

# The Locke Family Newsletter

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Hollie and Derek take their vows...



Tiffany Howell and Heather Isales Howell

## *Hollie Howell Marries Derek Starnes*

**Hollie Elizabeth Howell** is the younger daughter of **Patrick** and **Kathy Howell**. Her *great-great grandmother* was **Mattie Locke Helms**. On Sunday, September 29<sup>th</sup>, 2013, **Hollie** was married to **Derek Shea Starnes** in a twilight ceremony inside a granite quarry just east of **Mooreville, North Carolina**. Hollie's *great grandparents* were **John** and **Mae Helms Howell**, and her *grandfather* was the late **John Glenn Howell, Jr.** In addition to Hollie's proud parents, in attendance were her *grandmother*, **Gladys Hucks Howell**, her *sister* and *brother-in-law*, **Heather** and **Ray Isales**, her *uncle* and *aunt*, **Rick** and **Sherrie Howell**, her *cousins*, **Dustin** and **Tiffany Howell**, her *niece* and *nephew*, **Elizabeth** and **Ethan Isales**, and her *great-uncle* and *aunt*, **Ray** and **Bruce Davis Howell**. The happy newlyweds will live near **Hickory, North Carolina**.



The ceremony with Groomsmen...



With dad, Pat...



With mom, Kathy...



Niece Elizabeth



Nephew Ethan



Pat and Uncle Rick



Grandma Gladys



Sister Heather

# A Very Successful Locke Reunion

After many fits and starts, this year's Locke Reunion almost didn't happen, but when all was said and done, it was our most successful reunion in years. Over sixty Locke descendants converged on the Landsford Canal State Park on Saturday, August 10<sup>th</sup>, and they brought delicious family delicacies, and a burning desire to be a part of something very special. Raindrops were not to be found, and there were no bugs under the shade of large pines and oaks. For the middle of August, even the temperature cooperated, and the lazy flow of the historic Catawba River just added to the ambiance of a day where gentle breezes blew, and ice tea was in large supply.

People came from as far away as Grand Junction, Colorado, and we had four family members over the age of 90. That's quite a testament to the dedication and resilience of a strong set of genes. The Ballard family took the award as the largest single contingent, with thirteen members coming from five states. It was great to see Earnest Ballard, at the age of 92, fly all the way from Grand Junction to Charlotte to be a part of something special. His brother John from Charleston, and the kids of Irene Ballard Dent, all had their own reunion within a reunion. We had Savannah Leigh Ann Ginder, the three month old Great-great-great granddaughter of Mattie Locke Helms, as our youngest attendee, and Charlie Locke Winchester at a healthy 95, was honored once more as the oldest Locke to attend. His mother was Sadie Lewis Locke Winchester, the sister of Mattie Locke Helms. In addition to Earnest and Charlie, we had Charlie's lovely wife, Myrtle, at 94, Robert Franklin Carter at 90 with his daughter Penny, and seven people in their eighties. A very spry Nancy Locke, long an avid supporter of these reunions, came with her son, Steven.

Perhaps the biggest surprise was the number of children who came. It was the most we've had in the eight years that I've been organizing these events. They played and laughed and ate like there was no tomorrow. How satisfying. And when yours truly and Steven Locke started throwing the Frisbee, kids came from every direction to join in. That sure was a lot of fun, unless you were Earnest Ballard, whose head got in the way of an errant throw. He laughed it off, and was none the worse for wear.

The Locke Family Scrolls were displayed for the entire length of the porch on the historic log home overlooking the park. A very helpful park ranger who grew up nearby was a fountain of information, and shared stories from the "Land of the Lockes". People brought vintage family photos, and recent pictures of people who couldn't make it this year. Later in the afternoon, we took a driving tour of the area where the original Lockes homesteaded in Chester County, stopping at Harmony Baptist Church, and Edgemoor, where the Lockes lived and worked. We also visited Neeley's Creek A.R.P. Church cemetery, and Cawtaba Baptist cemetery.

Of course, the best part, as always, was the great food that everyone brought. Especially popular was the dessert table, with peach and blackberry cobblers, and Gladys Howell's special Pound Cake. Unfortunately the ice cream melted before we could eat it, but after the wonderful variety of family goodies, it didn't really matter.

Right after the reunion, I sent out a collection of photos that I had made during the course of the day, but one of our cousins, Mike Bunch of Knoxville, made a great set of pictures that I will include in this newsletter. I'm not going to identify everyone in all the photos, but if you need to know who someone is, just write me, and I'll do my best to come up with a name. Thank you again to everyone who helped to make this reunion such a success, and with this kind of enthusiasm, we'll be having these reunions for many more years to come.







And just a few from my original collection.....



# The Incredible Winchester Family

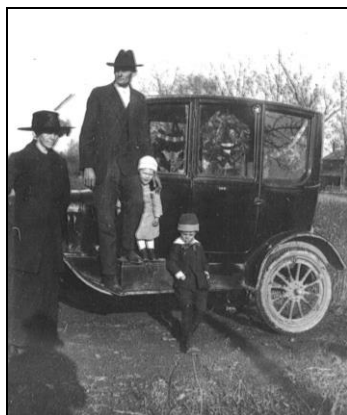


In 1941 when Myrtle Mae Biggers agreed to marry a young and brash Charles Locke Winchester, they had no idea that 72 years later, they would be posing with 31 men and women, boys and girls, who would not be in this world if it weren't for that marriage. Earlier this year, Charlie celebrated his 95<sup>th</sup> birthday (same age as Rev. Billy Graham), and his lovely bride Myrtle turned 93. On July 21, in front of the historic Arbor at Pleasant Grove Campground in Mineral Springs, North Carolina, that was founded by Charlie's Great Grandfather, the entire Winchester family gathered for this amazing portrait. Myrtle and Charlie had four children by 1954. They are Cheryl, Karen, Myra, and Chuck, standing behind their parents in the photo. Radiating out from those six are twenty-seven husbands, wives, grandchildren, and great grandchildren.

Charlie was the younger son of Oscar and Sadie Locke Winchester. Sadie was the daughter of Absalom Lewis and Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Campbell of Lesslie, South Carolina. Lewis was the son of Levi and Malinda Shurley Locke of the Catawba Indian Territory in York District, South Carolina. Levi was the son of Stephen and Nancy Hines Locke of Halifax District, North Carolina, and Chester County. The Locke Reunion was held this year just a few miles from the Chester County farm where Stephen and Nancy raised their family. How proud all of these ancestors would be to know that their descendants produced such an incredible family in the 21<sup>st</sup> century.



Lewis and Lizzie Locke



Sadie, Oscar, Charles, Orrin



Oscar and Sadie in 1946 (back row, center)

# Lonnie Wade and Vicki Stein Helms Family in Florida

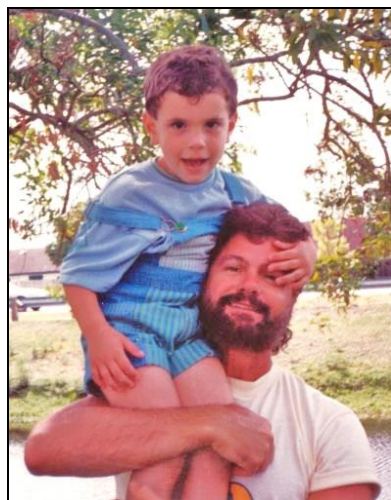


**David Andrew with wife Stephanie, Wade, Vicki, Matthew Ryan, and Shayna at Disneyworld 2013**

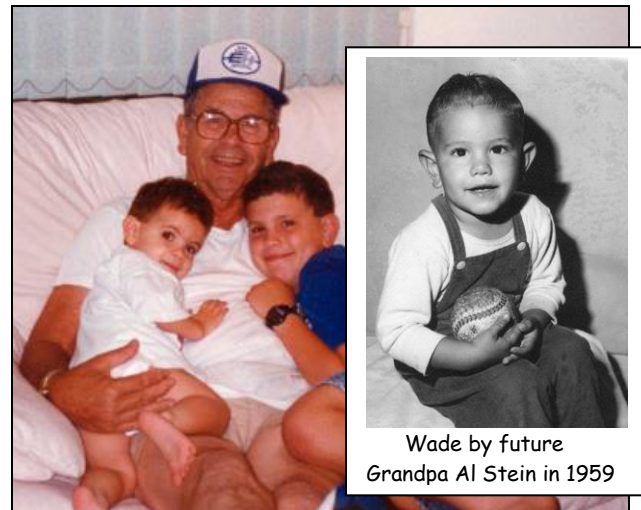
Lonnie Wade Helms was born in Charlotte, North Carolina, in 1957 on his Grandpa Helms' 81<sup>st</sup> birthday. His parents were Walston Edd "Buddy" and Virginia Ratcliffe Helms. Buddy was the son of Lonnie Wilson and Mattie Hope Locke Helms. In 1958, when Wade was only 7 months old, the Helms family, including brothers Eddie and Vann, and sister, Nancy, moved to Miami, Florida. When Wade was barely two, a door to door photographer took pictures of little Wade. Years later, Wade met Vicki Stein in high school, and they were married shortly after graduating from Florida State University in 1980. Wade and Vicki had David in 1987, and Matt in 1994. David and Stephanie were married in 2010 in Miami after graduating from the University of Central Florida, and they are expecting their first child, a boy, in January. Matt is a sophomore at Central Florida, and is a championship "Ultimate" Frisbee player. And remember that photo session with the door to door photographer? Turns out he was Vicki's dad, Al. It really is a small world. Albee and Vicki's mom, Reenie, live just a few blocks from Wade and Vicki in Ft. Lauderdale. Wade is the owner and President of Edd Helms Electric and Air Conditioning in Miami, and Vicki teaches high school English. David works for his dad, and Stephanie teaches at the same high school as Vicki.



Locke and Verla Boyce at the wedding...



David and Uncle Vann in 1991



Wade by future Grandpa Al Stein in 1959

Matt and David with "Pop Pop" Buddy Helms in 1995

# The Descendants of John Coffee Hays Locke

If you had been alive in the American South in the 1850's, you would have heard the legend of **John Coffee "Jack" Hays**. He was a true American hero, who gained stardom as a relentless member of the Texas Rangers, and as a decorated hero in the Mexican War. He single handedly captured one of the most ruthless of the Mexican generals, and led his men all the way to Mexico City. Eventually he went west to California during the Gold Rush of 1849, and founded the town of Oakland after he had served as the Sheriff of San Francisco.

In those days it was considered a mark of respect if you named one of your sons after any of these well known celebrities, and when **Jesse Culp Locke** and **Elizabeth Frances Rogers** finally had a son, they named him after **John Coffee Hays**, hoping that he would grow up to be half as tough and half as brave as the real deal. Unfortunately, John's mother would only live for four months after he was born, so raising this infant and his three older sisters would fall into the lap of Jesse's second wife, **Margaret Fletcher Davis**, a sixteen year old Macon, Georgia girl, who he married just over a year after Elizabeth died. Margaret was nineteen years younger than Jesse. Not only would she raise Jesse's four young children, but she would have nine children of her own. During that time the family moved from Tennessee, where Jesse's father, **Jesse McCullough Locke**, had brought them when they moved from Chester District, South Carolina, in 1831, to **Clarke County, Mississippi**. Their first four children were born in Mississippi, three of them while Jesse was serving the Confederacy during the War of Southern Secession. After the war, the Lockes moved east to **Choctaw County, Alabama**. Little John was just twelve years old.

Over the next twelve years, Margaret and Jesse would have five more children, but **John Coffee Hays Locke** didn't hang around that long. Around 1877, he would move to **Ashley County, Arkansas**, and there he would marry **Cynthia Boomer** in 1880. The next year, their first daughter was born, and just over a year later, **James Buchanan Locke** was born. Over the next twenty-two years, John and "Sinthy" would have seven more children, but James Buchanan didn't stay at home that long. In 1904 he married **Minia "Mimmie" Pennington**, and their daughter, **Bertie**, was born five years later. Mimmie would have three more kids, but during the influenza epidemic of 1918, after John had just lost his mother, Cynthia, **Mimmie** would also die, along with two of her infant children. It would take four years to find a mother for his children, but in 1922, he married **Alice McClain**, and they would have two more children by 1925. Their son, **James Aubrey**, was born in 1923, and their daughter, **Cynthia Mae**, called "Sis", was born in 1925. **James Buchanan Locke** would die prematurely in 1941 when **James Aubrey** was just eighteen, and with the War breaking out that December, "**Jim**" would join the Navy, and become a fighter pilot in the Pacific theatre.

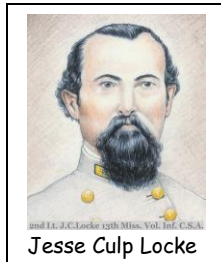
After the Japanese surrender, Jim would finally marry his sweetheart, **Sarah "Myrtice"** in 1947 and they would welcome **Bonnie** into their life in 1948. Six years later, while living in Charlotte, their second daughter, **Shirley**, was born. It was **Shirley Locke Campbell** who contacted me about her Locke ancestors back in September, and since then she has graciously shared the history of her family, along with a treasure trove of photographs and documents. Shirley and her sister were raised in St. Petersburg, where her parents, Jim and Myrtice, remained for the rest of their lives. Jim passed in 1998, and Myrtice in 2006. Shirley's Aunt "Sis", as she was always called, passed away in Charleston, South Carolina just this past April, at age 88.



Shirley found these old photos in the family collection, but she is not sure who is in them, or where they were made. Most likely, both photos were made in Ashley County, Arkansas, where John Coffee Hays Locke raised his family, and where he is buried. The photo on the left is believed to be the Locke family in front of their homestead around 1900. That may be John C. H. Locke with the beard. The other photo is a combination of the Locke, Ellingburg, and Morgan family members made around 1920, also in Arkansas. If anyone can help Shirley identify any of these people, please let me know, and I'll pass the information on to her.



James Buchanan and "Mimmie"- '06



Jesse Culp Locke



James B. in 1929



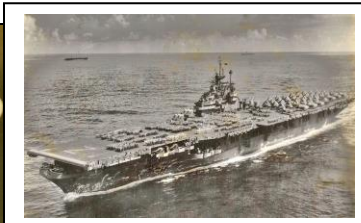
"Sis", James B., Bertie, and James Aubrey 1937



Uncle "Nat", James B.'s half brother



James Aubrey Locke



U.S.S. Shangri-La



Jim and his fighter plane

AUGUST 1945					
Date	Type of Machine	Number of Machine	Duration of Flight	Character of Flight	Pilot
2	SB2C-4E	20804	4.0	ASP	SELF
9 AM.	"	65237	4.8	G	"
9 PM.	"	20156	4.0	G	"
10	"	65187	4.3	G	"
13	"	65237	4.3	G	"
15	JAPAN SURRENDERS				
20	SB2C-4E	65003	1.0	M	SELF

Jim's Pilot log showing Japanese Surrender



Jim and Myrtice 1947



Top left: Lois Locke Jones, daughter of John C.H. Locke 1976



S.D. "Bud" Locke, Jim's half bro. 1960

*Picture from Union paper*

### Bosun's Chair Fall Kills Member at Sea

To The PILOT, Oct. 5—We regret to inform the membership of the tragic death of Samuel D. Locke at sea while painting the mast on the SS Hans Isbrandtsen en route to Karachi, Pakistan on Sept. 15, 1945.

Dvo. Locke was in a bosun chair aloft when the line broke. He was critically injured and died of his injuries 7 hours and 25 minutes later.

The body was taken ashore in Karachi, embalmed, and sealed. The remains were brought back on board and will stay until arrival in the States, about the first week in November in the New York area.

S. D. LOCKE



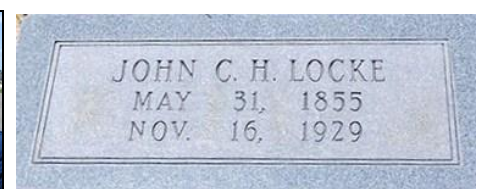
Jim and Myrtice



Marker in St. Petersburg, Fla.

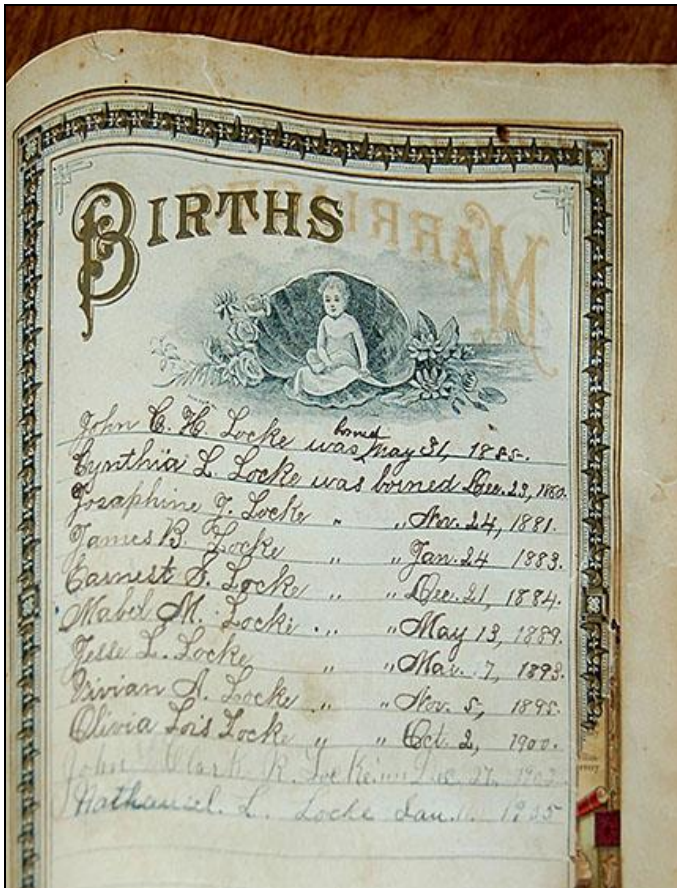


Shirley and Bob Campbell

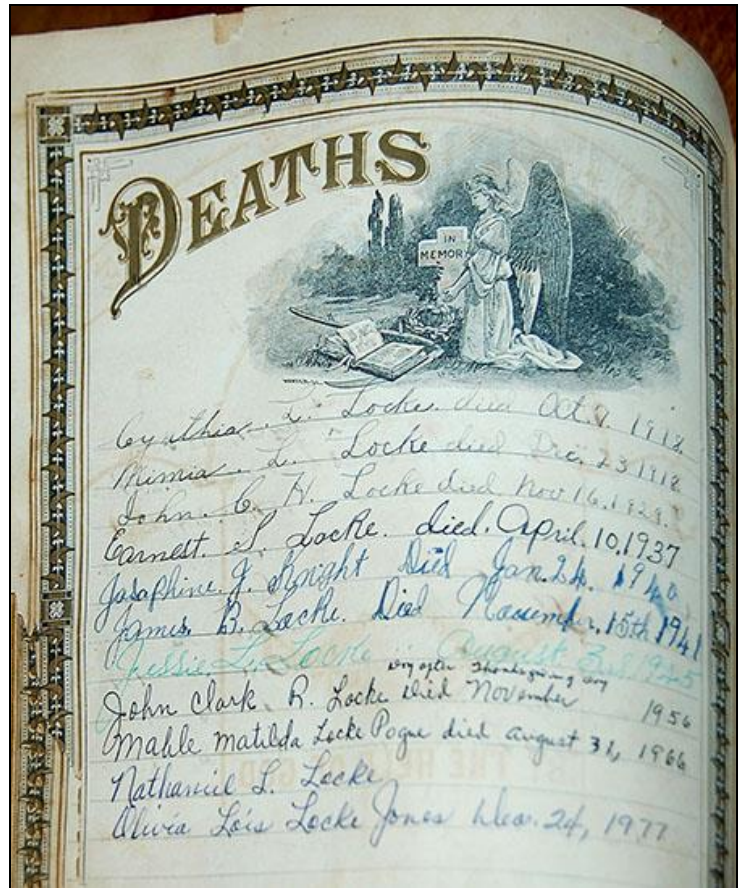


Marker in Ashley County, Arkansas

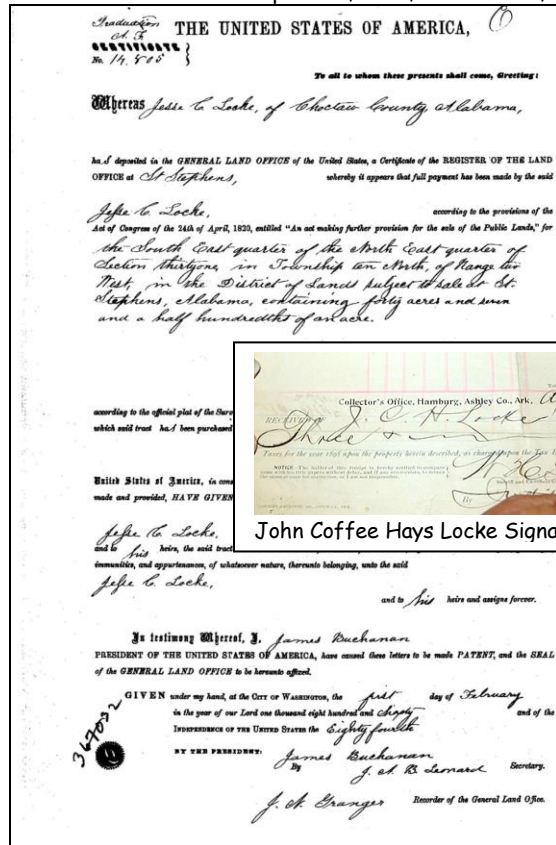




Family Bible of John Coffee Hays and Cynthia Boomer Locke



Land Grant to Jesse Culp Locke, 1860, Choctaw Co., Alabama



## Grandchildren of Henry Jefferson and Annie Simpson Locke



Sometime around 1947, at the Locke family home in Chester County, South Carolina, a number of young people gathered for a group portrait. All of them were grandchildren of Henry Jefferson "Jeff" Locke and his wife Annie Simpson Locke. Their great-grandfather was Josiah Henry Locke, who was killed at Petersburg, Virginia during the Civil War. Their parents were John Franklin Locke, Joseph Green Locke, Dorothy Jane Locke Carter, Carrie Henrietta Locke Gwinn, and Annie Belle Locke. Although I can't identify each one specifically, I'll tell you the ones I know, and the names of most of the others. The tall guy in the back row is Wofford Locke. The guy to his right is Mark Twain Gwinn. The handsome young man on the far left of the top row is Dewey Locke. Vivian Locke is the girl just in front of him. Louise Haynes is above Vivian's left shoulder. Annie Henry Carter is just in front of Louise. Sandra Cherry Locke is between Mark and Wofford. Sarah Anne Locke is in front of Sandra. Jimmy Boulware is the kid in the striped shirt. Jerry Locke is the little guy in the white shorts. One of the young ladies is Ginny Vermillion, but I don't have the names of the other grandchildren.



Original Locke Homestead in Chester County



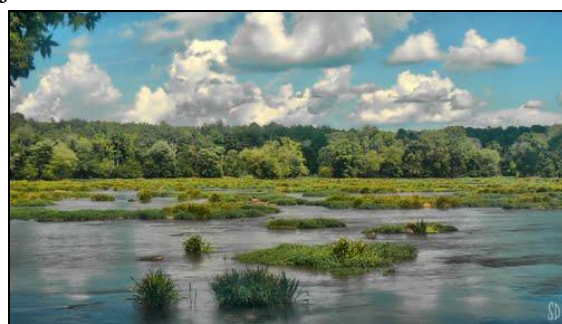
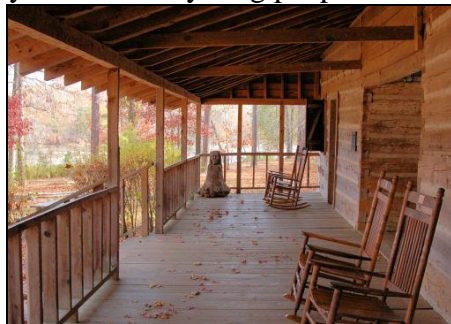
"Jeff" and Annie



Locke Reunion at Homeplace- 1946

# The Locke Reunion for 2014

It's time to mark those calendars for next year's reunion. It will still be held on the second Saturday in August, which will be August 9<sup>th</sup> next year. We will once again meet at Landsford Canal State Park along the Catawba River. The major change will involve the physical location within the park. This past August, we reserved the picnic pavilion, which turned out to be too small to accommodate everyone who came. Just up the hill from that shelter is the historic log house where the Locke Family Scrolls were displayed. This year, we will reserve that house for our family, and will be able to use the two large downstairs rooms for those who prefer to be in a cooler place. Although the house is not air-conditioned, the inside rooms retain the coolness from the night before. Even when the sun is the hottest, those rooms remain at 78 degrees. They have large tables and a collection of chairs. This is good for two reasons. First, we'll all be able to have a place to escape if summer rains arrive, and second, we'll have a comfortable place for those who are susceptible to seasonal heat and insects. The best part will be the large front porch with its rocking chairs, and plenty of space for our own chairs. Because we had not reserved the house this past August, other park visitors were free to use the porch. The breezeway between the separate rooms will be the perfect place for us to set up our iced tea station and perhaps our dessert table. We will still be able to use all the picnic tables in the park, and the play area for the young people will be just a short distance down the hill.



## Descendants of Judson Lafayette, son of James Henry Locke



James Henry



Judson Lafayette



L to R: Aubrey Lee Bunch, Jr., Jaqueline Bunch Bazzell, Amy Merle Cockroft Bunch, Aubrey Lee Bunch, Sr., Michael Canovah Bunch, Sr., Charles Ray Bunch, Sr.

Michael C. Bunch in white sweater. Clockwise from top left, Gregory Alan Bunch, Michael C. Bunch, Jr., Karen Dulaney Bunch, Cooper Canovah Bunch, Mary Emma Hern Bunch, Michael Taylor Bunch.

Judson Lafayette (1856-1919) and Sallie McKenzie Locke had a daughter named Rosa Lena (1886-1915), who married a Bunch man in Chicora, Mississippi. Rosa Lena had a son named Aubrey Lee Bunch. Aubrey married Amy Merle Cockroft, and they had four children. The middle son, Michael, was raised in Panama City, Florida. He married Mary Emma Hern, and they raised three children in Knoxville.

# More Locke Family News...

**Savannah Leigh Ann Ginder-** Born on May 3, 2013, to Ryan and Tracy Fox Ginder. Tracy's mother is Deborah Brotherton Fox. Her grandmother was Hazel Helms Brotherton. Her great grandfather was Harold Helms, son of Mattie Locke Helms.



Tracy, Savannah and brother, Elijah



Savannah 2 months

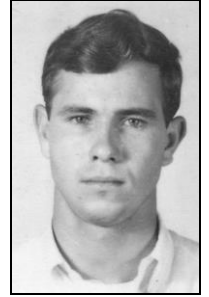
**Delaney Carol Kukulski-** Daughter of Mark and Sherrie Helms Kukulski, celebrated her first birthday in May. Her grandfather is Eddie Helms, and her g-g-grandmother was Mattie Locke Helms.



Delaney



Sherrie at three

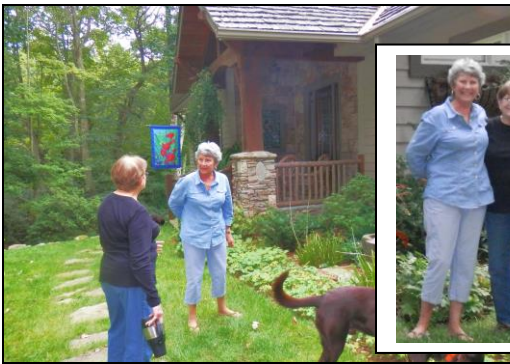


Eddie at twenty-two

## Visiting with Betty McAuley Allred in her Mountain Home-

In September, my sister, Nancy, was visiting from Ft. Lauderdale, and we drove up to visit with our first cousin, Betty, at her home in Valle Crucis, west of Boone, North Carolina. Betty and her husband, Dale, have lived in their mountaintop home full time for a number of years. In addition to the spectacular views outside, the inside has a number of Locke family heirlooms. Our grandmother, Mattie Locke Helms, was a self taught artist, and she painted a large ship painting when she was in her eighties that Betty proudly displays above her Baby Grand piano. Also, Grandma Helms lived on the North Carolina coast southeast of Wilmington, where she rented rooms and cottages to vacationers. In the late 1940's, she purchased a black English Library Table at a Wilmington import market to use as her work desk in the beach house. I always remember that table, with its feet of lion claws clutching balls, sitting just inside the front door in her living room.

After Grandma passed, the table went to Betty's mother, my Aunt Margaret, and then to Betty, who had the table lovingly restored. She now has it prominently featured in her Great Room. I'm sure that Grandma never imagined how beautiful the table really was under all those coats of black paint. Tears came to my eyes when I saw it again after fifty years.



Nancy Helms, Betty McAuley Allred



Yours truly with Cousin Betty

