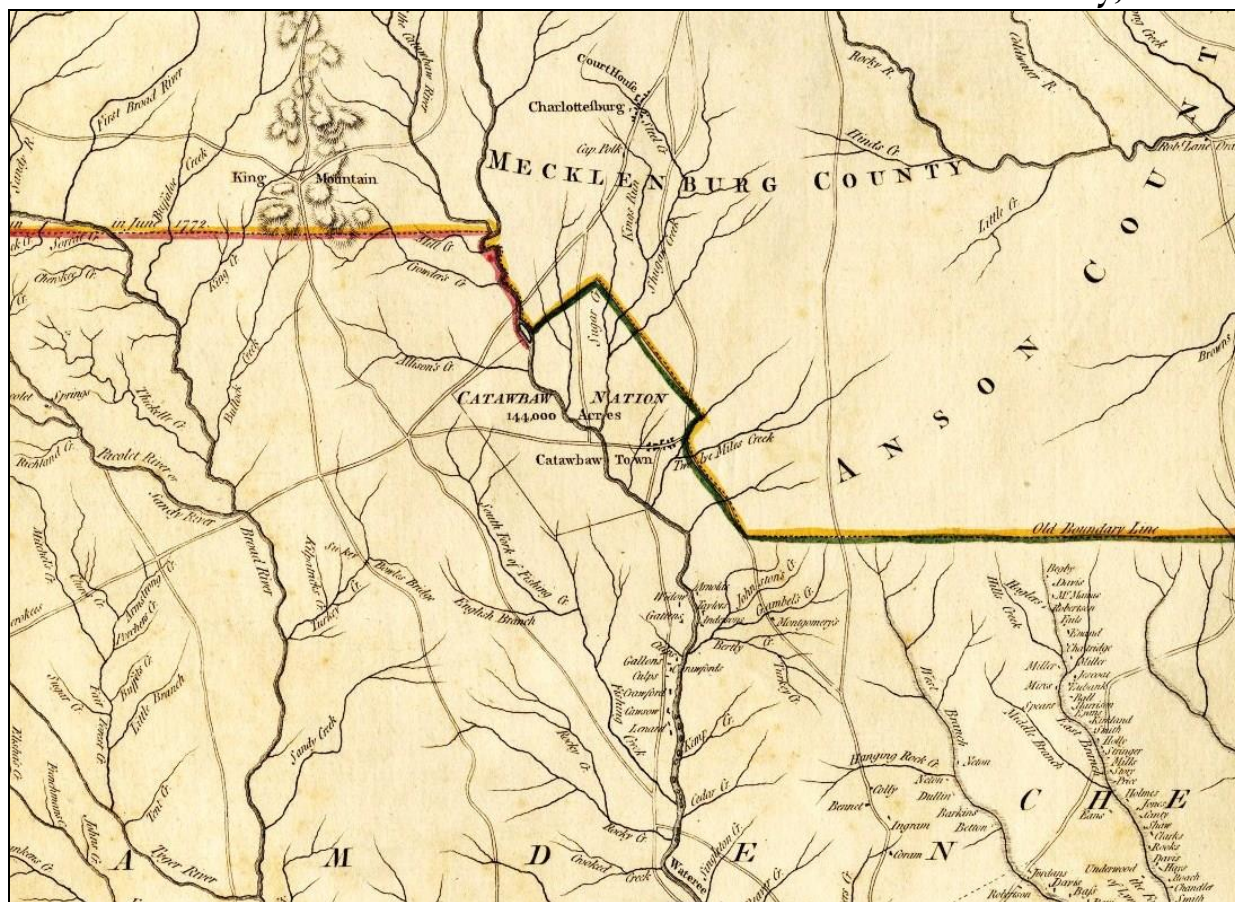


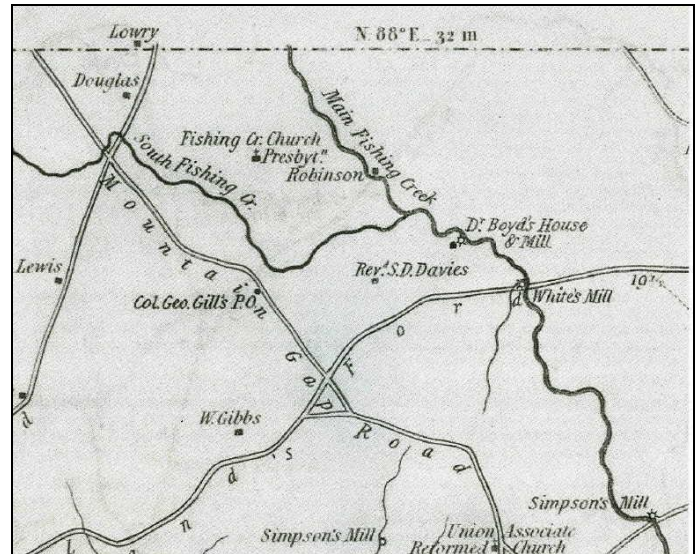
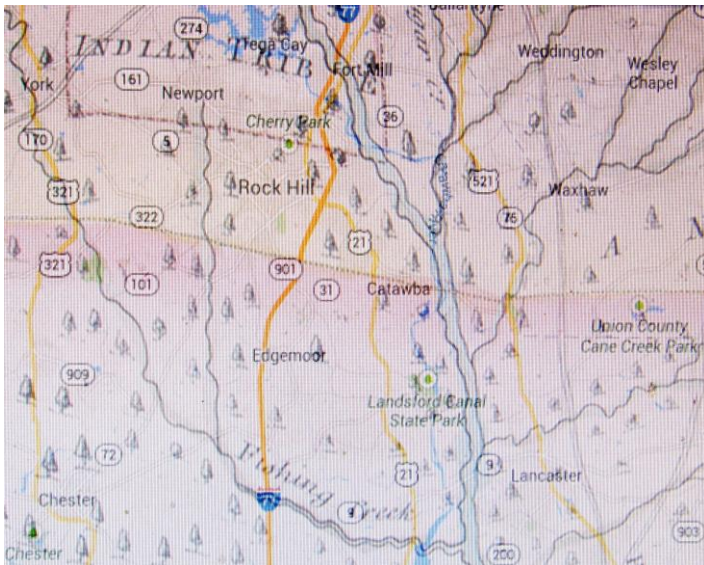
The Locke Family Newsletter

Publisher Vann Helms Volume Number 9 Issue Number 1 February, 2014



Historic Maps and the Locke Family

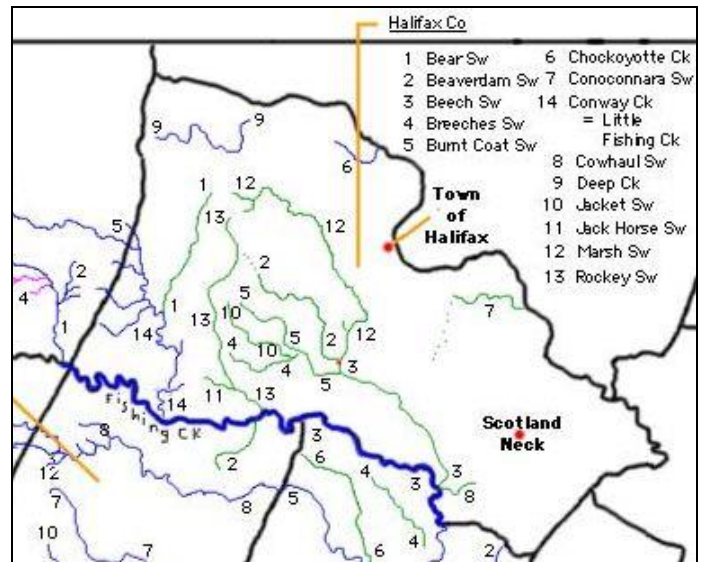
When our **Locke** ancestors made their move out of **Maryland** and headed south, they didn't have the advantage of today's road maps. Were they traveling blindly, or might they have had help in selecting the best route to **North Carolina**, and from there, into **South Carolina**? Extensive research has uncovered a number of rare colonial maps that might shed light on how they managed to find their destinations. Above is a map from **1775**, showing the area that would become **Chester County**, and noting the towns, rivers, and early roadways that existed before **America** became independent. Clearly shown is the **Catawba Indian** land around what would become the **Catawba River**. **Mecklenburg** and **Anson Counties** are prominent, and **Charlottesville** is shown as a crossroads with a courthouse in southern **North Carolina**. In the lower center is **Fishing Creek**, where the **Locke** and **Hines** families would build their homesteads after arriving from **Halifax County, North Carolina**, around **1807**. Most likely, the **Lockes** would have come south through **Salisbury, N.C.**, using the trail that passes between the "N" and "B" in **Mecklenburg**, and crossed the river at **Nations Ford**, before heading to the **Fishing Creek** area. The arduous journey from Halifax could have taken weeks.



The map on the left is actually two maps. A 1770 map is superimposed atop a modern Google map of the Chester- York County area. Fishing Creek and the Catawba River are prominent on the old map, and the town of Edgemoor, just right of I-77 in the center left, is less than a mile from the original Locke land. The map of northeast Chester County on the right was drawn in **1825**, just after the death of **Josias Lock**. The Lock farm was just above **Dr. Boyd's House & Mill** in the right center. **Union Associate Reformed Church**, lower right, is still very active today.

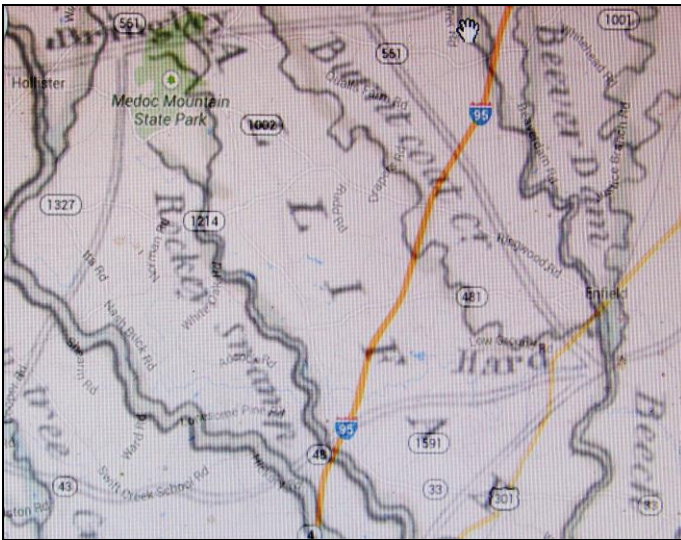


The above map of Halifax County, N.C., is from 1775. The Locke land was between Burnt Coat Creek and Rocky Swamp left of center. The maps that follow will pinpoint the actual location along Jacket Swamp. Halifax is in the upper center.

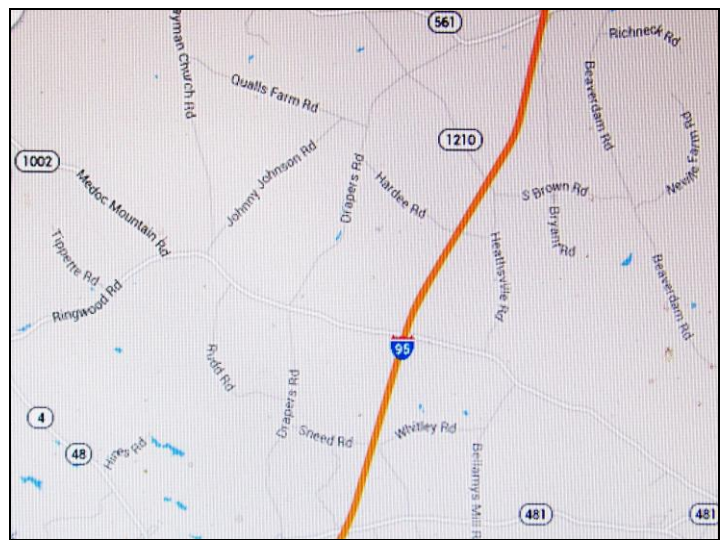


This map shows the many creeks and swamp areas that were referred to on all real estate transactions during colonial times. The Lockes and Greens had land along Jacket Swamp and Breeches Swamp. (Numbers 4 and 10)

John Lock and his wife **Sarah** bought land on **Jacket Swamp** in 1767. His brother **James** moved in with his inlaws, the **Greens**, also along **Jacket Swamp** at about the same time. These wet areas were actually wide creek beds, but were referred to as swamps. The land around the "swamps" was very good for farming. **Thomas Hines**, the father of **Nancy Hines**, and father-in-law of **Stephen Locke**, who was a son of **William**, sold 240 acres along **Burnt Coat Swamp** (Number 5) in 1799, and moved his family to **Chester County, South Carolina**, where they appeared on the U.S. census for **1800**. **William** and **Josias Locke** would appear on the **Chester** census in **1810**.



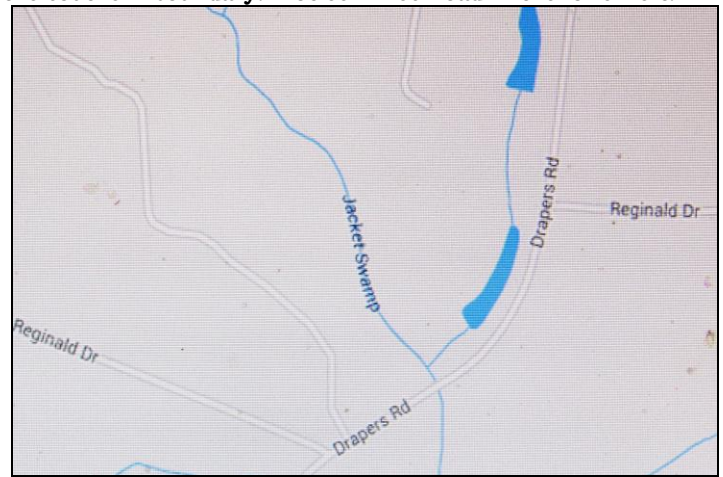
This 1770 map has a modern map superimposed on top of it with I-95 prominent. In the center, just to the right of the large "L" is Rudd Road. Look for that road on the map to the right, just below center left.



This modern Google map shows the Jacket Swamp area as it appears today. The Locke land would have been between Johnny Johnson Road and Drapers Road, with Ringwood Road marking the southern boundary. Notice Hines Road in the lower left.



On this Google Earth photo, Jacket Swamp is still visible as it passes under I-95 just east of the Locke lands. Notice the many fields and forest that line Jacket Swamp even today.



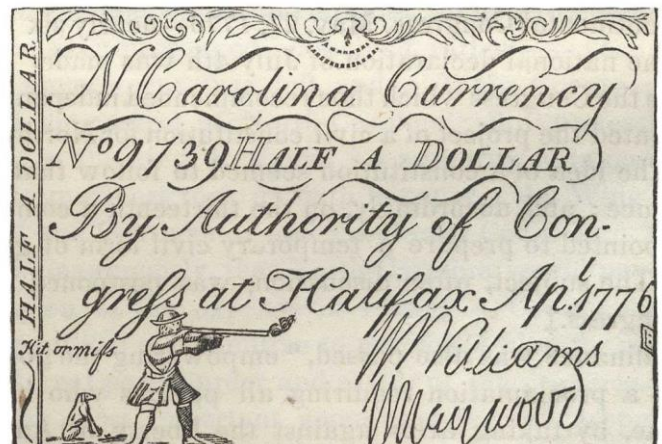
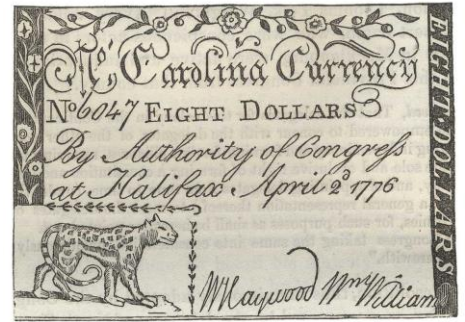
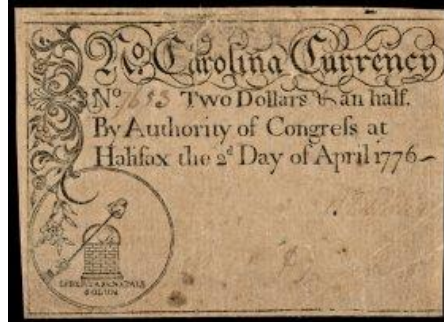
This map shows Jacket Swamp crossing under Drapers Road

It's fascinating to think that 200 years after the Lockes moved from Halifax County, the major north/south interstate highway would run within a mile of where our ancestors lived and farmed. On the map to the top left, you'll notice a state park called **Medoc Mountain** in the upper left corner. This area preserves the remnants of an ancient mountain range, and in the process, preserves the land near to the Locke farms. The first commercial vineyard in America was located in this area in the early 1800's, and it was named **Medoc** after the wine region in Bordeaux, France. Today, people kayak along Fishing Creek, and enjoy the beauty of the hardwood forest. The photos below show how the land might have looked when the Lockes lived there.



North Carolina Colonial Currency from Halifax County

With our **Locke, Hall, Green, and Hines** ancestors living in **Halifax County** in the **1770's**, big things were happening around them. The **Continental Congress of North Carolina** was meeting in **Halifax**, and it was on **April 2, 1776** that history was made when they became the first governing body to declare their independence from **England**. The document they wrote became known as the **Halifax Resolves**, and set the stage for the **Declaration of Independence** the following July. Being officially separated from the mother country, the colony had to issue new currency. The **Pound Sterling** was no longer accepted for commerce, so all of the colonies settled on the Spanish silver "pieces-of-eight" coin, also known as the "**dollar**". For hundreds of years, the Spanish dollar had been considered the "**world's currency**", and was in wide use throughout the New World as legal tender. It was up to the **Halifax Congress** to issue promissory notes backed by silver to replace the English money. The notes shown below have survived for over 225 years. They were hand signed for legitimacy, and featured artwork and scrollwork to discourage counterfeiters. The **dollar** was not approved as the official currency of the **United States** until **1786**.



Notice the **McCulloch** name above. They were the wealthiest family in **Halifax County** in **1776**.

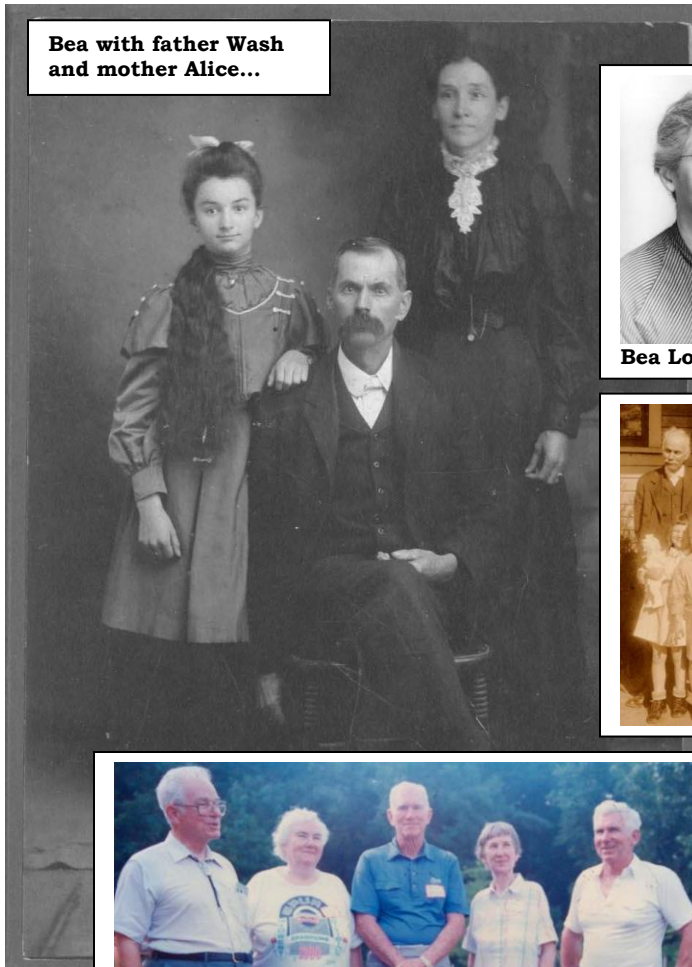
The Passing of Earnest J. Ballard, Jr.

We have lost a family legend. If you attended the reunion last August at Landsford State Park you'll remember the gentleman who traveled all the way from Grand Junction, Colorado, to join with his brother, John, and twelve other members of the extended Ballard family to celebrate their Locke heritage. Just a few weeks later, on November 6th, Earnest passed away. He was 93 years old.

His grandfather was Washington "Wash" Locke (1857-1946) of Lesslie, South Carolina, and his grandmother was Margaret Alice West (1862-1949). His mother was Elizabeth Bea Locke (1894-1989), and his father was Earnest Jackson Ballard (1891-1954). His brother, John, lives in Charleston, S.C., with his wife Marilyn. He was predeceased by brother William, sister Alice Ballard Fenton, and sister Irene Ballard Dent.



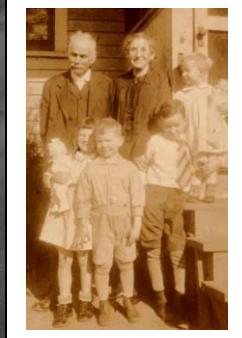
Bea with father Wash and mother Alice...



Bea Locke Ballard



Bea, Alice, Earnest, and Wash with Grands...



Earnest, Alice, William, Irene, and John



Earnest finds himself on the Locke tree...

A Poem by Mattie Locke Helms

In 1943, Eva Haney Helms, wife of Walston Edd "Buddy" Helms, and daughter-in-law of Mattie Locke Helms, died suddenly at the age of twenty five. The shock of that loss prompted Mattie to compose a poem about Eva, and recent contact with Eva's 93 year old sister, Reath Haney Perry, made the poem available to us once again. After 70 years, here is the poem in Mattie's hand.

In loving memory of,
Eva Haney Helms, wife of W. E. (Buddy) Helms.

Who passed away at 7:45 P.M. Oct 13-1943. after an illness
of more than 4 weeks of intense suffering and pain.
She bore it with patience and bravery, trying to regain her health
But god saw best to take her with him, to a world where there
is no suffering and all is joy.

Upon a throne above us high,
There sits a soul we hope 'tis nigh,
She left this place for one sublime,
To dwell with god and there abide,
Till from this earth do we depart
and meet her there with all our heart.

may we rejoice at her going out,
and not reject a single doubt,
For in this life was her sweetness given.
To all who were about her living,
she lived her life for those she loved
and journeyed on to the lord above.

Her friends were numbered by the hundreds
Her kindness by their side
with flowers did they show their feeling
and sorrow did abide.
Eva dear we sure will miss you
from walking by our side
But we will live and try to meet you
over on the other side.

composed + written
By. Mrs L.W. Helms.

Lucinda Bell Davis Passes Away at 103 Years Old

If you have been coming to the Locke reunions regularly, you'll know Ray and Bruce Davis Howell very well. From 2006 until 2009, the reunion was held at Ray and Bruce's Huntersville farm. Ray is the grandson of Mattie Locke Helms, and son of Mae Helms Howell. On November 15, Bruce's mother, Margaret Lucinda Bell Davis, also of Huntersville, passed away at the remarkable age of 103. In addition to her daughter Bruce, Mrs. Davis is survived by two other children, son Terry, and daughter Carleen Davis, both of Huntersville, eight grandchildren, twenty-three great grandchildren, and two great-great grandchildren. Her services and interment were held at Independence Hill Baptist Church in Huntersville, where Mrs. Davis had served as the church organist for forty-three years.



Lucinda Bell Davis



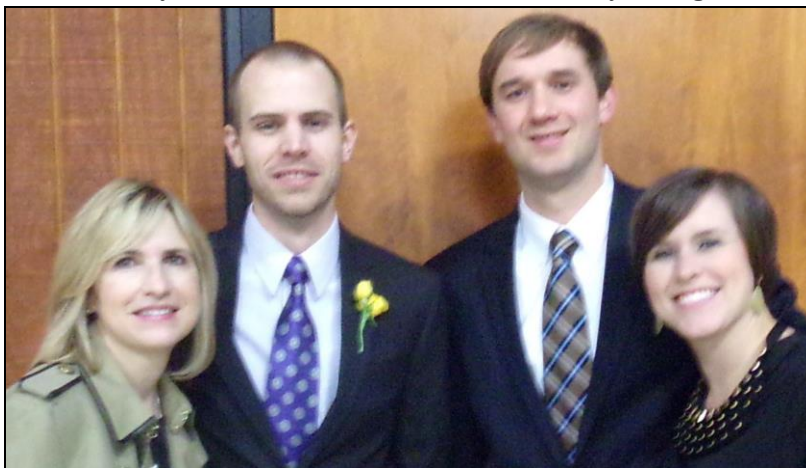
Bruce and Ray Howell



Great-Grand Lacey Burt, grands Kevin Howell and Robin Burt



G-G Grandson Fredrick McCall Singletary



Granddaughter Lori Howell Kelley with son, Cole Penny, and Lori's daughter Lindsey with her husband, and Fredrick's dad, Patrick Singletary.



Ray and his Granddaughter Lindsey holding Fredrick



Here, **Bruce** talks with sister-in-law **Gladys Howell**, while **Whitney Howell** looks on. In the grey jacket on the right is **Cara Howell**. Both girls are daughters of **Bruce** and **Ray's** oldest son, **Christopher**.

Independence Hill Baptist was named for the area where the **Mecklenburg Declaration of Independence** was alleged to have been signed on **May 20, 1775**, severing ties with **England**.



April Williams and Brian Burke Wed in Mt. Pleasant

On September 21st, on the banks of Wagner Creek in Mt. Pleasant, South Carolina, April Elizabeth Williams married Brian Matthew Burke. April is the daughter of Janice and Larry Williams, granddaughter of Bertie and the late Fennell Williams, and great-granddaughter of Newton and Minnie Belle Locke Williams. Minnie Belle was one of three daughters of Nancy Ferguson and John Calhoun Locke of York County, South Carolina.



Larry and Janice, April, Grandma Bertie



April and Brian



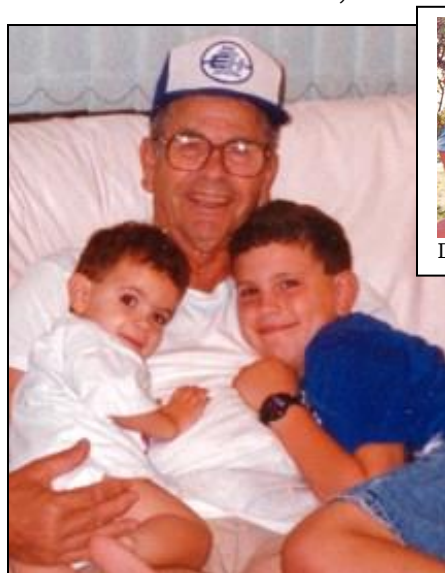
Wagner Creek at Dunes West Golf Club

Eric Todd Helms born to David and Stephanie in Florida

On January 18th, Eric Todd Helms was born near Ft. Lauderdale, and with his birth, the Helms line running through Lonnie and Mattie Locke Helms lives on. The very proud parents are David Andrew and Stephanie Sabbath Helms, son of Vicki Stein and Lonnie Wade Helms. Wade is the son of Walston Edd "Buddy" and Virginia Ratcliffe Helms. Buddy's mother was Mattie Locke Helms. David's younger brother, Matthew Ryan, is the new uncle. Yours truly and my brother Eddie are the equally proud Great Uncles, and sister Nancy Barbara is the Great Aunt. The maternal great grandparents are Corrine and Al Stein, also of Ft. Lauderdale.



Mom and Dad, Stephanie and David



Matt, Pop-Pop Buddy, and David 1995

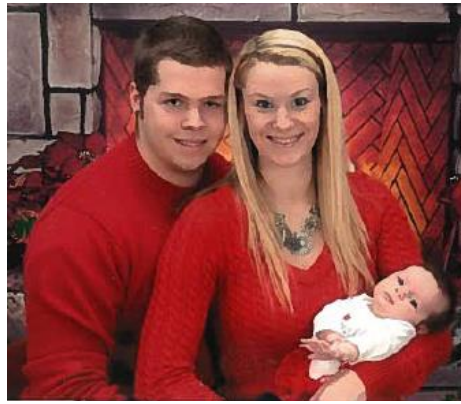


David & Vann



Nieces Charlene & Sherrie w/Wade and Vicki

Raelynn Elizabeth Russ Joins the Locke Family



On November 9th, Anthony Russ and Shelby Parker welcomed Raelynn Elizabeth Russ into the world. Shelby is the daughter of Donna Brotherton Parker and the late Tim Parker. Her mother was Hazel Helms Brotherton, and her grandfather was Harold Helms, son of Lon and Mattie Locke Helms. We have watched Shelby grow up before our eyes at the Locke reunions. Congratulations!

Fredrick McCall Singletary is the First Great Grandchild...



...of Bruce and Ray Howell. He was born on June 28th, 2013, to Lindsey and Patrick Singletary. Lindsey is the daughter of Lori Howell Kelley, and the granddaughter of Bruce and Ray. Ray's mother was Mae Helms Howell, and his grandmother was Mattie Locke Helms. And there's more good news. It seems that Bruce and Ray will celebrate the arrival of their first great granddaughter this coming June. Must be something in the water. By the way, the proud great grandparents are now living full-time at their home in the mountains south of Boone, but I have a feeling they will be spending more time in the Piedmont in the year ahead.

More Reunion Photographs

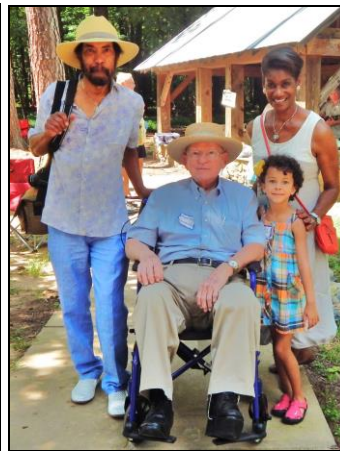
Thanks to the family of the late Earnest Ballard, we have more photos from our last reunion.



John and Earnest Ballard



Having fun on the Jungle Gym



Bob and Linda Harris with Earnest and G-grand Jasiah Morgan



Vann brought his Frisbee



This is a friendly reminder that the **Locke Reunion** will be on Saturday, August 9th, at **Landsford Canal State Park** on the **Catawba River**. We have reserved the entire historic cabin so that we can escape to the cool inside just in case the August afternoon is a little too warm. The large porch with rocking chairs will be the perfect place to sit and talk and enjoy the river. Mark your calendars now. Don't miss this special family event.



Recent Photos from the Blue Ridge Mountains

As many of you know, I have been documenting my travels through the mountains with my photographs since moving here in 2009. In the fall of 2011, I began posting some of these images on a blog, and in a little over two years, I have written almost 250 entries to my blog. If you get a chance, please visit it. The web address is www.blueridgeimpressions.org . Here are a few of my favorites from the past few months.



Deep woods west of Chimney Rock



Up the mountain from my house



Golfing below Mt. Mitchell



On the Blue Ridge Parkway



Davidson College



Bald Mountain over Lake Lure



Linn Cove Viaduct on Grandfather Mountain



I collect Asian art...



Frozen Otter Pond at 2 degrees



The Passing of Michael Ray Harris

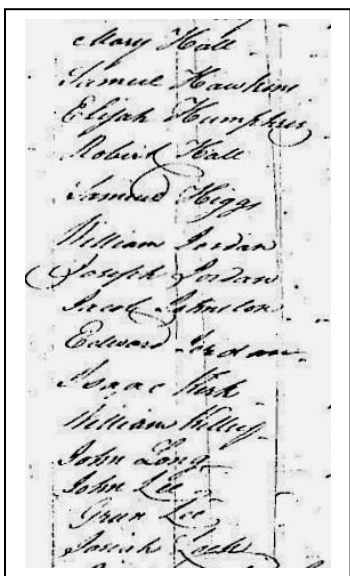


I received a note from our cousin, **Burnice Harris**, from Mobile, that his brother, **Michael Ray Harris**, had passed in Toledo, Ohio, on December 3rd, at age 75, after a long battle with cancer. That's Ray with the blue cap. Burnice and Ray, on the right, were grandsons of **Owen Thompson**, who was a son of **Benjamin McCullough Locke**, the grandson of **Jesse McCullough Locke**. At the reunion, you'll remember meeting **Bob** and **Linda Harris**, members of the family.

More Information about the Thomas Hines Family

Two newsletters ago, I reported that new documents were found showing that **Thomas Hines**, the father of **Nancy Hines Locke**, most likely had lived in Halifax County, North Carolina, before moving to Chester County in 1800. Anyone who descends from **William Locke**, the older brother of **Josias**, through his son, **Stephen**, will be glad to learn that new names have surfaced that will carry our family back one more generation than previously known. We already knew from real estate records that the wife of **Thomas Hines** was named **Rebecca**, but we had no information about her family in Halifax. The discovery of the will of **Ignatius Hall** of Halifax has changed all of that. That document willed one of Ignatius' slaves to his daughter, **Rebecca Hines**, also of Halifax. We also learned the names of Rebecca's mother, **Mary**, and all of her brothers and sisters. They were **Ignatius**, **Mary**, **Eleanor**, who married a Rawlings, **Thomas Lane**, **Elizabeth**, who married a Cox, and **Robert**, who inherited all of his father's land at the death of his mother. Chances are strong that **Susanna Hall Locke**, Josias' wife, was a granddaughter of Ignatius Hall. **Ignatius Hall, Jr.** served in the *Revolutionary War* and received a government pension.

Ignatius Hall, Sr. was born in Charles County, Maryland in **1717**, and appeared on tax rolls in that county until **1772**, which is about the time he moved down to Halifax County. His son, Robert, was born in Maryland in **1761**. Charles County is next door to St. Mary's County, where the Lockes lived.



His will, dated **1779** and proved in **1783**, specified that the **Hall** land joined the land of **Nathaniel Green** on Rocky Swamp. Referring to the maps on page 5 of this newsletter, we see that Rocky Swamp was next door to Jackett Swamp where the Lockes lived, and also adjacent to the area where **Thomas Hines** lived. The name, **Nathaniel Green**, also has significance for the Lockes in Halifax. **Josias** and **William's** mother was **Susanna Green**, and her father was **Henry Green**, who was living on Jackett Swamp before the first Lockes moved there from St. Mary's County, Maryland, in **1767**. The Greens had a big presence in the land between Rocky and Jackett Swamps.

On the left is the U.S. Census for Halifax County in **1790**. All of these people were neighbors. At the top is **Mary Hall**. Three names down is her son, **Robert Hall**, and at the bottom is **Josias Lock**, who was married to **Susanna Hall**. When **Mary Hall** died in **1799**, her will designated **Benjamin Hines** as executor. Benjamin died in **1819**, and left a will of his own. Stay tuned...

John Coffee Hays Locke, Times Two

In the last newsletter, there was an article about **John Coffee Hays Locke**, who was a son of **Jesse Culp Locke**. At the time, I had information that another **J. C. H. Locke** had been born twenty years before, but I doubted the accuracy of that data, so made no mention of him in the story. I received a note from **Stanley Locke** of Memphis that cleared everything up. It seems that **James Henry Locke**, **Jesse's** brother, also named one of *his* sons after the same folk hero of the day, **John Coffee Hays**, and his birthday was August 8th, 1856, one year after Jesse's **J. C. H. Locke**. Stan's ancestor married **Julia Reynolds** in 1882 in Choctaw County, Alabama, and one of their sons was Stan's grandfather, **Richard Chester Locke**. Stan believes that the Chester name came from Chester, South Carolina. J.C.H. Locke would pass in 1925, and his wife Julia would live until 1946, both in Laurel, Mississippi.. Stan's father is **Charles Locke**. Thank you, Stan, for clearing up this mystery.

The Buddy and Virginia Helms Family in Florida in 1981



The Helms family gathered in Okeechobee, Florida, at the home of Walston Edd "Buddy" (1916-2003) and Virginia Ratcliffe (1924-1994) Helms, for Easter in 1981. Buddy's mother was Mattie Locke Helms (1882-1965). Standing left to right: Vann, Charlene, Buddy, Nancy, Vicki, Wade, and Eddie. Bottom row: Bobbye Schuler, Sherrie Ann, Virginia, and Carol Slater Helms (1949-2006). Charlene and Sherrie are the daughters of Eddie and Carol Helms.