

The Locke Family Newsletter

Publisher Vann Helms Mountainvann@gmail.com Volume No. 7 Issue No. 4 July, 2012

If You Plan to Attend the Friday Night Dinner...

Because I need to let the **Lake Lure Inn** known how many people will be joining them for our Friday evening dinner, you need to let me know if you will be attending. As you know, our **Locke Reunions** have never asked for an R.S.V.P, but when it comes to something like a sit down dinner, you need to make a reservation. Right now, we're aiming at 7 p.m. on August 10th, with the *Haunted Hotel Tour* happening after we eat. Plan to meet at the hotel by 3 p.m. so we can tour **Chimney Rock Park**.

Mountainvann@Gmail.com

The hotel will honor our special rate as long as rooms remain available, but the block of rooms that has been set aside for Friday and Saturday night will be released after **July 10th**. The hotel information is in the last newsletter. A map for the hotel is on the back page of this newsletter.

My other suggestions for places to stay include the **Villas at Apple Valley Resort** (So beautiful...) 828-694-3000, the **Hampton Inn** on I-40, 828-652-5100, and the **Days Inn**, also on I-40, 828-659-2567. All of these fine hotels are within 20 minutes of the house. Of course, for ya'll who live within 150 miles, it's an easy day trip to come up for the Saturday lunch at 1 p.m., and still be home before dark.



Sunset over **Lake Lure** can take your breath away...

Saturday's Lunch Will Be Memorable on August 11th...

What makes our reunion so special is the wide variety of Southern and family dishes that everyone brings. This year, you'll have your choice of two different cobblers for dessert.



Handpicked Blackberry, and Grandma's juicy peach with homemade vanilla ice cream.....



This year, I'll be baking up a mess of Vidalia onions loaded with Morel Mushroom butter. This one, you can't resist!



2012 will see the return of my **Buttermilk Fried and Baked Chicken** from the 2010 reunion. This time, I'll remember the tin foil in the oven so we won't have to call the fire department.

Christopher and Adair Locke Welcome Abram...

Robert and Nancy Locke of Kingsport, Tennessee, added a grandson to the family when Abram Grant Locke was born to Robert's son, Christopher and his wife, Adair, on December 27, 2011 in Winston-Salem. Abram joins his big sisters, Lauren and Erin, and from the photos below, they are obviously quite happy about that. Robert descends from Jesse McCullough Locke through Jesse's son James Henry. Robert's dad was Robert Lee Locke (1919-1996), and his granddad was Judson Adoniram "Jake" Locke (1881-1966).



Alto, and brother, Robert Lee Locke



Lauren, Adair, Chris, and Erin with Abram



Judson "Jake"



Abram Grant Locke



Abram, Erin Christine, and Lauren Grace

The Family of Robert Owen Thompson

Born from an ill fated relationship between **Benjamin M. Locke** and the African-American cook in the **Jesse Culp Locke** household, **Owen Thompson** was always recognized by Benjamin as his own. Owen's half brother, Robert Locke, who would go on to become an Alabama state representative and successful businessman, always kept in touch with his older brother, even though the two could not be raised in the same household. Recently, descendants of Owen Thompson gathered in Ohio for their family reunion. Owen's grandson, **Burnice Harris** of Mobile, sent these photos from that gathering. Burnice's Uncle Ed had earlier contributed his DNA to confirm the Locke connection of Burnice's grandfather, Owen, to the **Jesse McCullough Locke** line.



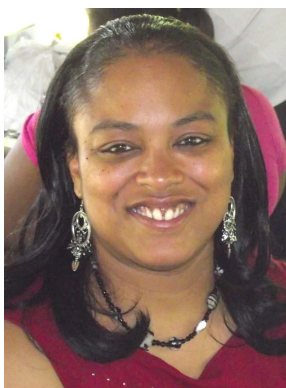
Ray Harris and brother Burnice...



Taylor Holoway and son, Andrew



Jimmie Thompson



Uncle Edward Thompson, DNA donor

Thompson family oral history speaks of a family named "Slader" who raised Owen. It also speaks of a horrible fate that befell Owen's mother after she gave birth to Owen. According to tales that were passed down, she was torn apart by horses when ropes were attached to her arms and legs. Would Jesse Culp Locke have allowed this to happen?

One of the Earliest Lockes in South Carolina

Near the border of North and South Carolina, east of **Rock Hill**, and south of **Charlotte**, is the **Olde Waxhaw Presbyterian Church**. As one of the oldest churches in the entire area, its cemetery is especially historic. **Andrew Jackson** was baptized in the original church, and his father and mother are buried there. **William Richardson Davie**, one of North Carolina's greatest statesmen, **Revolutionary War** general and hero, and founder of the **University of North Carolina**, is buried there along with most of his family. Builders of the nearby **Landsford Canal** are buried inside of an enclosure built using the same old world stone craftsmanship that was used to build the locks and bridges of the canal. The church and cemetery are both on the *National Register of Historic Places*.

In the center of the cemetery is a well carved headstone that marks the grave of a woman who was one of the early **Locke** descendants to live in **South Carolina**.



Ann Beard Phifer, the daughter of **Elizabeth Locke** and **Col. Martin Phifer, Jr.** who was a proven patriot during the Revolutionary War, and the wife of **John Crawford**, was born on March 8, 1788, and died on July 1, 1855. When Gen. George Washington made his Southern Tour, he stayed at "Cold Water", the home of Col. Martin Phifer. Martin Phifer's brother, John, was a signer of the Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence in 1775. In 1834, the year of husband John Crawford's death, Ann bought a small Federal cottage in Lancaster, South Carolina, and enlarged it, naming it **Kilburnie**, after John Crawford's ancestral Scottish home. Today it still stands as the oldest dwelling in Lancaster County. (See photos)

Most likely, Ann's mother, Elizabeth Locke, was from the Locke family who lived near Salisbury, North Carolina. Her father might have been Captain Matthew Locke, who would become a patriot during the American Revolution.



Kilburnie House 1869



Kilburnie House 2012

Martin Phifer, Jr., and Elizabeth Locke

In doing research for the preceding article about Ann Phifer, I came across this family history of Ann's parents, Martin and Elizabeth Locke Phifer of Cabarrus County, North Carolina. Even though we are not directly related to this family, the account was so interesting that I wanted to reprint it here for your enjoyment. It was originally written in 1883 by Charles H. Phifer, and was first published in Charlotte by George E. Wilson in 1910. Nothing has been changed. It's quite a piece of regional history for us all.

Martin Phifer, Jr., the third child of Martin Phifer, .Sr., was born at his father's house, "Cold Water," March 25, 1756. He was educated at the same school with his two brothers, John and Caleb. After his education was finished, he remained at home and assisted his father about the farm. On November the 5, 1778, he married Elizabeth Locke, and took her to his father's house. The war of Independence had now begun, and he enlisted as a private soldier in America's cause. Here he soon gained distinction as a good and brave soldier, and in time was appointed Colonel of a Regiment of Horse, with his headquarters at Philadelphia. His duties, which were to carry orders to the "Army of the South," subjected him to many dangers and privations. Notwithstanding all this, he filled the position with honor and fidelity, and was many times complimented for his bravery.

When America came joyfully from the embrace of her unnatural mother, England, Martin returned home with glory on his name.

His father being one of the executors of the will of his son John, he sent Martin to take care of the estate and children of John. To the house of his brother John he moved with his family, and for many years kept a public house. Far and near his table was known; he, being a great hunter, kept it well supplied with deer and other game, with which the forest then abounded.

While here (it is a tradition in the Phifer family), when Washington made his tour South, he was the private guest of Martin for 'one night and part of the day. His

wife, Elizabeth, made great preparation for the great man's coming, and was sorely disappointed when she found her distinguished guest so simple in his diet. Before the death of his father he moved back to "Cold Water," and lived with his father until his father's death. Here he built the house that now stands on the hill, and distanced from the old house a short way. It is a plain log house, weatherboarded, two stories high, with the same little windows and large open fireplace, after the architecture of that day.



The old locust trees that he planted, which have stood the storms of many winters, still stand. Their great st'out branches are now covered with long moss, and silently they keep watch over "the old house" nearly one hundred years old.

It is related of him, that on his marriage to Elizabeth Locke, at her father's house, in Rowan County, they were married in the open air, on a table under a large oak tree. This was done so that the immense crowd could get a good view of them. This proceeding he was sensitive about, and when joked about it, said: " 'Twas done to please one of the Locke's."

The last twenty years of his life he suffered very greatly from the disease of stricture.

During his last days he went to live with his son, John, at the "Black Jacks." Here he died from the disease of stricture on November 12, 1837, at 9 o'clock in the morning, and is buried at the family graveyard.

In personal appearance Martin had much to be admired. He was six feet in height, of great strength and vigor. His complexion was ruddy and bright, animated and inviting. His hair he always wore brushed back, and in middle life, as it was turning gray, with his firm step, large and well built form, he was a fine specimen of a man; and was considered the best looking of his father's children, and the handsomest man in all that part of the country. Of his domestic character, frugality was not a part of it, and on the reception of his friends, his house was open to all. His liberality to the poor was well known, and to his children he was liberal, both in fortune and opinion, sometimes criticising their short-comings. Of his moral character, nothing can be found, but purity and excellence. He was not given to display, but led a quiet, unassuming life. His honesty was great, which can best be shown by the following incident :

During the war of Independence he loaned a soldier from Tennessee a sum of money. Some time after he met some one going there, and requested him to collect the debt. On this person's arrival at the house of the soldier he found the soldier had no money, but took in payment of the debt a land warrant for three hundred and more acres of land. Martin remarked: "This is too much for the debt, and I will have nothing to do with it," and in after life when asked about it, said he would so fix it in his will that none of his children should inherit this property. The deed for the land is now in possession *of the family, but not the land. An anecdote to illustrate another part of his character is, that while attending the court at Charlotte, he was asked by some one for a chew of tobacco, and as he handed the box to the person, Charles Polk, nicknamed Devil Charley, put his fingers in the box and remarked he thought it was "saur kraut," whereupon Martin knocked him down.

In politics he was a Whig. In religion he was a Protestant of the Lutheran denomination.

Of his fortune, part he inherited from his father, but the greater part he accumulated by the trade of a "mill wright," being regarded as the most skillful in that trade of any one in that country. Most of his property was in land, having at least thirty thousand acres, most of which lay in this county, some in the western part of the State, and five thousand acres in Tennessee. The number of slaves he had is not known.

The following passage occurs in his will, now on file in Cabarrus County Court: "I will that seventy dollars be left in trust with my executors for the servant boys John and Bob, as a compensation for their great fidelity to me, \$35 for Bob, \$45 for John. It is my will that my negro boy John shall serve my son John, but serve no further, and not to be hired out, and that my son John shall provide an easy and comfortable living for said negro in compensation for his kindness and fidelity to myself." He appoints his son John, and his two sons-in-law, James Erwin and John Crawford, executors to his last will and testament

His wife, Elizabeth Locke, was descended from one of the best families in the land. She was born December 22, 1758, at her father's house, in Rowan county, four miles to the west of the town of Salisbury. She was well educated and considered very smart, which, together with her general disposition and ingenuity, gained for her many admirers. She died early in life, at the age of 33 years, being on a visit to Caleb Phifer. She became suddenly sick, and after a short illness died of cholera morbus, June 1, 1791, at his house. She was buried at the family graveyard, next to the grave of John Phifer. Beside the grave of Elizabeth Phifer, Martin Phifer, Jr., is buried. A plain slab of soap stone marks their grave.

From **Rutherfordton**, take Hwy 64/74A toward **Lake Lure/Chimney Rock**. From **I-26**, take **NC 108** to **Mill Spring**, then north on **NC 9** to the Lake. Turn left onto **U.S. 64**, and drive about 3 miles to the hotel. For your **GPS**, the address is:

2771 Memorial Highway Lake Lure, N.C.



Vann's House



Lake Lure Inn and Spa

