WAGON WHEELS NORTH

by Robert Harrell “Hal” Upchurch (1918-2008)

In the summer of 1923, after the crops were laid by, and seven months before Buddy was born, Papa decided that we would make a covered-wagon trip up through Gainesville, Texas, and on into Oklahoma. The wagon was outfitted with groceries, clothing, bales of hay for the mules, and other necessities for the trip, and was covered with a white canvas stretched over arched supports to protect us from the sun and rain.

In the daylight hours, with Papa driving and Mama sitting beside him on the spring seat, and with the children riding on the bales of hay, we slowly rolled onward toward Oklahoma. At night, we camped along the roadside where Mama cooked over an open fire, and Papa and Mama and little Alice slept inside on the bales of hay, and Harry and Howard and Chester and I slept under the wagon.

One of the most memorable events of our trip occurred as we drove north, on Main Street, across Fort Worth. A streetcar had struck another covered wagon, completely demolishing one of the rear wheels. Several other covered wagons were stopped and waiting for the street to be cleared. Howard remembers that a policeman approached Papa...

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**BOARD OF DIRECTORS**

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**IMPORTANT UAFA NEWS**

**OPEN HOUSE IN CARY, NC**

UAFA is pleased to announce an open house will be held at our facility in Cary, North Carolina ~ From 1:00 to 5:00pm on Thursday, December 19, 2019. At that time visitors will get to see the Wake County, North Carolina Group of Volunteers in action and be able to greet several UAFA Leaders who will be present.

Dr. Robert Phillip Upchurch, Founder of UAFA will attend and will be happy to greet attendees!

The Library and several Displays will be available for inspection. Refreshments will be served.

Reservations are not necessary but a heads up on plans to attend to Jay Buck or Phil Upchurch would be welcomed.

Chair. Phil Upchurch and the UAFA Development Committee announce the annual kick-off of the 2020 Participant/Donor/Membership Campaign starting mid-November, 2019 until the end of the year. The kick-off will be an invitation to make 2019 year-end contributions. But don’t put it off, do it today! **Thank You!**

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**NATIONAL STATISTICS FOR THE SURNAME UPCHURCH**

- The state with the most people named UPCHURCH is Texas where 1,678 people have this name.
- North Carolina is the state where you are most likely to meet a person named UPCHURCH, as 14.62 in every 100,000 North Carolinians have this name.
- Highest percentile rank of any state for this name is 99th, this rank was reached in the states of North Carolina.
- North Carolina is the state with the biggest positive difference between the actual state population and the projected state population based on the national average, (where the blue bar extends past the yellow vertical line) with a difference of 9 more people than projected.
- The state with the biggest negative difference is Minnesota (where the blue bar does not extend past the vertical line) with a difference of 17 fewer people than projected.

For more information Click on [MyNameStats.com](http://MyNameStats.com)

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**Northeast State Statistics Last-Names UPCHURCH**

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<th>State</th>
<th>Population</th>
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</table>
and suggested that he could make better time if he would pull one block west and travel north on Houston Street, and cut back to North Main after he had passed the line of the wrecked streetcar and wagon.

I was five years old when we made that trip, and, today, 72 years later, many of the details are somewhat dim and fleeting in my mind, but I can clearly remember another event that transpired as we passed over an old and creaky wooden bridge that spanned the Red River between Texas and Oklahoma. Harry had a prized toy which consisted of a 15-to-18-inch rubber string with a rubber ball attached to one end and a wooden paddle attached to the other. As we crossed the river, Harry was enthusiastically paddling the ball when the string broke, the ball bounced a few times, fell into the river, and slowly disappeared from our sight amid the murky waters. Our tumultuous cries and screams of anguish caused Papa to stop the wagon and spend a few minutes in trying to restore normalcy, and in trying to console Harry in the wake of his demoralizing loss.

In all of these after-years, from 1923 to 1995, I have never again passed through Fort Worth, on North Main, without remembering that streetcar-wagon wreck. And I have never again crossed the Red River without remembering the tragedy of the little lost rubber ball as it disappeared among the troughs and waves of water.

The author was the 4th son of Marion Francis “Frank” and Winnie May (Scott) Upchurch, pictured in 1911.

The author was “Born on a farm near Itasca, Texas, on May 4, 1918, where I was raised as the brother of Harry, Howard, and suggested that he could make better time if he would pull one block west and travel north on Houston Street, and cut back to North Main after he had passed the line of the wrecked streetcar and wagon.

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**Grateful Thanksgiving**

Although we feast on this special day, Thanksgiving isn’t just for food; We focus on blessings great and small; Thanksgiving is for gratitude. I’m grateful for good things in my life; I appreciate them the whole year through. Some are better than others, though: One of the best is knowing you!

By Joanna Fuchs

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**You Tube**

Over 35 videos of **Dr. Phil Upchurch** telling family stories are available at https://www.youtube.com.

After opening YouTube, enter “Upchurch and Allied Families” into the search box. This will open the UAFA channel and display the videos.

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**Thank You Veterans**

Veterans Day - November 11
Mama set the table with care, using her best china, an old lavender and white transferware pattern called, Old Britain Castles, which she purchased on layaway at a second hand store in Aurora, IL during the depression. The silverware was placed carefully. She didn't believe in saving these things for special occasions or company she said, because who was more important than your own family? The tall candles were lit and the house smelled warm and cozy with hints of sweet and savory dishes to come. The Thanksgiving menu was very traditional. She bought the largest Turkey she could find so there would be plenty of leftovers. One year the bird weighed 34 pounds and barely fit in the oven! When the cranberry sauce was cooked she poured it hot into Nana’s cut crystal bowl. It's a wonder the bowl still survives. There were mountains of potatoes and no end to her delicious turkey gravy, black olives and radish roses. The bird was stuffed with dressing, too much sage in it to my liking, but that’s the way she liked it and there were no complaints. The homemade pumpkin pies were a masterpiece.

She cut pastry crust turkeys with her favorite red plastic Tupperware cookie cutter and laid them gingerly on top of the pie. Mama said the secret to her pumpkin pie was a dash of black pepper in the custard. And of course a gob (a word not used anymore) of fresh whipped cream to top it off.

Of course it was more than the food, but it's a very sweet part of my memories. Thank you for letting me share it with you...

Thanksgiving, 1950 in Kane Co., IL. William Brady Norman Upchurch, 3rd on R. Virginia D. Upchurch Hale at the head of the table holding 4-month old Cindy Hale. Left front, Jean Upchurch Liberg and 2nd on R. Helen Upchurch Bird, along with husbands Joseph Bird II and John Liberg. The boys in the picture are Joey and Bruce Bird and Little John Liberg. Our Clan (14) descends from the John Upchurch III, John Upchurch VII sub clan as illustrated in this little tree ...