

The Locke Family Newsletter

Publisher **Vann Helms** Volume Number 1 Issue Number 3 July 2006

The Locke Reunion is Here! October 1, 2006

It's hard to believe, but we are less than three months away from this year's big reunion. If you haven't already set aside the afternoon of **October 1**, do it now! We're hoping for over 100 people to attend this year, and you know what that means! Food! Food! Food! If your family is like our family, we don't eat together as often as we used to, and we don't always serve those wonderful old dishes that Grandma used to make. Now is the time to pull out your *Locke Family Reunion Cookbook* that **Nancy Locke** so generously edited a few years ago. If you need a copy, just call or e-mail your request to **Vann Helms**. He'll get one to you in plenty of time!

The directions to **Ray and Bruce Howell's** farm are found on the back of this newsletter, along with maps for those of you who prefer that kind of thing. If you no longer drive, or you need a ride to the reunion, call Vann at **305-519-1934**, and he'll do his best to make sure you can join us.

Plan to arrive around 1 p.m., and we'll eat around 2:00. After lunch, plan to hang around all afternoon and enjoy the tranquility of an old family farm with animals, a fishing lake, and lots of room for the kids (of all ages) to run and play games, just like we used to! We'll have a TV so that you won't miss the football games. **Jerry Locke** will have the original Civil War letters from his Great Grandfather **Josiah Locke**.

Bring as many old photographs and documents as you can find! We'll have scanners and computers at the ready so that everyone can take home a disc of the results. We're especially interested in those old family Bibles that hold priceless treasures of our family's history!

Phily Locke and the First Lockes in Colonial America

In the first two **Locke** family newsletters, we explored the **Locke** family who migrated to northern South Carolina around 1800. Very little ink has been used to show from where those **Lockes** might have come. We know that **Josias Locke** and his brother **William** moved to Chester County from Halifax County in North Carolina at about the same time, but we haven't discussed why they would have chosen such a remote area, and we haven't explored the ancestors of **Josias** and his wife **Susanna Hall**. After a search of property records, marriage records, census records, and communication with other **Locke** researchers, we are ready to embark on that exciting journey of discovery to find our first ancestors in America. Although the trail begins in England in the 17th century, we will concentrate on the first **Locke** who got off the boat in 1690 after two harrowing months at sea. Because the U.S. census didn't begin until 1790, we must depend upon colonial deeds, property transfers, and estate records to piece together those early families.

Luckily, the Lockes were similar to most other English speaking families in that they were highly structured in the naming of their children. The most important names to be carried forward were those of the father and mother, and next came the maiden name of the mother, then the maiden name of the father's mother, then the maiden name of the mother's mother, and so fourth. Because the life expectancy in the 18th century was less than forty years, names of recently departed brothers and sisters were often popular. With our family, the same names repeat many times through the generations. **William, James, John, George, Josiah, Thomas, Philip, Benjamin, Joseph, Henry, and Jesse** were the early names for the men. It's really a shame that today's families have lost that connection to their past. With names like Justin, Derrick, Sean, Kimberly, Ashley, and Whitney leading the way, we've lost the Roberts, Elizabeths, Nancys, Marys, and Susans for this generation.

A genealogist is a detective. As with most mystery stories, a certain number of intelligent assumptions need to be made if loose ends are to be joined. Although these assumptions may ultimately prove to be wrong, they nonetheless open other doors that may lead to surprising conclusions. At least they provoke questions that stimulate our curiosity. Please don't be offended if one of your oldest family memories is hung out to dry by these conjectures. The intent is to find the truth, which usually hides in obvious places, but sometimes in the most obscure.



Replica of the "Dove" that first brought colonists to the Maryland colony in 1633



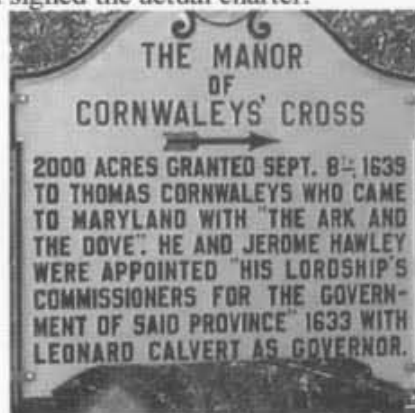
18th Century Farmhouse from St. Mary's Co.

A little early Colonial history might be helpful at this point. While the early settlements along the James River in Virginia were struggling to survive, a different group of settlers was sailing up the Chesapeake Bay, and finding a much friendlier group of natives with which to set up trading arrangements. In addition to the Potomac and Rappahannock Rivers, other less famous streams flowed past fertile lands on their way to the bay. In the 1630's, King James I sent his special emissary, Lord Baltimore, to establish outposts along these rivers that could produce the goods so desired back in England. Tobacco, corn, and cotton were the most popular, and quickly became the crops of choice for wealthy land owners who had agreed to make the hazardous Atlantic crossing in exchange for more riches, and most of all, land! A feudal system was established, much like those back in England, where the "Lord of the Manor" would surround himself with serfs and craftsmen who would work the land in exchange for security and a dream of future ownership. The major county established by Lord Baltimore in 1633 was Saint Mary's, between the Patuxent and Potomac Rivers. About ten manors were set up on the peninsula, and

land was granted to the friends of the Crown in exchange for oaths of fealty, or loyalty. Most of these manors were in excess of 6,000 acres in size. The original Lord Baltimore died in 1638, leaving the affairs of government to his brother, Leonard Calvert. The colony was called **Maryland**, after Queen Henrietta Maria of Denmark, the wife of King Charles I, who had signed the actual charter.

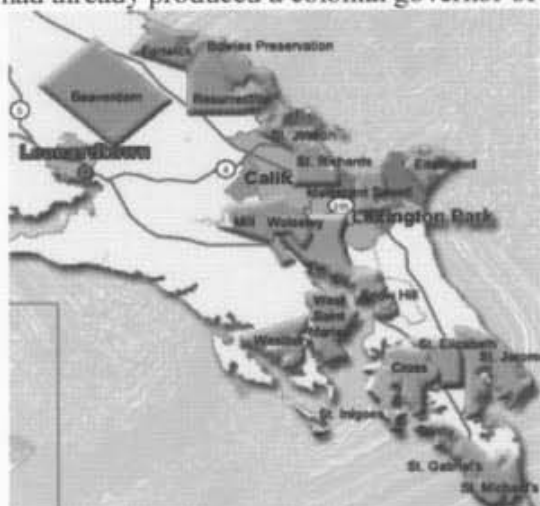


18th Century Support Building for early Manor Estate



Thomas Cornwallis Manor of 1639

Each Lord built an impressive home, usually brick with two or three stories and outbuildings to provide the support of the family. A church was also built near the manor house. Smaller, less stately houses and barns were constructed to house the workers and their newly arrived families. Slavery was not yet a part of this early farm economy. That would come later in the 1700's. The arrival of **Philip Locke** from England in the late 1680's marked the beginning of our branch of **Lockes** in America. Other **Lockes** had arrived in Pennsylvania and New England, but it is doubtful that they were related to our family in a recent way. So far, no evidence has been found that **Philip** arrived with other family members. He was a young man about thirty years old. **Philip** must have been some kind of craftsman or surveyor, because he positioned himself to work with the established planter families, and managed to meet and marry the daughter of one of the wealthier farmers. She was **Mary Hulse**, the daughter of **Meverell Hulse**, who had arrived in Maryland in the 1670's, and had built a sizable plantation called **Hulston**, as part of the manor known as **Resurrection**. Originally, **Resurrection** was "patented", or developed by **Thomas Cornwallis**, who was from the same family that would produce the famous British general from the Revolutionary War. The **Hulse** family would marry into the politically connected **Barber** family, who had already produced a colonial governor of Maryland.



St. Mary's County, Maryland, Resurrection Manor



Early 17th Century Manor House in St. Mary's Co.

When **Meverell Hulse** died around 1700, his daughter, **Mary**, inherited the majority of **Hulston**, making her new husband, **Phillip Locke**, proprietor of the plantation. **Phillip** and **Mary** expanded their plantation, while expanding their family. By any measure of wealth for the early 18th century, the **Lockes** were rich! From family records and later, estate records, we know that **Phillip** and **Mary** had at least six children. The oldest, **William**, was born in the early 1690's, followed by **James Hulse Locke** (our direct ancestor), born about 1695. **Phillip, Jr.** followed in 1697, **Mary Ann** in 1701, **Priscilla** in 1705, and **Meverell** (named for his maternal grandfather) around 1710. **Phillip, Sr.**, died in August of 1722, and we have a record of his last will and testament. **Mary** continued to live at **Hulston** with her youngest children. **William** and **James Hulse** were given equal parts of a plantation called **Good Pennyworth**, consisting of over 200 acres. By that time, a twenty-something **James Hulse Locke** had already met **Susannah Stevens**, daughter of **Benjamin Stevens** and his wife **Lettice**, and they were married around 1717. **Susannah** had three brothers, **Benjamin**, **Daniel**, and **Joseph**, and two sisters, **Elizabeth** and **Ann**. In an unusual coincidence, **James'** brother **William** also married a **Susannah Stephens**, but from a different family with a different spelling. **Benjamin Stevens, Sr.**, died in May, 1733, leaving most of his land to his wife and sons, not to his daughter, **Susannah**.

After **Mary Hulse Locke** died, **Hulston** was divided equally between her sons **Phillip** and **Meverell**, as had been set forth in **Phillip, Sr.**'s will. **Meverell** would marry a woman named **Elizabeth**, and have at least six children. They were **Jesse** (This was the first time that we saw the name "**Jesse**" associated with the **Locke** family. It must have come from **Elizabeth's** side), **George**, **Anne**, **Mary**, **Elizabeth**, and **Thomas**. **Meverell** became a sheriff in St. Mary's County around 1750. When he died in May, 1764, his will distributed more than 1,200 acres to his surviving heirs. The **Locke** family had become wealthy and politically influential.

In the meantime, **Meverell's** older brother **James Hulse** and wife **Susannah** had at least three sons. **James** was born around 1718, **John** around 1722, and **Phillip** sometime before 1730. All three brothers married and had children in St. Mary's County. Our ancestor, **James** (Son of **James Hulse**), married **Susannah Green**, around 1750, and had their first three children in St. Mary's County. **Josias** (our ancestor), was born around 1756, **James, Jr.**, was born on July 5, 1760, and **Elizabeth** was born in 1762. For a reason still being researched, **James H.**, **Susannah**, and all three of their sons and their families relocated to the Virginia-North Carolina border area around 1765. Perhaps there was a lucrative land grant offer made by the British crown. It's also possible that all three had fought as British subjects in the French and Indian War of the 1750's. In return, they may have been given land on what was the southern frontier in those days. A more obvious explanation involves the family of **Susannah Green Locke**, the wife of **James**, and mother of **Josias**. Property and census records indicate that the **Green** family was one of the most prominent families in late 18th century Halifax County, North Carolina. They owned large tracts of land, a strong attraction for a growing family from St. Mary's County, Maryland. For any one or all of these reasons, Halifax County, North Carolina, and the border town, Halifax, Virginia, became their home.

It is believed that **Phillip, Jr.** relocated from Halifax to Stokes County, North Carolina, and raised his family in that area. His brother **John** married twice. His first wife was named **Sarah**, and they had at least one son, also named **John**. His second marriage was in 1774 in Halifax County, to an **Elizabeth**, or "**Betty**". They would later have a grandson named **Walter Locke** (born 1775 in Halifax County), who moved to Williamson County, Tennessee, where he married **Sallie Bell** in 1806. **James Hulse Locke** died in Halifax County before 1782, and **John** (son of **James Hulse**), died in Halifax County in the 1790's.

After arriving in Halifax, **Susannah** gave birth to **Thomas** in 1764 and **William** in 1765. It is not yet known if any of these boys saw action in the Revolutionary War. **James Locke** (son of **James Hulse Locke**), died before 1816 in North Carolina. **Susannah Green Locke**, **Josias'** mother, died in 1823, also in North Carolina. She left a will, which is on file in Raleigh.

Josias Locke married **Susanna Hall** in Halifax County, around 1782. She was most likely the daughter of **Mary Hall**, and had a brother named **Robert**. Both of these people appeared in the first US census for Halifax County in 1790, as did **Josias**, **Susanna**, and their young family. That family was eventually made up of **Priscilla**, **Sarah**, **Stephen**, **Asa**, **Benjamin**, **Jesse McCullough**, and **Joseph**. Sometime between 1800 and 1805, the entire family moved to Chester County, South Carolina, along with **Josias'** brother, **William**, and his family.

Why did they make this hazardous journey with six children? What could have been so important that **Josias** would leave his elderly mother, and seek a new life in a new land? The answer may be found by studying the names chosen for the next few generations of **Locke** men. Remember that the maiden names of ancestors were given to boys as a way to honor those important families. As background, let's explore some of those Virginia and North Carolina families that might have been related to the **Lockes**.

In 1720, **George Willis** died in Northampton County, Virginia, and left land to his two sons, **Josias** and **George**. In 1739, **Josias Willis** sold fifty acres of that land. In 1751, **Stephen Willis, Sr.**, was listed as a surveyor in Augusta County, Virginia. He was born in 1725, and had moved into North Carolina with a large family after 1762. His son, **Stephen Willis, Jr.**, moved to Abbeville District, South Carolina, where his estate was probated on October 29, 1790. In 1764, **Benjamin McCullough** of Halifax, sold land in Bute County, North Carolina, to **John Willis** of Gloucester County, Virginia. According to a land deed filed with the "Clerk of Court" of Halifax County in 1776, **Benjamin McCullough** served in the North Carolina militia during the Revolutionary War. In 1778, **John Willis** sold land in Bute County, North Carolina. In 1785, **Josias Willis** purchased eighty acres of land in Northampton County, Virginia. **Lewis Willis**, along with his brother, **John Austin Willis**, resided in Halifax County in the 1780's. In the 1790 Halifax census, there were two **McCullough** families listed. They were **Alexander** and his son **Benjamin**. In the 1790 census of Chester County, South Carolina, five **McCullough** families were counted. Also in the Chester and York County censuses of 1790, three **Culp** families were shown.

Why should any of these names be important where the **Lockes** are concerned? This is where the plot thickens! **James** and **Susannah Locke** named their first son **Josias**. Perhaps **Susannah's** maternal grandfather was **Josias Willis**. **Josias** and **Susanna Hall Locke** named one of their sons, **Stephen**. Might there have been a connection to **Stephen Willis** or his son, **Stephen Jr.**? **Stephen Locke** named his oldest son, **Willis**, obviously a connection to the previous generations. Another of **Josias'** sons was named **Jesse McCullough**. It is thought that **Susanna Hall's** mother was a **McCullough**. Another son was named **Benjamin**. Might he have been named for **Benjamin McCullough** of Halifax County? **Jesse McCullough's** son **Jesse Culp Locke** obviously had a connection to the **Culp** families of Chester and York Counties. Family history says that **Jesse McCullough's** wife's mother was also a **McCullough**. Cousins marrying cousins? That was not very unusual in those days!

Most likely, it was the connection to the **McCullough** families of Chester County that brought **Josias** and his family to South Carolina. Because they didn't appear in either the Halifax County or the Chester County censuses of 1800, chances are that they were living in the household of one of the **McCullough** families in South Carolina, probably **Susanna's** grandparents, until they could afford to buy their own farm. **Josias'** granddaughter, **Thena**, was born in Chester County on July 30, 1806, to **Stephen** and **Nancy Hines Locke**. Obviously the family was already a permanent fixture in Chester County by that time. Real estate records in Halifax County show that **Josias Locke** sold 150 acres of land to **Jessie Wiggins** in March, 1807. In that same deed, he relinquished all claims that he was entitled at "decease of my Mother, **Susanna Lock,**" to **Henry Locke**, most likely a first cousin. On November 26, 1807, **Josias** purchased 200 acres in Chester District, South Carolina. He appeared as the head-of-household in the 1810 Chester County census. The move was finally complete. **Josias Locke** died in Chester County in 1826.

The Original Chester County Homestead of Benjamin Locke

In 1827, **Benjamin Locke**, son of **Josias**, brother to **Stephen**, and uncle to **Levi**, married **Mary "Polly" Hefley**. They had six children over the next eleven years, five of whom survived. They were **Martha, Margaret, Josiah, Andrew, and Elizabeth**. With such a large family, **Benjamin** and **Polly** needed a large farm and a large farmhouse. Sometime in the 1830's, they either purchased about 200 acres in northeastern Chester County, South Carolina, or the land passed to them when **Benjamin's** mother, **Susanna**, died. The remarkable thing about the land is that it is still owned by the descendents of **Benjamin Locke**, with many generations residing on the land today.

Benjamin died sometime around 1845, and **Polly** continued to live there until her death after the Civil War. **Josiah**, the oldest son, had been living in York County with his wife, **Dorothy**, and their three children just before he was tragically killed at the battle at Petersburg, Virginia, in 1864. **Dorothy** must have moved back to the homeplace, along with her elderly father, **Robert White**, just about the time **Polly Hefley Locke** passed away. She raised her two surviving children on that farm, and when **Henry Jefferson (Jeff) Locke** inherited the land from his mother, he and his wife, **Margaret Annie Simpson**, raised a family of twelve in that same farmhouse. One of those young children is shown in an early photograph of the late 19th century house, along with one of the family hounds.



Original 19th Century Locke House



Rebuilt Locke house of the early 20th Century

Henry Jefferson rebuilt the house after the turn of the 20th century to make room for his growing family. John Franklin Locke, Sr., and his wife, Nancy Thomas Locke, acquired the house after Henry and Margaret passed in 1937, and the house was modernized once more.

Since the passing of Nancy Thomas Locke in 1997, the house has been used by the grandchildren of John Franklin Locke, Jr. and his wife, also named Nancy. They raised their children on the farm, and still live their today. Their grandson currently lives in the old house. Their granddaughter, Jennifer Locke, also grew up on the farm, but today lives in Kershaw, South Carolina. Jerry Locke and his wife Carolyn live in another house on the old Locke farm, and their daughter and her family also still live on the land!

In this day when property is allowed to pass out of the possession of old established families, it's good to know that Polly and Benjamin Locke's homestead still serves their descendants. If you ask real nicely, Jerry and Carolyn might even consent to give you a personal tour of the historic Locke property!



Henry Jefferson Locke and wife,
Margaret Annie Simpson



The farmhouse as it appeared in a recent photograph



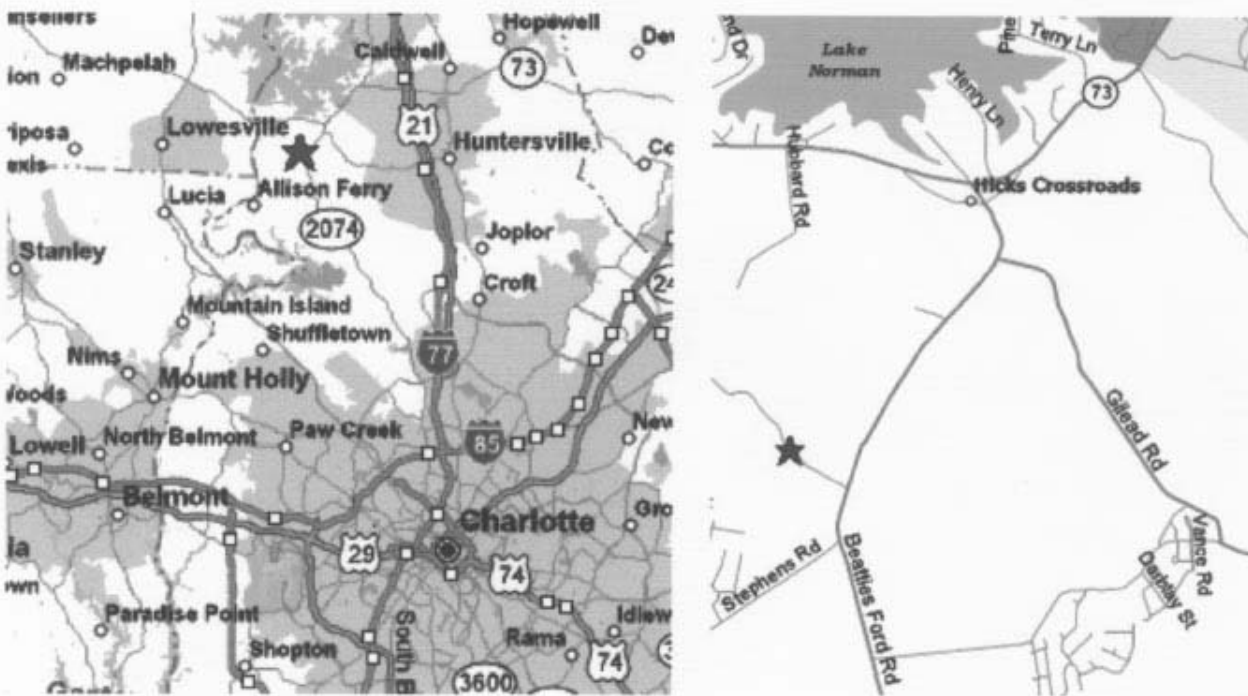
This photo was made at a Locke family reunion in 1945 at the old home place near Chester. At the far left is Mrs. Thomas, the mother of Nancy Thomas Locke, standing next to her. Between them is a four year old Jerry Locke, Nancy's son. Looks like the men got to eat first. From the looks of the table, they didn't plan to run low on iced tea any time soon. It's funny how little these gatherings change over the years!

The photographs above were all provided by Gerald Thomas "Jerry" Locke. Thanks Jerry.

Bruce and Ray Howell's Farm near Huntersville, N.C.

The easiest way to find the Howell farm in northern Mecklenburg County is to use the Huntersville exit number 23 off of Interstate Highway 77, and go west about 5 miles on GILEAD ROAD until you run into BEATTIES FORD ROAD. We'll have a 'REUNION' sign pointing to the left. After making the left turn onto Beatties Ford Road, you'll drive about a mile until you come to CASHION ROAD and another "REUNION" sign. You'll turn right onto CASHION ROAD, and drive about a quarter of a mile until you come to Bruce and Ray's HOME on your left. The exact address is 6438 CASHION ROAD. Call Vann on his cell if you need better directions. 305-519-1934

If you need a hotel room for the reunion, two very nice hotels can be found at the Huntersville I-77 exit. One hotel is the HOLIDAY INN EXPRESS, and the other is a RED ROOF INN. You can make reservations through the 800 numbers for both chains!



I-77 to Huntersville Exit # 23, west on GILEAD ROAD, to BEATTIES FORD ROAD, then left to CASHION ROAD



Ashley Freedland...daughter of Charlene...Granddaughter of Carol and Eddie.....and niece to Sherrie Helms!