

# THE LOCKE FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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## Happy Holidays! Remember those you love!

During these special times, remember to cherish the valuable moments that you spend with your family and friends. Take a minute to call those who you can't be with, especially those loved ones who are advanced in their years. A few precious words can make all the difference. We are all so blessed to see another year begin!

## THE **Locke Reunion** OF **October 1, 2006**

We gathered on the farm of **Ray and Bruce Howell** on a sparkling Sunday afternoon to share delicious home cooking, and priceless family stories and photographs. The sky couldn't have been more blue, and the atmosphere couldn't have been more friendly. We had many branches of the Locke family represented. Across town in Weddington, the **Hugh and Mamie Locke Boyce** family was gathering at the same time. Between the two reunions, we had over a hundred Locke descendants sharing our family's colorful history. Perhaps we can discuss combining the two events for next year. The Howell farm is such a perfect place to meet. The pavilion on the lake gave us the ideal venue to display our Locke memorabilia, as well as the large family scrolls that linked a majority of the descendants of **Philip Locke and Mary Hulse** of the Maryland Colony. The towering oaks offered us ample shade to set our tables and sit together to eat. The large lake provided not only beautiful scenery, but also paddle boats and rowboats for the teenagers. The goats and pigs were a reminder to us all of our farming past, and a few old cars under the trees brought back memories of those no longer with us.



And we had live music! **Debra Brotherton Fox**, great-granddaughter of **Mattie Hope Locke**, brought her microphones, amplifiers, and digital music magic, and resurrected a proud tradition last seen when **Walston Locke** and **Mamie Boyce** led sing-a-longs of old spirituals many reunions ago. After the tables were cleared and the leftovers safely stored, we had a wonderful afternoon of karaoke, with many brave performers sharing the limelight. **Jerry Locke** of the **Benjamin Locke** family of Chester County, brought the original Civil War letters written by his great-grandfather, **Josiah H. Locke**, and **Marilyn and John Ballard** brought the largest collection of historic Locke photographs that we've seen in years and years. The following pages will show you the food, and the people who gathered to enjoy it. Also, you'll find many of the old photographs that show a remarkable heritage of Lockes.

## THE “Family” AND THE Food AT THE Locke Reunion

So many families were represented at this year’s reunion. Many hadn’t been to a Locke reunion in years. The honor for being the oldest Locke joining us went to **Charlie Winchester**, son of **Oscar and Sadie Locke Winchester**. He will be **88** real soon. The youngest was the grandson of **Don Williams**, who is great grandson of **John Calhoun Locke**, at just under a year. Others in their eighties were **Myrtle Winchester**, **Furman Locke, Jr.**, and his cousin, **Marie Locke Herres**. **Vann and Nancy Helms**, grandchildren of **Mattie Locke Helms**, traveled almost 800 miles from their homes in Ft. Lauderdale, Florida. We were especially glad to see **Belinda Sisk Clay**, daughter of **Martha Helms Holcomb**, and great-granddaughter of **Mattie Hope Locke**, join us from her home in Albemarle, along with her family. Her mother has recently moved into an assisted care facility, and was unable to join us. **Martha**, our prayers are with you.

The **Ballards** drove in from Charleston, as did **Danny Herres**, who stopped in Columbia to pick up his mother, **Marie**, and brother **Fred** and his wife, who had driven from their home in Atlanta. **Betty McAuley**, granddaughter of **Mattie Locke Helms**, along with her husband **Dale**, drove from their home near Boone. **Ron Locke** brought his son from Hickory, and joined his mom **Nancy** from Rock Hill. The sight of so many loved ones walking down the green meadow to the lake pavilion was one to remember. If you weren’t able to join with us this year, please try to join us next year, same weekend, same place.



CHARLIE WINCHESTER  
LOCKE AGNEW



KAREN AND MYRTLE WINCHESTER



SCOTT, NATE, AND KIM



GLADYS HUCKS HOWELL



ELIZABETH JOY HOWELL



FURMAN LOCKE, JR.



“FIXIN’ READY TO

EAT”



NANCY HELMS, NATE AGNEW, MARIE HERRES, AND DEBRA FOX WILLIAMS



GRANDSON WITH GRANDMA



HOMEMADE BISCUITS, STEW, COUNTRY HAM, GREEN BEANS, CORN, SWEET POTATOES, TURKEY..... DIG IN!



LOTS OF SWEET TEA.....  
HUNGRY!



AS USUAL, NOBODY LEFT THIS REUNION



THE SETTING WAS IDEAL, AND THE DAY COULD NOT HAVE BEEN MORE PERFECT!



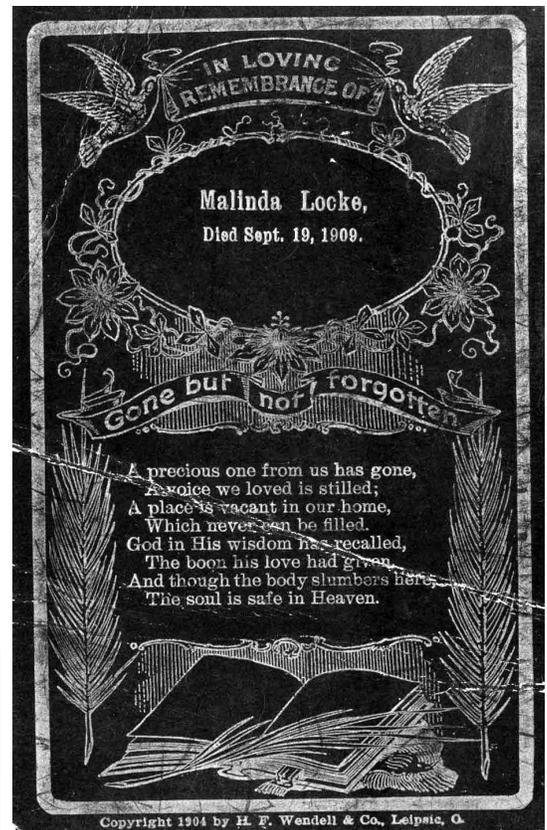
JUST WAIT UNTIL NEXT YEAR!



## The Locke Family Photographs

The word went out that people should look in their photo collections for any old Locke family pictures, even if they didn't know who was in the pictures. We struck pay dirt! *Marilyn and John Ballard* brought so many treasures. Many were so faint that it was hard to see the image, but with a little help from modern technology, the ghostly images were restored. You can imagine my excitement as the faces suddenly appeared from the distant past. First, old granny *Malinda Shurley Locke*, second wife of *Levi Locke*, wearing what appeared to be her mourning clothes, peered out from the 1890's with piercing eyes that reflected her eventful life. She had raised twelve children, five of her own, in York County. She lived to be **97** years old. Also in the collection was her original funeral card from 1909. In a number of other photos were her son *Washington Pinckney Locke*, his wife, *Alice*, their daughter, *Bea Locke Ballard*, and their grandchildren. One photo shows the original house built by *Wash Locke* in Lesslie, South Carolina. Another image shows a group of Locke men, resting in front of a newly constructed shed. A number of photographs documented the lifetime of *Bea Locke Ballard*, and her five children. *Marie Herres*, daughter of *Walston Levi Locke*, brought several significant photos of her family..

*Furman Locke* found a Locke family reunion photo from 1967, and also a photo of *Sarah Elizabeth Locke* with four of her children. I can only hope that more remarkable photos will be found over the next year. Even if you can't attend the reunions, please make sure that we can copy them, and share them with the entire family.



MALINDA SHURLEY LOCKE 1890s



WASHINGTON P. LOCKE, ALICE, AND BEA CIRCA 1904

FUNERAL CARD FOR "LINDA" LOCKE



ELIZABETH BEA LOCKE CIRCA 1910



BEA LOCKE BALLARD CIRCA 1955

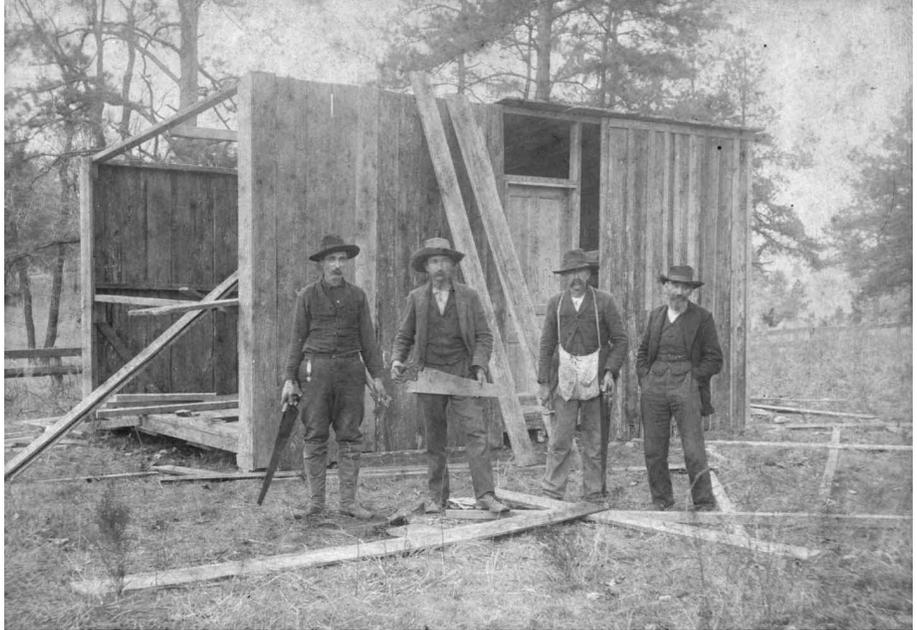


A PROUD MOTHER, GRANDMOTHER, AND GREAT GRANDMOTHER

1970's



WASHINGTON LOCKE 1930's



BUILDING A NEW SHED 1880's



ORIGINAL LOCKE HOME IN LESSLIE, SOUTH CAROLINA.  
STANDING TODAY.

NOW A TWO STORY HOUSE, IT IS STILL

**Washington Locke** passed away in 1946 at the age of 89. **Bea Locke Ballard** passed in 1989 at the age of 95. She and her husband, **Ernest Jackson Ballard**, had five children. They are **Ernest Jackson, Jr.**,

*Alice, William Locke, Margaret Irene, and John Lynn Ballard.*



BEA, ALICE, WASH, WITH EARNEST AND CHILDREN  
1970's



THE BALLARD FAMILY IN LATE





In 1967, the Locke family gathered for this remarkable photograph showing four generations. Furman, Mamie, and Walston Locke are hiding in the pictures. Mae, Harold and Margaret Helms are there, as are Charles and Orrin Winchester. Oscar Winchester is there, and so is Sue Winchester Locke. Alltogether, at least 76 people are in the pictures. Please identify as many as you can, and e-mail your results to Vann Helms at [vann@miami-art.com](mailto:vann@miami-art.com)

***The B&W photo is Mattie Locke and Lon Helms in 1937!***



Sadie, Mamie, Furman, Mattie with Lizzie Locke, 1935

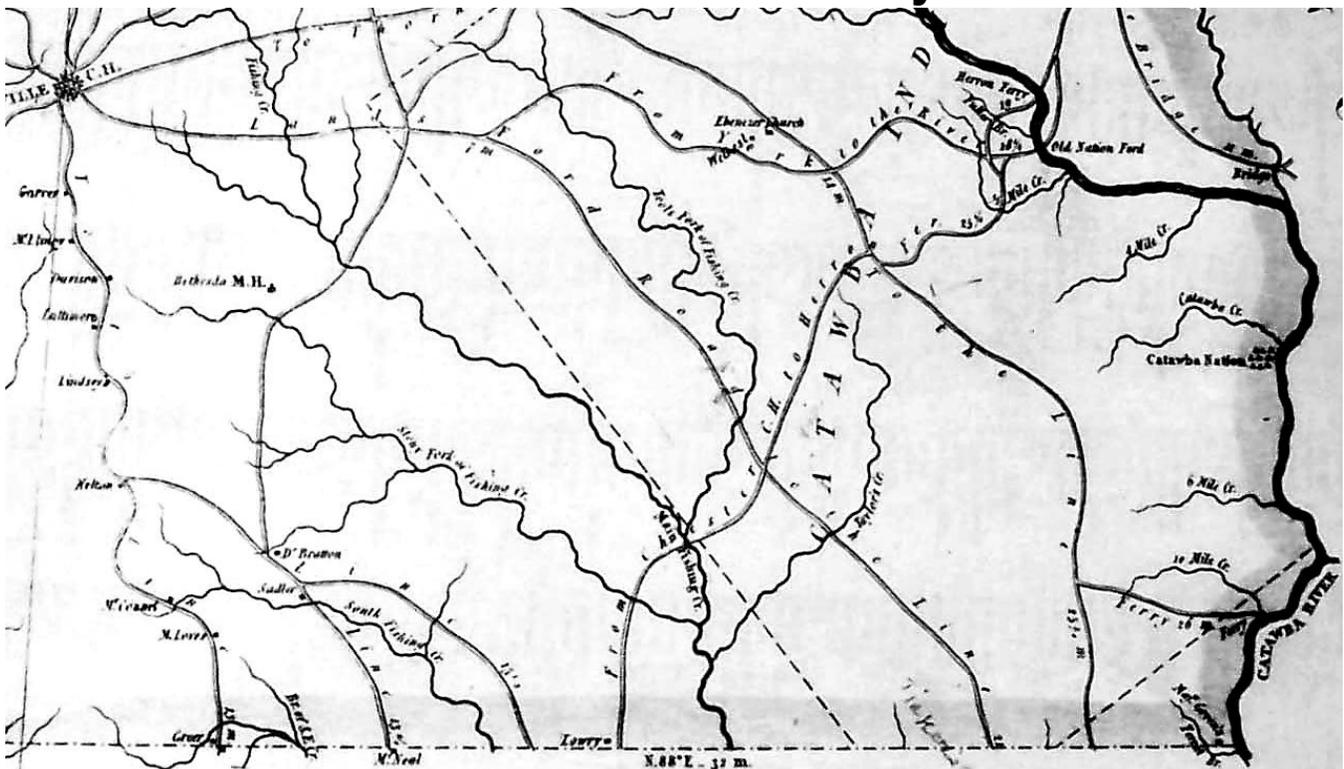


Walston and Ruth Locke with Marie and Junior in 1924



Junior and Buddy Locke

## The Catawba Indian Lands of York County



This 1825 map of southeastern York District, S.C., shows Fishing Creek and its many branches that feed through Chester County into the Catawba River on far right. The Catawba Indian lands can be seen on the right (dotted line), and Old Nation Ford is seen at top right. The Shurleys lived near there, and, after 1840, Levi Locke. Yorkville is at top left. Lands Ford Road is shown at the center.

## The Lockes and the Nation Ford Treaty of 1840

In 1763, the British governors in the colony of **South Carolina**, signed a treaty with the **Catawba Indian** tribal leaders, setting boundaries on a fifteen square mile area that covered portions of southeastern **York District**, and southwestern **Lancaster District**. It was known as *The Treaty of Augusta*. The aim was to move the Indians into a tract of land in the **North Carolina** mountains, in exchange for the surveyed area. The newly arriving white settlers were not comfortable living near the **Catawba** tribes, and wanted them out. Under the threat of force, the tribe reluctantly consented to relocate to a tract of land in **Haywood District, North Carolina**, valued at \$5,000. They were also promised \$2,500 once the move was completed, plus \$1,500 per year for nine years. At the time the treaty was signed, 508 white landowners already had lease agreements with the **Catawba**, and surveys had to be done before those leaseholders could be given state grants of the Indian land. By 1780, the \$2,500, plus interest, was raised by taxes on the leaseholders, and was set aside for the **Catawba**, to be paid once their move was completed. However, **North Carolina** refused to honor their end of the bargain, and the move was never made, and the **South Carolina** legislature refused to ratify a renegotiated treaty.

By 1840, the leaseholders were clamoring for state recognition of their property rights so that they could be represented in the **South Carolina** legislature. A new treaty was drawn up. It would set aside the *Treaty of Augusta*, and would guarantee the remaining **Catawba** nation, then numbering about 88, full privileges and immunities as citizens of **South Carolina**, and **The United States**. The tribal lands would be taxed, and the existing leaseholders would receive full title to their leaseholds.

The location of the signing of the treaty was near the **Nation Ford** on the **Catawba River**, at a place called the **Cross Roads**, located about one mile above the ford. In the early days before the railroad was built, an inn and a few houses were built in that location so that travelers could wait for flood waters to subside, and the wide river could be crossed. A large farm near the **Cross Roads** was leased to *Thaddeus Shurley*, and his son *Philemon*, the father of *Malinda Shurley*, who would marry *Levi Locke* in 1848.

On **March 13, 1840**, the chief of the Catawba, *General James Kegg*, full blooded nephew of famed **Catawba Queen, Sally New River**, placed his mark on the paper, alongside five leaseholders appointed by the Governor. The state legislature approved the treaty in December, 1840, and it was known as the *Nation Ford Treaty of 1840*.

For over 150 years, the treaty was in force, but the **South Carolina** legislature voted to revoke the terms of the treaty in 1993. It was widely accepted that the **Catawba** had been coerced into signing the treaty, thereby relinquishing rights to their family lands with no real compensation. Largely a symbolic act, it returned taxes paid by the tribe for all those years, with interest, and set aside remaining tribal lands as a reservation. (Did I hear someone say, *Casino?*)

It was no coincidence that a twenty-three old *Levi Locke* would move with his wife and two sons from their home in northern **Chester County** to the former Indian lands after the **Nation Ford Treaty** was signed in the Spring of 1840. Cheap farmland was suddenly available, and former leaseholders were looking to profit from their newly legalized status as landowners. He may have purchased his land from his future inlaws, the *Shurleys*. *Mary Rosaline Locke* was the first of his children born in **York County** on **December 13, 1840**. *Levi* would father five more daughters in **York County** before his first wife died in childbirth in 1848.

## Locke Art and Antiques at the Reunion

*Mattie Hope Locke*, in addition to her regular duties as mother and innkeeper, was also an accomplished self-taught artist and floral designer. On display at the reunion pavilion were a few of her pieces. She painted two large “Clipper Ship” images during her life. They were the largest works she ever produced. In her will, she left one of the paintings to her grand daughter, *Doris Jean Helms Jones*, and she gave the other to her grandson, *John Glenn Howell, Jr.* *Gladys Howell* was kind enough to allow the rare heirloom to be displayed. In the 1940’s, *Mattie* painted her impression of a Carolina mountain stream and cabin, and gave it to her son, *Walston “Buddy” Helms*. It was carried from Florida to be shown at the reunion.

Since retiring from Knight-Ridder, Inc. in 1995, *Vann Helms* has sought to establish himself as a legitimate artist in the South Florida area. His large painted wooden panels have been exhibited inside the Florida State Capital, inside the home of the New World Symphony in Miami Beach, in the plaza of the Miami-Dade Cultural Center, and in a one man show at the Miami Beach Botanical Gardens. Through his work, he brings needed attention to threatened historic landmarks around the South Florida area. He brought a number of works along with him to share with the family.

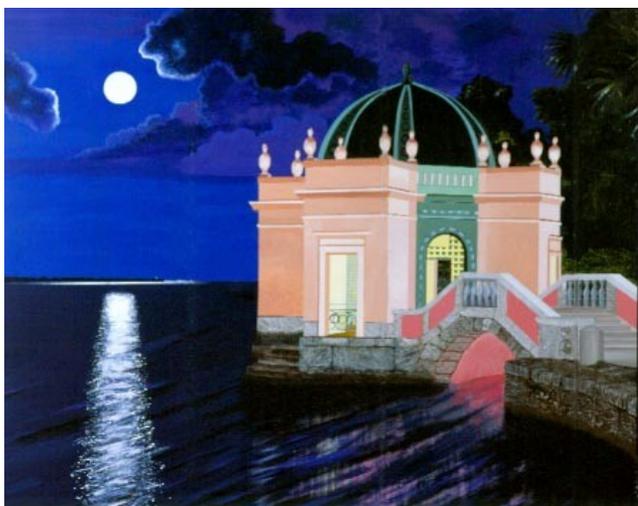
In 1881, when *Absalom Lewis Locke* married *Sarah Elizabeth Campbell* near Rock Hill, South Carolina, the couple was given a clock as their main wedding gift. That clock passed to *Mattie Locke Helms* after “Lizzie’s” death in 1942, and it remained as an integral part of the *Helms* household, both in Charlotte, and at the beach house near Wilmington, until her death in 1965. She willed the clock to her youngest son, **Buddy**, and he kept it in fine working order, passing it to his children after he passed in 2003. Originally painted black, Buddy removed the aging paint, revealing the oak wood that was hiding underneath. Let’s remember to bring more family art and memorabilia to next year’s gathering.



All of these works are by ***Mattie Locke Helms*** 1882-1965



## ...MORE ART AND ANTIQUES



These paintings are by *Vann Helms*



1881 Wedding Clock

## Postscript.....

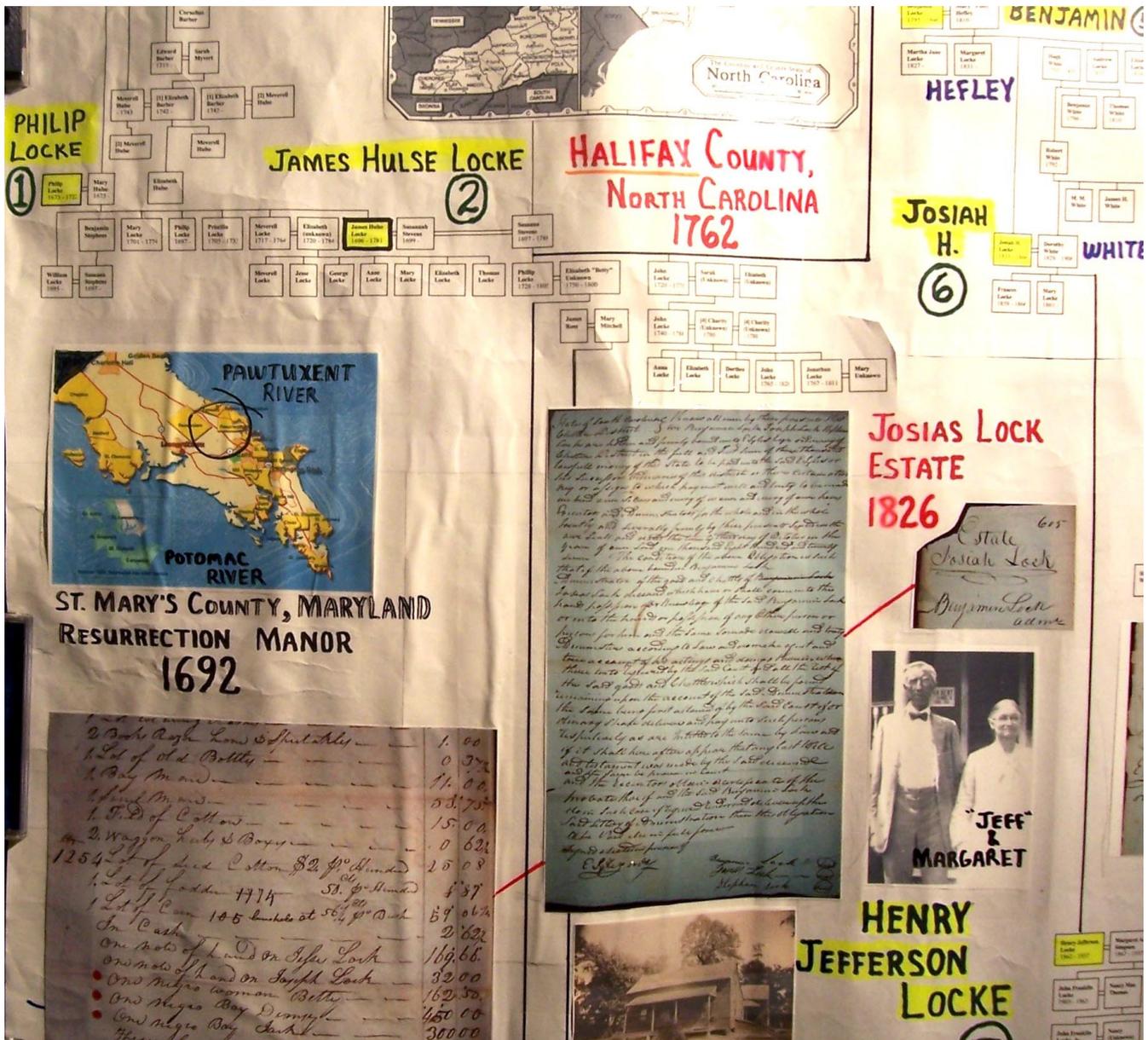
The reunion was a positive experience for everyone who came. The kids took the boats out onto the lake. The football was passed around, and a perfect Frisbee throw almost wiped out four unsuspecting bystanders. NASCAR and the Panthers were on the television. We sat in the shade under the large trees, listening to music, dancing, and talking about good things. We scanned old photographs, and held Civil War history in our hands. We embraced a new Locke family from Chester County, and we remembered those who were no longer with us. We enjoyed a beautiful sunset, and only the darkness convinced us to leave. We thanked Ray and Bruce for hosting this shindig, and we vowed that next year would be even better! Sometimes, it's just great to be a Locke.

# ESTATE PAPERS OF JOSIAS LOCKE

In 1827, the patriarch of our Locke family line died at his home in Chester County. Josias Locke, who had brought his family to South Carolina around 1800, left no will, but his family and the State of South Carolina made certain that his property was divided as he had wished. His wife, Susanna, must have predeceased him, because there is no mention of her in any of the legal documents. All of their children are named, as are many of their prominent neighbors. Benjamin Locke, his thirty-two year old son, was chosen as executor, most likely because he could read and write better than his five brothers. An official declaration specifying this fact was written and witnessed by a representative of the court, and by Benjamin, Joseph, and Stephen Lock.

As required by law, a complete listing of debts owed by Josias Lock was made, and one page from the estate papers showed how those debts were satisfied.

The Estate of Josias Locke		Shs	Cts
P To L <sup>th</sup> Lyles Ordinary		10	00
for acct for the family	302 <sup>14</sup> / <sub>100</sub>		
Receipt produced from John Symonds & Co. for 10 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub> lbs of coffee	at 14 cts per lb	12	10
To 12 lbs Sugar & 3 lbs coffee		03	00
P To hauling in crop of Corn		02	62 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
To 8 gls of Whisky of 75 cts the gallon		06	00
P To W <sup>th</sup> Porter Robert McGadden Henry Ferguson the appraisers that appraised the Estate		04	50
P To David Pannel Esq. for Clerk & swearing the appraisers		03	75
P To Vandew. Master		03	00
P To 1 pine Coffin		04	00
Total amount		148	03 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>2</sub>
-----			
P To Robert Robinson the state road and bridge for 1826		03	94
-----			
P To the notes of hand against the Estate			40 cts
To William Maffatt 1 note of hand		59	50
-----			
To Proven accounts against the Estate			
-----			
P To Michal Gbefly		02	88
P To William Maffatt		35	56 <sup>1</sup> / <sub>4</sub>
P To Ezer Hall		03	50
P To Stephen Lock		33	75



# The Locke Family Tree “Scrolls”

Of all the items on display at the reunion, two of the most popular were the new Locke family tree scrolls. Designed and executed by *Vann Helms*, they carried the Locke family from the original settler in Maryland, *Philip Locke*, all the way through to the newest additions to the family, for a total of fifteen generations. In addition to the actual tree itself, the scrolls contain copies of priceless family documents and photographs that carry the viewer from one generation to the next, with bold, colorful names and dates to make that journey easier. All generations are labeled with numbers so that cousins and grandparents can be easily grouped with their contemporaries. The actual scrolls measure four feet high, and a total of eighteen feet long! Family members were encouraged to make corrections and additions directly onto the scrolls. These remarkable Locke records will be updated for subsequent reunions, and a full scan of the two documents will be made available in digital form for downloading.

**④ CHESTER DISTRICT 1800**

**JESSE M'CULLOUGH LOCKE ⑤**

**TENNESSEE → ALABAMA 1831**

**HINES**

**JAMES HENRY LOCKE ⑥**

**ALABAMA 1850**

**JESSE R. LOCKE ⑦**

**TEXAS 1885**

**OKLAHOMA 1902**

**JESSE R. & ALICE**

**STEPHEN ⑤**

**1861 1865 IN MEMORIAM**

**CHESTER CIVIL WAR MONUMENT**

**LEVI LOCKE ⑥**

**YORK COUNTY, S. CAROLINA 1841**

**CHESTER COUNTY**

**CLAWSON**

**HOMES VIRGINIA WASHINGTON**

**WALSTON NORTH CAROLINA**

**SHURLEY**

**JOHN CALHOUN ⑦**

**⑧**

**⑨**

**⑩**

**⑪**

We're still looking for more family photographs and paintings. Please continue to search through your collections for those rare gems. Now that we have *Malinda*, we need to find *Levi*. Somewhere out there is a picture of *Sarah Elizabeth Campbell Locke's* mother, *Martha*. She lived until 1915. Perhaps a tintype of *Josiah H. Locke* in his Confederate uniform is hidden somewhere. Also, we would like to start a collection of legal documents such as birth, marriage, and death certificates. Estate records are so valuable in the search for new branches in our family tree. Even baptism records can be invaluable in establishing exact birth dates. Scans of family Bible records can preserve priceless handwriting samples and religious affiliations. Old newspapers clippings may tell us about a family member's life!

## VERY SAD NEWS FROM FLORIDA

You'll recall that **Carol Helms**, wife of **Eddie Helms**, who is the grandson of **Mattie Locke Helms**, was critically injured in a terrible car-truck accident in November, 2005. She spent four months in the hospital, and was in the middle of a series of reconstructive surgeries so that she could walk again and regain use of her left arm. A horse accident almost thirty years ago had left her crippled in her right leg, and she had endured years of chronic pain. With the prospect of more pain, surgery and scarring on her horizon, and in a deep depression from three decades of suffering, she made the ultimate decision to end her own life on September 25, in her Fort Lauderdale home. This shocking loss of such a beautiful woman has affected the family greatly. In addition to **Eddie**, her husband of 37 years, she leaves behind her grieving mother, **Mary Slater**, sister, **Jeanne Slater Whitman**, her two daughters, **Charlene and Sherrie**, and two wonderful grandchildren, **Blake and Ashley Freedland**. Her funeral was one of the largest I've ever seen. Countless floral arrangements covered the altar of the large **First Presbyterian Church of Fort Lauderdale**, and flowers kept arriving long after the service had ended. She was buried in a historic cemetery near her home.

Although these tragic events took place the week of the Locke reunion, we chose not to tell the family in North Carolina until after the reunion had ended. We wanted the event to be a joyous occasion, and we hope you will all understand our decision. Needless to say, the decision was a difficult one.



CAROL IN 1969  
IN 2005

EDD & CHARLENE IN 1971

...AND SHERRIE 1981

1993

WITH SHERRIE

## You can Help.....

Our custom has always been to pass the hat at the reunion to help cover the costs of printing and mailing, as well as to leave a fund available for memorials during the year. We forgot to do that this year. If you would like to help with these newsletters and with the memorials, please open your hearts and your pocket books, and send a donation to me, Vann Helms, 5281 Southwest 95 Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33328. Any amount is most appreciated! Thank you.

Also, please send me an e-mail so that we can begin to distribute these newsletters through the web. It's the most efficient way! [vann@miami-art.com](mailto:vann@miami-art.com) . Thanks!

