, then this obligation to be void and of no effect; otherwise to remain in full force and virtue.

*Samuel Upchurch*

(16) 1840 Census—Wilson Co., TN

1840 United States Federal Census

Name: **Abner Upchurch**  
 Home in 1840 Wilson, Tennessee  
 (City, County, State):  
 Free White 2  
 Persons—Males—  
 Under 5:  
 Free White 2  
 Persons—Males—  
 10 thru 14:  
 Free White 1  
 Persons—Males—  
 40 thru 49:  
 Free White 1  
 Persons—Females

Under 5:	
Free White	1
Persons—Females	
5 thru 9:	
Free White	1
Persons—Females	
30 thru 39:	
Persons Employed	1
in Agriculture:	
Free White	6
Persons—Under 20:	
Free White	2
Persons—20 thru 49:	
Total Free White	8
Persons:	
Total All Persons-	8
Free White, Free Colored, Slaves:	