

Alexander Wilson Upshaw**(c1826–11 Feb 1883)****Son of Richard Upshaw Sr. & Rebecca Elder,****Husband of Zilleann Frances Barron****by Timothy Dean Hudson**

Alexander Wilson Upshaw was born about 1826 in Georgia. Although on all legal documents he gave his name as "*Alexander W. Upshaw*," his family knew him as "*Wilson Upshaw*" [1]. Circumstantial evidence indicates that Alexander Wilson Upshaw was the son of [Richard Upshaw](#) and [Rebecca Elder](#) who married in 1820 in Elbert County, Georgia and moved to Walton County by 1822 [2]. Richard was the son of Leroy Upshaw of Essex County, Virginia and Elbert County, Georgia. Leroy served in a company of Amherst County, Virginia Militia during the Revolutionary War, rising to the rank of captain. In particular, Captain Leroy Upshaw's unit fought Lord Cornwallis' British redcoats at the Battle of Guilford Courthouse in North Carolina on 15 March 1781 [3].

Alexander Wilson Upshaw's parents lived in Walton County, Georgia from about 1821 until the mid-1830s, with his maternal grandparents, [Edmond Elder](#) and his wife, living in a separate house on the farm during this period [4]. On 2 October 1835, Richard Upshaw sold their 100-acre farm in Walton County [5], but we know that Edmond Elder remained a resident of Walton County for several years. On 24 May 1836, Edmond sold the 40-acre tract he received in Cherokee County in the 1832 Gold Land Lottery. Then on 1 April 1837, he had a letter remaining in the Monroe Post Office in Walton County [6]. Soon afterwards, Edmond Elder and his wife moved across the county line into Newton County, and in 1840 they lived by themselves in their own household there [7].

It is not clear where Wilson Upshaw's parents went after selling their Walton County farm, since their household does not appear on the 1840 Federal Census of Georgia. The Richard Upshaw household on the 1840 Walton County Federal Census is not Richard and Rebecca's, and it is presumably that of Richard Upshaw Jr. [8]. Since census records indicate that the birth of their youngest son, Jonathan W. Upshaw, occurred in Georgia about 1840, it appears they remained in Georgia until after 1840. Since Edmond Elder and his wife lived with them in Walton County, they probably all remained in Walton County until about 1837 or 1838. Richard and Rebecca may have then moved to the land Richard drew in the 1832 Gold Lottery, and it appears that the land Richard

Upshaw drew in the 1832 lottery fell into Bartow County, but there is no record of his disposing of it [9].

During the 1840s, it appears that Rebecca and Richard Upshaw, together with his younger brother, Leroy Upshaw Jr., moved their families to Butler County, Alabama and settled on vacant government land then in Butler, but now in Crenshaw County. Richard Upshaw died in the 1840s, presumably soon after his arrival in Alabama. In 1850, the widowed Rebecca lived there with her younger children [10].

The Family Bible of Henry Barron and Sarah Callaway records that

Wilson Upshaw & Zillan F. Upshaw was married June the 10th 1847

Zilleann Frances Barron, Henry and Sarah's eldest daughter, was born on 9 November 1824 in Jones County, Georgia [11]. The marriage of Wilson and Zilleann Upshaw probably occurred in Macon County, Alabama, where the Barrons lived at that time. About 1849, Henry Barron moved his family north into Tallapoosa County, Alabama and in 1850, Wilson and Zilleann lived on her parents' farm there [12].

In early 1852, Henry and Sarah Barron began preparations for moving west of the Mississippi River. On 5 February 1852, for \$1750, they sold their 190-acre farm, "*...including the residence and improvements of the said Henry Barron...*" [13]. The Barrons, presumably along with Wilson and Zilleann Upshaw, immediately left Tallapoosa County, and over the next few weeks, they made their way across the Mississippi River to Union Parish, Louisiana. Given that they arrived in Union Parish by 18 February 1852, they undoubtedly made the trip westward by steamboat, probably taking a train to Montgomery, where they caught a steamboat down the Alabama River to just above Mobile, where they took another boat that traversed the "*Inner Passage*," an interconnected series of bayou passages that led to the mouth of Lake Pontchartrain, then to the mouth of Bayou St. John, which at that time took steamboats to the Mississippi River and the New Orleans wharfs along the French Quarter. From there, they caught another steamboat destined for the Ouachita River and Bayou D'Arbonne, and finally, Farmerville [14].

Merely thirteen days after selling their farm in Tallapoosa County, Henry Barron appeared in the courthouse in Farmerville, Union Parish, Louisiana, where he purchased a 640-acre tract of land on Bayou Corney, some few miles south of the village of Spearsville [15]. A year later, on 28 May 1853, Henry Barron divided up and sold his new farm to his two sons Henry Callaway Barron and James Daniel Barron and to Alexander Wilson Upshaw, who purchased 80 acres from his father-in-law [16].

Six years later, on 8 April 1859, Wilson Upshaw purchased a 320-acre tract of land adjoining his existing farm for \$533 [17]. The following year, on 20 August 1860, he sold this tract of land to his brothers, [William Elisha](#) and [Jonathan W. Upshaw](#), for \$500 [18]. A few months after that, on December 20th, he paid \$75 to William H. Lowe for about twenty acres that adjoined his and his brothers' farms [19].

When the War began in 1861, Wilson Upshaw's younger brothers and one brother-in-law, all then single, enlisted in the Confederate Army [20]. In the spring of 1862, two of his brothers-in-law, James Daniel and Henry C. Barron, both enlisted in the "*Sparrow Cadets*," a company of men from Spearsville who became Company I, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry, Confederate States Army [21]. Upshaw himself enlisted in the "*Sparrow Cadets*" with James and Henry Barron in early 1863, serving during the events leading up to the Siege of Vicksburg between May–July 1863. Along with the Barrons and entire Confederate Army, Alexander Wilson Upshaw was captured and paroled at Vicksburg in July 1863 [22].

Records for the 31st Louisiana Infantry Regiment are nonexistent following the surrender at Vicksburg in July 1863, but it appears that Wilson Upshaw and his brothers-in-law all served through May 1865 when the Confederate Army disbanded. Wilson would have been at home on parole awaiting exchange in the spring of 1864, and that year his farm produced 500 bushels of corn. In the spring of 1865, someone plowed and planted 20 acres of their farm in corn [23].

Alexander Wilson Upshaw's brother, Jonathan W. Upshaw, and brother-in-law, Milton L. Barron, both suffered wounds in battles during the War that led to their deaths. However, his other relatives who had joined the Confederate Army returned to their farms near Spearsville. During the years immediately following the War, Wilson Upshaw made several additional land transactions. On 16 August 1866, he paid \$640 for a 320-acre tract that adjoined his farm and that of his brothers [24]. Just a few months later, on November 28th, Upshaw sold 80 acres of this land to Henry J. Tignor for \$164.40 [25]. A year later, on Christmas Day 1867, Wilson Upshaw sold his brother-in-law, John Sidney Post, 160 acres of his farm for \$438 [26].

Between 1866 and 1880, Alexander Wilson and Zilleann Frances Upshaw continued to work their farm south of Spearsville. In 1866, Upshaw's farm produced 250 bushels of corn and two bales of cotton. In 1867 and 1868, he only planted 15 acres in corn but no cotton, and he had livestock valued at \$190 and \$30 worth of vehicles. In 1869, he planted eight acres in cotton and seventeen in corn, and he had livestock valued at \$250 and vehicles at \$50. In 1870, he planted seventeen acres in cotton and twenty-three in corn [27].

By 1870, Wilson Upshaw's farm consisted of 40 acres of improved land and 150 acres of woodland, valued at \$400. He owned farming implements and machinery valued at \$50 and livestock valued at \$342, including 4 horses, 2 "milch" cows, 10 other cattle, 15 sheep, and 15 swine. In 1869, Wilson Upshaw's total farm production was valued at \$739, including 200 bushels of "Indian corn," three 450-lb bales of cotton, 15 pounds of wool, 30 bushels of sweet potatoes, 30 pounds of butter, homemade manufacturers valued at \$40, and slaughtered animals valued at \$200 [28].

In 1880, Wilson Upshaw's farm was valued at \$500, including 60 acres of improved land, 100 acres of woodland and forest, and one acre of orchards. He owned \$10 worth of farming implements and machinery and spent \$10 on building and repairing fences in 1879. He owned livestock valued at \$250, including one horse, one mule or ass, 2 milch cows, 7 other cattle, 29 swine, and 12 barnyard poultry. He estimated his 1879 farm production at \$500, including 2 slaughtered cattle and 50 dozen eggs. In 1879, Upshaw planted one acre of sweet potatoes that produced 50 bushels that year, and he had one acre of 100 apple trees [29].

In late 1880, Wilson and Zilleann Upshaw decided to move about a half mile eastward. On December 20th, he sold their 180-acre farm to Thomas J. Rabun for \$1000 [30]. The following month, on 25 January 1881, he bought 280 acres from Hardy and Nancy J. Gulley Howard [31].

For what appears to have been the duration of his adult life, Wilson Upshaw belonged to Primitive Baptist churches. He was the earliest recorded member of New Hope Primitive Baptist Church, near Spearsville, joining on 24 August 1856. However, it is probable that his in-laws, Henry and Sarah Barron, had already joined New Hope Church by then. There is no evidence that his wife ever joined New Hope Church, as her name does not appear on the church membership list. However, Wilson's younger brother, William Elisha Upshaw, joined the church in October 1867.

By February 1871, New Hope Primitive Baptist Church had ordained Wilson Upshaw as a deacon, and he performed numerous functions for the church between 1871 and 1883. He served as a delegate representing the Church at various district and associational church meetings, moderated church conferences when no minister was present, and served on church committees. In fact, he represented New Hope Church at virtually every district and associational meeting between 1873 and 1882 [32].

At the New Hope Church Conference held on 11 May 1878, "*Bro. A. W. Upshaw preferred a charge against Sister Harriet Mack, a col. Sister for adultery.*" The church appointed Upshaw, Hosea Bright Breazeal, and E. J. Pouncy as a committee to see this woman. At the next conference, the

committee reported her guilty of the charge, and the unanimously church “*excluded [her] from the fellowship of the church*” [33]

Alexander Wilson Upshaw apparently remained in good physical health at least until the fall of 1882. On 9 September 1882, the pastor of New Hope could not attend services, and the church called Wilson Upshaw as the temporary moderator of the conference [34]. A few weeks later, he represented New Hope Church at the 33rd Annual Ouachita Primitive Baptist Association held at Lebanon Church in Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana from September 30th to October 2nd, 1882. On Saturday, the 30th, the Moderator appointed committees, assigning A. W. Upshaw to the committee on Districts and District Meetings [35].

Alexander Wilson Upshaw died six months later, on 11 February 1883, presumably on his farm south of Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana [36]. He is believed to be buried beside his daughter, Rebecca, and brother, William Elisha Upshaw, both of whom had died the previous years and are buried in the same plot in the Spearsville Cemetery [37].

At the church conference on 7 April 1883, New Hope Baptist Church decided to postpone the selection of a new deacon to replace Wilson Upshaw since the pastor, Elder Woody K. Smith, was not present. In June, the church ordained William Risinger as the new deacon [38].

On 7 January 1884, one year after her husband’s death, Zilleann Frances Upshaw sold 80 acres of her old farm to her son, Virgil A. Upshaw, for \$100 [39]. She continued to maintain her own farm for the next six years, with her sons probably cultivating it. In 1883, she paid taxes on her farm, livestock valued at \$155, and \$5 worth of household goods. She paid taxes on a similar amount of property through 1888. In 1889, she paid taxes on her farm, 4 cattle valued at \$40, and one wagon valued at \$20 [40].

Zilleann F. Upshaw alone signed the 1884 transaction in which she sold 80 acres of her farm to her son, Virgil, making the document legally invalid since their children also owned the land. Thus, on 4 February 1892, Zilleann Frances and all of her children sold the same 80-acre tract to S. J. B. Abbett for \$100 [41].

Between 1891 and 1899, taxes were paid in Zilleann’s name only on her land, indicating that she no longer maintained her own household on her farm [42]. Her date of death is not recorded, but she died between 1892 and 1899. She had died by 16 November 1899, when her heirs sold the remaining portion of the Wilson Upshaw farm to George W. Burton Jr. for \$262.50 [43].

Zilleann Frances Barron Upshaw was undoubtedly buried beside her husband and daughter in the Spearsville Cemetery, although her family did not erect a tombstone over her grave. In 2006, descendants placed a tombstone for her, inscribing her date of death as “*about 1895.*” This date is

an approximation, and all we can document is that she died between February 1892 and November 1899.

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Notes

1. 1850 Tallapoosa County AL Federal Census, Township 19, p. 2b, Household #23: Alexand Upshaw, aged 24. 1870 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward No. 3, p. 59a, Household #136: Alex Upshaw, aged 45. 1880 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward No. 3, p. 468b, Household #250: Wilson A. Upshaw, aged 54. Alexander Wilson Upshaw's household was missed on the 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, but the 1850, 1870, and 1880 Federal Censuses all agree that his birth occurred in Georgia. In the Henry Barron Family Bible, Henry Barron recorded the name of his son-in-law as "*Wilson Upshaw*."
2. No known primary source document lists all heirs of either Richard Upshaw Sr. or his second wife, Rebecca Elder. For a list of the pieces of circumstantial evidence indicating that Alexander Wilson Upshaw was the son of Richard Upshaw Sr. and his second wife, Rebecca Elder, see the discussion below.
3. Documentation for the connection of Richard Upshaw Sr. to Capt. Leroy Upshaw and the latter's Revolutionary War service is given elsewhere.
4. Georgia Surveyor General, 1820 Lottery Grants, Walton County, District 1, p. 168 (State of Georgia to Edmond Elder, Lot #42, 250 acres). Walton County GA Deed Book C-D, pp. 49–50 (Edmond Elder to Littleberry Elder, 1 January 1822, 50 acres); Deed Book E, p. 45 (Edmond Elder to Richard Upshaw, 8 May 1822, 100 acres); Deed Book E, p. 153 (Edmond Elder to Littleberry Elder, 4 May 1823, 100 acres). 1830 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 158, line #6: Richard Upshaw; line #7: Edmund Elder. The May 1823 transaction of 150 acres from Edmond Elder to Littleberry Elder constituted the last of his land in Walton County. Since his household and that of Richard Upshaw's adjoined in 1830, Edmond appears to have lived in his own household near his son-in-law.
5. Walton County GA Deed Book L, p. 85 (Richard Upshaw to Joshua Callaway, 2 October 1835).
6. Cherokee County GA Deed Record D, pp. 489–490 (Edmond Elder to Isaac Sewell, 24 May 1836). "*The Southern Banner*" (Athens, GA), April 8 (p. 3, column 4), 15 (p. 4, column 6), and 29 (p. 4, column 6), 1837.
7. 1840 Newton County GA Federal Census, p. 19, #25: Edmond Elder.
8. 1840 Walton County GA Federal Census, p. 120, #25: Rich^d Upshaw. This household consists of one male aged 30–40, and females aged 15–20, 20–30, 30–40, and 50–60. This is clearly not the household of Richard Upshaw Sr. and his second wife, Rebecca Elder Upshaw, as they had children born between 1820 and 1840, while this household has no young children.
9. Georgia Surveyor General, 1832 Land Lottery Grants (Gold), Cherokee County, Section 3, District 4, p. 72 (State of Georgia to Richard Upshaw, Lot #95). Originally in Cherokee County, the land fell into Bartow County upon its creation. There is no recorded deed showing Richard Upshaw selling it in either county.
10. [1850 Butler County AL Federal Census](#), p. 246b, Household #39: Rebeca Upshaw.
11. Henry Barron Family Bible. In 2020, the original Bible is in the possession of Mr. Gene Barron, West Monroe, Louisiana.
12. 1850 Tallapoosa County AL Federal Census, Township 19, p. 2b, Household #23: Alexand Upshaw; #24: Henry Barron.
13. Tallapoosa County AL Deed Book G, pp. 214–215 (Henry and Sarah Barron to Jeremiah McKissack, 5 February 1852).
14. No documentation survives to indicate the precise route that Henry Barron's extended family took on their initial trek from east/central Alabama to north Louisiana. However, during this era, immigrants primarily used steamboats to journey from the Carolinas, Georgia, and Alabama to Louisiana and Arkansas due to their speed. Given that Henry Barron sold his farm in Tallapoosa County Alabama on February 5 and had arrived in Union Parish by February 18, a mere thirteen days later, their party must have traveled by steamer. It is unclear if he loaded his belongings, children, and livestock on a steamboat at that time, or if he made the initial trip by himself.
15. Union Parish LA Deed Book F, p. 15 (Oliver B. Hill to Henry Barron, 18 February 1852; witnesses: P. T. Barton, "*Elliah W. Upshaw*").
16. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book F, p. 634 (Henry Barron Senr. to A. W. Upshaw, 28 May 1853). Upshaw purchased the E¼ of NE¼ & W¼ of NE¼ of Section 17, Township 22 North, Range 2 West. If an accurate description of the land Upshaw purchased, it is a very odd configuration. This describes two separate, thin strips of 40 acres that do not connect.
17. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, p. 316 (Thomas P. Lawrence to Alexander W. Upshaw, 8 April 1859). Upshaw bought the W½ of Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 West.
18. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, pp. 327–328 (Alexander Wilson Upshaw to William Elisha Upshaw and Jonathan Upshaw, 21 August 1860). Wilson Upshaw sold his brothers the W½ of Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 West.
19. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, p. 441 (William H. Lowe to A. W. Upshaw, 20 December 1860; witnesses: Sidney H. Griffin, Oliver B. Hill). Upshaw purchased "*all that portion of the*" W½ of SW¼ of Section 9, Township 22 North, Range 2 West "*being and lying west of Ten Mile Creek.*" This is a triangular-shaped tract of approximately 20 acres.

20. Compiled Military Service Records, W. E. Upshaw and J. W. Upshaw, Co. D, 4th Battalion Louisiana Infantry; Milton L. Barron, Co. C, 19th Regiment Louisiana Infantry.
21. Compiled Military Service Records, James D. and Henry C., Co. I, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry.
22. Compiled Military Service Record, Alex W. Upshaw, Pvt. Co. I, 31st Regiment Louisiana Infantry.
23. 1865 Union Parish LA Tax Assessment, A. W. Upshaw. Nineteenth century tax assessments are available in the Louisiana State Archives, Baton Rouge. In 1865, Upshaw's farm consisted of 120 acres valued at \$845, of which 100 was uncultivated and 20 cultivated in corn.
24. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book M, p. 192; Union Parish LA Mortgage Book AA, p. 342 (William L. Spears to A. W. Upshaw, 16 August 1866; witnesses: J. M. Post, J. R. Goyne). Upshaw bought the S½ of Section 8, Township 22 North, Range 2 West. This tract lay on the north side of his farm and on the northwest side of the farm he had sold his brothers in 1860. James M. Post witnessed the transaction; he was the husband of Georgia Ann Elizabeth Barron Post, Zilleann's youngest sister. Wilson Upshaw paid for the land in two notes, one \$500 note due 1 January 1867, after the 1866 harvest, and the second note of \$140 due 1 January 1868 at 8% interest.
25. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book P, p. 427 (A. W. Upshaw to Henry J. Tignor, 28 November 1866). Upshaw sold Tignor the W½ of SW¼ of Section 8, Township 22 North, Range 2 West. This was the western-most portion of the land he had bought the previous year, and the farthest from the land he had bought in 1853.
26. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book N, p. 135 (A. W. Upshaw to John S. Post, 25 December 1867; witnesses: W. L. Spears, M. L. McFarland). Upshaw sold Post 160 acres of land in Township 22 North, Range 2 West:
 - N½ of NE¼ of Section 17
 - SE¼ of SE¼ of Section 8
 - S½ of SW¼ of SE¼ of Section 8
 - S½ of SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 8
27. 1866–1870 Union Parish LA Tax Assessments, A. W. Upshaw.
28. 1870 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Agricultural Schedule, Ward No. 3, pp. 3–4 (33–34), line #15: Elex Upshaw [sic].
29. 1880 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Agricultural Schedule, Ward No. 3, ED #87, p. 18, line #6: Wilson A. Upshaw. His corn and cotton acreage and 1879 production were omitted, and this is probably a mistake. Upshaw would almost certainly have planted corn for the use of his family and livestock, and cotton was the only cash crop in that era in north Louisiana.
30. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book 36, p. 112 (A. W. Upshaw to T. J. Rabun, 20 December 1880; witnesses: T. J. Tabor, J. M. Post Jr. Upshaw sold Rabun these tracts of land in Township 22 North, Range 2 West, totaling 180 acres:
 - N½ of SE¼ of Section 8
 - N½ of SW¼ of SE¼ & W½ of SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 8
 - NE¼ of SW¼ of Section 8
 - "all that portion of land lying west of ten mile creek being in" W½ of SW¼ of Section 9
 On 16 February 1924, forty-four years after Wilson Upshaw made this transaction, his three children still alive made affidavit and a quit claim to correct a recording error in the original 1880 deed. The document stated that Upshaw conveyed the W½ of SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 8, but this was a mistake. His children stated that their father intended to convey the N½ of SE¼ of SW¼ of Section 8. In the quit claim, his children relinquished all claim they had to the latter tract (Union Parish LA Conveyance Book 54, p. 518).
31. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book S, p. 158 (Hardy Howard to A. W. Upshaw, 25 January 1881). Wilson Upshaw bought a total of 280 acres in Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 West:
 - NE¼
 - N½ of SE¼
 - SE¼ of SE¼
32. [New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Minutes](#), 1871–1882.
33. [New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Minutes](#), Church Conferences of May 11 and June 8, 1878.
34. [New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Minutes](#), 9 September 1882 Church Conference. From the minutes, "New Hope Church met in conference by choosing Breth. A. W. Upshaw as moderator, Protem."
35. 1882 Ouachita Primitive Baptist Association Minutes of the 33rd Annual Meeting, Lebanon Church, Homer, Claiborne Parish, Louisiana. These minutes are in the collection of the Arkansas History Commission, Little Rock, Arkansas.
36. Union Parish LA Succession Book Z pp. 184–190 (Succession of Alexander W. Upshaw).
37. Spearsville Cemetery (Spearsville, Union Parish LA), tombstones of "Rebecca A., Wife of J. C. Rockett" (7 Apr 1851–10 Apr 1882) and "Elisha Upshaw" (28 Feb 1833–8 Jan 1882). In 2006, several descendants erected a marker for Alexander Wilson Upshaw beside Rebecca's original tombstone.
38. [New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Minutes](#), Church Conferences of April 7 and June 9, 1883.

39. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book U, pp. 180–181 (Z. Frances Upshaw to V. A. Upshaw, 7 January 1884). Z. Frances Upshaw sold her son the E½ of SE¼ “four acres in South East Corner of the” NW¼ of SE¼ “less four acres deeded to L. B. Abbott in the South East Corner of” NE¼ of SE¼, in Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 East.
40. 1883–1890 Union Parish LA Tax Assessments, Mrs. Z. F. Upshaw.
41. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book 7, pp. 7–8 (“heirs and surviving widow of Wilson Upshaw dec’d” to S. J. B. Abbett, 4 February 1892). The heirs of Wilson Upshaw signing the transaction included his widow, “Z. F. Upshaw,” and Sarah F. Coatney, J. C. Rockett, James Rockett, W. L. Rockett, M. P. Denton, J. M. Upshaw, A. E. Harper, and V. A. Upshaw, all of Union Parish, Louisiana, and J. A. Upshaw of Bradley County, Arkansas. Wilson Upshaw’s heirs sold Abbett the E½ of SE¼ “less 4 acres off East side of” NE¼ of SE¼ “and 4 acres off East side of” NW¼ of SE¼, Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 West. This is the identical 80 acres that Zilleann Frances Upshaw sold her son, Virgil A. Upshaw, in 1884.
42. 1891–1899 Union Parish LA Tax Assessments, Mrs. Z. F. Upshaw.
43. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book 6, pp. 580–582 (“surviving heirs of W. A. and Mrs. Z. F. Upshaw” and William K. Pryor to George W. Burton Jr., 16 November 1899). The Upshaw heirs sold these tracts in Section 16, Township 22 North, Range 2 West:

- NE¼
- NW¼ of SE¼ “less and except four acres previously sold”

The “surviving heirs of W. A. and Mrs. Z. F. Upshaw” included:

- Virgil A. Upshaw
- John Upshaw
- Mrs. Sarah Courtney, wife of John Courtney
- Mrs. Mary Denton, wife of Joseph H. Denton
- Mrs. Arry Harper, wife of R. Bailey Harper
- “heirs of Mrs. Rebecca (Upshaw) Rockett, deceased (who was also an heir of the above W. A. & Z. F. Upshaw), viz:” Jas. W. Rockett, Floyd H. Rockett, W^m L. Rockett, Miss Ella Rockett, Mrs. Pearl (Rockett) Baird, wife of Joseph Baird.

William K. Pryor undoubtedly owned the interest that Joseph A. Upshaw had in his parents’ estate. In 1883, Farmerville merchant D. Stein & Company sued Joseph A. Upshaw and won a judgement of \$175. Presumably, Upshaw failed to pay the judgement, and the District Court placed Stein in possession of Joe Upshaw’s interest in his parents’ estate. Pryor must have purchased Stein’s interest in the estate. Joseph A. Upshaw died in August 1898 (Union Parish LA District Court Suit #2778, D. Stein & Co. vs. Joseph A. Upshaw, 1883).

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Evidence That Alexander Wilson Upshaw was the son of Richard Upshaw Sr.

No known primary source document lists all heirs of either Richard Upshaw Sr. or his second wife, Rebecca Elder. However, several pieces of circumstantial evidence indicate that Alexander Wilson Upshaw was the son of Richard Upshaw Sr. and his second wife, Rebecca Elder:

1. 1850 Butler County AL Federal Census, p. 246b, Household #39: Rebeca [sic] Upshaw.
 - This census listing implies that the younger members of Rebecca's household are her younger children: Edmond, William Elisha, Frances, and Jonathan W. Upshaw.
2. Union Parish LA Deed Book F, p. 15 (Oliver B. Hill to Henry Barron, 18 February 1852; witness: "*Elliah W. Upshaw*").
 - Henry Barron was Alexander Wilson Upshaw's father-in-law, and he made this land purchase in north Louisiana thirteen days after selling his farm in Tallapoosa County, Alabama. This indicates that Elisha Upshaw made the initial trip from Alabama to north Louisiana with Wilson Upshaw's father-in-law and implies a strong familial connection between Wilson and Elisha Upshaw.
3. A series of documents in Union Parish, Louisiana imply that Alexander Wilson, William Elisha, and Jonathan W. Upshaw were brothers. First, in 1853, Wilson Upshaw bought an 80-acre farm from his father-in-law, a portion of the land Barron bought the previous year. Then in 1859, Wilson bought a 320-acre tract of land that adjoined his farm. The following year, he sold this tract of land to William Elisha and Jonathan W. Upshaw, on 21 August 1860. The month before, the 1860 census listing of Elisha, Jonathan, and their mother, Rebecca, dated 21 July 1860, shows them living on this land, valued there at \$1000, a month before they officially purchased it from their brother. The references for these documents are:
 - a. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book F, p. 634 (Henry Barron Senr. to A. W. Upshaw, 28 May 1853).
 - b. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, p. 316 (Thomas P. Lawrence to Alexander W. Upshaw, 8 April 1859).
 - c. Union Parish LA Conveyance Book J, pp. 327–328 (Alexander Wilson Upshaw to William Elisha Upshaw and Jonathan Upshaw, 21 August 1860).
 - d. 1860 Union Parish LA Federal Census, P.O. Spearsville, 21 July 1860, p. 615, Household #703, line #21: M. E. Upshaw (26, male, Farmer, real estate: \$1000; personal estate: \$155) [recording mistake; should be *W. E. Upshaw*]; line #22: R. Upshaw (51, female, "*House Keeper*;" line #23: J. Upshaw (age 20, male).
4. 1880 Union Parish LA Federal Census, Ward No. 3, p. 468b, Household #250: Wilson A. Upshaw, aged 54, father born in Virginia.
 - The Virginia birthplace of Wilson Upshaw's father is notable, as it indicates he was the son of an older man, specifically, Richard Upshaw Sr., and not Richard Jr. as some have claimed.
5. Henry Barron Family Bible, p. 2 and p. 4. Jones County GA Will Book B, pp. 115–117, will of John Barron, dated March 15, filed in court on July 15, 1823.
 - Henry Barron's Family Bible records the eldest daughter of Sarah Callaway and him as "*Zilleann F. Barron was born Nov. 9th 1824*," and it records her marriage: "*Wilson Upshaw & Zillan F. Upshaw was married June the 10th 1847*." Sarah Callaway Barron's mother was also named "*Sarah*," but Henry's mother was Frances Garrard Barron, named in the will of Henry's father.
 - Alexander and Zilleann named their eldest daughter as "*Sarah Frances Upshaw*," thus clearly naming their eldest daughter after the child's maternal grandmother and great-grandmother.

- Alexander W. Upshaw and Zilleann F. Barron named their second daughter "*Rebecca A. Upshaw*." This suggests that Wilson Upshaw's mother was named "*Rebecca*," as this was a typical naming pattern for daughters in that era.
6. New Hope Primitive Baptist Church Minutes, Spearsville, Union Parish, Louisiana.
- Both Alexander Wilson Upshaw and William Elisha Upshaw belonged to the New Hope Primitive Baptist Church. Wilson Upshaw is the oldest recorded member, as the membership list in the church minutes shows him joining the church on 24 August 1856. Elisha Upshaw joined the church in October 1867. Both men remained members of New Hope Church until their deaths in January 1882 and February 1883, respectively. This again implies a close familial connection between them.

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Known Children of Alexander Wilson Upshaw & Zilleann Frances Barron

1. [infant daughter] **Upshaw**

born: 4 June 1848, probably Macon County Alabama

died: 4 June 1848, probably Macon County Alabama

personal information:

The family Bible of Henry Barron recorded that this daughter was stillborn.

2. **Sarah Frances Upshaw**

born: 8 June 1849, Macon or Tallapoosa County Alabama

married: c1877, probably Union Parish Louisiana, to **John Madison Courtney** (6 Dec 1856 – 13 Dec 1927)

died: 28 Oct 1913, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Canaan Cemetery

3. **Rebecca A. Upshaw**

born: 7 April 1851, Tallapoosa County Alabama

married: 1868/1869, probably Union Parish Louisiana to **Joseph Cannon Rockett** (14 Nov 1847 – 11 Apr 1929)

died: 10 April 1882, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Spearsville Cemetery

4. **Mary Pearl Upshaw**

born: 8 July 1853, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 2 Feb 1873, Union Parish Louisiana, **Joseph Hillard Denton** (26 Dec 1846 – 29 Mar 1926)

died: 28 Feb 1908, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Bethel Cemetery

5. **Joseph A. Upshaw**

born: c1858, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

married: c1879, probably Union Parish Louisiana, to **Narcissa Anna Welch** (Nov 1863 – after 1900)

died: August 1898, near Farmerville, Union Parish Louisiana

personal information:

The 10 August 1898 issue of the Farmerville *Gazette* contained this announcement concerning Joseph A. Upshaw's impending death:

From Spearsville

...Mr. Joe Upshaw was with his brother-in-law a few miles south of town, was expected to die last week – cause unknown.

Upshaw did apparently die, although the newspaper contained no specific mention of it. By 1900, his widow Anna N. Upshaw lived in Wilmar, Saline Township, Drew County Arkansas in a rented home with her children, where she worked as a milliner.

6. **Virgil A. Upshaw**

born: 4 April 1860, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 4 Dec 1884, Union Parish Louisiana, to **Sarah Frances Dudley** (28 Dec 1867 – 26 May 1936)

died: 15 Feb 1931, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Mount Union Cemetery

7. **John Milton Upshaw**

born: 30 Nov 1862, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 3 June 1883, Union Parish Louisiana, to **Mollie Webb** (1 Dec 1868 – 5 Nov 1951)

died: 21 Jan 1942, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Camp Creek Cemetery

8. **Aramantha E. Upshaw**

born: 4 April 1866, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

married: 12 Nov 1884, Union Parish Louisiana, to **Robert Bailey Harper** (15 Mar 1856 – 5 Dec 1930)

died: 28 Jan 1933, near Spearsville, Union Parish Louisiana

buried: Mount Union Cemetery

personal information:

Aramantha's daughter Viola Selma Harper (13/18 May 1889 – 4 Feb 1898) was buried beside her brother John Milton Upshaw in the Camp Creek Cemetery.

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