

The Locke Family Newsletter

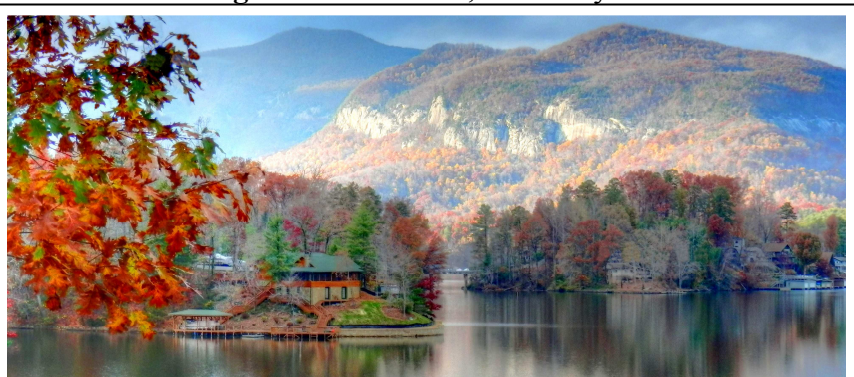
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The Lake Lure Inn and Spa

We'll tour world famous Chimney Rock Park and stand atop "The Rock" at 2,300 ft.

The *Locke Reunion for 2012* will be held for the third and final time around *Lake Lure*, and you won't believe what we have in store for you this year. Imagine staying at the historic *Lake Lure Inn*, and having a lavish dinner in the *Veranda Restaurant* where **Patrick Swayze** taught **Jennifer Grey** how to dance. Built in **1927** as the only hotel on the shores of beautiful *Lake Lure*, you'll be sleeping where presidents and celebrities have been sleeping for eighty-five years. According to legend, the totally renovated inn is haunted, and we'll have a personal tour of the creepiest parts of the legendary resort. The antique filled *Grand Lobby* has the largest collection of 19th century upright music boxes in America, and the **Franklin Roosevelt** memorabilia will dazzle even the most discerning **WW II** buffs. This pet friendly hotel offers 71 elegant rooms, many with Jacuzzis, three cabins, three Presidential Suites, and a sense of peace and tranquility not found in the newer hotels. We'll have a special reunion rate that will be lower than most chain hotels. *Of course, we'll eat on Saturday at Vann's house just north of the lake.* The dates are **August 10th and 11th**, so mark your calendars.



Friday Night Dinner...

We'll be wined and dined in the antique appointed *Veranda Restaurant* with selections from their award winning menu. Steaks, Prime Rib, Mountain Trout, and delicious regional specialties will tempt even the most seasoned Southern cooking gourmet. This is splendid elegance at its best. A rare opportunity! Prices are moderate, and there's a special children's menu for \$6.00.



The latest menu features these mouth watering entrees:

Pork Tenderloin with Apple Bourbon Sauce

Crispy Seared Duck Breast with Raspberry Chipotle Sauce

Pecan Crusted Chicken with Tarragon Butter

Trout en Pappillote Broccoli Garlic **Fettuccine**

Scrumptious Desserts:

Amaretto Crème Brulee

Hot Apple Dumpling with Caramel Cinnamon

Saturday Family Gathering... (Photos from 2011 Reunion)

We'll start gathering at 10 a.m. at Vann's home, and by 12:30, most of the food will be out for you to enjoy. If this past reunion was any indication, the variety of mouth watering Southern delicacies will ensure that no one leaves hungry. Vann will make his popular fresh Peach Cobbler again this year, and the homemade vanilla ice cream will top it off.



August 10th and 11th



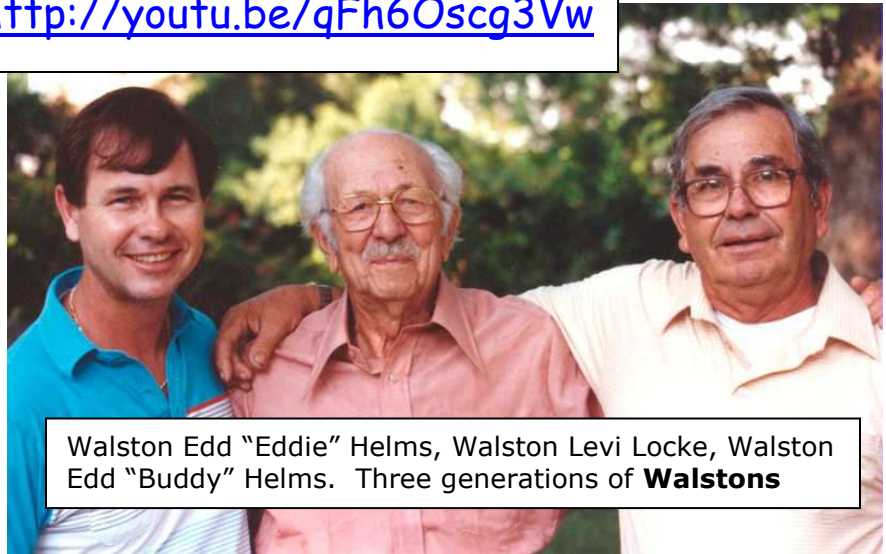
Why are all these Lockes smiling?

A Historic Conversation with Walston Levi Locke

In 1984, Vann Helms sat down with his great uncle, Walston, at his Charlotte, North Carolina home, and for hours, Walston shared stories of his childhood in Union County, N.C., and other priceless memories. In those days, everything was saved on VHS tape from a bulky camera, but new technology allows you to watch and listen through the internet. In addition to the stories, pay special attention to the accent of one of our most interesting ancestors. People just don't talk this way anymore, and through this record, we can have a good idea of how our ancestors sounded. Walston was born in 1896 in York County, S.C., to Absalom Lewis Locke and Sarah Elizabeth Campbell, and moved with his family into North Carolina as an infant. He was the youngest of five surviving children. His grandfather was Levi Locke, who was the youngest son of Stephen Locke of Halifax County, N.C., and Chester County, S.C. His great grandfather was William Locke, son of James and Susanna Green Locke of St. Mary's County, Maryland, and Halifax County. This *You Tube* video is only a few minutes of the interview, but it will give you a good idea of who Walston Locke was, and how he sounded.

Here is the link:

<http://youtu.be/qFh6Oscg3Vw>



Walston Edd "Eddie" Helms, Walston Levi Locke, Walston Edd "Buddy" Helms. Three generations of **Walstons**

Walston and wife Ruth

The Passing of Walston's Daughter Marie

On *October 4th* at her home in *Columbia, South Carolina*, **Marie Locke Herres** passed away after a long and courageous battle against cancer. Born in **1923**, she was the only daughter of **Ruth Rodgers** and **Walston Levi Locke**. Growing up in *Washington, D.C.*, she would marry **Fred Herres**, and they would have three surviving sons, **Fred, Dave, and Danny**. Because Fred was a career officer in the *U.S. Army*, Marie would live all over the world. Her brother-in-law, **Gen. Robert Herres**, would become an astronaut, and rise to the position of *Chief of Staff for the Air Force*, and would become America's first *Vice-Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff* under **Gen. Colin Powell**, giving **Marie** and her family the opportunity to meet Presidents and other high government officials. She was talented in her own right, being one of the first women to work inside the newly completed *Pentagon* during the War. Burial will be at *West Point Academy*, beside an infant son.



Estelle Davis Thielen Passes in California



The last surviving member of a family of eight boys and two girls, **Estelle Davis Thielen** passed away on **October 23**, near her home in **Chula Vista, California**, near **San Diego**. Her mother, **Linnie Locke Davis**, was one of four children of **Judson Lafayette Locke** and his wife **Sallie MacKenzie**, of **Chicora, Mississippi**. **Judson** was the son of **Jesse Culp Locke**, whose father was **Jesse McCullough Locke**, of **Halifax, North Carolina**, and **Chester County, South Carolina**. In **1830**, **Jesse** moved his family from **Chester County** to **Meigs County, Tennessee**, near **Chattanooga**, and they spread south and west from there. Following **Jesse** to **Tennessee** was his brother, **Joseph Locke**, and eventually, another of his brothers, **Stephen**, and his family. Today, descendents of **Jesse McCullough Locke** are located in **Alabama, Mississippi, Texas, Oklahoma, California, Oregon**, and **Tennessee**.



Judson Lafayette Locke and Sallie MacKenzie

Estelle was born on **November 24, 1917**, and was just a few days short of her **94th** birthday. She is survived by her husband of **51** years, **Bob**. She had five grandchildren, nine great-grandchildren, and fourteen great-great-grandchildren. She is also survived by her cousins, **Sandy Locke Wright**, of **Huntsville, Alabama**, **Robert Locke** of **Kingsport, Tennessee**, and **Robert's** son, **Christopher**, and his two daughters, **Erin Christine** and **Lauren Grace**, of **Winston-Salem**. **Sandy** and **Robert's** fathers were **Estelle's** first cousins.

You might recall the article last year about the notorious "**Sims War**" that took place along the southern **Mississippi, Alabama** border in **1891**, where a fiery raid on a general store by the **Robert Sims Gang** left two adults and three children dead. **Judson Lafayette Locke** was involved with defending that store, and the dead children had belonged to his sister, who was married to the store's owner.

More Reunion Information... Chimney Rock Park



Since the 1860's, **Chimney Rock** has been the talk of the **North Carolina Mountains**. Way before **Lake Lure** was formed, hardy explorers were finding ways to get to the top of the imposing monolith. Years ago, a shaft was blasted through **300,000** million year old rock, and an elevator was installed to speed you **265** feet to the top. Friday afternoon, **August 10th**, plan to join us on top of the world. The \$14 admission to the park is a small price to pay to do something that you've always wanted to do. Children are only \$7. **And the shopping in Chimney Rock Village...**



A Day at the Cotton Gin...



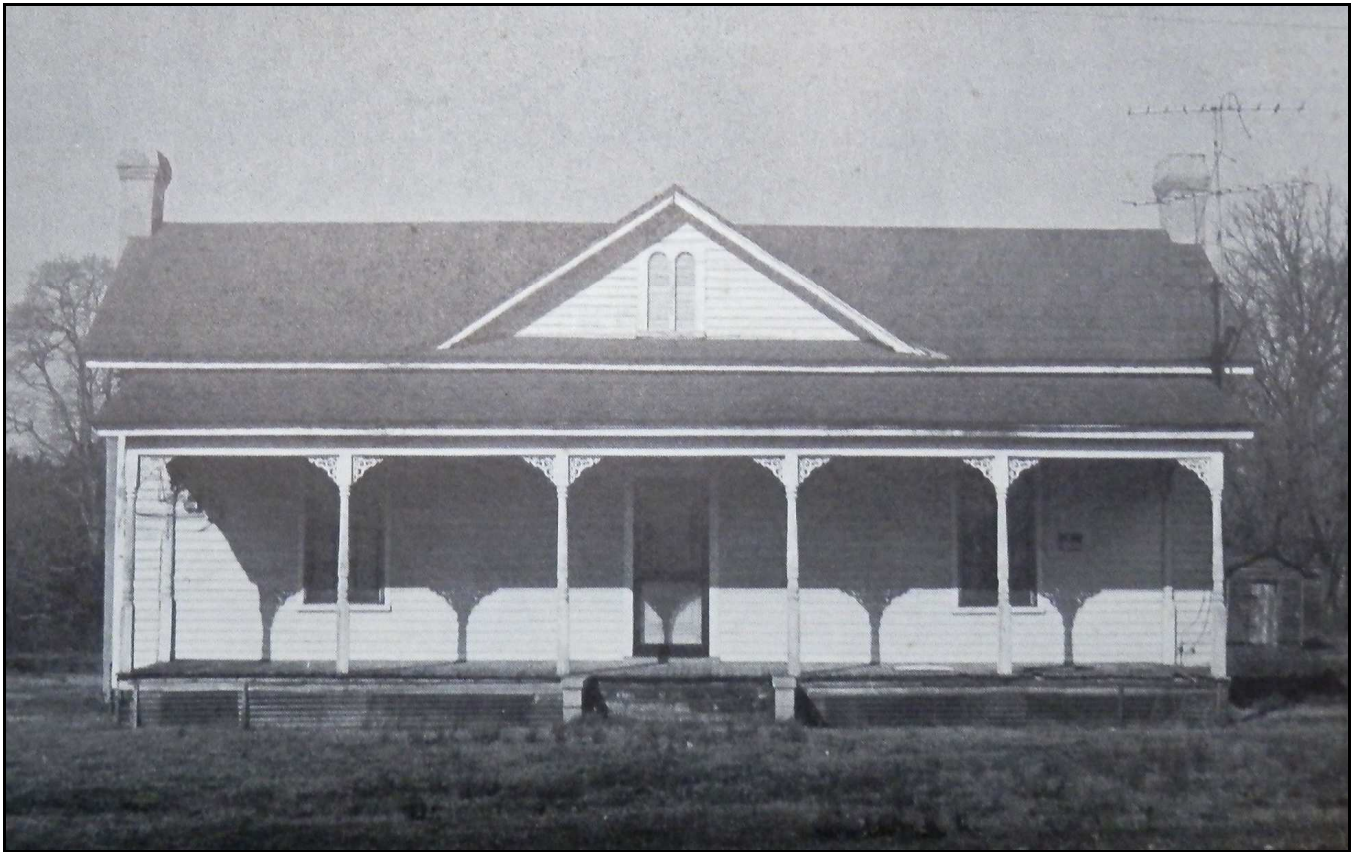
Wagons line up to have their cotton ginned in the early 19th century.

Because a picture is worth a thousand words, let's examine everything that is happening in this idealized painting. In North Carolina, from the late 18th until the middle 20th century, most everything that happened in a family was centered around growing cotton. After the invention of the cotton gin in 1796, cotton production, and the profits that were derived from it, increased geometrically. The mills in Europe demanded more and more, and then the industrial revolution in the American South meant that the cotton could be processed here, and sent directly to the hundreds of mills that had been built all over the emerging South.

Judging from the clothing worn by the women in this painting, the time period depicted is probably between 1830 and 1860. The scene is a day in late summer when the year's cotton crop needed to be ginned before being shipped to the mills. The large Conestoga wagon arriving at the gin house was most likely the same wagon the family had used to move from Pennsylvania, New Jersey, Maryland, and other northern states in search of a better life. Entire families would travel together to the gin, and would spend the entire day visiting with neighbors, and enjoying a carnival atmosphere rarely offered to them. Children would play together, and everyone would bring food to cook and share. Music would be played, and many times, preachers would circulate around the crowd, looking for more souls to save. The gin was water wheel driven, and there was a blacksmith and stables to take care of the many horses and mules. Tents were often pitched to provide shelter for overnight visitations, because many wagons were still waiting after the sun went down.

Eli Whitney (who died in 1825) could not have foreseen the ways in which his invention would change society for the worse. The most significant of these was the growth of slavery. While it was true that the cotton gin reduced the labor of removing seeds, it did not reduce the need for slaves to grow and pick the cotton. In fact, the opposite occurred. Cotton growing became so profitable for the planters that it greatly increased their demand for both land and slave labor. In 1790 there were six slave states; in 1860 there were 15. From 1790 until Congress banned the importation of slaves from Africa in 1808, Southerners imported 80,000 Africans. By 1860 approximately one in three Southerners was a slave.

The History of the “Carolina Porch”



One of the most enduring images of Southern small town life is the family sitting in porch swings and rockers on the front porch after supper, exchanging pleasantries with passersby. The “sitting porch” is an appendage no genteel house in the pre-World War I South would be caught without. The porch is perhaps the most valuable contribution to vernacular American domestic building. Vernacular architecture is a term used to categorize methods of construction which use locally available materials and traditions to address local needs. Although large homes of the Victorian period (1850-1910) had exuberant porches often wrapping around the house, the functional “sitting porch” occurs only on Southern houses, and only within a sub region of the South of which North Carolina is the northernmost state. South Carolina, Georgia, and parts of Alabama, make up the other states. Outside that area, houses tended to have only “stoops” (small entrance shelters). The presence of a porch is perhaps the most distinctive feature of Southern eighteenth century (1700’s) architecture, and the early North Carolina porch has a special significance as an expression of a climatic and cultural buffer element in the vernacular landscape. Outside of the Deep South, porches functioned primarily as decoration, and only secondarily as sitting areas. Prior to the Victorian era, the porch as a functioning sitting room between the indoors and outdoors, and as an exterior corridor between rooms, existed only in those regions of the United States with a subtropical climate. The porch as a functioning appendage, rather than a stylistic necessity, is one of the most fascinating elements of early Southern domestic architecture.

What was the origin of the Southern porch? We need only look much further south to the islands of the Bahamas, where early British and French colonists settled even before coming to the American South. The area traditionally defined as the “South” includes a sub region—a narrow coastal strip from North

Carolina to the Georgia-Florida border, and including the Sea Islands—which is decidedly Southern in flavor, but distinctively different culturally from the rest of the South. This area had a significant connection to the Bahamas, and was dominated then, as it is today, by the cities of Charleston and Savannah. The British brought their architecture of the “islands” with them to this narrow sub region, including the sitting porch, because it was a necessity in the hot, humid climate of the Gulfstream.



On the left is the house built by Washington Locke in Lesslie, South Carolina, in the 1870's, and on the right is a house from eastern North Carolina built at about the same time. Notice the similar porches, as well as the location of the chimneys, door, and two front windows.



On the left is the house built by Jefferson Locke near Chester, South Carolina in the 1880's, and on the right is the farmhouse where Mamie Locke and Hugh Boyce raised their eight children on a large farm between Monroe and Waxhaw, North Carolina. Notice the similarities to the houses above. The porch played a prominent role in all of these houses. By the way, all of these houses are still standing, although major remodeling took place on both houses on the left.

North Carolina occupies a unique buffer position where ecological and cultural elements of the Deep South and the Middle Atlantic states intermingle. The state marks the boundary between the upper reaches of subtropical plant and animal species and the lower reaches of temperate species. The greatest single influence on North Carolina's eighteenth century houses was the building tradition of the Upland South of which Virginia was a part. Yet the presence of the porch links the state with the Lowland (Deep) South. Thomas Waterman, a noted student of Southern architecture, states unequivocally that North Carolina is the northern terminus of the functional porch, and that there is an “almost complete lack of porches of the sort above the border.”



The house on the left gives a different angle so that the rear rooms are visible. The house on the right was the HELMS family house in Union County, N.C. in 1897.

When the porch arrived from The Bahamas and other West Indian islands, it was attached to an elevated house, with a sloped roof to disperse the frequent rains and shelter from the bright Sun. Once in Savannah and Charleston, it was merged with the popular classical revival style, giving it the ornamentation that would survive until today. Our ancestors most likely never realized that their porches were unique to the Deep South. Over the years, porches were added to the rear of houses, and once metal screening was perfected, the porch truly became an extra room for the house, keeping out the annoying insects that inhabited the swamps and low country.

A Letter from Dora Winchester Boyce

Dora is the widow of **William “Bill” Boyce**, who was one of five sons of **Mamie** and **Hugh Boyce**.



Dora at Reunion in 2010



Sons David and Tom

“Just some news from the Mamie Locke Boyce family. These first two are grandchildren of Bill and me. Katie Leigh Boyce, daughter of Tom and Fairy Boyce, married Tony Bryan Pressley on June 24, 2010, at Monroe Country Club. Tony was in a near fatal motorcycle accident a month after the wedding and was unable to walk for a year. He is working now in Monroe. Katie, a graduate of UNC-Charlotte, teaches for Head Start, and is working on her bachelor’s degree. Matthew Stuart Boyce, son of David and Tanya, married Diane Elizabeth Hollar, Oct. 1, 2011, at Siler Presbyterian Church. Both Diane and Matt are graduates of UNC-Charlotte. He works in air conditioning, and she teaches at Weddington Elementary school. Matt is also the step son of David’s second wife, Tammy. I pray you are well. We are all fine. Bill’s family has grown so that there are forty-two when we get together, which is often! Merry Christmas. Dora”

The Locke Family Scrolls

If you attended the reunion last August, you would have seen the brand new *Locke Family Scrolls* on the wall in the Great Room downstairs. They continue to be a work in progress, but I need your help. I'm still missing so many names and dates, and the only place where I can get them is from you. Also, I'm sure that some of the names are spelled wrong, and the birth and death dates may be incorrect. Please go to the Kodak photo site at the below address, and look at the pictures of the scrolls, and do your best to find your family, then write down all the names and dates that you would like to include, and e-mail them to me. Also, I need family photos. Scan the old ones that you have, and do the same for photos of new members of your family. I'll put them on the scrolls, and they will be ready for the reunion in August. With your help, these scrolls can be something to pass down to future generations.

http://www.kodakgallery.com/gallery/sharing/shareRedirectSwitchBoard.jsp?token=779520002507%3A692160279&sourceId=533754321803&cm_mmc=Share--Personal--shareCopyLink--Sharer--Top



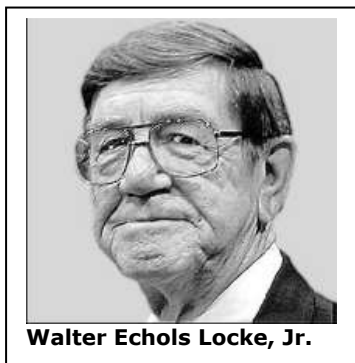
Much work has gone into these scrolls, and only with your help can they tell the real story of our Locke family and all the colorful people who made us what we are today! There are fifty close-up photos in the Kodak Gallery, so please click on the link above, download the photos of your family, then enlarge them so you can read the small print.

The Family of Thomas Jefferson Locke

When **Josias** and **William Locke** left Halifax County, North Carolina, just after 1800 to move their families to Chester County, South Carolina, they left behind both of their aging parents, **James and Susannah Green Locke**, as well as a younger brother, **Thomas**. Until this year, that brother's family had remained a mystery to us, but because of our contact with Donald Locke of Colorado, that family has been found. I was contacted in September by Patrick Allen "Pat" Locke (born 1958), the G-G-G-Grandson of **Thomas Jefferson Locke** (1765-1855), our distant Great Uncle. Pat is the youngest son of Walter Echols Locke, Jr. (1926-2006) and Emma Catherine White (b. 1929), and he has an older brother, Stephen Echols Locke (born 1952), and three sisters, Lisa Catherine (born 1955), Melinda Rhea (born 1956), and Mary Laurie (born 1959).

Their father was born in Hope, Arkansas, when their grandfather, Walter Echols Locke, Sr., was working as a civil engineer building roads and water treatment plants for the State of Arkansas. Walter, Sr. (1888-1974), had graduated from Vanderbilt University, where he was on the baseball and football teams. It is rumored that he rode with Poncho Villa before settling in Hope. He made his own corn liquor in his basement just three blocks from the house of Virginia Kelly, the mother of President Bill Clinton. Pat's father, Walter, Jr., became good friends with Virginia's brother.

You might have wondered how Walter, Sr. could afford to attend Vanderbilt, an expensive college in 1900. Walter was born in Columbus, Mississippi in 1888, where his father, Thomas Jefferson Locke III (1846-????) owned a dry goods store and a large farm. Before settling in eastern Mississippi, Thomas III had served the Confederacy in the Civil War, and had been captured in early 1865, and held at the infamous Point Lookout Federal Prison in Maryland. He was born in Halifax County in 1846 to Thomas Jefferson Locke, Jr. (born 1817 in Halifax Co.), the son of the original Thomas Jefferson Locke (born in 1765 in St. Mary's Co.) and his wife, Nancy Ann Nichols (born 1774 in Halifax Co.).



Pat's father, "Echols" Jr. (he used his middle name), had settled in Shreveport, Louisiana, after college, where he raised his family. He was a buyer of men's clothing at a major department store. Pat would have a career in the oil and gas business, and followed the money to Texas, where he is now retired. Pat's mom still resides in Shreveport, and his brother Steve lives in Houston. Lisa and her husband, Sam Birmingham, live in Benton, La., Melinda and her husband, Robert Tadlock, live in Lake Charles, La., and Laurie and her husband Tom Brummer live in Shreveport.

James Lock and his wife, **Susannah Green**, had moved to Halifax County, N.C., around 1770. They had come from St. Mary's County, Maryland, following James' brother, John, who had moved in 1767. Another brother, Philip, moved to nearby Stokes County, and raised his family there. Also moving along with his sons was a widowed James Hulse Lock, the son of our earliest known Locke ancestor in North America, Philip Lock, and his wife, Mary Hulse. James and Susannah (married around 1748) would have as many as eight children, all of them born in Maryland before the move. Their names were, William, Elizabeth, Polly, John, Thomas, Josias, and James, Jr. Another boy, Henry, was born in Halifax in 1781, and was probably a grandson to James and Susanna. At Susanna's death in 1822, she left her entire estate to Henry. James Hulse had passed around 1777, and his son James had died in 1816. We know that John, Thomas, and James, Jr. remained in Halifax and raised their families there. Elizabeth married a Carlisle man in Halifax. We don't have information on Polly.

Mementos from Mattie Locke and Lon Helms

While visiting with **Gladys Howell** this past fall, I discovered some **Helms** family treasures inside an old envelope that had belonged to her mother-in-law, **Mae Helms Howell**. Mae was the eldest daughter of **Mattie Locke** and **Lonnie Helms**. The items inside had been given to **Mae** in 1965 according to instructions from **Mattie** in her will. When **Mae** passed in 1986, the envelope was passed on to Mae's oldest son, **Glenn**, who **Gladys** had married. **Glenn** passed in 1995, and the envelope had languished in a drawer all these years. The items found inside will be passed to **Glenn** and **Gladys'** two sons, **Pat** and **Rick**, who both have families of their own. I took this opportunity to photograph the pieces, and wanted to share them with you.



Gold Class Pin-1918



Gold Cufflink with "L.H."



Gold Cufflink- "H"



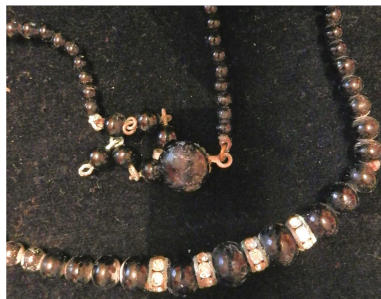
Velvet Box with Cufflinks



Lonnie's Silver Pocket Watch



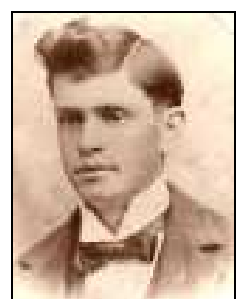
Mattie's Cameo



Mattie's Beads



Mattie at 17



Lonnie at 22

News from the Locke Family....

Mark and **Sherrie Ann Helms Kukulski** are expecting their first child in May. Sherrie is the younger daughter of Eddie Helms and the late Carol Slater Helms. Edd's dad was Walston Edd "Buddy" Helms, who was the youngest son of Mattie Locke Helms.



Helen Boyce Hendrix continues to improve from the effects of a stroke last spring. Helen is the daughter of Mamie Locke Boyce, daughter of Absalom Lewis Locke.



Patty Locke Pebley has finished her chemo treatments for cancer, and reports that she is feeling fine, and getting her strength back. Her sister, **Maydell Locke Thomas**, has been nursing to her son, Daniel, these last few months. Maydell tells me that he doesn't have long, so please keep Daniel, his wife, Irene, and their kids, Danielle and Eric, in your prayers. Patty and Maydell are daughters of Arthur Hayden Locke, whose ancestor was Jesse McCullough Locke.



Maydell and Patty's cousin, **Bill Locke** of Lubbock, Texas, is feeling much better after a pacemaker was inserted to regulate his heart. Bill's parents were Walter and Ruby Davis Locke. Walter was the son of Arthur Hayden Locke. Bill and Dorothy's granddaughter, **Madison**, just marched in the Tournament of Roses Parade in Pasadena with her high school band.

Betty McAuley Allred has completed her latest round of experimental chemo in an ongoing battle with cancer. She was driving from her home near Boone, North Carolina, to a hospital in Winston-Salem every Monday for those treatments. She reports that she is feeling good, and will continue to amaze the doctors in this years long struggle against the disease. Betty is the oldest daughter of Margaret Helms and Buck McAuley. Margaret was the younger daughter of Mattie Locke Helms.



Ray Howell and his wife **Bruce** have moved to their mountain home near Boone, N.C., permanently. You'll recall that Ray and Bruce were our hosts for the Locke Reunion from 2006 to 2009 at their farm in Huntersville, N.C. Let's wish them all the best as they face their first full winter along the creek. Ray is the younger son of Mae Helms Howell, and brother to Glenn.



I understand that **Irma Locke Fields** has moved into an assisted care apartment. At age 93, it's about time that she let someone else do most of the housework. We wish you all the best, Irma. She is the elder daughter of Furman Master Locke and his wife, Sue Winchester. Furman's father was Absalom Locke.



Charlie Winchester will celebrate his 94th birthday in February at his home in Matthews, N.C. At his side, as she has been for the last 71 years will be his lovely bride, **Myrtle Biggers Winchester**. Charlie is the younger son of Sadie Locke and Oscar Winchester. Sadie was Furman, Mattie, Mamie, and Walston's sister.



Finding the Wife of Our Ancestor, William

In 2010, thanks to the work of **Kristen Brown Mildenhall**, we learned that there were two **Stephen Lockes** who lived at the same time in *Chester County, South Carolina*. That discovery caused a total revamp of our family tree, and it presented us with an entirely new research challenge.

Because two brothers, **Josias** and **William Locke** had moved from *Halifax, N.C.* to *Chester County, S.C.* between 1800 and 1810, and because our family's *DNA* testing had already proven that the line through BOTH **Stephens** was an exact match, I knew that my NEW **Stephen** had to be the son of **William**, not the son of **Josias** as we had always accepted. Problem solved? Not so fast. We knew that **William** had to be our ancestor, but we had no information about his wife, or his actual family. All we knew is that **William** had been born around 1750, married and had a family while in *Halifax County, N.C.*, and appeared on the census logs for *Chester County, S.C.* in 1810. We had always known that our **Stephen** had married in *Chester County* in 1805, and died around 1817, leaving his wife, **Nancy Hines**, with six small children. The eldest son was named **Henry WILLIS**, and the other kids were **Theena, Martha, Nancy, Rebecca**, and **LEVI**, my direct ancestor. Throughout all of our research, the names **STEPHEN, WILLIS** and **LEVI** had never appeared before, and **LEVI** had named my great-grandfather **LEWIS**, another name that had never appeared. This was a mystery to us.

With the revelation of a second **Stephen**, my only hope was to search through marriage records in *Halifax County*, but so far, I haven't found a record of his marriage. When **Stephen's** grandparents passed away in *Halifax* in 1816 and 1823, the will failed to mention any of **William's** or **Josias'** family, but we know that some kind of schism had developed in the family, and all property was left to one 26 year old grandson named **Henry**, from another sibling. No help at all.

In those days, as you know, it was very common, and usually expected, that the mother's maiden name would be passed down through the male children, usually as the middle name. It still happens in our family today. First names of male children usually came from the first names of fathers, grandfathers, and great grandfathers.

Immediately I zeroed in on **HENRY WILLIS LOCKE** as my best chance to find William's wife's name. I already knew that **HENRY** was the first name of **Stephen's** great-grandfather, **Henry Green**, but **WILLIS** was the mystery. Also, the origin of **LEVI** and **STEPHEN** was still a mystery. Below is an excerpt from an article I wrote in a newsletter back in 2006. At the time, I was trying to find people along the *NC/VA* border in the *Halifax County* area who might have had names similar to those that were out of place in the **Locke** family. I was searching for the origin of the “**McCullough**” in **Jesse Locke's** middle name, and I was trying to find where that name might have come from. This is what my research found at that time:

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

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

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

I'm in contact with a man named *Paul Gilliland*, who is a direct descendant of a woman named *Susannah Garland Willis*. She was one of eight children of *Stephen Willis, Jr.*, who is referred to in the above except. She had married *Robert Gilliland* on *August 1, 1800* in *South Carolina*. Was *William Locke's* wife a sister to *Susannah Willis*? Was it the *Willis* family in *South Carolina* that caused *William* to move there with his family, and was the *Willis* family related to the *Locke* family in more ways than we thought possible? Might *Lewis Willis*, who lived in *Halifax* in 1780 to 1820, be the real key to this mystery? My great grandfather was *Absalom Lewis Locke*, and he went by the name, *Lewis*. He named one of his daughters, *Sadie Lewis Locke*. And there's still another coincidence. Evidence shows that *Stephen Willis, Sr.* ended up in *Rutherford County, North Carolina*, where he died and was buried. I currently live in *Rutherford County, North Carolina*. That's where our last two *Locke* reunions have been held. Is it possible that I would have moved to the very place where one of my direct ancestors lived and died? As they say in television land, "Stay tuned!"

More 2011 Reunion Photos



The weekend began with a boat tour of beautiful Lake Lure. Look what you missed!



Friday's dinner was at the Lakeview Restaurant.



Jerry Locke brought the tent.



As usual, we had more food than we could eat.



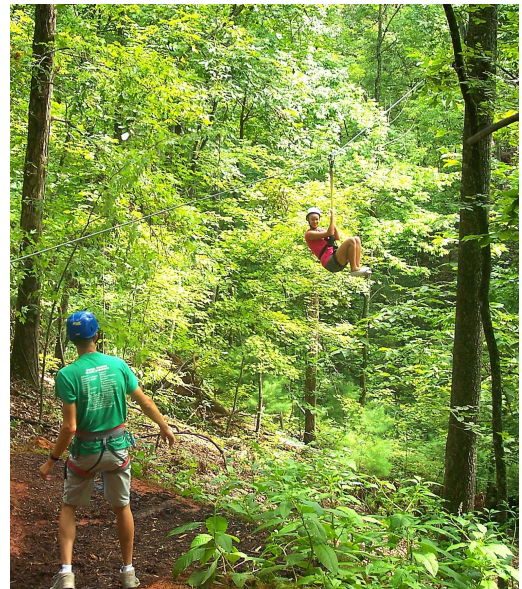
The Southern delicacies sure were good!



On Sunday we went Zip Lining. Vann, Tim, Ted, Donna, Bobbye, Debra, Shelby, and Erin.



Sunday lunch was at Bayfront Grill on Lake Lure.



Shelby Parker floats in the trees.



Gladys Howell



Clark Mildenhall



Charlie and Cheryl

This year, the historic *Lake Lure Inn* will be our Friday destination for dinner.



The Lake Lure Inn and Spa