

UPCHURCH & ALLIED FAMILIES ASSOC.

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EDITOR'S DESK

“With all these lovely tokens of September days are here, with summers best of weather and the autumns best of cheer.” – Helen Hunt Jackson



This year (2020) we celebrate the 400th anniversary of Mayflower Day! Being the sucker that I am for historical and patriotic celebrations, I wanted to mention that there will be yearlong events commemorating this important event, and far into next year! Visit the 3 links below for more information: [Wikipedia](#), [History.com: Mayflower](#), [The Mayflower Project](#)

Hope you enjoy this issue! Send in your ideas, stories, pictures, family lore, recipes, old home-steads and comments!

Cindy



The Clock by Hal Upchurch 1996

In 1914, papa gave \$4.00 (four dollars) for a beautiful and masterfully crafted old second-hand Seth Thomas clock. That dear old clock was one of the constant constants in the times of our childhood, adolescence, and early maturity. And it remained an emotional constant in our minds and hearts. Only those who were born, raised, and matured in the presence of such a classical creation will be able to fully understand the utter impossibility of adequately describing a Seth Thomas clock.

In lieu of a description, I simply tell you that our Seth Thomas was a shelf-clock which was 23 inches high, 14 inches wide and 4 inches deep, which sat on a simple shelf on the wall of the living room of our simple home, which had an ornamentally decorated pendulum and a striker that “bonged” against a coiled spring every hour and every half-hour, which had to be

wound with a key every eight days, and whose “ticking” and “tocking” provided a constant comfort by day and by night. I also tell you that from its base to its crest, every line and corner and arc and angle and curvature and indentation and seam and mortise and tenon had poise and grace and symmetry and precision and harmony and balance and beauty.

We (Papa and Mama’s six children) spent our childhood, adolescence, and early maturity in the presence of that captivating and beloved old clock, and, today [1996], innumerable “clock” memories still “tick” and “tinkle” in our emotions and hearts and souls.

We remember that when Mama was in the throes of one of her violent migraine headaches, Papa would put a bobby pin over the coiled spring to reduce the “bonging” reverberation to a soft and gentle “thud”.



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UAFA NEWS

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED:

There are several kinds of coordinator or leadership roles available at UAFA! Whether it be transcribing biofiles, working on the Upchurch Tree on Ancestry or something different. UAFA realizes, for our cause to advance and flourish, everyone who volunteers needs to be able to use their own spe-

cial skill-sets and enjoy their contribution.

Contact UAFA today and let them know of your interests, skills and availability. They will help you to determine where your skills will be best utilized and may even design a custom role for you. The most often heard comment from volunteers is that UAFA gives them the opportunity to give back, while doing something they love.

The Clock by Hal Upchurch... Continued

We remember how that faithful old clock could also turn fickle and unpredictable. For some mysterious reason, it would periodically choose the midnight hour to go bonkers, and, instead of sounding 12 true "bongs" for the midnight hour, would rapidly strike scores of times.

We remember that one midnight, when Chester was about 13 years old, Old Seth went berserk and furiously struck about 30 or 40 times without missing a beat, Chester, the perennial sleepyhead, jumped out of bed and shouted: "Hey, everybody, wake up and get ready for the judgment! It ain't never been this late before!"

In early 1996, Buddy took that old clock out of a 29-year storage, repaired and refinished the woodwork, shined the metal ornamentals, cleaned and oiled the timing mechanism, wound it with the old years-corroded key, gave the pendulum a gentle push, and, 82 years after Papa gave four dollars for it, and after 29 years of storage and stillness and silence, Old Seth instantly settled into a smooth and rhythmic "ticking" and "tocking" and telling of the time as truly and as accurately as it did when it was first created about (perhaps) 120 or 130 years earlier.

Buddy recently went back to the old deteriorating and crumbling house in which we were raised and cut a board from the wall where our clock once rested (a 1" x 12" board that had never been touched by paint or varnish or polyurethane, but was still as firm and solid as it was when someone first nailed it into place up toward 100 years ago) and fashioned a genuine antique shelf for a genuine antique clock, and Old Seth now proudly sits upon that antique shelf and faithfully proclaims the true time and appears to be capable of

joyfully producing another gazillion of "ticks" and "tocks" and "bongs".

I now place a gentle benediction upon that faithful old clock by borrowing the profound phrase of an unknown pundit (or perceptive philosopher) who once truly proclaimed: "They don't make 'em like that any more."

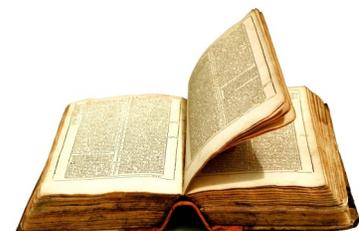


Upchurch Chronicles
Preacher Hal Upchurch 1918-2008 was raised on a farm near Itasca, Texas. He and his siblings, Harry, Howard, Chester, Alice and Buddy Upchurch were the children of Marion Francis "Frank" and Winnie May (Scott) UPCHURCH, pictured below in 1911.



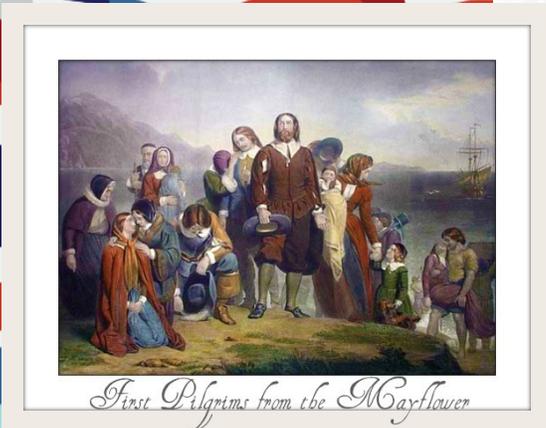
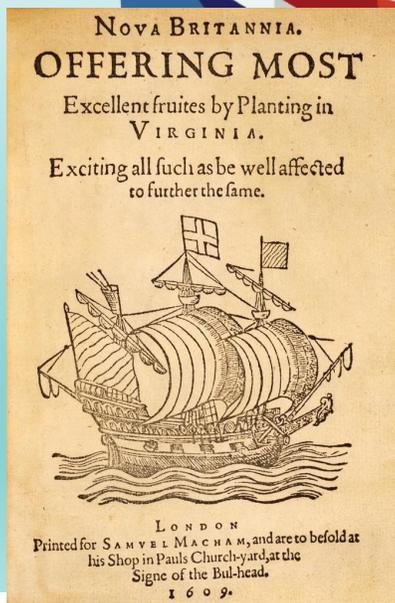
Marion Francis (Frank) and Winnie May Scott Upchurch
January 1, 1911

Preacher Hal Upchurch and Family descend from Clan 4—Richard Upchurch III.





400th Anniversary of Mayflower Day

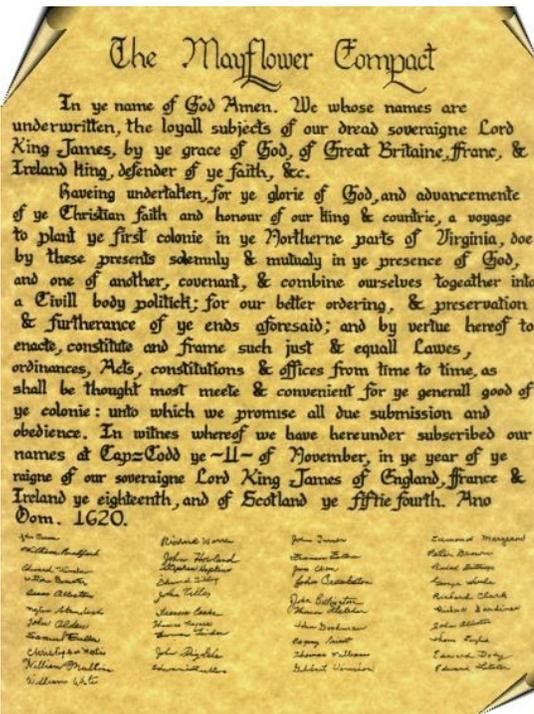


1620-2020

Mayflower Day is always observed on September 16th and this year (2020), marks the 400th anniversary of the Pilgrims' arrival at the site that would become Plymouth, Massachusetts.

On September 16th we celebrate the date the Mayflower sailed from Plymouth, England to America. 102 men, women, and children set sail from Plymouth, England. Their destination was the New World, where many of them could have religious freedom, and continue using their native language, culture, and customs.

The Mayflower set sail from Plymouth England on September 16, 1620, bound for the New World with 102 passengers. The ship was headed for Virginia, where the colonists, half religious dissenters and half entrepreneurs had been authorized to settle by the British crown. However, stormy weather and navigational errors forced the Mayflower off course, and on November 21 the Pilgrims reached Massachusetts. The voyage



took 66 days. They landed at Plymouth Rock on December 21, 1621 where they founded the first permanent European settlement in New England in late December.

Of the 102 passengers on board, there were three pregnant women. One of

these women gave birth just before landing. November 21, 1620, was the day the passengers signed the Mayflower Compact, which set forth the rules of governance of the fledgling colony.

Every Mayflower Day, American's commemorate these brave, early settlers. They were among the very first immigrants, and helped to pave the way for millions more to follow, in search of freedom and the dreams and promises of a New World.

MAYFLOWER ANCESTRY
Some of us have Mayflower Ancestry. I know John U. III Clan 14 does—through Sarah Happy SHAW who married John UPCHURCH in 1815. This clan connects to Frances COOKE and George SOULE, both signers of the Mayflower Compact. I'd be happy to share my line with you or excited if you would share yours with us for a future article!

Have a very happy *Mayflower Day*.



Cindy Hale – Editor