

The Josias Locke Family Newsletter

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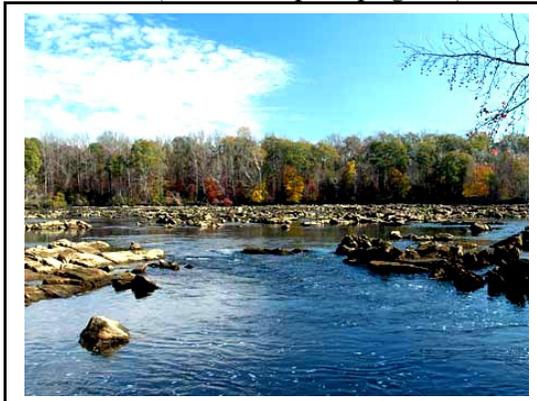
July, 2008

The Catawba- Our Ancestors' River

When **Josias Locke** moved his family from *Halifax County, North Carolina*, at the dawn of the 19th century, to the uplands of northern *South Carolina*, he would become part of an agrarian society that had depended for centuries upon the steady flow of a river named for the native people who had settled along its banks. Originating in the high mountains of *North Carolina*, the *Catawba River* flows eastward to the *Piedmont Plateau*, and heads into *South Carolina* until it meets *Big Wateree River* at *Wateree Lake*. (See the map on page 13)



Entrance to Landsford Canal near Locke farm



Chester County Catawba at lowest water

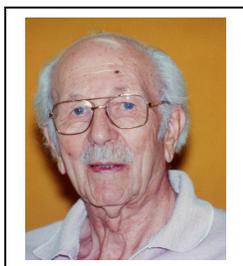
The *Catawba* that **Josias** found was a pristine stream, filled with all kinds of fish and water fowl, and lined with verdant forest teeming with animal life of all kinds. When the first Europeans crossed the great river for the first time, at what would later become known as *Nation's Ford*, they knew that they had found the perfect place to build their farms and raise their families. Perhaps, too perfect.

Today the 200 mile long stream has become one of the most heavily used rivers in the world for electric power generation. Beginning with the first hydroelectric dam near *Fort Mill* in 1904, **Duke Power's** system now includes 11 lakes, 13 hydro stations, two nuclear stations, and other coal burning stations that use the river for steam and cooling. In addition, well over 1.5 million people rely on the *Catawba* for drinking water and for their sewage disposal. **Josias and Susanna Locke** could never have envisioned what their river would become. Raised along the banks of the *Roanoke River* on the *Virginia, North Carolina* border, they knew the importance of these Southern lifelines. These rivers powered the grist mills that ground their wheat and corn. These were the early highways to eastern and northern markets for their crops of cotton, tobacco, and corn. A powerful river meant survival.

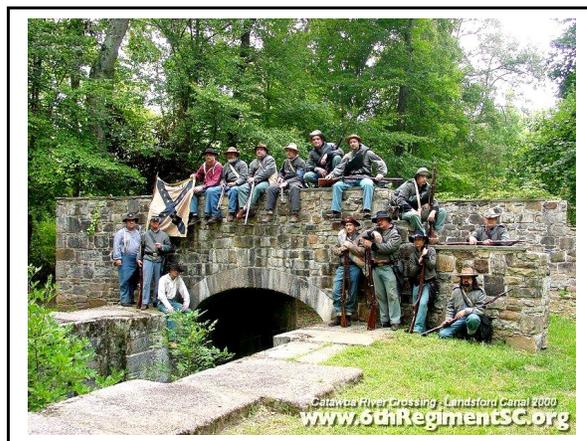
The *Catawba*, the *Cherokee*, and the *Waxhaw* had known of this river for centuries. They prayed to the spirits of their ancestors for spring floods that would guarantee the autumn harvest, and for an abundance of fish that would provide a steady supply of protein for their peoples. The *Catawba Reservation* was carved from rolling hills and woods in *York* and *Lancaster* counties, with the *Catawba River* at the center.

A Catawba Memory of Walston Levi Locke

The thirty mile stretch of the *Catawba* between the *Lake Wylie Dam* and the *Fishing Creek Reservoir* is the longest remaining free-flowing section of the river, and runs through *York, Lancaster,* and *Chester* counties, all well known to our **Locke** ancestors. In a 1987 interview, **Walston Levi Locke**, son of **Absalom Lewis** and **Lizzie Campbell Locke**, recalled his early days along the *Catawba*. He was a boy growing up in *Union County, North Carolina*, at the beginning of the twentieth century. “*Fish and birds were everywhere*”, he remembered. “*Deer and rabbits were scattered all through the woods.*” He enjoyed talking about the rope ferry that allowed his family to cross the river in mule and horse drawn wagons to visit his cousins and grandmothers in *York County* from his home near *Waxhaw*. “*The ferry was a flat barge built out of logs, with wood rails along both sides. A strong rope with large iron rings that held the ferry against the current was tied to large trees on both banks, and mules would pull another rope that was tied to the ferry. They would walk along the river bank, with the ropes wrapped around big trees to pull the ferry across. Two wagons and their teams of mules or horses could fit on the ferry at one time.*” He also remembered when *Model-T Fords* were put on the same ferry. “*It was the only way to get across in those days*”, he added. “*They never had a schedule. Sometimes the ferry man would make you wait for hours for another wagon to come along, especially when the current was running fast, and the mules had to work extra hard to pull the rope. It was always a full days trip to get there, and another full day to get back home*”, he would recall. He couldn’t remember the toll that was charged, but many times his mother took eggs and chickens or sweet corn to pay for the crossing.



Catawba crossing near Land’s Ford Canal



Re-enactors rest at Land’s Ford Canal bridge

The Geography of the River

The many tributaries to the *Catawba* are just as important as the river itself. Downriver from the *Lake Wylie Dam*, the river is joined by *Big Dutchman Creek*, and *Burgis Creek* before meeting with *Sugar Creek*. After the *Catawba Reservation* it is joined by *Haggins Branch, Six Mile Creek, Ferry Branch, Abernathy Creek, Greene Creek, and the Twelve Mile Creek* watershed. The *Landsford Canal* connects the bend in the river where *Twelve Mile Creek* enters. Next is *Dunn Creek*, then *Cane Creek* near *Fort Lawn*. The river then flows into *Fishing Creek Reservoir*, created by *Fishing Creek Dam*. *Bear Creek* forms an arm of the reservoir, and the *Catawba* is dammed again to form the reservoir at *Great Falls*. Stream flow is usually light in the summer and highest in the winter. Today these tributaries carry pollution and silt into the river from all of the towns and developments that have

sprung up near its banks. The *Charlotte-Rock Hill* metropolitan area has put a great strain on the river's resources. Communities are working together to preserve areas along the river and streams that will help to make the *Catawba* a beneficial resource for future generations.

At a time when *York County* is facing unprecedented growth, the *Nation's Ford Land Trust* and the *Trust for Public Land* began working together to develop a plan for preserving and linking open space within the area. The plan has evolved into a 30-mile *Greenway*, in honor of the historic *Nation Ford Trail* that linked the area to regions both north and south over 200 years ago. As envisioned, the *Nation Ford Greenway* will be a 30-mile bike and hike trail along *Sugar Creek* and the *Catawba River* in *York County* that will join together parks, conservation areas, neighborhoods, museums, historic sites, business centers, schools, and other places of public interest. Additional benefits to the region from the *Greenway* will be to provide residents with opportunities for physical activity (hiking, running, walking, skating, and bicycling) and to explore *York County's* natural resources and history. It will also protect areas adjacent to *Sugar Creek* and the *River* from soil disturbance, thus enhancing water quality. A proposed pedestrian bridge across the *Catawba* will provide a link to the *Rock Hill* parks system.

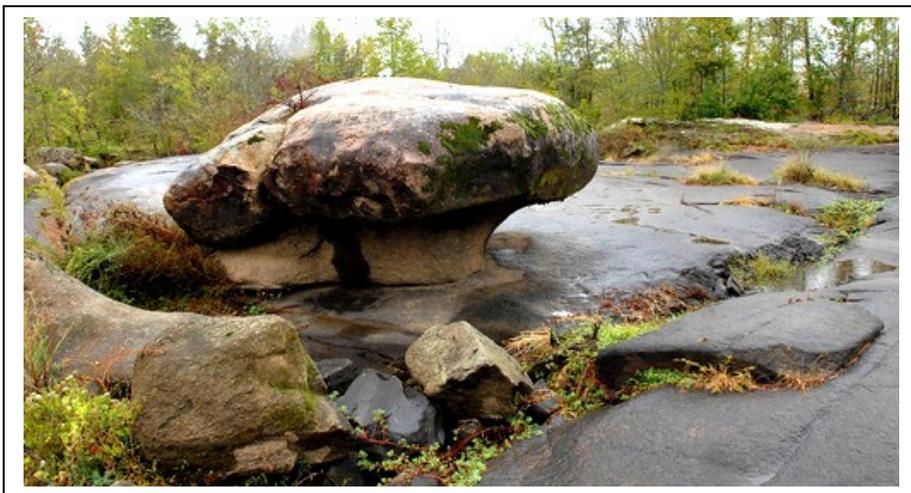
In April, the *Catawba* was listed by a leading environmental group as *America's* most endangered river. It's important to remember that rivers like the *Catawba* carry memories of past generations, and preservation of those memories is one of our most important missions.



Part of dam complex at Great Falls



The remnants of the "Great Falls"



For millions of years, *Mushroom Rock* was in the center of a powerful flow at *Great Falls*. When the flow was diverted by the dam in the 1920's, these amazing formations were left high and dry. Perhaps one day the flow will be restored and nature can resume her artistry.

“People of the River” – The Catawba



The original homeland of the **Catawba** tribe is uncertain. **De Soto** encountered them in 1540. Some evidence points to an *Ohio River Valley* origin, or even *Canada*. Whatever their origin, the **Catawba** were definitely established along the **Catawba River** between *North and South Carolina* in 1650. They built permanent, bark covered roundhouses in which to live, plus huge Council houses for tribal meetings. They hunted *Piedmont* woodlands and prairies and fished in the river and its feeder streams. They also farmed and planted corn extensively in the rich river bottomlands. Once a large and powerful group numbering in the tens of thousands, they waged ongoing war with the **Cherokee** and tribes of the *Ohio River Valley*, being successful in battles with the former, but not faring well against the “**Six Nations**”. The **Iroquois** called the **Catawba** *flatheads* because they, as well as many other tribes in the South, practiced forehead flattening of male infants. **Catawba** warriors had a fearsome reputation and an appearance to match; ponytail hairstyle with a distinctive war paint pattern of one eye in a white circle, the other in a black circle, and the remainder of the face painted black. Coupled with their flattened foreheads, some of their enemies must have died from sheer fright.

A proud people and dangerous enemy, the **Catawba** attached themselves to the interest of the **English** colonists after the beginning of settlement in the *Carolinas*. During the 1660’s, they fought other native people for the **British**, and protected the *Carolina* colonies from encroachment by the **French** and the **Spanish**. In exchange the **English** gave them firearms. They also helped the colonists find runaway slaves. It was a common practice in *South Carolina* to force new slaves to pass in front of a **Catawba** warrior in war paint to discourage escape attempts. By 1720, the **Catawba** had started to

adopt many of the ways of the **English** colonists, but were losing their own culture in the process. Many succumbed over the years to “white man” diseases such as smallpox. By 1826 there were only about 110 true **Catawba** left, and some of those moved elsewhere. In 1883, **Mormon** missionaries were able to convert almost all remaining **Catawba**, and today, most of them follow the **Mormon** faith. In years since, the **Catawba** population has stabilized and grown, and there has been a resurgence of interest in **Catawba** heritage. Although there are no longer any full blooded **Catawba**, much of the tribe’s cultural history has been retained by 2,000 or so descendants now living on or near the current reservation near **Rock Hill, South Carolina**. (**Sallie Brown Gordon**, the last native speaker of the **Catawba** language—a dialect of **Siouxan**—died in 1952) The tribe is also interested in preserving and conserving natural aspects of the reservation, especially habitats along the **Catawba River** bottom land.

Catawba Indian Pottery

Perhaps the **Catawba Indian Nation’s** greatest legacy is its pottery, made in simple, elegant style that is instantly recognizable. Production and sale of pottery is not a “new” thing.



Circa 1910 postcard shows a Catawba family selling their wares to locals and tourists.

For many years, the **Catawba** depended upon the “*mountain*” trade to sell their creations. Working alongside the **Cherokee** in the **Carolina** mountains, the **Catawba** would offer their work to the thousands of tourists who came to see the new **Blue Ridge Parkway** in the 1930’s. By the 1960’s, that market had almost disappeared, and the artisans had to find another means to sell their pots, pipes, and bowls. A renewed interest in **Native American** crafts in recent years has brought a new appreciation for the unique qualities of these wonderful pieces. **Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History** near **York, South Carolina**, lies just 15 miles from the **Catawba River**. On display there are priceless pieces from the unknown artists from centuries ago, as well as a complete selection from more recent

producers. Since water from *Hilton Pond* flows into *Fishing Creek* and eventually into the *Catawba*, there is a real connection to the *Catawba* tribe and their history.

Today, *Catawba* men and children still dig clay from pits along the river, often from prime sites kept secret from outsiders. After cleaning the clay, *Catawba* women grind it into very fine powder to eliminate any grittiness from the final product. Water is added, and the mixture is worked to the proper consistency. Unlike many modern potters who “throw” pots on a wheel, *Catawba* use lumps or snake-like coils of clay to form their pots. After flattening a lump to make the bottom, the potter joins the ends of a first coil and adds it to the base. All joints are smoothed, and a second coil is added atop the first, then a third, and so on until the desired height is reached. This “green” pot is allowed to dry for a few days, after which the potter thins the walls and smooths inner and outer surfaces using tools that may have been passed down from her mother or grandma or great granny. These implements—made of bone, shell, wood, or metal—are among the potter’s most cherished possessions. A final dampening of the pot allows the potter to polish it to a glass-like finish. Ornamentation may be added in the form of handles, spouts, or the head of an ancient *Chief Hagler* or *Nopkehe*, or as artistic incising on the outer surface of the pot. *Catawba Indian* pottery is *NEVER* painted, nor is it glazed.

Most potters sun dry their pots before firing them outdoors in a pit or open fireplace, which—depending on how and where wood is placed around or in the pots--produces a unique mottled pattern of black, tan, orange, and/or brown that makes the smooth but unglazed final product so distinctive. This technique is believed to have been used by *Catawba* for up to 4,500 years and apparently predates more familiar pottery-making by tribes in the *Southwestern United States*. Many master potters, both men and women, have resurrected the old ways, and are creating new designs using historic techniques. Perhaps your family owns one or more pieces of this earthen ware, and only now are you discovering its origin. A donation to the *Hilton Pond Center for Piedmont Natural History* might just be the ultimate destination for your family heirloom. All pieces shown can be seen at that museum.



Most of these pieces are less than 7" tall. The "Rebecca" vase on the right is 13" tall

Card from Mamie Scenia Locke Boyce



Sister Mattie (left) in 1959



With brothers and sisters in 1946



Playing her music in 1978

Shortly before she passed away on May 15, 1979, **Mamie Locke Boyce**, daughter of **Absalom Lewis** and **Lizzie Campbell Locke**, wrote this card to her nephew, **Buddy Helms**. She was 85 years old at the time. She had a beautiful penmanship, and was obviously very coherent right to the end. She always had a wonderful smile, and a pleasant high pitched voice. She loved music, and could play piano, organ, and autoharp by ear. She loved to drive, and was famous for having a slightly heavy foot!

Sweet Tea..... the “House Wine” of the South

What **Locke** family reunion would be complete without the many containers of iced cold, sweet tea? Before anyone decides what food to bring, they always have to make sure that there will be plenty of “**Sweet Tea**”. No social gathering in the South is ever complete without a table loaded with lots and lots of “Sweet Tea”. It has been called the “*house wine*” of the *South*, and for good reason.

Now for a little iced tea history. In 1799, *South Carolina* is the first place in the *United States* where tea is grown and is the only state to have ever produced tea commercially. A French botanist planted tea, along with camellias, gardenias, and azaleas, near *Charleston* at *Middleton Barony*, now known as *Middleton Place Gardens*. Tea grown by *The Charleston Tea Plantation* and sold under the name “*American Classic Tea*” is the only commercially grown tea in *North America*. It has been the official tea of the *White House* since 1987. Tea was officially adopted as the hospitality Beverage of *South Carolina* by Act No. 31 on April 10, 1995.

Our other main ingredient in sweet tea, sugar, was made available and affordable in 1846 when a new refining technique took most of the labor out of the process, producing an inexpensive and deliciously satisfying final product. Because Southerners could not afford the expensive teas of the day, they found that the addition of sugar extended the life of the brew. The commercial production of ice came about just before the *Civil War*, and when the sweetened tea was poured over ice, a new drink was born. Southerners swear by their traditional sweet tea and drink it by the gallons. In the *South*, ice tea is not just a summertime drink. It is served year round with most meals. When people order tea in a Southern restaurant, chances are they will get sweet ice tea. Strangely enough, *Canadians* also prefer sweet ice tea, and are shocked when northern restaurants serve tea with no sugar.

From the 1930’s to the 1970’s, most Southern “ice tea” was sweetened—heavily sweetened. Southerners have an overriding preference for sweet drinks, and as anybody knows, sugar is much more easily dissolved in warm liquid than in cold, so cooks began sweetening the tea before chilling it. The practice is mentioned as early as 1880 in a cookbook. Today, a visitor to the *South* will be asked “sweet or un-sweet” when they order tea. Those in the know will order “sweet tea” or “un-sweet tea” to begin with. Connoisseurs my scoff, but Sweet Tea is a wonderfully refreshing and uniquely *American* tea treat. The addition of lemon or a sprig of mint is quite acceptable, just watch out for the seeds.

RECIPE FOR AUTHENTIC SOUTHERN “SWEET TEA”

First, you must make sure that you have clean, pure water. **The better the water, the better the tea.** Next, bring the desired amount of water to a boil, then add double the amount of tea bags you would use for traditional hot tea. Remember, you will be pouring the tea over ice for chilling. Also remember that most people will want at least two glasses of tea to get through their meal. Always figure on multiple refills. Let the tea steep for about five minutes. While the tea is still warm, add two cups (yes, I said two cups!) of sugar, and stir until everything dissolves. Next, crush up as much ice as you can, and fill every glass to the top. Again, you’ll need lots more ice for the refills! Finally, pour the warm, sweet tea over the ice, and give it a minute to get very cold. Don’t be afraid to use large glasses, and I do mean “glasses”. Plastic just doesn’t do the trick (Except when you’re at a large outside gathering and glass just isn’t an option). Add lemon or a sprig of mint as a finishing touch. Store unused tea in the fridge. but not for more than a day!



Halifax County... The Colonial Locke Home



The Roanoke River rapids are just upriver from the town of Halifax.

Around 1765, for reasons not yet discovered, **James and Susannah Green Locke** joined with the family of his brother, **John**, and headed south from *St. Mary's County, Maryland*. They were headed for an area of *North Carolina* just south of the *Virginia* border, known as **Halifax County**. With them were their young sons, **William and Josias** (our ancestor) and perhaps more children. They had to cross the *Potomac River*, the *Rappahannock*, and then the *James River*, before they found *Indian* trails that would guide them to their final destination.

Halifax County was the colonial heart of *North Carolina*. *Hillsborough*, just to the west, was already a major trading post for the large manors and plantations that were scattered throughout that area, and *Elizabeth City* and *Edenton* to the east were major port towns along *Albemarle Sound*. The actual town of **Halifax** was founded in 1760. The new town of **Halifax** was located on the south bank of the *Roanoke River* and at the intersection of major north-south and east-west roads. Falls and rapids were just upriver, making **Halifax** the head of river navigation. With these advantages, the small town quickly became a trading center and river port for goods moving between the backcountry, the plantations, and *Virginia*. The *Roanoke Valley's* fertile bottomlands were ideal for farming, and the plantation system gradually developed; planters used slave labor to grow wheat, corn, peas, tobacco, and other staple crops for markets outside *North Carolina*. Ocean going ships were needed for transporting these crops, but the *Roanoke River* did not lead to a good ocean port. Still, passable roads did connect the valley with the *North Carolina* backcountry and with the nearby *Virginia* port town of *Norfolk*.

As a county seat, **Halifax** was a place where people gathered for court days, or to vote in a hotly contested election, and where lawyers were always busy with both legal matters and politics. The town was headquarters for a militia district, and on muster days, citizen soldiers from miles around gathered to drill on *Market Square*. Afterward, many of them met in one of the town's hotels or taverns.

Halifax was also a crossroads, a trading center, and a river port. Backcountry men arrived via the *Hillsborough* road to trade their skins and furs. Market days and country fairs filled the square with people. Long distance travelers found **Halifax** a welcome stop after bad roads and poor roadside food and lodging. At the warehouses near the river landing, crops from valley plantations were stored, loaded, and shipped. Here, planters and merchants bought and sold these crops, sometimes exchanging warehouse receipts in lieu of money. Up *King Street* from the river, there was more buying and selling. Shopkeepers, their merchandise arranged in one or two rooms of a house or tavern, sold planters' wives silks and "negro cloth", pins, buckles, shoes, spices, salt, coffee, liquors and other imported goods. Visits were made by the women to the milliner or the seamstress. A new atlas for his library could be purchased by a gentleman from the printer-bookseller. Men frequented the tailor or the black barber.

The little town on the *Roanoke* served as a social center, where valley men gathered to talk—some over wine and cards, others over tavern ale and local whiskey. Planters and merchants talked business. Everyone discussed hunting, horseracing, cockfighting, and politics. In the evening, a group of “*Charleston Comics*” passing through town might perform humorous short plays in a tavern ballroom. On another evening, the same ballroom could be the setting for a social gala. Major celebrations such as the *Fourth of July* featured parades, speeches, and elaborate dinners.

Not everything in *Halifax* was serene or even comfortable. A spring thundershower turned choking dust into ankle-deep muck. If the shower became a storm, the *Roanoke* went out of its banks, destroying bottomland crops. Drinking water was available from only a few wells. Many townspeople relied on the spring south of *King Street*. Early in the day, housewives and slaves dumped the “*night soil*” into convenient ditches or pits, and some of this effluent, laden with disease, found its way into the water supply. Many children never became adults; birth, diseases, and infections from simple childhood accidents kept mortality high. In the eighteenth century, smallpox epidemics raged throughout the valley and town. A group of *Revolutionary War* soldiers were more fortunate than most; they marched from their camp in *Halifax* before an epidemic from the west reached them. Arriving at *Arlington, Virginia*, they were inoculated in accordance with *British* doctor **Edward Jenner’s** new discovery for preventing smallpox.

Women died relatively young from the travails of childbirth and disease. They could not hold political office, and few were given the opportunity for an education. Daughters of wealthy men might reasonably expect to attend a boarding school; but once married, their careers were always in the home, and they lost certain legal rights.

A step above the black on the social scale was the poor white, who scratched out a living as a laborer or small farmer. The male children of the poor whites, as well as male orphans, might expect to be apprenticed to a craftsman or tradesman. In return for years of legal bondage, the apprentice was to be provided with food, clothing, shelter, and training in a craft or trade.

Most children seldom received more than a minimal education. Instead, they performed chores, played in the streets, and squares, and roamed nearby woods. The river offered swimming in summer and fishing all year.

The people of the *Roanoke Valley* considered religion an important part of their lives. The predominating *Anglican* faith of the original *English* settlers eventually was diminished by the growth of *Methodists* and *Baptist* groups. *Quakers* settled in the valley prior to the revolution.

Halifax and the Revolutionary War

Josias Locke and his brother **William** were of the right age to have served in the *Revolutionary War*. On *April 4, 1776*, *North Carolina’s Fourth Provincial Congress* met in *Halifax*, and on *April 12*, the “*Halifax Resolves*” were adopted unanimously by the 87 delegates present. It was the first official provincial action for independence in all the colonies. On *July 22*, the *Halifax Council* received word that the *Declaration of Independence* had been signed in *Philadelphia*. On *August 1*, the *Declaration* was read to a large crowd gathered in *Halifax*. It was the first time the document was read publicly in *North Carolina*.

In *November, 1776*, the **Fifth Provincial Congress** assembled in **Halifax**, and on *December 18*, this Congress adopted **North Carolina's** first constitution. Earlier in *1775*, **Halifax** had become a district recruiting center for **Continental** soldiers, a battalion headquarters for the state militia, and a powder magazine and supply depot for both the militia and the **Continental** army. An arms factory began operation in the town. It employed three armourers, four blacksmiths, nine carpenters, three tailors, twenty wagoners, and four wagon makers.

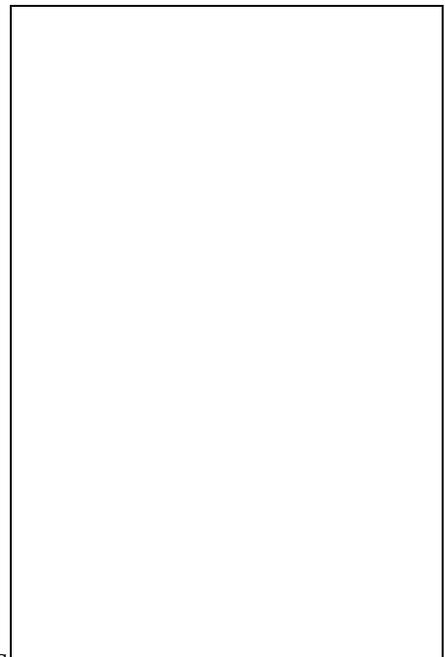
Volunteers came to **Halifax**, enlisted, and were paid bonuses. The recruits then set up camps on the outskirts of town and would later march off to join other troops. In the late summer of *1780*, there was a smallpox epidemic in **Halifax**, and the troops were removed. By the spring of the next year, only a small number of ragged militia protected the town while, at his headquarters in **Wilmington**, **Lord Cornwallis** was making plans to enter **Virginia**. As the **British** General began his march northward, supplies and materials were hastily evacuated from **Halifax**.

Bloodthirsty **Colonel Tarleton** (you'll remember him from the **Mel Gibson** film, "**The Patriot**") led the **Tory's** cavalry unit advancing ahead of **Cornwallis**. Easily beating back two small groups of local militia below **Halifax**, **Tarleton** pushed across the river. By that time, **Tarleton's** men had committed atrocities against **Halifax** citizens, and eventually **Cornwallis** court-martialed two of **Tarleton's** men, and had them hanged. In early *May of 1781*, the **British** army left **Halifax**, having damaged little more than the armory, which was soon back in operation. Five months later, **Cornwallis** surrendered to **George Washington** at **Yorktown**.

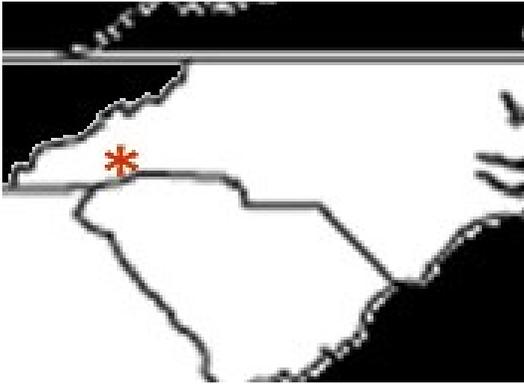
Halifax achieved its greatest fame during the American Revolution, though for nearly sixty years afterward it continued to prosper, as wealth from the successful plantation system, political power, and a social gentry combined to bring a "*golden age*" to the town and valley. But in *1835*, changes in the state constitution limited the area's political power; in *1839*, the railroads came, bypassing **Halifax** as a major stop and ending the importance of the river port. Finally, the **Civil War** destroyed the institution of slavery and, with it, the plantation system that had formed the backbone of the **Roanoke Valley's** "*golden age*" economy. Long before that, **Josias**, along with his brother, **William**, had relocated their families into northern South Carolina, leaving behind the life they had known for almost forty years.

Historic Halifax Today

Historic **Halifax** offers a portrait of the past. Written documents, pictures, maps, and local traditions reveal facts about how the town grew, thrived, and then declined. There is still a great deal to be learned. Beneath the soils of **Halifax County** lies a treasure trove of priceless artifacts and buildings. Visiting there today, you'll find groups of archeologists digging and sifting, looking for clues to the Colonial past. Original foundations to elaborate public buildings and private homes are emerging from the ground. The sites and their archaeological remains make up a unique cultural resource, and the conservation of this resource is a debt owed to future generations. **Halifax** has an exit off of **I-95** just before the **Virginia** border. If you're ever passing through that area, you should stop and remember how your ancestors helped to build an important town along the **Roanoke River**.



John Locke and the Carolina Boundary Line



Did you ever wonder why the boundary line separating *North* from *South Carolina* has such an uneven appearance? Of all people, **John Locke**, the renowned *English* philosopher of the 17th century, had a hand in founding and setting up the two colonies. He wrote much about man's need to govern himself, and about the basic human rights of citizens. He saw the newly settled lands south of *Virginia* as the perfect place to test his controversial ideas. He set up an elaborate plan of government and settlement for the area, although he never crossed the *Atlantic* to actually set foot in the place. For over forty years the colonial surveyors who worked out of *Charlestown* (Charleston), were directly affected by the decisions of the *English* philosopher who never set eyes on *Carolina*.

Because of fierce rivalries between the eight "*Lords Proprietors*" who were granted control of the *Carolina* territory, **Locke** decided to divide the area into two distinct colonies in 1711. Using crude maps of the time, he decided that the mid-point between the *Virginia* and *Georgia* colonial boundaries should fall thirty miles south of the mouth of the *Cape Fear River*, just next to what would be called *Little River*. From there, he would extend a line perpendicular to the coast to the northwest until it intersected with the 35th parallel, then turn due west until it theoretically ended at the "south seas" (the *Pacific Ocean*), which was the western boundary of the *Carolina* colony as claimed by *England*. Sound simple? Not so fast!

The original three surveyors who were hired by the *King* to run the line from the coast had all kinds of problems in 1734. After seven weeks of trudging "*through swamps, deserts, uninhabited woods, and over creeks (sic)*", they abandoned their posts. A second party was organized to finish the job, but never made it to the 35th parallel. They quit because the 5 pounds *Sterling* per day didn't come close to making the job worth their while, and the conditions were unbearable.

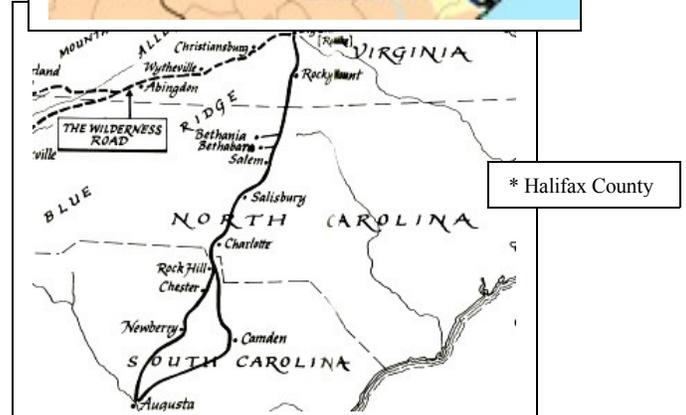
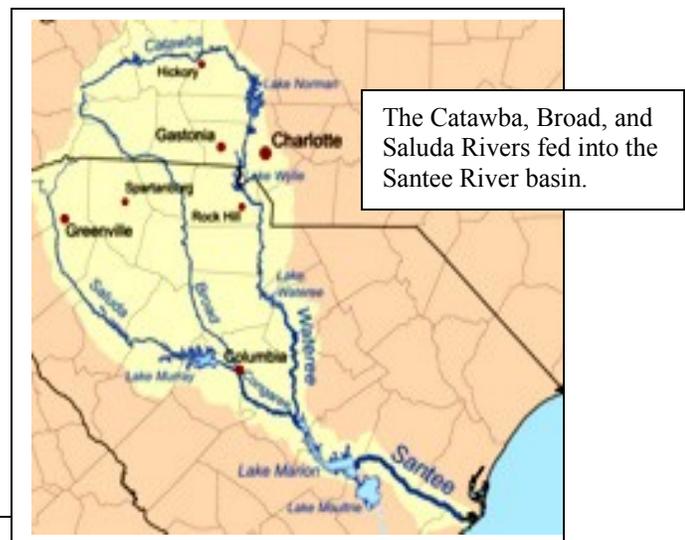
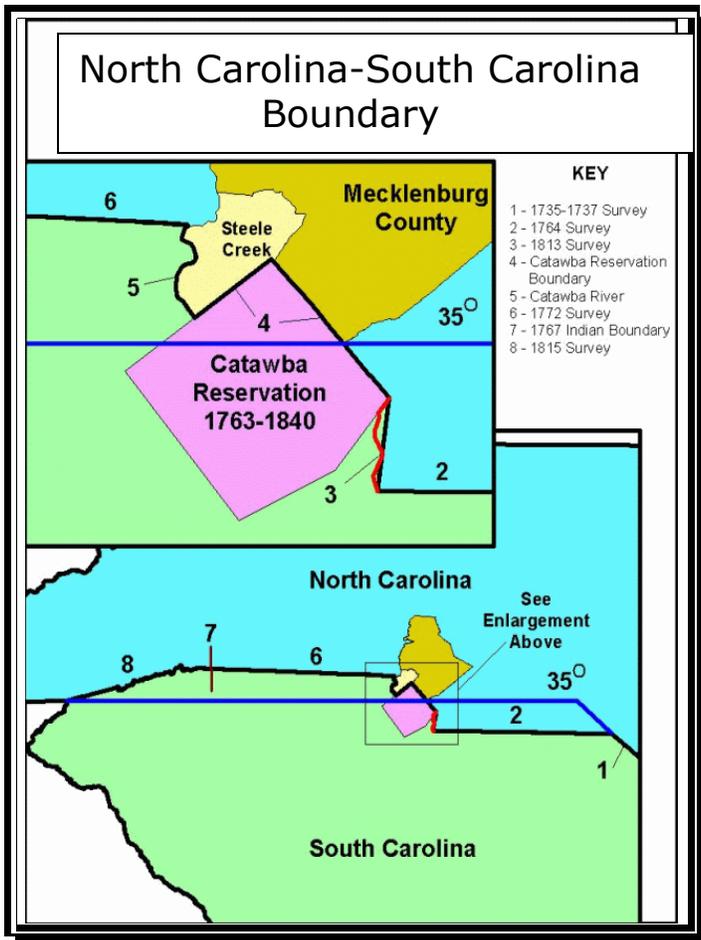
It wasn't until after the end of the *French and Indian War* in 1763 that attention was once again focused on the boundary problem. The "*Treaty of Augusta*", which granted the *Catawba Indians* a tract of land fifteen miles square, would complicate this matter further. The 35th parallel would run right through the center of the reservation. The *Catawba* asked that their reservation be laid-off so that they would have authority to remove the squatters and poachers who were increasing in great numbers. The question of whether the *Catawba* land would be in *North* or *South Carolina* would eventually be answered by **King George III** in *London*. The *Catawba* wanted to be part of *South Carolina* because they had long served the *English* government in *Charleston*.

A new survey team was hired to run the line from the *Lumber River*, just south of *Lumberton, N.C.*, west along the 35th parallel. Their lack of experience caused them to run the line eleven miles south of the parallel. Confused, fatigued, and suffering from "*the rains, the hot weather, and the insects*", the team stopped at the *Camden-Salisbury Road*, just south of the *Catawba lands*. Instead of latitude 35 degrees north, the surveyors had run a course of 34 degrees and 49 minutes. The error would eventually cost *South Carolina* 660 square miles of land.

In 1771, less than 30 years before **Josias Locke** would move his family to *Chester County*, **King George**

III ordered that the line move north, leaving the reservation inside *South Carolina*. Moving around the reservation until it crossed the *Catawba River*, it then followed the center of the river to the confluence of the north and south forks, then due west to the mountains. That put the boundary at 35 degrees, 12 minutes, north latitude, allowing for some of the land lost in previous surveys. *The Camden-Salisbury Road* became the eastern boundary of the *Catawba* territory. It made an irregular and shifting boundary, especially when the *British* general, *Lord Cornwallis*, tore up the road during the *Revolution*, and a new road, now *S.C. 521*, was cut. With the boundary change, many of the border residents were not certain in which state they resided, and often chose the one least likely to collect any taxes.

Finally, the two states did a very wise thing, and agreed to settle the matter by choosing *William Richardson Davie*, native to *South Carolina's Waxhaw* settlement, former governor of *North Carolina*, and also the founder of the *University of North Carolina* in *Chapel Hill*, to draw up a straight boundary line. *Davie*, who was now living near *Lands Ford* in *Chester County*, headed the survey party that, in 1813, established a point now known as "*Old North Corner*", to mark the angle where the two states joined. It is located about a mile south of *Andrew Jackson State Park*, and is marked by a three foot tall igneous stone, with the date, *1813*, carved on one side, and "*NC-SC*" on the other. The two states agreed to accept the judgment of one man they both respected. Thus, bloodshed was avoided.



The Final Survey of 1928

In 1928, another commission was established to clarify the original 1935 boundary between the *Atlantic*

Ocean, and the *Lumber River*, a distance of 43.08 miles. Going back to **John Locke's** original orders, they would search for original boundary markers that would have been almost 200 years old by that time. What a job! First, they were fortunate to locate the ruins of the original **Boundary House**, by using the original map, and a coastal survey chart from 1873. They found bricks used in the chimney and support piers. The house had stood "two and one half miles and forty-four poles from the sea." It was near the mouth of the *Little River*. The next task was to locate a long leaf pine tree some 31 miles northwest of the boundary house that property owners had always observed as a "state line tree". They found it standing in a much younger forest, and towering above the younger trees. It was dying of old age and forest fires, and had been freely tapped for turpentine. Only on one side was there a narrow strip of sap wood which sustained its life. Because the commission felt that it was definitely an original line tree, it was cut down, and sawed into blocks for further analysis. (Can you imagine this being allowed today?) The blocks were further split up, and a very old "fire well" was discovered deep inside the trunk, which had completely healed over. The original 1735 survey team had burned one side of the marker trees for identification. Feeling that this was an original mark, there only remained the counting of the annular rings to conclusively prove it.

The section of live sap wood which still remained made possible the counting of these rings from the center to the outside edge. 349 rings were counted. Adding six years for the tree to reach the height of the "marker" blaze, the tree was 355 years old when cut down. Next, 193 rings were counted from the outside to the "mark" of the blaze. Subtracting 193 from the year 1928 gave 1735 as the year in which the blaze was made, which also was the year of the original survey. The tree when blazed was 162 years old. It was therefore established beyond question that this long leaf pine was blazed by the original surveyor to mark a point in the line between the two states.

The block containing the original blaze markings was sawed through into two parts, both showing the rings, and each state was given the evidence to be preserved in each state's archives. Having thus identified and definitely located two points (the **Boundary House** and the **State Line Tree**) in the original line 31 miles apart, a line was run between them and produced southeastwardly to the seashore, and northwestwardly to the *Lumber River*, thus re-establishing the original state line.

Family Memories... Walston Edd Helms – "Buddy"



Buddie and brother Dock (Harold) in 1922



Buddy in 1927



NASCAR days in 1951



Clowning in Florida in 1978

The Locke "Family Tree" Project

Over the past three years, I have been working to complete our *Locke Family Tree*. Slowly, names and dates have emerged, but not nearly enough. Since March, I have been sending personal inquiries to many

of you, asking for family information that will help to fill in the blank spots. Please, please, please, if you have been planning to respond, but just haven't gotten around to it, write your letters today! Every **Locke** descendant is vital to our records. If you have lost someone dear to you, and you haven't read about them in a previous newsletter, assume that I don't know of your loss, and please notify me. The same goes for births. I'm just now learning of kids who were born in 2005.

The intention is to have many data discs ready for distribution at this year's reunion, so that each family can take home a record of their genealogy. Birthdates are so important, as well as anniversaries, and maiden names of spouses. Over fifty separate letters have gone out, and I've only had responses from five families. Help!

My address is **Vann Helms**, 5281 Southwest 95th Avenue, Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, 33328. E-mail is even better. vann@miami-art.com. Only through your input can this project be a success.

Happenings in the Extended Locke Family

Charlie and Myrtle Winchester have a new great-grandson. **Dana**, their daughter **Cheryl's** daughter, had a little boy on *January 18th*. He was quite a surprise. The doctors had told her it would be a *girl!* **Charlie** has been enlarging his family "*tent*" at the **Pleasant Grove Campground** in **Mineral Springs, North Carolina**. He is also a part of the group that is replacing the rafters and roofing of the historic **Arbor** at the center of the grounds. "*Some of the men have cut 65 logs and one of the members sawed them on his old sawmill. After they dry awhile, we will hand hue them to make them appear like the rest. Hope we will be finished by Camp Meeting, the third week of July!*", **Charlie** told me. By the way, did I mention that **Charlie** will be **90** on his next birthday? He is the son of **Sadie Hope Locke Winchester**.

Frances Byrd Harris, granddaughter of **Virginia "Janie" Locke Culp**, has a new granddaughter. She was born to **Robert and Monica Wilson Harris** *March 1, 2008*. Her name is **Charlotte A. Harris**..

Ashley Dawn Boyce and her husband **Christopher Hammonds** welcomed their second son, **Christopher Gavin Hammonds**, on *July 8, 2006*. **Ashley's** great-grandma was **Mamie Scenia Locke Boyce**, late of Monroe, North Carolina.

Ashley's brother, **Kevin Boyce**, and his wife **Amy Biggers**, had brought **Cody Blake Boyce** into the world on *September 5, 2005*. Congrats to the proud grandparents of both new babies, **John Hugh Boyce** and his wife **Barbara Jean Baucom**.

Sarah Prosak, daughter of **Maydell Locke Thomas**, is recovering well from a double aneurism earlier this year in **California**. **Maydell** is very busy this month preparing for her family's biennial reunion, which she is hosting near her home in **Southern California**, on *June 21*. **Maydell** descends from **Jesse McCullough Locke**, son of **Josias**.

Vann Helms continues to recover well from cancer treatment. His last *PET SCAN* was clear!

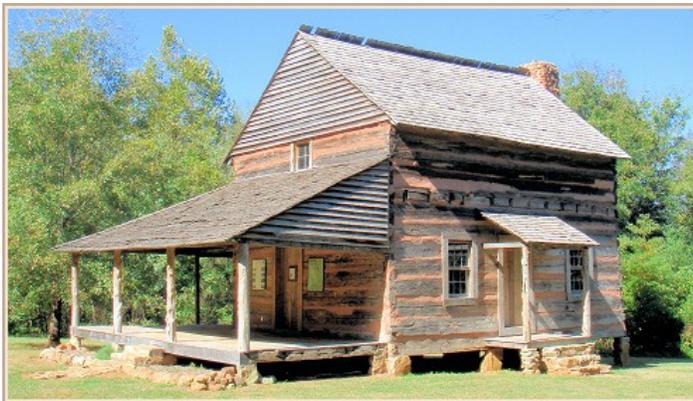
The Locke Reunion will be on October 12, 2008

Start getting your family recipes out. We expect a big turn-out at this year's reunion at **Ray and Bruce Howell's** farm near **Huntersville**. We'll gather after 1 p.m. to set up the tables and the food, then we will enjoy the afternoon with music, family stories, and good old-fashioned **Locke** hospitality. Who will get the

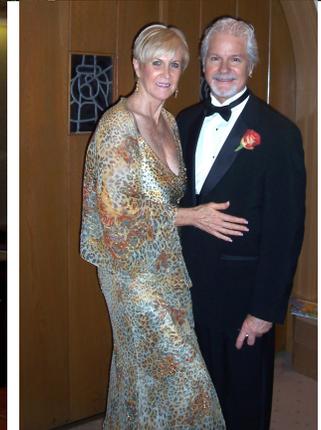
Silver Dollars this year for being the oldest and the youngest? Will **Walt Locke** ride his motorcycle all the way from **Maryland** again this year at 85 years old? Will **Rooter**, the pot-bellied pig make an appearance this year? Bring your priceless family photos for scanning and sharing. Don't miss seeing **Grandma Lizzie Locke's** handmade bedspread, back in the family after 75 years! Please call the older family members and make sure they have a ride. **Bring your friends with you this year.** There's nothing like sharing a good *Southern* meal under the trees on an Autumn afternoon with those that are close to you. Drift around in a rowboat or paddleboat on the lake while **Debbie Fox and Friends** play good ole country music, and fire up the karaoke.

Directions to the Howell Farm on Cashion Road

From *Interstate 77*, north of *Charlotte*, take exit 25 west, which is N.C. highway 73, and also *Sam Furr Road*. Go west toward *Lake Norman*, and stay on *Highway 73*. After about three miles, you will turn left onto *Beatties Ford Road*, and drive south about 1½ miles, until you see *Cashion Road*, and you will make a right turn. Follow the *LOCKE REUNION* signs to *Ray and Bruce Howell's* home about ¼ mile on your left. Park at the top of the hill, and walk down to the lake house. If that short walk might be a little too much for some of our loved ones, you can drive them down the hill directly to the pavilion. Of course, bring your favorite meat, veggies, biscuits, and desserts! If you get lost, call Vann on his cell at 305-519-1934.



19th century farmhouse in York County



Eddie gets married... and Best Man Vann and Patty