

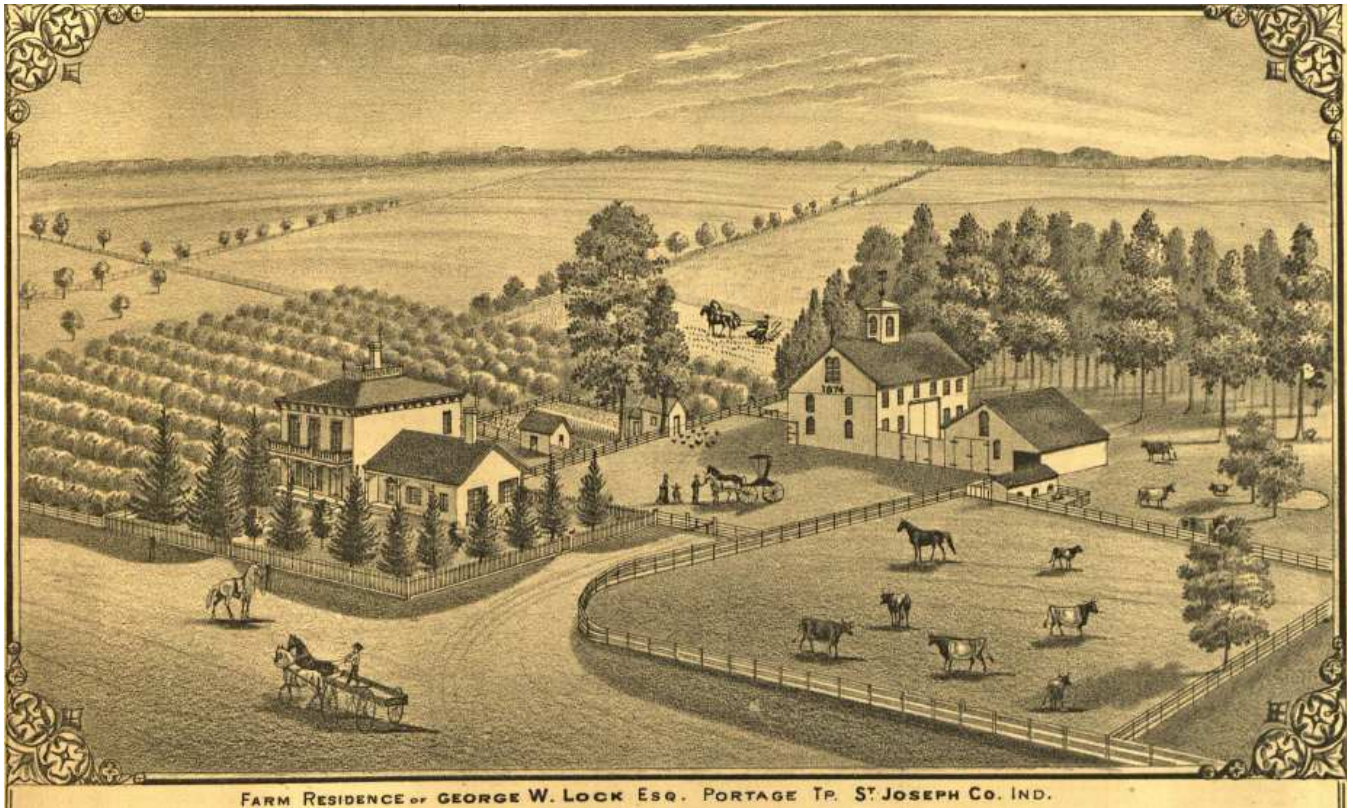
# The Locke Family Newsletter

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FARM RESIDENCE OF GEORGE W. LOCK ESQ. PORTAGE TP. ST. JOSEPH CO. IND.

## A Possible Locke Connection in New Jersey...

The pastoral scene depicted in the above engraving shows the *South Bend, Indiana*, farm of **George Washington Locke**, whose grandfather, **Thomas Locke**, had moved west from *New Jersey* into *Pennsylvania* around 1775, where he would enlist in the *Continental Army* and serve for seven years under **General Washington**. **George's** father, **Philip**, moved to northern *Indiana* in 1844, where **George** also moved with his wife and family. **George** built a magnificent mansion and many outbuildings, and grew wheat, corn, potatoes, and oats. The year of publication of this image was 1875. *The Civil War* had ended only ten years before, and **Mr. Locke** had lost a nephew in battle.

According to **Don Locke**, the *keeper* of the **Locke** family history, oral stories passed down from generation to generation linked a **Philip Locke** of *New Jersey* with our ancestor, also named **Philip**, who had moved south into *St. Mary's County, Maryland*, around 1685. Our task now is to find descendants of that early *New Jersey* family and have their *DNA* tested to see if there is a match.

Recently, the *DNA* test made by the late **Furman Master Locke, Jr.** in 2006, was upgraded from the basic *12-marker* level, to the much more useful *37-marker* level. As a family, we are poised to learn even more about our early ancestors in *America*, and eventually about our **Locke** family in *Great Britain*. **Furman's** new test results have also confirmed that our **Locke** ancestors most likely came from *Wales*. This gives us a new place to look as our search continues.

## Child Labor in Chester County, South Carolina... 1908



When **Josias** and **William Locke** moved their families into *Chester County, South Carolina*, around 1800, there was no industry other than farming. Children went to school long enough to learn how to read and write, but most of their time was spent working in the fields, caring for livestock, and learning how to make tools and clothes. On Sunday, no one worked. Everyone went to church and spent time with their families. As the railroad found its way into the county, and as the *Industrial Revolution* was changing cities around the world, all of that was about to change. The South was home to “*King Cotton*”, and it was just a matter of time before large cotton mills would open across the South. At 75 cents for a twelve hour day, parents saw their children as their way to get ahead. Instead of sending their children to the fields, they sent their kids to work in the mills, from age five on. The more children you had, the more money you could get.

Just after the turn of the century, groups began to organize against the barbaric practice of child labor, and the mills of the South became their prime targets. The largest of these activist groups hired one of the most famous photographers of the day, **Lewis Wickes Hine**, to bring the story of these abuses to the attention of the American public through his work. One of the places that he chose to visit was *Chester*, and it was from his work during the summer of 1908 and spring of 1909, that a body of work was produced that would change the entire labor system across America. After the public saw photographs and read the stories of the children of *Chester*, the movement to ban these practices took flight, and within five years, child labor laws were enacted that would end these abuses once and for all.

All of the accompanying photos were made by Mr. Hine. They are shown here, not just as a tribute to his work to end child labor, but also to show the beautiful children of *Chester County*, and how they dressed and posed. Notice how few smiles are on these faces. Most likely, some of the children in these pictures were our relatives. Having this rare glimpse of them through the eye of a great photographer using superior equipment allows us to experience their world in a way never seen before now.



These were the **Benson** children. The three older boys worked in the *Springsteen Mill*. The oldest, Pimento, worked with the cattle on his family's farm, and had raised this calf for the county fair.



**Lewis Hine** would later be chosen to photograph the construction of the *Empire State Building*, and the photo on the left became one of the most famous scenes of *New York City* during the boom years of the 1920's.

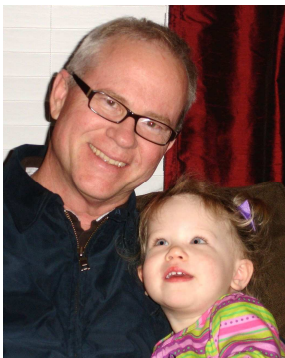


# Locke Family News...



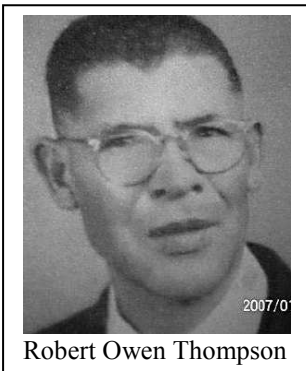
**Kathryn Grace Turner** was born on April 9<sup>th</sup> to **Kelsey and Chad Turner**. She weighed 7 lbs. 11 ozs. Chad is the son of **Johnny and Wanda Turner** of *Huntersville, N.C.*, and G-G Grandson of **Mattie Locke Helms**. Precious isn't she. Kathryn follows closely behind **Pheyton Rawlins**, new daughter to Chad's sister, **Christy**, who was born on October 12<sup>th</sup>.

**Edward "Eddie" Simpson**, the husband of **Diane Boyce**, passed away late last year. Eddie is shown here with Diane and her Uncle **Locke** and Locke's wife, **Ernestine**, at the Locke reunion in 2008. Diane is the daughter of **Wilson and Letha Moore Boyce**, and granddaughter of **Mamie Locke Boyce**.



**Robert Earl Harris**, son of **Frances Byrd Harris** and the late **Walter Edward Harris**, passed away after a valiant battle against cancer on March 11, in *Lancaster, South Carolina*. He was 51 years old. His mother is the granddaughter of **Virginia "Janie" Locke Culp**, and great granddaughter of **John Calhoun Locke** of *Chester County*. Robert also leaves behind his wife, **Monica Wilson Harris**, and their three year old daughter, **Charlotte Avery Harris**. He is also survived by two brothers, **W. Edward Harris** and **William J. Harris**, and two sisters, **Donna Harris Rickabaugh** and **Susan Harris Swett**.

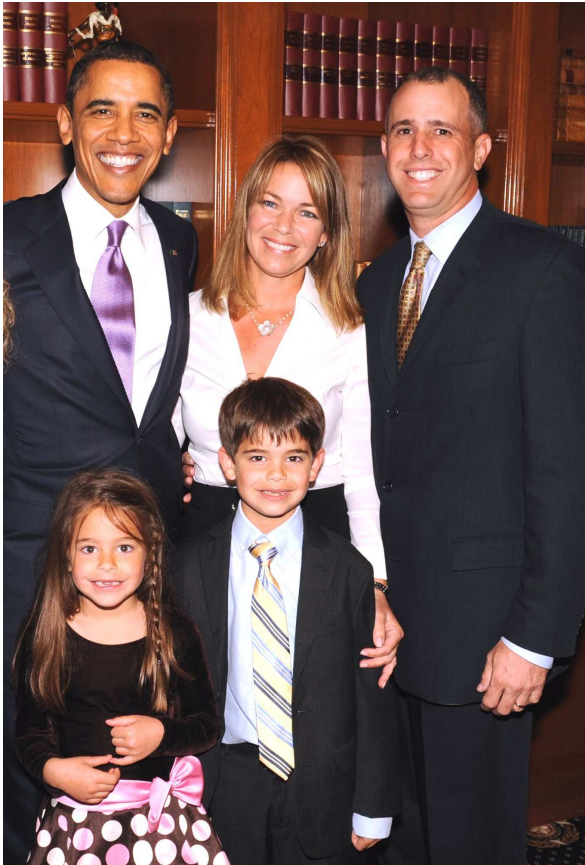
**DNA Testing** **Burnice Harris** of *Mobile* and **Abner Locke** of *Texas* have been confirmed as a 67/67 marker match. They share a common **Locke** ancestor all the back in the mid-1700's, of **James Locke**, son of **James Hulse Locke**, who was the son of **Philip Lock**, our oldest known American ancestor. You might recall that **Burnie** is the grandson of **Robert Owen Thompson**, who was the mixed race son of **Benjamin Locke** and **O. Thompson**, a woman who worked on the family farm. **Benjamin** was the son of **Jesse Culp Locke**, and grandson to **Jesse McCullough Locke** of *Halifax County, North Carolina*.



**Abner** descended from **John Locke** of *Georgia*, who was the great-grandson of **John and Sarah Locke**, who were the first Lockes to move from *St. Mary's County, Maryland*, into *Halifax County*, in 1767. (Brother **James** followed shortly afterward, with sons **Josias** and **William**).

This match shows the importance of marker levels in *DNA* testing. These specific tests can only be made on men with the **Locke** surname, or, in **Burnie Harris'** case, his uncle, who would have carried the **Locke** paternal bloodline.

# Meeting the President...



Charlene Helms and husband Michael Freedland, with Ashley, 6, and Blake, 8, with the President



President Obama chats with Ashley while Blake checks out the handshake.



Blake with the police outside the private residence.

It isn't every day that a **Locke** descendant gets to meet the *President of the United States*, but that's exactly what happened to **Charlene Helms Freedland**, her husband, **Michael**, and their children, **Blake**, and **Ashley**, at a private reception for **President Barack Obama** on **Miami Beach** in March. **Michael**, who is an attorney in **Ft. Lauderdale**, is active in the **Democratic Party of Florida**, and works closely with **U.S. Congresswoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz**, to raise money for **Democratic** candidates. This isn't their first time meeting with the *President*. At his inauguration in 2009, they sat in the first five rows as the president was sworn in. **Charlene** is the daughter of **Eddie** and the late **Carol Helms**, granddaughter of **NASCAR** veteran **Buddy Helms** (1916-2003), and great granddaughter to **Mattie Locke Helms** (1882-1965). These are the kinds of events that kids remember all of their lives, and, who knows, maybe one day, we'll have a **Locke** descendant as *President*.

# Estate Records from York County, South Carolina

One of the best ways to understand how our **Locke** ancestors lived is to examine the estate records they left behind. In rare cases, they actually left a will that directed how their belongings were to be divided. More often than not, they left no will, and the courts had to direct the dispensation of the property. In most cases, the **"Goods and Chattels"** of the deceased were catalogued, and then auctioned to the highest bidders. In those days, the husband owned everything, and if he died with no will, the wife was forced to buy her own furniture, and even the house she had lived in for decades if she wanted to continue living there. Everything was appraised for value, and then sold. The proceeds were equally divided between the wife, and surviving children, and the heirs of deceased children. Of course, all debts had to be satisfied before anyone else was paid, and the lawyers and public officials had to have their expenses covered. Following are selective pages from a much larger estate record of **Elias and Sythenia Walston**. Since most of these records are only available today on microfilm, the quality can be quite poor. These records were among the more legible of the papers. In those days, everything was written with a quill pen and homemade ink.

LETTERS OF ADMINISTRATION.—N. M. FOULKES, PRINTER.

**State of South Carolina,**  
York District.

By *Benjamin Chambers Esquire* Ordinary of  
York District.  
To *David H Pittman*

WHEREAS *Elias Walston* late of  
*York District* deceased, lately died intestate, having  
whilst he lived, and at the time of his death, divers goods, rights and credits  
within the *District* aforesaid; by means whereof the full disposition and  
power of granting the Administration of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of  
the said deceased, and also auditing the accounts, calculations and reckonings of the said  
Administration, and a final dismission of the same, to me is manifestly known to belong:  
I desiring that the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased may be well and truly ad-  
ministered, converted and disposed of, do hereby grant unto the said *David H Pittman*

*Pittman*

in whose fidelity, in this behalf, I very much confide, full power, by the tenor of these pre-  
sents, to administer the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased, which to him  
in his life-time, and at the time of his death, did belong; and to ask, levy  
recover and receive the same, and to pay the debts in which the deceased stood obliged,  
so far forth as his goods, rights and credits will extend, according to their rate and  
order of law; being first sworn on the Holy Evangelist of Almighty God, to make a true  
and perfect inventory thereof, and to exhibit the same into the Ordinary's Office, in *York*  
*County* in order to be recorded, on or before the  
*Sixth* day of *January* now next, ensuing; and to  
render a just and true account, calculation and reckoning of the said administration, when  
thereunto required: And I ordain, depute and constitute you, the said *David H Pittman*

*Pittman*

Administrat<sup>r</sup> of all and singular the goods, rights and credits of the said deceased.

IN TESTIMONY WHEREOF I have hereunto set my Hand and Seal, the *Sixth*  
day of *October* in the year of our Lord one thousand eight  
hundred and *fourteen* and in the fifty-*fourth* year of  
American Independence.

ORDINARY'S OFFICE,  
Record Book  
Page.

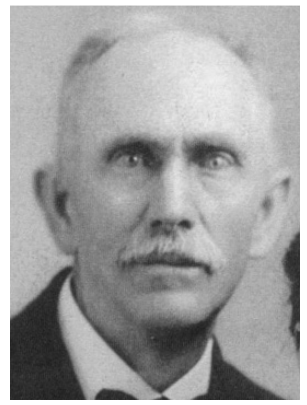
*Benjamin Chambers*

*Dec. 17. 1842*  
We have this day received of the  
hands of *David H. Pittman Ad-*  
*ministrator of the Estate of Elias*  
*and Sythenia Walston* the sum of  
*Seventy Dollars 22* it being our debt  
which shall due us from said Estate  
according to distribution now made  
signed with our own hands  
*M. Shurley*  
*E. Shurley*

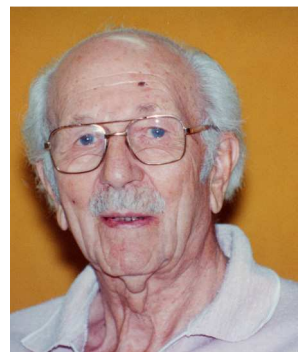
*January 23<sup>d</sup> 1842* We have this day  
received of the hands of *David H. Pittman*  
administrator of the estate of *Elias and Sythenia*  
*Walston* the sum of *Seventy three Dollars*  
and *17* Cents it being our distributed  
Share Due us from said Estate according to  
Distribution now made signed with our own  
hands  
*Joseph Ferguson*  
*Luania Ferguson*

Elias Walston and his wife Sythenia Washington were the grandparents of Malinda Shurley Locke, the mother of John Calhoun, Washington Pinckney, and Absalom Lewis Locke. The document to the left confirmed David Pittman as administrator of the estate. The small note at the top was final acceptance of payment by Meredith and Eli Shurley from their grandparent's estate, and the lower note was acceptance by Joseph Ferguson, also a grandson of Elias and Sythenia. Absalom would name his youngest son, Walston, and that name is still carried forward today through Walston, Jr., and also through the son and grandson of Mattie Locke Helms, Absalom's daughter. Both Elias and Sythenia died in 1834.

Particulars.	D.	C.
Large pot. Dye Stand. & Coffee pot. Warts	3	00
Old Croen. tub. & 3 Bee hives	=	3 50
Lot Barrels. Pot. & Crocks.	=	2 00
Dough Tray, and Soap troughs.	=	1 25
Churn. Grind Stone. & Lot old Irons.	=	3 50
Lot of Chairs. Lot of Baskets. & proe	=	3 00
3 Bivalves. 1 pro. Sheep Shears. plain Saddle bag	=	2 75
Saddle. Martingale. Coat pad & Blanket	=	10 00
2 Smoothing Irons Barrel & contents.	=	1 25
Clock Reel. Barrel. Candle Stand. pro Steelyards	=	1 25
Old Mahogany Table & Cloth.	=	3 00
Rat trap. Barrel. & Lot of Tools.	=	3 62 1/2
Parcel Ginned Cottons per the lb.	=	12 1/2
Bed Head. Bed & Furniture	=	12 50
Book Case & Books.	=	10 00
2 Small trunks. Pug. & Dog Irons.	=	1 00
Bed Head Bed & Furniture	=	18 00
Bed Head Bed. & Furniture	=	22 00
Bed Head Bed & Furniture	=	10 00
2 Stands of Curtains	=	5 00
Lot of Hoay Clothes & Hat.	=	10 00
Lot of Bed Clothes & Chest.	=	12 00
Castor & Lot of Delf Ware. 3 towels.	=	5 25
Bureau & Spread. 2 pro. Cotton Cases & Basket	=	13 25
Basket. Razors. Strip. & Hoone	=	2 00
Claw Hammer & Lot of Sundries	=	75
Pot & Hooks. Old pocket Books	=	1 81
Lot of Laci. Chamber pot. Cupboard.	=	3 25
Looking Glass. Ladies Saddle	=	8 50



Absalom Lewis Locke



Walston Levi Locke



Marie Locke Herres



Buddy and Walston, Jr.

This is a partial listing and appraisal of household goods from the estate. The fact that there was a "Book Case and Books" indicates that reading was done in the house. Four bedsteads are listed on this page. A Mahogany table is valued at \$3.00, a rare wood even at that time. "Delf Ware" referred to imported china of some kind. A very fine saddle is shown at \$10.00. More estate records to come in next newsletter.

# Our Reunion Takes Shape...

As the Locke Reunion approaches, a few changes have been made in the Friday activities for those folks who choose to spend Friday night here around the Lake Lure area. Much to my dismay, my neighbors have just opened a new RV park just next door to my house. You can check it out, and even make reservations at [www.rutherfordmountaincampground.com](http://www.rutherfordmountaincampground.com) . It has sixteen spaces for RV's and travel trailers, as well as tent camping. Each space has water, electric, and sewage hook-ups. The setting couldn't be more beautiful, being on the top of a hill surrounded by mountains. The entrance is just up the road from my house on Fibber Magee Drive.



Our Friday activities have changed a little. We'll be taking a special cruise around **Lake Lure** at 4 p.m., on a covered pontoon boat. We'll have refreshments onboard, and a trained guide will tell us about the history of the great lake, and some of the folktales that emerged since it was created in 1926. We'll cruise to **Firefly Cove** where the famous "lift" scene was filmed for the hit movie, **Dirty Dancing**. The 90-minute cruise will leave and return to the **Wyndam Rumbling Bald Resort** at the far north end of the lake. If we have more than fourteen people, we'll use two boats. The price is \$15 and can be paid at the time of the cruise.



Once the boats return to the dock, we will be escorted to the lovely **Lakeview Restaurant** overlooking the lake. Since 1962, **Lakeview Restaurant** has delighted guests with fine dining and stunning views of **Lake Lure** and the surrounding mountains.

The menu offers selections from soup and salads to a sumptuous variety of entrees, emphasizing seafood and grille favorites. I will make the appropriate number of reservations. Don't miss this one!

E-mail me if you can come:  
[mountainvann@gmail.com](mailto:mountainvann@gmail.com)



# A Visit with Locke Boyce in Jacksonville

As one of eight children born to **Mamie Locke** and **Hugh Boyce**, **Keith Locke Boyce** left North Carolina many years ago for a new life in Florida. For years, he lived in Miami with his wife **Verla**, daughters **Ann** and **Vicky**, and son, **Keith**. After having a vacation home near **Inverness, Florida**, for years, Locke finally moved to **Jacksonville**, where he was followed by his son, Keith. After Verla passed away, Locke was blessed to meet his current wife, **Ernestine**, at his church. They have been inseparable ever since, traveling extensively across America, and enjoying many cruises through the Caribbean. Of course, being that she is a few months older than Locke, her family has always accused her of “robbing-the-cradle”.

In March, I had the pleasure of spending time in their beautiful home, and also of visiting with Keith. I hadn't seen Keith in over 33 years, and he is raising a wonderful family of his own, and running a successful business designing and selling high volume water pumps for industrial projects. Locke had been involved in the business over the years until he finally decided to retire. Of course, being a Locke, he still has an extensive workshop at his home. He and Ernestine also have a vacation retreat on the **St. John's River** south of town where they spend most weekends relaxing and fishing.

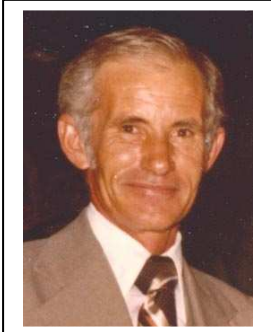
**Locke and Ernestine** have attended three of the last four reunions, and are planning to be in the mountains again in August. He still has that infectious Locke grin, and laughs a lot like **Aunt Mamie** used to laugh. Some things just never change. That's the late **Mamie Locke Boyce** at the lower right, with her autoharp.



Ernestine and Locke at home.....



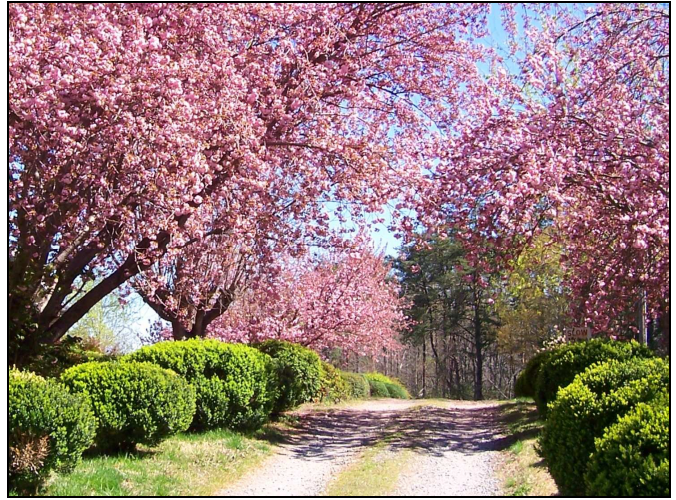
Keith Boyce inside his warehouse..... A hat rack chair from **Aunt Mamie's** Monroe, N.C., home.



Locke with Eddie Helms at reunion



# Springtime at Otter Creek by Vann Helms



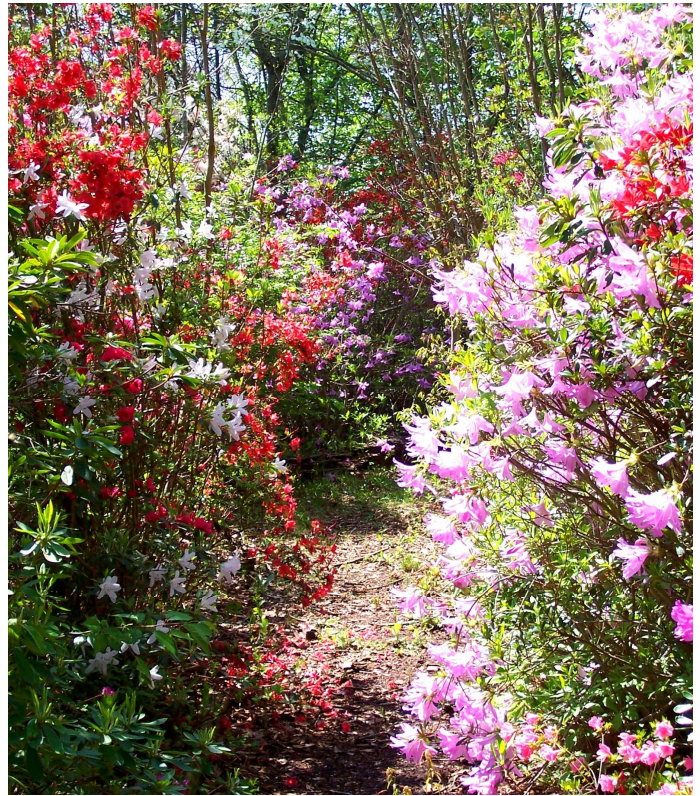
With the Reunion less than four months away, it seemed a good time to share some scenes of the season from around the *Otter Creek* house. The trees above are *Japanese Kwansan Cherry*.



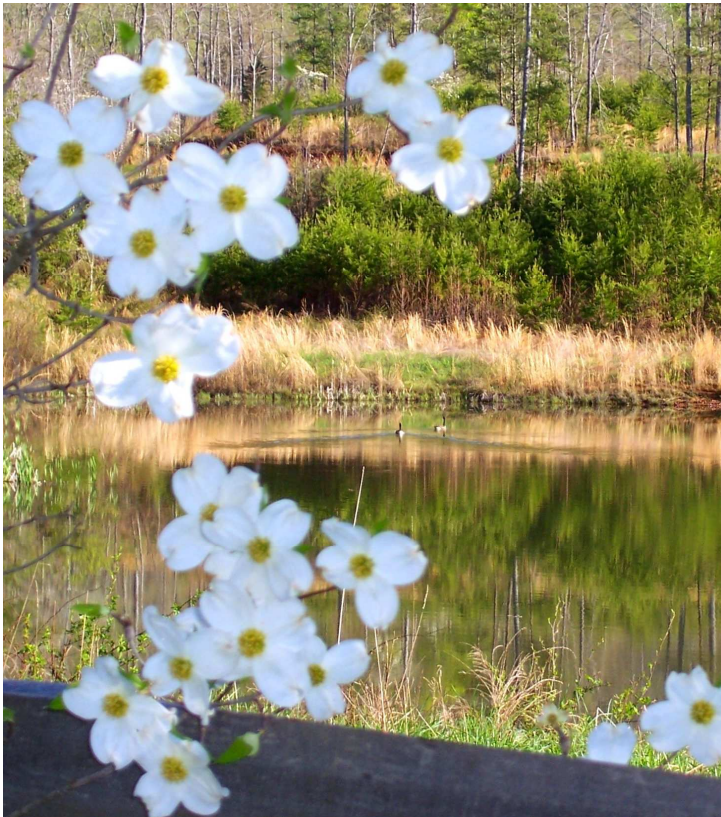
These dogwood trees frame 3,900 ft. *Mt. Shumont* and the closer 2,600 ft. *Rumbling Bald Mountain at Lake Lure*. I'll have all the reunion details with an updated map in the next newsletter. *Saturday, August 13, 2011*, is the big day. Please print and pass this newsletter along to those who don't have web access.



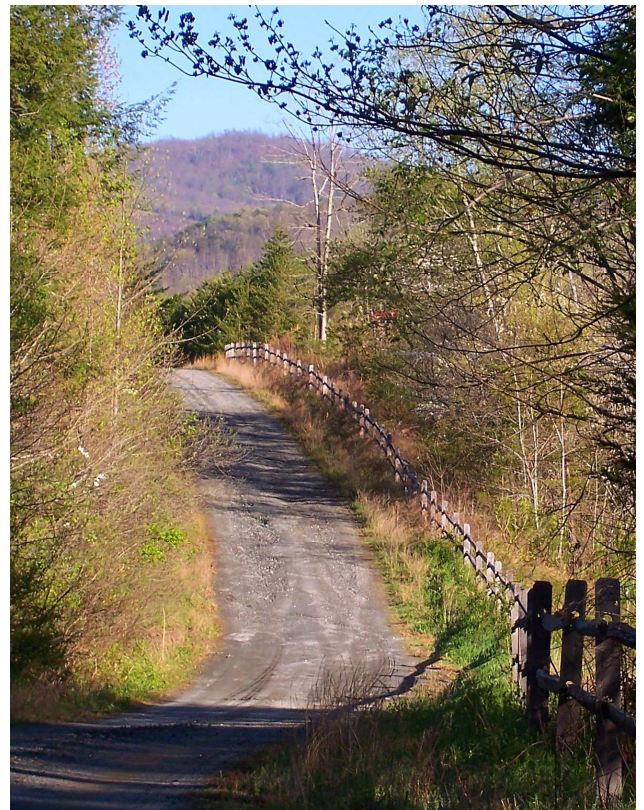
Bradford Pear



Fancy Azaleas



Canadian Geese on Otter Lake



Fibber Magee Drive toward the House

Everything will be so green by the time of the reunion on *August 13<sup>th</sup>*. I promise *sunshine* this year.....

# Marie Locke Herres in Columbia



**Marie Locke Herres** is the only daughter of **Walston Levi** and **Ruth Rodgers Locke**. A number of years ago, she was diagnosed with melanoma, and successfully battled her way back to a normal life. Eighteen months ago it was discovered that a tumor had formed in her lung. At that time she made the decision not to have further chemo, and chose quality of life over debilitating I.V.'s and pills. She is at her longtime home in **Columbia**, and her three sons, **Fred**, **Dave**, and **Danny**, take two week shifts in making her life comfortable, and keeping her company. I spent the afternoon with **Marie** and **Fred** in March, and we chatted about old times and family. If you would like to write to her, the address is **212 Mallet Hill Road, Columbia, South Carolina, 29223**.

# Another Helms Wedding in Florida

Last October, **Sherrie Ann Helms**, the younger daughter of **Edd**, granddaughter of **Buddy**, and great granddaughter to **Mattie Locke Helms**, was married to **Mark Kukulski** in an oceanside ceremony. Just five months later, on March 12<sup>th</sup>, **David Andrew Helms**, the older son of Edd's kid brother, **Lonnie Wade** and his wife, **Vicki Stein Helms**, married **Stephanie Sabbath** of **Hialeah, Florida**, in a beautiful afternoon wedding at **St. Hugh's Catholic Church**, in **Coconut Grove, Florida**. David's younger brother, **Matthew Ryan Helms**, was his **Best Man**.

There was a glorious reception and dinner at a landmark restaurant on an island across from the downtown **Miami** skyline, and the sunset over boat filled **Biscayne Bay** was breathtaking. As dinner was served, the lights of the skyscrapers sparkled in the distance and the party was on. The happy couple honeymooned at Disney's **Magic Kingdom**, and returned to the place beneath **Cinderella's Castle** where David had proposed on one knee. They will live in **Miramar, Florida**, a suburb of **Ft. Lauderdale**. Stephanie is a high school English teacher, and David is a computer systems analyst. Congratulations to **Mr. and Mrs. David Helms**.

