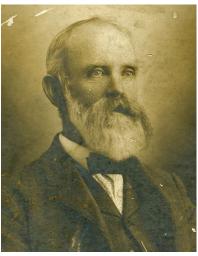
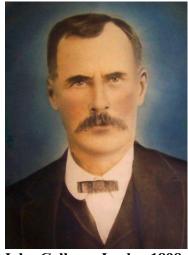
# The Josias Locke Family Newsletter

PUBLISHER Vann Helms VOLUME NUMBER 4 ISSUE NUMBER 1 February, 2009

## Treasure Trove of Photographs Found







J.L. Ferguson Circa 1895

John Calhoun Locke 1898 "Mattie" Hope Locke 1900

As has become customary with the Locke family, another amazing series of events has given us a window into our past, providing faces and places that were long thought lost to history. We'll begin with Betty Carter Phillips, eldest daughter of Ray Hope Carter, who was the eldest son of Georgia Cordelia (Cordie) Locke, who was the eldest daughter of John Calhoun Locke, who was the oldest son of Levi and Melinda Shurley Locke. Betty and her husband, John, heard about a garage sale to liquidate the contents of a house owned by a recently departed descendant of Jeanette Carter Walker, Betty's aunt. While rummaging through old boxes, she found one that contained very old photographs with no identification attached. She offered the seller a few dollars for the entire box, and carried it home. Not being able to identify more than a couple of people, she brought a large portion with her to the reunion in October. That's when the magic began to unfold.

The first irreplaceable photo (above) was signed, Mattie Locke, on the back. Recognizing the handwriting as that of my late grandmother, Martha Hope (Mattie) Locke Helms, it was obvious that the face was indeed Mattie, most likely made about a year before her marriage to Lonnie Helms in 1902. Apart from a grainy image in a group photo made shortly afterwards, no early image of Mattie had survived. This was a remarkable find!

Not until Frances Byrd Harris, granddaughter of Virginia Hope "Jannie" Locke, produced a photo of John Calhoun Locke with most of his family did the other pieces begin to fall into place. John's face was the one in a large, hand colored oval photograph (above) that had mystified Betty. Another large black and white photo montage turned out to be Betty's Grandmother, Cordie, along with a photo of her Grandfather, Robert Hope Carter. One by one, the family of John C. Locke and his wife, Nancy Ira Ferguson, began to reveal themselves. There was Aunt Jannie at age one, and Nancy's father, J.L. Ferguson, as a Civil War veteran (above). With the help of the new photos, it became obvious that the photo brought by Fran had been misidentified, and actually showed a 17 year old Minnie Belle Locke in the center, and not Cordie as had been originally thought.





**Cordie Locke and Robert Hope Carter (Photo Montage)** 

**Cordie Locke with Friends** 

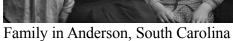


John Calhoun Locke, Nancy Ferguson, John, James, Minnie, Jannie, and Charles



**Unknown Group of Children (1895)** 











Can you identify any of these family members?



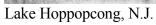




Unknown family in 1880's or 1890's

Virginia "Jannie" Locke, age 1, and age 60







Old Locke family farmhouse?



A dapper gentleman



The Ferguson Sisters



At the woodshed...



Soldiers in D.C. in 1918







Arthhur Carter

Jane Carter

Drennen Children

With help from you, the family, we can identify many more of these Locke faces from the past. Please take a close look at the photos reproduced here. Let me know who you recognize, or think you might recognize. All of these photos seem to be associated with the John Calhoun Locke family, but there might be more surprises yet in store.

#### **Mamie Scenia and Walston Levi Locke**





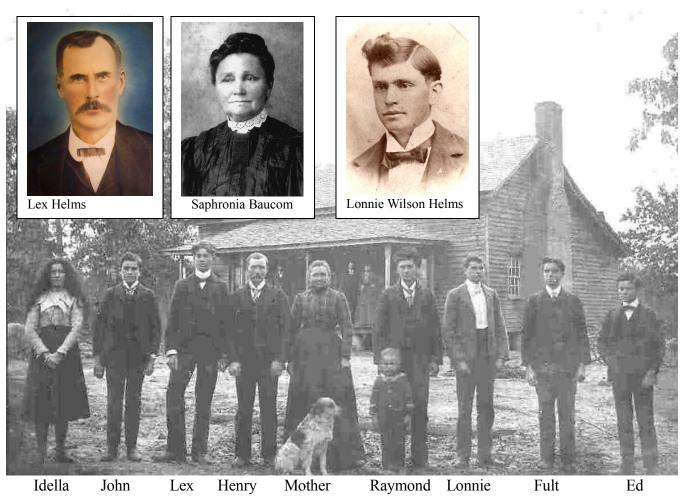


Walston Locke at one year in 1897 (Thanks to Marie Locke Herres)

These photos come from the collection of Marie Locke Herres in Columbia, South Carolina. Her father, Walston Levi Locke, appears in both photos. Her aunt, Mamie Scenia Locke Boyce, appears with her younger brother in the photo on the left. Note the "Little Lord Falteroy" costume worn by Walston. It was all the rage for little boys at the 1890's. Also note his long blonde curls. In those days, little boys had long hair until they were six years old. Those curls are preserved in a family collection.

#### **Discovering a Priceless Helms Family Photograph**

A number of years ago, I placed a bulletin board entry in Genealogy.com, looking for anyone in Arkansas or Texas who might have known of Lex or Fulton Helms, brothers to my grandfather, Lonnie. They had moved there after 1910 from Union County, North Carolina. Miraculously, I received a reply this past August from a granddaughter of Lex Helms, Diane Jones, who was still living near Springdale, Arkansas. In that reply was a photograph of most of the Helms family posing in front of their farmhouse in Union County, near Waxhaw. The year would have been about 1900, judging from the appearances of the youngest members. Saphronia Baucom Helms, my great-grandmother, was standing in the middle. She had been widowed in 1887, leaving her to raise ten children on her own.



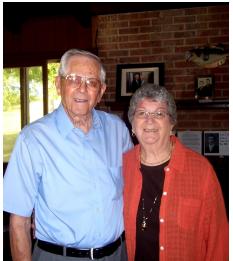
Her youngest was her one year old only daughter, Idella, and the oldest was 18 year old Henry. She did a remarkable job of raising all ten, and when she died from liver cancer in 1915 at the age of 66, she already had thirty-six grandchildren, and three great grandchildren, all of whom survived her. Always have patience when doing family research. Diane and I have established an active communication, and who knows what other treasures are yet to come?

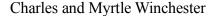
#### This May Have Been Our Best Reunion Yet

Another successful Locke reunion was held at Ray and Bruce Howell's Huntersville farm on Sunday,

October 12<sup>th</sup>. The weather was perfect, with temperatures in the low 70's, a breeze swaying the giant oaks, and a brilliant blue sky reflecting off the calm waters of the lake. Canadian geese made the

autumn afternoon even more colorful.







Betty Allred and Hope Flowe



Betty and John Phillips

Family members streamed down the grassy hillside to the large blue and white tent, and the lake pavilion, and laid-out Southern fried chicken, country ham biscuits, home grown vegetables, salads, and the requisite banana pudding, cakes, and sweets. The iced tea had its own table, as usual.

Inside the pavilion were the updated family tree scrolls, lots of new photographs, and Grandma Lizzie Locke's handmade bedspread. Outside, everyone found their special spot under the trees to eat. The goats kept their distance, and Rooter, the pot-bellied pig, was down with arthritis, and skipped the festivities.

We had many new faces this year. Betty Carter Phillips and her husband, John, drove in from Rock Hill. Locke and Ernestine Boyce came in from Jacksonville, and Sadie Hope Boyce Flowe joined us from Charlotte. Dora Winchester Boyce, the widow of Bill Boyce, came with her son Tom and granddaughter Kelly from Weddington. Diane Boyce Simpson and her husband Eddie joined with us. She is the daughter of Wilson and Letha Moore Boyce. All the Boyce family descends from Mamie Scenia Locke, daughter of Absalom and Lizzie.

From the Mattie Locke Helms family, we had Mike Brotherton and Cindy, and Debra Brotherton Fox with her daughter Erin, who entertained us with her angelic voice and 12-string guitar. Donna Brotherton Parker was there with daughter, Shelby. They all descend from Hazel Helms Brotherton. Johnny Turner, his wife Wanda, and their daughter Christy Rawlins experienced their first Locke reunion in years. He is the son on Nora Etta Helms Turner. Betty McAuley Allred represented her mother, Margaret Helms McAuley, and brought her son, Lane Price. Vann Helms drove from Ft. Lauderdale, and represented his father, Buddy Helms. Of course, Ray Howell, son of Mae Helms Howell, and his wife Bruce, were our hosts, along with their son Kevin, who brought a delectable homemade cheesecake. Granddaughter Whitney Howell returned for a second year.

Walston Locke, Jr., made the seven hour trip from Washington, D.C., on his motorcycle again this year. He is only 83 years young.



Fran Byrd Harris came all the way from Houston, after being displaced by Hurricane Ike. She is the granddaughter of Virginia Hope "Jannie" Locke Culp. It was her first reunion in many years.

The Charles Winchester family was there in force, with Chuck's wife, Carol, joining us this year. Charlie will celebrate his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday in February, and he and Myrtle are celebrating their 68<sup>th</sup> year of marriage. He received the silver dollar as the oldest Locke in attendance again this year. Daughters Cheryl Raiford and Karen Blackmon were as lovely as ever.



Furman Locke, Jr. returned like clockwork, along with his daughter Kay Godlewski and her husband, Barry. He still plants a full garden every spring, at the age of 86.





The food was the star again this year!

Lane Price with Betty and Dale

Don Williams, grandson of Minnie Belle Locke, brought his daughter, Collette Bell, granddaughter Amber, and grandsons, Brady and Cody Davis, who won the silver dollar for the youngest Locke in attendance for the second time in three years.

Notably absent this year were Nancy Gaston Locke, and her family. Nancy suffered a cerebral aneurysm this past summer, and had successful surgery to repair the damage. She is recovering well, but just wasn't able to make the drive up this year. She was really missed, and we look forward to her return next year. Also missing were Marilyn and John Ballard from Charleston. We look forward to their return this year.



Everyone shared family stories



Locke and Ernestine Boyce with niece Diane and her husband John Simpson

The paddle boats did double duty on the lake, with many kids and adults racing around offshore.





Kevin Howell and niece, Whitney Howell

The tent and pavilion await this year's festivities

#### A Major Change is Proposed for the 2009 Locke Reunion

I want to propose a major change in the scheduling of this year's **Locke** reunion. Instead of Sunday afternoon, as it has always been, I suggest that we move it to Saturday afternoon. The date will be on *October 10*. Here is my reasoning.

By moving to Saturday, more people from out of town would be encouraged to join us. Most people work on Monday, and this will give them Sunday as a travel day to return home. Also, people who attend church would not need to rush to get to *Huntersville* with their food. They could take their time on Saturday morning, and spend more time sharing with other family members after lunch.

The *Carolina Panthers* may be in contention again this year, and a Saturday reunion would not conflict with the *NFL* schedule.

You'll recall that we had **Deborah Fox** and her musical magic for two years, but they had a scheduling conflict this past year. A Saturday event might let us have the music back again. And the *karaoke* was so much fun!

For the past three reunions at **Ray and Bruce Howell's** *Huntersville* farm, we have averaged 60 attendees. With this new Saturday time, we should have over 100 people attending, just like in the old days. Please let me hear from you about your feelings on this proposed change. Write to me online at <u>vann@miami-art.com</u>, or through snail mail at *5281 Southwest 95<sup>th</sup> Avenue*, *Ft. Lauderdale*, *Florida*, *33328*. If you would like, please call me at *305-519-1934*, and we can chat about your thoughts. Making this important gathering more accessible to everyone must be our primary goal.



The Locke reunion of 1978 that was held at the Waxhaw VFW Hall. How many people can you name?

### **Dueling Found to be Common in Old South Carolina**

You might recall in a previous newsletter that **Jesse R. Locke** in 1938 said that **Stephen Lock**, the eldest son of **Josias and Susanna Lock**, had been killed in a duel. Extensive research has thus far yielded no facts in this case, but a few things have been learned.

Stephen was alive for the U.S. census of 1840, but was dead when his wife **Nancy Hines Lock** died in January, 1847. Estate records from *York County, South Carolina*, have given us some new information. **Levi Lock** had married **Melinda Shurley** in 1839. She was the granddaughter of **Thaddeus Shurley**, who died in 1842, and left a detailed estate record. **Stephen Lock**, Levi's father, is listed as buying 40 bushels of corn from the estate in late 1841. That narrows the time that he could have died to just five years, from late 1841 to late 1846. The search for newspaper accounts and church journals for information about his death just got a little easier. Are there any volunteers who would like to help?

**South Carolina** was one of the most duel "friendly" states in **America** in the 1840's. The American version of the dueling code was written by **South Carolina** governor **John Lyle Wilson** in 1838. (Ironically, he was later killed in a duel, himself!) **Andrew Jackson** broke the European version of the code in 1806 when he killed a man with an extra, illegal shot after his pistol had misfired, and he had been slightly wounded by his opponent. He should have been hanged for murder, and he never should have become President.

Most duelists chose pistols as their weapons. Many American men owned a pair of large caliber, smoothbore flintlock pistols, and up until 1850, many were called upon to use them. These guns were notorious for misfiring, and for their lack of accuracy. The chance of dying in a pistol duel was relatively slim. Refusing a challenge usually meant that the man's name would be "posted". A statement accusing him of cowardice would be hung in public areas or published in a newspaper or pamphlet.

By the time of the *Civil War*, public opinion, not legislation, caused an irreversible decline in dueling. It may have been too late for **Stephen Lock** or for **Alexander Hamilton**, but if *America* was to become a truly civilized nation, the publicly sanctioned bloodshed would have to end.

# Astonishing Revelations from a Seasoned Locke Researcher

Long before my interest in Locke family genealogy, another descendant of **Josias Lock** was hard at work mapping the many families that resulted from the original union of **Philip and Mary Hulse Lock** of colonial *Maryland*. She is **Frances Byrd Harris**, great-granddaughter to **John Calhoun Locke**, who was the brother of **Absalom Locke**. Her investigation went back to *England* of the 17<sup>th</sup> century, and to the man who may have been responsible for Philip's emigration around 1690. She located **Diana Swayne**, a descendant of Philip's son, **Meverall**, and his wife **Elizabeth Edwards**. Diane had done extensive research even before the internet made these efforts so much easier.

Philip was most likely associated with **James Duke of Monmouth**, who, according to court records of the time, was a nefarious character, to say the least. Serving as a judge in **Somerset County, England**, Duke's "barbarity" was well documented. He was directly involved in ordering the hanging of at least 350 people, the sale of another 850 as slaves, and the fining, imprisoning, and torturing of 408 others. There was also a humane side to this "hanging" judge. He arranged the immigration of "freemen" or "better sort of people", to aid the Crown in populating the newly formed colonies. **Philip Lock** was one of those people that the judge helped to go to the colonies.

In another revelation from **Diane Swayne**, we learn that our Locke line may actually have been directly descended from the noted English philosopher, **John Locke**. Although Locke never had children, one of his brothers did. According to one section of the book, **DuBuffett Genealogy** entitled, "Some Prominent Virginia Families", there was a direct connection to the famous thinker. The book reported that **Dr. John Locke**, who was the great-grandson of Meverall Lock was a "lineal" descendant, and "was in possession of many old family pieces of silver, etc., etc., which proved this connection unmistakably". This is obviously worth a much closer look in future research.

Here are more research notes culled from Ms. Swayne through Frances Harris.

- 1. The mother of Mary Hulse Lock may have been named Sarah Pearle.
- 2. The Lock family in colonial Maryland belonged to *All Faith Parish of St. Mary's County*, where Philip was a vestryman in 1718 and 1719. He was pledged for tobacco for support of the Parish. He died in 1722 at about 52 years old.
- 3. **John Lock**, a grandson to Philip, was a corporal in the *Continental Army*, who served in the 4<sup>th</sup> and 8<sup>th</sup> *Virginia* Regiments of foot soldiers. He was at *Valley Forge* with General Washington during that terrible winter of 1778. He had grown up in *Fairfax County, Virginia*.
- 4. When Josias and his brother William moved to *Chester County, South Carolina*, from *Halifax, North Carolina* both of their parents were still alive. Josias returned to Halifax to sell his land on *Jackett Swamp*. He used those proceeds to purchase 200 acres in Chester County on *Smith's Branch*, commonly called *Still House Branch*, on the northeast waters of *Fishing Creek*. Josias and William's father, *James Lock*, died in 1817, and Josias returned to Halifax to help settle his father's estate. There was great animosity in the James and Susanna Lock family. When *Susanna*

*Green Lock* died in 1822, she intentionally snubbed all of her sons except Josias, who had already relinquished his claim to any of her property, and she left her entire estate to her grandson, **Henry Lock**.

- 5. The name Henry came to the Lock family from **Henry Green**, Susanna's father, who had preceded his daughter to *Halifax* from *St. Mary's County*. James and Susanna lived on land that Henry had provided for them adjacent to his own homestead. They purchased the land from **Henry Green** in February, 1775, for only ten pounds Sterling, way below market value for that time.
- 6. In 1822, Josias purchased another 146 acres of land along *Fishing Creek*, giving him a sizable plantation of 346 acres. When Josias died in 1826 at the age of 70, his estate included the normal livestock and farm implements of the day. Additionally, there were walnut tables and chests, books, a loom and accessories, pewter, and other items to suggest that Josias had enjoyed material success in his life.

At this point, the remaining five pages of the newsletter are stored on a disc that is hiding after Vann's move to North Carolina. Once they are found, this letter will be completed. Thank you for your patience.