

The Locke Family Newsletter

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James Noah Locke and the Oregon Trail



Landscape by Albert Bierstadt- "Looking Down Yosemite Valley" 1863

A Revolutionary War Battle, and a Wagon Train across the Rocky Mountains

Most of the articles inside these newsletters have followed the families descending from James and Susannah Green Locke, and his brother John Locke, both of Halifax, North Carolina, but recent information has allowed us to go back another generation, to the family of William Locke (1696-1761), the uncle of James and John. William was the oldest son of Philip and Mary Hulse Locke of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Because of the extensive research by Hans Backer, a descendant of William Locke, we have a new insight into how the Locke family served during the Revolutionary War, and how that family spread westward, eventually crossing the Rocky Mountains by wagon train into California, settling in the rich farmlands and future wine country around Santa Rosa in Sonoma County in the 1860's.

The Lockes in Maryland and North Carolina

William Locke was a brother of **James Hulse Locke**, who we have always assumed was the father of James and John. We know from estate records that William and James Hulse were left equal parts of a tract of land called "Good Pennyworth" by father Philip. After 1722, when Philip's will was proven, we have only two references about the physical evidence of the life of James Hulse Locke. Oral history indicated that James moved to Halifax with his two sons, and died there. Two entries in separate volumes of the Maryland Genealogical Society Bulletin might support this belief.

In the "Surname Exchange" part of Vol. 15, Number 4, of November, 1974, appears the following blurb.

James Hulse Locke, b. c. 1700, St. Mary's County, Maryland

In Vol. 8, Number 4, of the Nov. 1967 Bulletin appears the following blurb.

James Lock, d. 1780, Halifax County, North Carolina.

Because we know that James Locke, the son, died in Halifax County in 1816, this James Lock could have been none other than James Hulse Locke, the father. Most likely, his wife had died in St. Mary's County prior to the time the family moved south into North Carolina, and there's no way that John and James would have left their 65 year old father behind. Oral history also said that James Hulse had married Susannah Stephens from a prominent family in St. Mary's County. New facts uncovered by Mr. Backer about the life of William Locke might finally have answered some of the nagging questions about brother, James Hulse.

Estate records indicate that William, not James Hulse, was married to Susannah Stephens, and that the pair had at least two sons, William, Jr., and Philip. The Stephens family had a paper trail, and from that trail, we learned that Susannah had a younger sister named Elizabeth. It's very likely that this Elizabeth married James Hulse Locke. It was common in those days for siblings to marry siblings. Just because we have yet to uncover property or estate records of James Hulse doesn't mean that he wasn't living on the Locke property, raising his family in obscurity. We have other circumstantial evidence that James was married to a "Stephens" woman. First, John Locke, the son of James Hulse, named one of his daughters, Elizabeth, calling her "Betty". John's brother, James, had two sons, William and Josias, who both moved to Chester County, South Carolina, around 1800. Both of them named one of their sons, Stephen, most likely for their grandmother Elizabeth's family. William Locke, Jr. also named one of his sons Stephen, most likely for his mother, Susannah Stephens.

Philip's (1663-1722) will proved the existence of sons William, James Hulse, and Philip, but it was the administration records of William's father-in-law, Benjamin Stephens, and William's own administration record that gave us the names we needed to move forward with the research.

Will of Benjamin Stevens, SMC, 1/2/1732-33; 5/28/1733. Children: Benjamin Stevens, Susanna Locke, Elizabeth Stevens, and Ann Blacksham, personalty. Son: Daniel, 1/2 of dwelling plantation; if he dies without issue to son, Joseph; if Joseph dies without heirs, to son, Benjamin and if he dies without heirs to daughters. Son: Joseph, other 1/2 of plantation. No land to be sold except to each other. Executor: Wife, Lettice. Witnesses: James Wood, Isaac Shemwell, William Shemwell. (Maryland Calendar of Wills).

3/10/1761--5/19/1761: Administration accounts of William Lock, St. Mary's County. Appraisers: George Burroughs and Benjamin Edwards. Creditors: Meverell Lock and James Forbes. NOK (Next of kin): Meverell Locke (his brother) and William Locke (his son). Administrator: Philip Locke (Assumed to be his son).

Shortly after William's death, his son, Philip (1728-1805), requested a resurvey of the land called Good Pennyworth. This was reflected in property records of St. Mary's County.

11/26/1761, Philip Locke of SMC, by warrant dated 2/17/1763 stated that he owned "Good Pennyworth" granted originally on 12/10/1714 to his grandfather, Philip Locke, for 50 acres. Petitioner has discovered adjoining vacant land and asks for a special warrant to resurvey. (Maryland Land Records)

By his action, it appears that Philip was making preparations to sell the Good Pennyworth land. The fact that he would move to Halifax County, North Carolina in 1765, along with his brother, William, and his cousins James

and John, might have been the reason he wanted the resurvey. There was more activity on that land involving Philip in 1765.

1765 Lock, Philip, Penny Worth Addition 43, Coldham.

**1765 Lock, Philip, Pennyworth Addition 43, Patent Record BC and GS 23, p. 489
Resurrection Hundred**

Resurrection Hundred, referenced above, was the name of the “Manor” that was assigned by Lord Baltimore when St. Mary’s County was formed in the early 1600’s. Meverell Hulse (1630-1700), the father of Mary Hulse Locke, had become a major proprietor of that land in the mid-1600’s, and would leave that land to his daughter and her husband, Philip Lock (1663-1722), when he died around 1700.

Philip (1728-1805) was married in St. Mary’s County around 1750. He had at least one son, John A. Locke, born in 1754 in St. Mary’s County. Most likely there were other children, but we have no information to prove that assertion.

Philip’s brother, **William Locke, Jr.** (1730-1803), would marry a woman name Eleanor in St. Mary’s County, and eventually have ten children. As stated earlier, William and Eleanor moved their family into North Carolina, settling first in Halifax County, but later in Granville County, where he amassed a sizable plantation of over 300 acres. In 1767, Philip Locke purchased 100 acres in Halifax County. The transaction was witnessed by his brother, William, and his cousin, John.

Philip Lock, 100 Acres, Halifax County, NC, 01 Jan 1767

1280-(47) David Thomas planter and Mary his wife of Halifax County to Philip Lock of same. 1 Jan 1767. 4 pounds of Virginia.

100 acres which had been patented by William Douglass 20 Aug 1745 and conveyed by him to Dempsey Thomas son of David and Mary Thomas, joining William Douglass, James Douglass. David and Mary hold the land for their lives and thus sell it for their lifetimes. David Thomas (x), Mary Thomas (x).

Witnesses: John Lock, William Lock.

October Court 1767, CC: Jos. Montfort

Source: *The Deeds of Halifax County, North Carolina, 1758-1771*. Dr. Stephen E. Bradley, Jr. South Boston, VA, 1989, p. 102.

On October 26, 1767, Philip was a witness for a will written by Robert Droughon (Droghon), of Granville County, N.C. It is not known where the will was written. Halifax and Granville Counties were quite far apart, time wise, in 1767. Philip would not remain in Halifax very long, and sometime after 1770, Philip would move his family westward into Stokes County, N.C., which was just east of Granville, where his brother, William, had settled before 1769. William’s name appeared on the Granville tax list in 1769. Philip’s name appeared on the Stokes County tax list in 1804 and 1805, the year he died at age 76.

Sgt. John A. Locke of Granville County and the Revolutionary War

John A. Locke (1754-1842), the son of **Philip Locke**, was just eleven years old when his family moved to North Carolina. When the Revolutionary War broke out in 1775, John was twenty-one. On May 22, 1776, John enlisted into the 6th North Carolina Regiment, organized in the spring and summer in Halifax. Over the next two years he would see action in Brandywine and Germantown with the 6th Regiment, and would transfer into the NC 1st Regiment and go to Valley Forge and Monmouth Courthouse in New Jersey. He attained the rank of sergeant. He was first discharged in October, 1778. He returned home, and bought property in Granville County. By July of 1780, he was in South Carolina, seeing action in the Battle of Camden. The following testimony, written by Sgt.

John A. Locke just a year before in died in 1842, gives details of the service of one of his Granville County neighbors as proof that the neighbor actually served in the war.

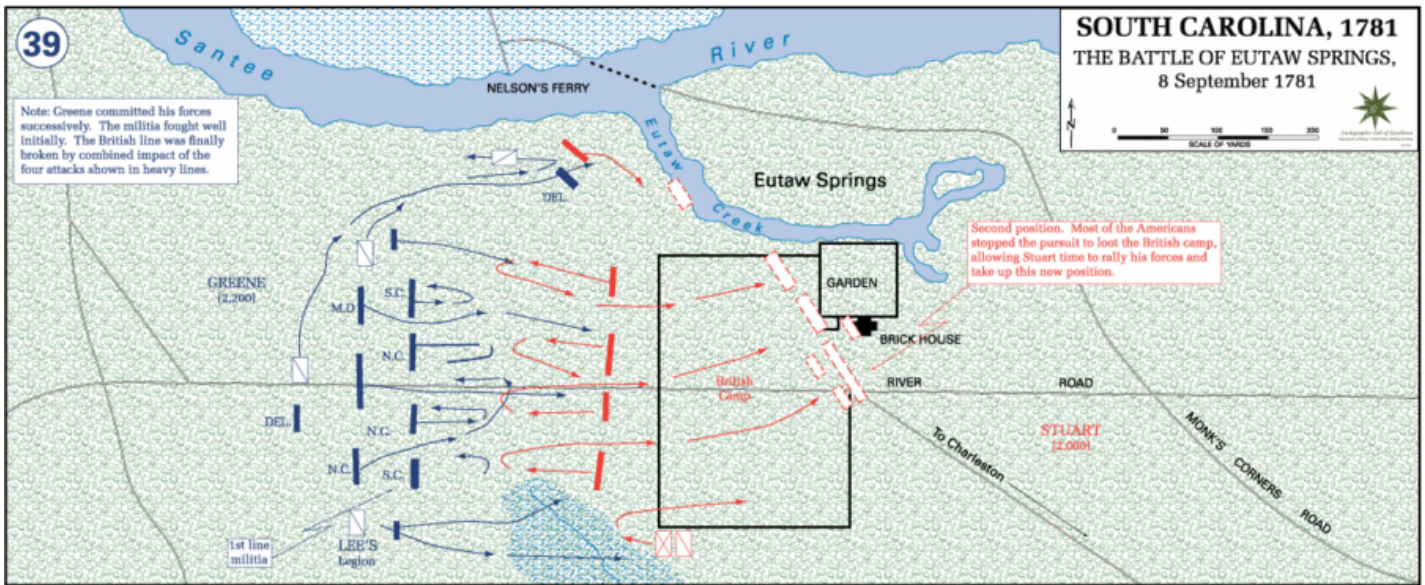
State of North Carolina Granville County: I, John Lock, an old Revolutionary Soldier, aged eighty-eight years, to Certify that I was well acquainted with Philip White, deceased, and his wife, Jemima, that Philip White served in the war of the Revolution in the following manner: First he performed as substitute for Thomas Howell, one tour in the North Carolina Militia, I think under Captain Pullam. He was at the siege of Charleston, was taken prisoner there, placed on parole, and suffered to return home to Granville County as Prisoner of War. Above tour was either three or five months, I cannot say definitively. He left home in the spring of 1780, and returned after the Battle of Charleston, after which, in May 1781, he enlisted in the Continental line of this state for twelve months under Captain Donoho, where he served faithfully for that time, of which I know of my own personal knowledge. During that time he was at the Battle of Eutaw Springs, where I was also, and saw him, and I also saw Philip White frequently at different times during his last tour in South Carolina. The reason why I should know the said White more particularly, is that he was raised in my immediate neighborhood and I was always acquainted with him and know of a certainty that Philip White, of whom I testify, did serve twelve months as a Continental Soldier and also one tour in the Militia. Sworn to and subscribed on this 2nd day of November 1842 before MD Royster, JP S/ John Lock

It's very rare to see a first person account of service in The Revolutionary War, but to have one of our ancestors write so eloquently about his recollections is especially satisfying. The fact that John Lock was 88 years old at the time is even more remarkable. Not only did John serve with the 6th and 1st North Carolina Regiments in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, but he rejoined the NC 1st during the siege of Charleston, participating in the Battle of Eutaw Springs, which was the last significant battle in the Carolinas before the surrender of the British at Yorktown.

The Battle of Eutaw Springs



The battle took place on September 8, 1781, east of the small South Carolina town of Eutawville, located on the south side of the Santee River east of present day Orangeburg. The Americans were led by Gen. Nathaniel Greene of North Carolina, who died in the battle. Because of the valiant fight at Eutaw Springs, the British were forced to retreat back to Charleston, and it was just a matter of months before George Washington defeated Cornwallis on the fields at Yorktown, bringing total victory for the United States.



Neither side could claim victory at Eutaw Springs, but the British were forced to return to Charleston



Congressional Metal honoring Gen. Greene for his heroic sacrifice at the Battle of Eutaw Springs

The first two verses of a poem, "To the Memory of Brave Americans", by Philip Freneau

At Eutaw Springs the valiant died;	If in this wreck or ruin, they
Their limbs with dust are covered o'er –	Can yet be thought to claim a tear,
Weep on, ye springs, your tearful tide;	O smite your gentle breast, and say
How many heroes are no more!	The friends of freedom slumber here!

When Sgt. John Lock returned to Granville County in 1778 after serving his first deployment, he was able to acquire 375 acres of land from the government along the Tar River for just 50 Shillings per 100 acres.

North Carolina State Grant

1 Mar 1780 Gov. Richard Caswell to **John Lock, 50 shillings** for **every 100 acres granted**, a tract of land containing **481 acres** in **Granville County** on the waters of **Tar River**;

Two years later, he sold that land for almost 1,000 Pounds, for a huge profit.

Granville Co NC Deed Book O

5 Aug 1782 John Lock of Granville Co NC to Benj Bass of same for **1000 pounds. 481 acres**

This windfall enabled him to marry a widow named **Lucretia Hicks Boyd**, in 1783. She was also well to do for the times, having inherited a large plantation from her late husband, where she was living with a number of her minor children. Ironically, John Lock, along with Lucretia Hicks Boyd, his future wife, on February 20, 1783, had both been witnesses for the will of Lewis Anderson of Granville County. This is significant because it shows that John and Lucretia were not yet husband and wife. Once they married later that year, they had at least nine children together. **John Aaron**, born in 1784 was the oldest. After him came James, Joseph, Jesse, Stephen, Philip, William, Nancy, and Charity Hicks Locke. The family lived on a large farm at Huckleberry Pond, in Oxford District, Granville County, North Carolina.

In 1802, **John Aaron** married **Sarah Ann Dolans**, and they lived on 114 acres at Muddy Creek, North Kernersville, Stokes County, North Carolina. In 1806, Lucretia Hicks Locke died, and her estate was left to Sgt. John Locke and their children. A three year legal battle from a member of Lucretia's original Hicks family was finally settled in court, with Sgt. Locke receiving a number of slaves that had worked on the Locke-Hicks plantation.

On August 11, 1808, **Nancy**, the first of the two daughters of John and Lucretia, married **Solomon Fulps** in Stokes County. In 1814, the second daughter, **Charity Hicks Locke**, married **George McPherson** in Stokes County.

In 1809, records indicate that **John Aaron Locke**, son of Sgt. John and Lucretia Locke, moved his family to **Jefferson County, Tennessee**. Once there, he established a reputation as being a prominent horse trader. John and his wife, Sarah, would have at least five children. The first three, Isaac, Susannah, and Nancy, were born in Stokes County, N.C., but the last two, **William** and Matilda, were born in Jefferson County, Tenn.

While all of this was going on, **Sgt. John Locke** would marry again, to a woman his same age. So far, we have not been able to find her name, but we know from multiple testimonies made by John Locke during the application process for a Revolutionary War pension, that he definitely married again. In 1818, the U.S. Congress passed laws guaranteeing a pension to all soldiers who served in the war, and also to their widows. Here is the statement from Sgt. Locke, swearing that he had served in the North Carolina regiments from 1776 until 1778.

John Lock [b. 09 Sep 1754] - Revolutionary War Pension, 1820

John Lock - August 11, 1820 - appeared in Court of Pleas and Quarter Sessions stating that he was 66 years old [1754] September 9th next (1820) and swears he served in the Revolutionary war for two and one half years on the Continental Establishment; certificate no. registered in Book B Vol. 9, page 82, issued to him on my pursuance of my original declaration now on file in the War Department. "I was a resident of the United States March 8, 1818 and have not since that time disposed of any property I had in order to bring myself under this Act of Congress for providing persons engaged in services of the United States during the Revolutionary War, and no person holds any property in trust for me nor any income, except a horse about 10 or 11 years old, 8 head of hogs, and a small amount of household furniture, and my family consists of my wife alone who is about my own age - the horse worth \$15, hogs \$16.

Source: Court Minutes of Granville County, North Carolina, 1746-1820 by Zae Hargett Gwynn, Rocky Mount, N.C., p. 287.

The pension was granted.

North Carolina:

John Lock, of Granville Co in the state of NC who was a private in the regiment commanded by Colonel Lamb, of the NC line, for the term of 2 years, 6 months.

Inscribed on the Roll of NC at the rate of 8 Dollars per month, to commence the 3 of Dec. 1819.

Certificate of Pension issued the 24 of May...and sent to Henry Potter, judge, Raleigh, NC.

Arrears to 4th of March 1820, \$24.51. Semi-ann. all'ce ending 4 Sept 1820 \$48.00

3 mo 2/31 \$72.51, Revolutionary claim, Act 18th March 1818

John Lock Granville County NC 3 Dec 1819

Sergt afterwards private, 6 NC (Col. Lamb) 2 years 6 month.

Service proved, see accompanying documents.

Admitted Henry Potter, dist Judge, Raleigh, NC recd 1 Jan 1820

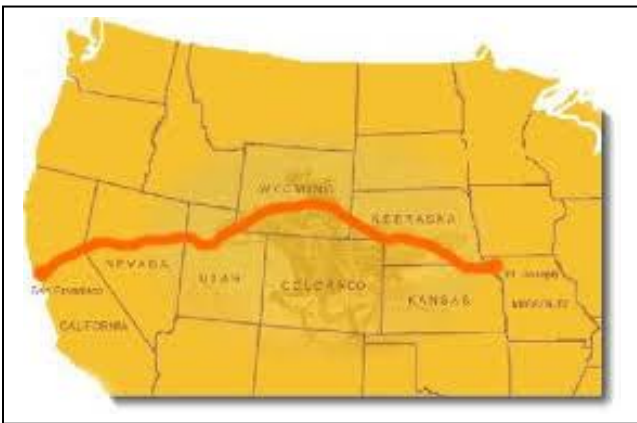
Even as his sons and daughters were moving westward with their families, **Sgt. John Locke** and his wife remained in Granville County, where he lived out his life as a gentleman farmer, and what a long life it was. Government records indicate that the last war pension that he was paid was in the third quarter of 1842, when he was 88 years old. He would pass away that fall, and was buried in the Hicks Family Cemetery, Walter's Road, .4 of a mile from Tar River Road and highway 56, Oxford, Granville County, North Carolina.

Moving Westward

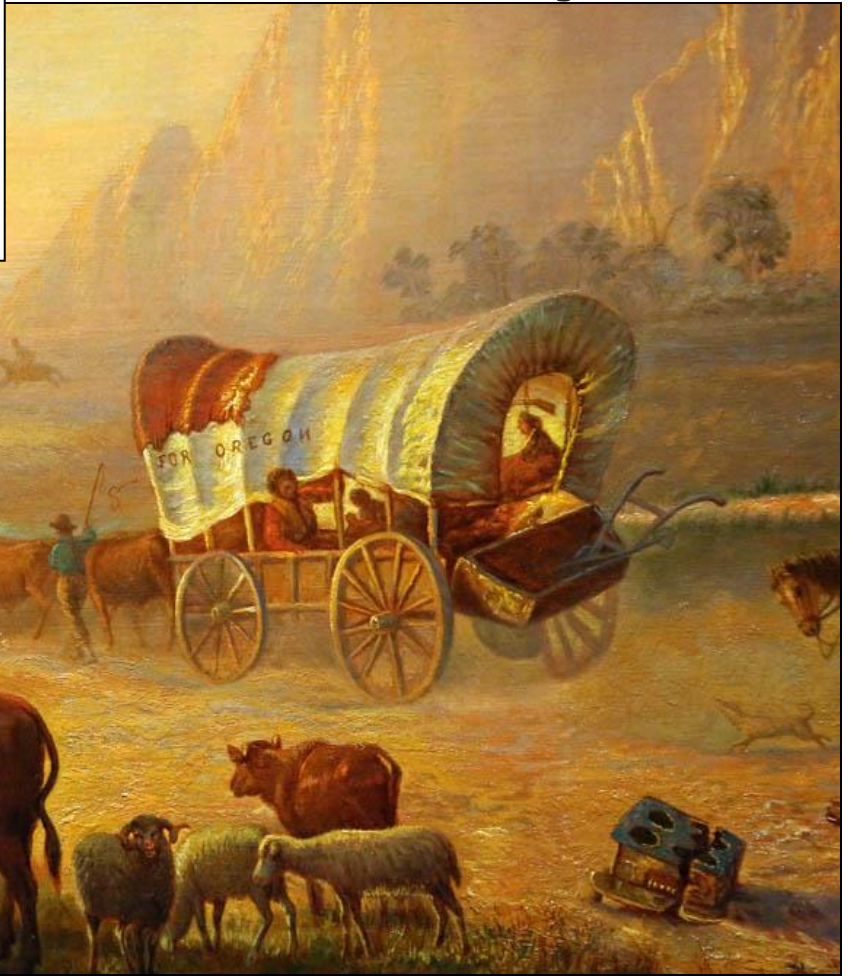
John Aaron and **Sarah Dolans Locke** had moved east of Knoxville in Jefferson County, Tennessee in 1809, and in 1828, their son, **William**, would marry **Mary Mitchell**. In 1830, Sarah Locke died in her mid-forties. William and Mary would have four children in Jefferson County before 1840. They were **James Noah** (1832), Elizabeth (1834), William (1837), and Perry (1839). Sometime between 1839 and 1841, William and Mary, along with his father, John Aaron, made the long journey from Tennessee to Iowa, settling in the town of Bloomfield in Davis County. John Aaron's sister, Nancy, and her husband, Samuel Evans, had moved from their home in Indiana to Davis County, Iowa in 1839. Three more children were born to William and Mary in Iowa. John was born in 1841, Isaac in 1843, and Frances Marie in 1848. After farming in Iowa for about thirteen years, William and Mary would move their family south into Missouri in 1854. **James Noah Locke**, the oldest son, was 22 years old by then, and married **Miss America Harris** after arriving in Missouri. Over the next six years, James Noah read accounts of life in *Sonoma County, California*, sent back by friends and relatives on his wife's side who had moved there years before during the gold rush. In 1860, he decided to move to California, and I'll let our cousin, **Hans Backer**, tell the story of what happened next.

Here's some information regarding the family's connection to the Lockes of North Carolina. The key is *Martha Jane Lock*, my mother's great-grandmother. The Lockes kept moving west, ending up in Santa Rosa, California in 1860.

In 1860, just prior to the American Civil War, the Lock-Harris overland party left Gentry County, Missouri on the Oregon Trail to join family and friends in the fertile orchards and vineyards of Sonoma County, California. The party consisted of *James Noah Lock* (1832-1904) and *America Harris* (1836-1928) with their children, *Martha Jane*, Charles, and Jacob Locke, and America's parents, Samuel and Phoebe Fulkerson Harris, along with neighbors and relatives from Indiana, Iowa, and Missouri. According to family tradition, the journey was uneventful except when the party had to circle the wagons upon seeing Piute Native Americans in the Humboldt River Valley of the Nevada desert.



Native Americans were along the Trail.



The wagon was their home for weeks...



A Mormon family poses in the 1870's

When gold was discovered in California in 1849, the Oregon Trail suddenly became very busy. Over 1,000 wagons a week were heading west at the peak of the migration. Many families never made it as far as California, but set up homesteads in states like Colorado, Utah, Wyoming, and Nevada. It was common for family members to die during the journey, and makeshift crosses with crude lettering were a common sight as the wagon trains passed through the great deserts. Discarded belongings littered the Trail.

The most difficult leg of the trail included 'Kit' Carson Pass through the Sierra Nevada Mountains south of Lake Tahoe at 8,650 feet above sea level. On the western edge of Red Lake, wagons were arduously hoisted up a steep vertical incline known as 'the Devil's Ladder'.



The Devil's Ladder today...



Red Lake and the Carson Pass in winter

The trail continued onwards towards Twin Lakes (today Caples Lake), gradually ascending to West Pass at 9,640 feet. After West Pass, the trail wrapped around the Silver Lake basin and descended comfortably into Placerville, Sacramento and Sonoma County, California. Those that survived the long, strenuous journey apparently had 'seen the Elephant'.



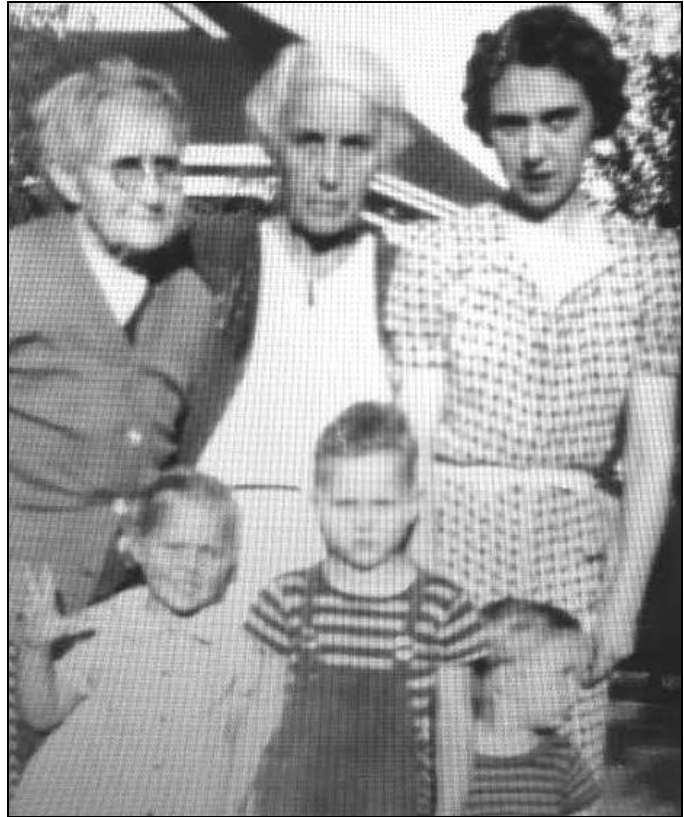
Upon arriving at the ranch of relatives Jacob & Phoebe Harris, James & America Lock found open land in Rincon Valley, which they rented for a couple of years and eventually purchased. Their two hundred and twenty-two acres of rich, organic soil produced a tremendous amount of crops, fruit and stock. Annually, the 18-acre vineyard bore an abundance of grapes, peaches, apples and pears.

The Lock's kept the ranch up-to-date and were friendly with their neighbors - a true pioneer family that 'possessed the western spirit of thrift and progressiveness'. James and America Lock eventually raised eight children and were members of the original Christian Church (established in 1854) in Santa Rosa, CA.

I've included the family's most treasured photograph - four generations of women, including Martha Jane Lock, daughter Etta Harris, granddaughter Hazel Helen Cooley, and great granddaughter Karen Lee Andreasen. Hans Backer



Etta and Hazel, with Martha Jane holding Karen in 1936.



Martha Jane. Etta, Hazel, with Karen, Jim, and Lenny in 1939

Below is the obituary for James Noah Locke from 1904.

JAMES NOAH LOCK (1832-1904)

Six miles from **Santa Rosa**, and located in one of the most fertile sections of **Sonoma County** [CA], is the **two hundred and twenty-two acre farm of James N. Lock**. Well known because of his sterling personal characteristics and his valuable contribution to the development of this County, and of Southern ancestry and early training, Mr. Lock was born in **Jefferson County, Tenn., October 8, 1832**; his parents **William and Mary (Mitchell) Lock**, being natives of the same state, and born October 12, 1810, and in September, 1810, respectively. **William Lock** removed to **Iowa** [Davis CO] when his son was thirteen years of age, and in 1874 came to **CALIFORNIA**, but eventually located in **Kansas**, where he died at the age of seventy-eight years.

Reared on the paternal farm and educated irregularly in the early schools of his native state, James N. Lock accompanied his parents to **Iowa**, subsequently removing with them to **Missouri in 1854**. There he purchased a moderate sized farm and engaged in general farming and stock-raising, leading a fairly successful and congenial life, and adding to his prospects of success by marrying **Miss America Harris**, a native of Indiana and a daughter of Samuel and Phoebe B.

(Fulkerson) Harris, natives of Kentucky. Having great faith in the country beyond the Rocky Mountains, Mr. Lock studied the pros and cons of removal to the coast, and finally decided in favor of the great and growing state of **CALIFORNIA**. So many had preceded him upon the same laudable mission that the way across the plains had been divested of many of its dangers, and this ox train journey of 1860 was singularly free from happenings of a disagreeable or dangerous nature. The various members comprising it separated to their different destinations upon arriving in **CALIFORNIA**. Mr. Lock selecting a **farm** in the **Rincon valley**, which he rented for a couple of years and then purchased, and which has since been his home. The many years which have passed in the meantime have brought him more than fair success, his **two hundred and twenty-two acres** having been well disposed of, and most advantageously placed to seed, fruit and stock. A **vineyard of eighteen acres** is bearing its burden of luscious grapes every harvest time, and **peach, apple and pear** trees perform their duty to man in due season. The improvements upon the Lock farm are up-to-date and practical and the genial owner has never been content to rest upon the past, but has rather pressed forward, and kept in the moving agricultural van.

Eight children were born to Mr. and Mrs. Lock: **Martha Jane**; Charles; Jacob, deceased; Mary F.; Phoebe E.; William H.; George W., deceased; and Sarah E. Mr. Lock has always maintained the most friendly relations with his neighbors, and is regarded by them as a leader among farmers of his neighborhood, and as a man possessing the true western spirit of thrift and progressiveness. Politically he is a Democrat but has not been an office seeker. Mr. and Mrs. Lock are members of the **Christian Church**.

Source: *History of the State of California, containing biographies of Well-Known Citizens of the Past and Present*. J. M. Guinn, A.M. Chicago: Chapman Publishing Co., 1903, pp. 1227-28.





In the 1918 photo on the left, Martha Jane Locke's daughter, Etta Harris, with her children, Hazel Helen and James Franklin, and her husband, James Lyndon Cooley. In the center is Hazel Helen Cooley, and on the right is Karen Lee Andreasen, daughter of Hazel Cooley Andreasen.

When William and Mary Locke left Tennessee in 1841 to move to Iowa, they took William's father, John Aaron Locke, with them. When William and Mary moved from Iowa to Missouri in 1854, John Aaron remained in Iowa, eventually moving to Dallas County, where his sister was living. He died there on May 10th, 1873. When James Noah Locke made the bold move to take his family to California in 1860, his father and mother, William and Mary Locke, remained in Missouri, but after the transcontinental railroad was finished in 1869, they went to California to join their son and his family, and also one of their daughters, Matilda, who had moved into Southern California. For reasons so far unknown, William and Mary moved back east, settling in Marion County, Kansas. Passing through Marion County was the Chishom and the Santa Fe Trails, and also the Atchison-Topeka-and-Santa Fe Railroad, and the Rock Island Line from Chicago. William Locke died there August 10th, 1887, at age 77. Mary Locke would return to live with her son, James Noah, in Santa Rosa, California, and would pass away on August 3, 1894, at the age of 84. This branch of our Locke family was one of our most traveled. They were true pioneers, moving from an area in Tennessee just an hour's drive from Asheville, North Carolina, to Iowa, to Missouri, and finally to Sonoma County, California by wagon train on the Oregon Trail. Pretty strong stock I might say.

Heavy Snow near Lake Lure on February 26th



Mamie Locke Boyce would be so Proud...

Mamie Scenia Locke was born in York County, South Carolina, in 1894, the youngest daughter of **Absalom** and **Lizzie Campbell Locke**. Mamie would move to Union County, North Carolina, in 1899 with her family, settling on a farm outside of Waxhaw, near the birthplace of President Andrew Jackson. She would marry **Hugh Boyce** in 1923, and they would raise eight children on their large farm near Monroe. One of their five boys they named **John William**, and he went by “Bill”. Bill had his eye on a young beauty named **Dora Winchester**, and the two were married. Dora and Bill would go on to have four children, three boys and a girl, and over the years their family would grow into a large, close knit clan. Bill passed in 1991, but Dora and the four kids make a point to gather regularly to celebrate lives well lived. Last Easter was no exception, and Dora sent these photos so she could share the many loves of her life, which now includes her great-grandchildren.



Here's Mom with Thomas Hugh, Judy Carol, John William, Jr., and David Andrew



The Family of John and Linda Boyce

Left to right: Tori, Crystal, Taylor, and dad, Mark, with his son, Titus. . Then Linda and John. Then son Michael with wife, Emily, and their kids, Tiffany and Jackson. Missing is daughter, Lisa, and her two kids, Lauren and Jed. They live in Montana.

Grandma Dora tells me that Tori, Taylor, and Titus, are really true “Lockes”, showing their musical ability by singing together, and playing piano, harp, violin, and guitar. Mamie Locke Boyce loved to play the autoharp, and she sang and played with church groups and her brother, Walston.



Judy Boyce Chapman with hubby, David, her daughter, Dee Dee with her husband, Tony Williams.



Tom Boyce with wife, Fairy, daughter, Kelly, daughter, Katie with hubby, Tony Pressley, and her son, Trevor Creed. Katie was expecting Abigail, inset, who was born August 14, 2014

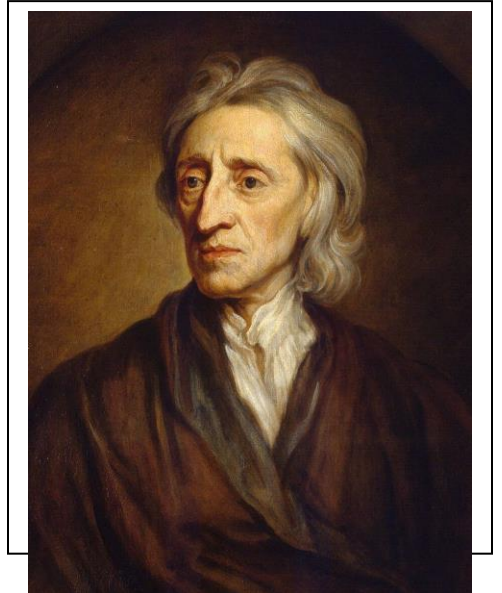


That's son David in the stripes with wife Tammy in the red. Their daughter, Maddy, is in the dress. On the left is Tammy's daughter, Rachel Graham. Next is David's son, Miles. On the right is David's son, Matt, and his wife, Diane. They are expecting their first child, a boy, this coming June. Missing is David's son, Macon, and Tammy's other daughter, Cody, and her husband, John, and their precious little daughter, Evelyn "Gabby" Kirby.

Are we Related to John Locke, the Eminent Philosopher?

In a newsletter six years ago, I threw out the possibility that our branch of the Locke family might be lineal descendants of the noted English philosopher, **John Locke**. If you're not familiar with John Locke, here are just a few of his contributions to Western society.

The English philosopher and political theorist John Locke (1632-1704) laid much of the groundwork for the Enlightenment and made central contributions to the development of liberalism. Trained in medicine, he was a key advocate of the empirical approaches of the Scientific Revolution. In his "Essay Concerning Human Understanding," he advanced a theory of the self as a blank page, with knowledge and identity arising only from accumulated experience. His political theory of government by the consent of the governed as a means to protect "life, liberty and estate" deeply influenced the United States' founding documents. His essays on religious tolerance provided an early model for the separation of church and state.



John Locke was born in 1632 in Wrington, Somerset. His father was a lawyer and small landowner who had fought on the Parliamentary side during the English Civil War of the 1640s. Using his wartime connections, he placed his son in the elite Westminster School.

Between 1652 and 1667, John Locke was a student and then lecturer at Christ Church, Oxford, where he focused on the standard curriculum of logic, metaphysics and classics. He also studied medicine extensively and was an associate of Robert Hooke, Robert Boyle and other leading Oxford scientists.

In 1666 Locke met the parliamentarian Anthony Ashley Cooper, later the first Earl of Shaftesbury. The two struck up a friendship that blossomed into full patronage, and a year later Locke was appointed physician to Shaftesbury's household. That year he supervised a dangerous liver operation on Shaftesbury that likely saved his patron's life.

Rejecting the divine right of kings, Locke said that societies form governments by mutual (and, in later generations, tacit) agreement. Thus, when a king loses the consent of the governed, a society may remove him—an approach quoted almost verbatim in Thomas Jefferson's 1776 [Declaration of Independence](#). Locke also developed a definition of property as the product of a person's labor that would be foundational for both Adam Smith's capitalism and Karl Marx's socialism.

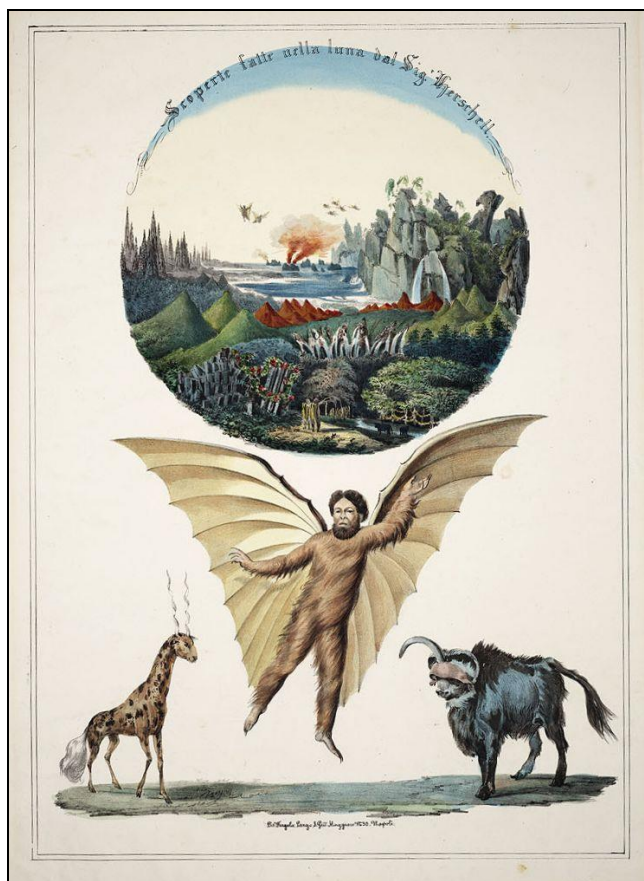
Locke spent his final 14 years in Essex at the home of Sir Francis Masham and his wife, the philosopher Lady Damaris Cudworth Masham. He died there on October 24, 1704, as Lady Damaris read to him from the Psalms.

When it was decided that the British colony called "Carolina" was too large, and should be split in two, it was John Locke who drew the eventual boundary lines to what would become North and South Carolina.

John Locke never married, and had no children as far as we know. He had a half brother named Thomas, but I've been unable to learn anything about the fate of this younger Locke. The philosopher's father was also named John, and he supposedly came from a large family. Some sources claim that Locke's grandfather was named Nicholas, but others say that he was named Christopher. There's a branch of Lockes in New England who descend from William Locke of Woburn, Massachusetts, and they claim that this William was a first cousin to John Locke, the great thinker. Both of our families have DNA on file, and our DNA does not match with theirs.

The Great Moon Hoax of 1835

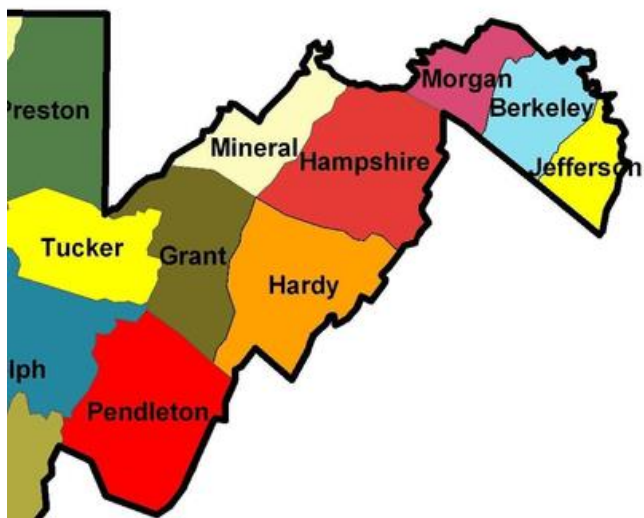
In the 1830's, even famed American author **Edgar Allan Poe** chimed in on the **John Locke** controversy. A respected newspaper reporter in New York City named **Richard Adams Locke** did a series of stories in 1835 that offered proof, from a noted South African astronomer, that life had been discovered on the Moon, and that lakes and gardens and animals had been seen on the Moon's surface, using the world's *strongest telescope* at Cape Town. As you can imagine, this was Earth shattering news in 1835, and, as happened with the Orson Wells *War of the Worlds* radio broadcast in 1939, people believed the story. Even Richard Locke believed what he was writing to be true. In an essay written by Poe called, *The Literati of New York City*, he described Locke as "...a lineal descendant from the immortal author of the *Essay on the Human Understanding*"



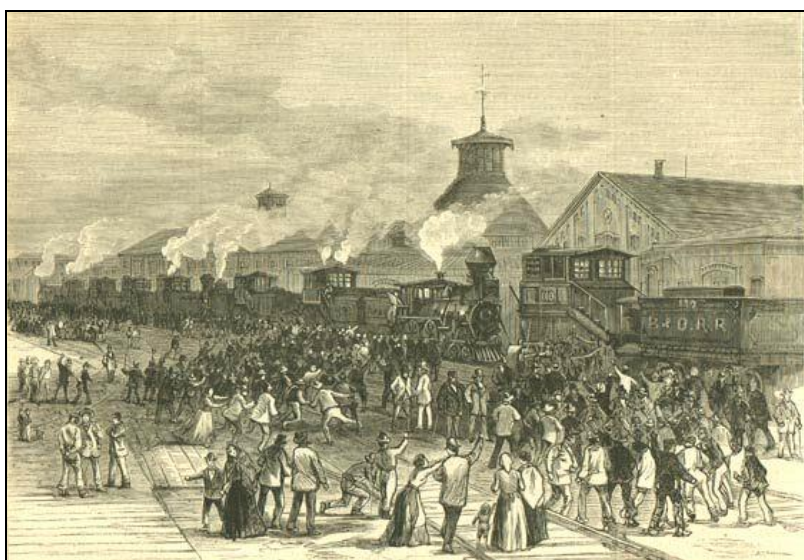
Shortly afterwards, the story was proven to be a hoax, the largest hoax ever perpetrated in the history of American journalism up until that time, but Poe continued to tout Locke as a great writer who had a gift with words. Many years later, a descendant of Richard Locke tried for years to link his ancestor to Sir John Locke's family in England, but was never able to do so. This was the "Roswell" of the day.

Dr. John Locke of Martinsburg, Virginia

This brings us to the story of **Dr. John Locke** of *Martinsburg, Virginia*. Dr. Locke was the *great-grandson* of **Meverell Locke**, who was the son of **Philip and Mary Hulse Lock** of St. Mary's County, Maryland. These are our direct ancestors. **Meverell (1728-1762)** had a son that he named **Thomas (1755-1838)**. Around 1794, Thomas moved from St. Mary's County to Jefferson County, Virginia, after marrying **Catherine Estep** in Charles County, Maryland. *Jefferson County* was technically part of Maryland, just northwest of Washington, D.C. on the Potomac River. Thomas moved his family again, this time into *Berkeley County*, right next door, to the town of *Martinsburg, Virginia*. This area is just west of *Camp David*, the presidential retreat. One of his sons, **Meverell (1784-1828)**, married **Rosannah McCleary**, on Feb. 17, 1812, and they raised seven children in Martinsburg. This is where **John Locke**, Meverell's second son, later to be known as **Dr. John Locke (1815-1852)**, grew up, and married **Rosalie Hewitt (1821-1894)** of Fairfax County, Virginia, and had three children before his early death at age 37. One of their sons, who died young, was called **Meverell Locke (1847-1861)**, after John's father. In 1863, this area of northern Virginia became part of the newly formed state of *West Virginia*.



The far eastern part of West Virginia



Martinsburg as it appeared in an engraving in 1877.

There's a very interesting revelation that has emerged from this research that might shed light on the parents of Philip Locke of St. Mary's County, whom we've never been able to locate. Thomas Locke, above, was not the first Locke to move into Berkeley County, Virginia, and this discovery might tell us why Thomas moved there in the first place. It might also have a profound effect on the Lockes of Chester County, South Carolina. I'll explore these possibilities in the article following this one in this newsletter.

A series of books was published in Virginia in 1906, and the collection was called, *Some Prominent Virginia Families*. In Volume III of the series, there was a particularly interesting quote concerning a Dr. John Locke of Martinsburg. The quote was as follows:

Dr. John Locke was a lineal descendant of the famous English metaphysician, the family now possessing many old family pieces of silver, etc., etc., which proves this unmistakably.

If this is true, it would link our branch of the Locke family to **John Locke**, the *philosopher*. The only problem is that we don't know where these authors got this information, and without examining the actual silver pieces that were mentioned in the quote, we have no way of confirming that it might be true.

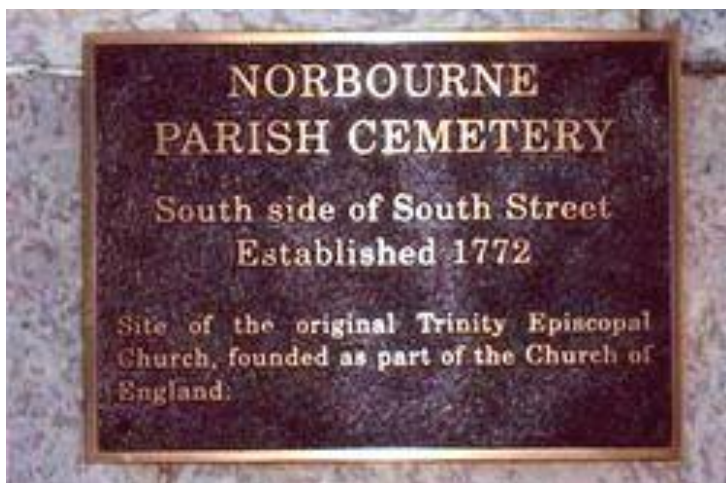
I can't imagine that if the descendants of **Dr. John Locke** knew about this historic connection to items in their family, they would have allowed those items to be lost or sold without some kind of record. Our task now is to find one of those descendants who might have personal knowledge of this story, and might even possess pieces of the Locke silver. This won't be easy, but I have a plan.

The Lockes of Martinsburg

If we ever hope to confirm the *“old family pieces of silver...”* story. We need to hear from the ancestors of the Martinsburg Lockes. Thanks to research by Hans Backer, we have detailed names and dates from cemeteries in that area of West Virginia. Hopefully someone from this family will read this, and get in touch.



Norbourne Parish Cemetery Gate



This Episcopal cemetery was started almost 250 years ago.

Many family members who descended from Meverell Locke of St. Mary's County are buried in Old Norbourne Parish Cemetery in Martinsburg, including Dr. John Locke and his family.

Meverell Locke, Sr. Born: February 17th, 1783 Died: July 23rd, 1828

He was a very successful mercantile store proprietor who amassed a large fortune and owned many slaves. When he died, his estate papers filled over twenty pages. His wealth was passed on to his wife, Rosanna, and their six children: Thomas Estep, John, Ann, Mary, Meverell, and Sarah Jane Locke

Rossana M. Locke Born: 1789 Died: July 20th, 1856 Wife of Meverell, Sr.

William Meade Locke Born: Feb. 1826 Died: April 3rd, 1830 Son of Meverell, Sr.

Dr. John Locke Born: 1815 Died: 1852 Son of Meverell, Sr.

Rosalie Hewitt Locke Born: 1820 Died: March 14, 1894 Wife of John Locke

Meverell Locke Born: 1848 Died: 1862 Son of John and Rosalie



Rosanna M. Locke

Dr. Thomas Locke, the son of Meverell Locke who had originally moved to Jefferson County after his marriage to Catherine Estep of Charles County, Maryland, in 1783, died in Martinsburg, Virginia, on April 18th, 1838. We don't where he is buried. To expand our pool of possible descendants of Dr. Thomas Locke, we will examine details of each of the children of Meverell Locke, who is buried at Norbourne Parish Cemetery. Perhaps someone will recognize one of their ancestors, and get in touch with us.

Children of Meverell and Rosanna Locke of Martinsburg

1. Rev. Thomas Estep Locke (1812-1897)

The eldest child became an Episcopal minister, and headed many congregations around Virginia. The best way to learn more about him and his family is to read his obituary from May 13, 1897.

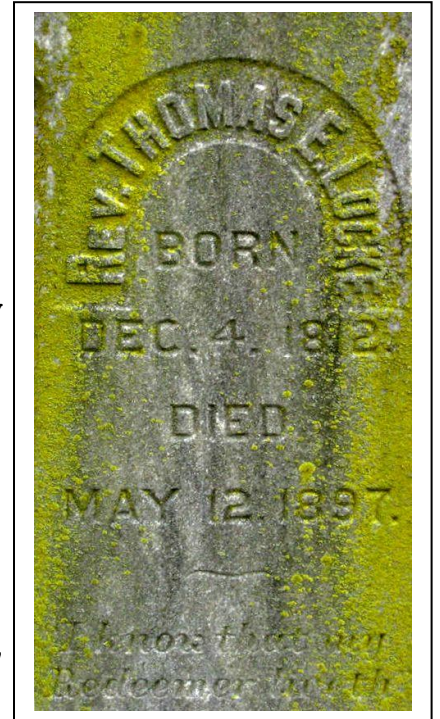
Alexandria Gazette
Alexandria, Virginia
Thurs. May 13, 1897, p. 3, c. 3.

Death of Rev. Thomas E. Locke

Rev. Thomas E. Locke, an old and esteemed minister of the Episcopal Church in Virginia, died yesterday evening after a long illness at "Oakland," the residence of his son-in-law, Dr. D. N. Rust, in the county, near this city, in the 85th year of his age.

Rev. Thomas E. Locke was born December 4, 1812, in Martinsburg, Berkeley county, W. Va. He took his A. B. from Kenyon College in 1834. He was then 22 years of age. Entering the Theological Seminary of Virginia the following autumn he was ordained in St. Paul's church in this city in July, 1837, by Bishop Meade. In 1838, he married Miss Jackson, of Winchester, who only lived one year. On December 21, 1841, he married Miss Lucy Armistead Nelson, daughter of Robert C. Nelson, of "Mount Holly," Lunenburg county, Va.. Nine children were born to them, four sons and five daughters, of whom eight survive them.

Soon after his second marriage he took charge of a parish in Mecklenburg County. After that he went to Campbell County, where he had charge of St. Peter's church, Washington Parish [sic], for 13 years. He then accepted a call to St. Ann's Parish, Albemarle County, where he had charge of Christ and St. John's churches for 27 years. He was in the ministry nearly 60 years, and at the time of his death was the oldest clergyman in the diocese, and the only surviving member of his class from the Seminary.



In an article in the Locke Newsletter of February, 2013, Volume 8, Issue 1, I profiled one of the sons of Thomas Estep Locke, Edward Meverell Locke, who had guarded John Wilkes Booth in 1865.

2. Dr. John Locke (1815-1852)

Although we have already covered much of John's life, I wanted to attach the original page from "Some Prominent Virginia Families", so you could see details about each one of his children, and who they married. You'll find it at the end of this article.

3. Annie Locke

Ann married Hierome Lindsay Opie on Sept. 17th, 1835. They had four children. Hierome L. Opie, Jr. was the eldest, then came Dr. Thomas Opie of Baltimore, then their only daughter, May, who married Basil Meade, and last, the Honorable John Opie of Staunton, Virginia.

4. **Catherine Estep Locke** Catherine married Stephen Snodgrass on May 17th, 1835. She died young after giving birth to her second child..

5. **Mary Locke (1820-1889)** She married John Stewart Harrison, Jr. in 1838. They had four children, Thomas, John, Jane, and Nancy. Husband died in 1846. She ran a boarding house.

6. **Meverell Locke (1823-1866)** Meverell married Sallie D. Forrest on September 15, 1844 in Martinsburg. He would eventually run the family's mercantile business, and became quite wealthy. He would die suddenly while on a buying trip to New York City on April 9th, 1866, at the age of 44. There were a number of children in this family

7. **Rose Locke (1823-1851)** Married Jacob Van Doren in 1845 and had one son, Meverell.

8. **Sarah Jane Locke (born 1828)** Lived with sister, Mary in boarding house.

SIXTH GENERATION.

VI. Rosalie Hewitt⁰ (Margaret B. Smith⁵, Augustine Jaquelin⁴, Augustine³, Mary Jaquelin² (married John Smith), Edward Jaquelin¹), daughter of Margaret Boyd Smith and **Thomas W. Hewitt**; married **Dr. John Locke**, of **Martinsburg, W. Va.** **Dr. John Locke** was a lineal descendant of the famous English metaphysician, the family now possessing many old family pieces of silver, etc., etc., which proves this unmistakably. Issue:

- 582. I. Margaret Hewitt Locke⁷. Married Lieut. Edwin Bell, Confederate States Army; living in Bedford Co., Va.
- 583. II. Rosalie M. Locke⁷. Married Lieut. Magruder Tubbsman.
- 584. III. Mary Harrison Locke⁷. Married Lieut. Richard Turpin, of Carrollton, Mo., C. S. A.; he d., and she married, second, **Dr. Smith**, her cousin; no issue:
- 586. IV. Meveril Locke⁷, d. young.
- 587. V. **Thomas Smith Locke⁷**, of Cumberland, Md.



17th Century English Silver



Two versions of LOCKE Coat of Arms...



Emigrant ship of the 17th Century

Berkeley County, Virginia, was the home of George Washington's brother, Charles, and it is documented that the future president visited that home a number of times. Charles would have known the Lockes, and it's highly likely they would have met the President during one of those visits.

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Finding more Lockes in Martinsburg, Berkeley County, Virginia

In piecing together the continuity for **Dr. John Locke** in Martinsburg, I discovered that the Lockes were already living there when **Dr. Thomas Locke** moved there from St. Mary's County. Here's what I found.

Two brothers, **William Christopher** and **John Locke**, emigrated from *Taunton, Devon, Somerset, England*, to Berkeley County, Martinsburg, Virginia, around 1740. They descended from **Lewis Locke**, who had 35 children with four wives in Taunton in the 1600's. Philosopher **John Locke** also descended from one of those 35 children. I found another John Locke in Martinsburg who died in 1831 at the age of 84, and many other Lockes who lived there during these years.. Martinsburg in the 18th century was a small town on the western edge of civilization. Why would all of these Lockes decide to go there? And then when I realized that **Dr. Thomas Locke** must have been drawn there for some reason, I realized that, somehow, these Lockes might have been a factor.

The problem is, these are the same Lockes who produced **Samuel Locke**, who is the ancestor of **Donald Locke** of Colorado, who is the cousin who coordinates all of the DNA testing results and has the Locke website. He has been DNA tested, and does not match the St. Mary's County Lockes.

Another strange discovery. **William Christopher Locke** of Martinsburg had a mess of kids, and according to one source, the names of some those kids match the names of my Locke family in *Chester County, South Carolina*. That is significant for two reasons.

1. I've never been able to confirm that my ancestor in Chester County, **Stephen Locke**, was actually the nephew of **Josias Locke**, the son of **James Locke** from Halifax. Josias had a brother named **William**, who was mentioned in their mother **Susannah Green Locke's** will in 1822 in Halifax. I always assumed that the Josias and William Lockes who appeared in the Chester Census in 1810 were the brothers from Halifax who had moved there after 1800. I could never find any record of **William Locke** in Halifax prior to that. I always found that strange. The DNA testing from Locke descendants of William and Josias in Chester County matched in the 37-marker testing, so I knew that we were close relatives, but where was **William** before 1810???

2. **Stephen** and **Nancy Hines Locke**, my direct ancestors in Chester County, named their first son, **Willis**, and I have never been able to find a "Willis" in the Locke family prior to that. I assumed the name must have come from Stephen's mother, who I have never been able to learn anything about. And remember the **Lewis Locke** with the 35 kids from Somerset? The name "Lewis" has been passed down through my Locke family, and, again, I have been unable to find where that name came from. (Absalom Lewis Locke, Sadie Lewis Locke)

William Christopher Locke of Martinsburg named one of his sons, **William**, of course, but he named another, **Stephen**, and another, **Willis**, and another, **Lewis**, most likely after the original **Lewis Locke** of Somerset. **Is it possible that the William Locke who turned up in Chester County was not the same William who was the son of James in Halifax, but was instead, the William who was one of the sons of William Christopher Locke in Martinsburg?**

My **Stephen Locke** married **Nancy Hines** in Halifax County in 1804, meaning that his father, who I have always assumed to be William Locke of Halifax, would have been born no later than 1784. Is it possible that the Lockes of Halifax and Martinsburg knew each other as cousins? After all, cousin Thomas Locke of St. Mary's County, Maryland must have known the Lockes who were already living in Martinsburg when he moved there. *How could he not have?*

Does this connection signal that **Philip**, our original ancestor in Maryland, was closely tied with the Lockes who came from England in the 1740's???? Might those Lockes have even been his nephews, who came across the ocean to enjoy the fruits of the new country where their uncle had already become very successful? But why Berkeley County and not St. Mary's County? Stay tuned.....



Less than Five Months Until the Locke Reunion...

Make sure you have put a big red "X" on your calendar for Saturday, August 9th. We'll be gathering in the same place as last year, at the 1777 Log Cabin at Landsford Canal State Park on the Catawba River in Chester County, S.C.

