

# The Locke Family Newsletter

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## The Reunion is Only Three Months Away



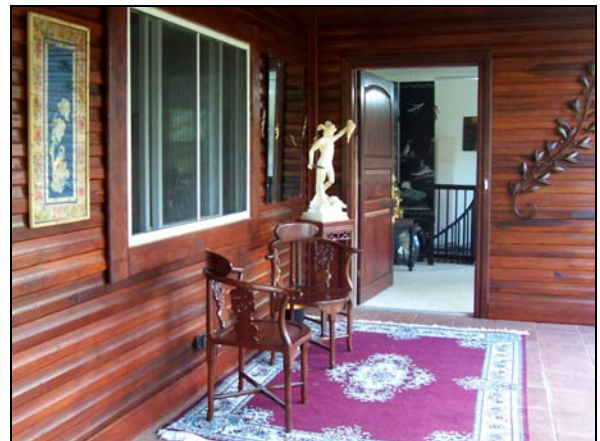
Lake Lure and Chimney Rock

Photos by Vann Helms

Saturday, August 14<sup>th</sup> will be here before you know it. We've moved the festivities up by two months, and you need to make your plans now. It's very important that you call the people in your family, and *make arrangements for transportation to the Mountains well in advance*. It's a two hour ride from Mecklenburg and York counties, and from the Charlotte airport. A detailed map and driving instructions can be found on the back of this newsletter. It's quite a beautiful ride, so you may want to give yourself a little cushion of time just in case you might want to stop along the way. Plan to arrive in late morning, and plan to stay into the late afternoon. I've included hotel information for those who might want to spend the night on Saturday. Make a weekend of it, and stay to enjoy this spectacular part of the Blue Ridge Mountains.



Historic Sights...



My home is ready and open...

Boat rides are available on the lake if ya'll stay over, and river tubing will be the deal on Sunday for the young and young at heart. It's only \$10 for a two hour float on the Broad River. Bring your ice chest and favorite beverages. There's nothing like it anywhere!





**The View From the Deck...**



**The Reunion Headquarters**

As usual, bring your favorite dish to share. If you have some homegrown vegetables, please cook up a batch. You can never get too many good home grown vegetables. Make sure somebody makes the Banana Pudding, and Country Ham Biscuits. There will be an ample supply of sweet and unsweet iced tea. Take your pick. If you're driving from the Low Country (Marilyn and John), bring something unique to your area. If you're driving or flying from much farther away, some Popeye's or KFC will be just fine. Maybe some Publix apple pie or Harris Teeter Angel Food cake would work for you. Somebody bring the strawberries for the shortcake. If you want to prepare something after you arrive, there's a full kitchen with everything you need.

We'll have lots of music, live or otherwise. Plan to spend the afternoon in a rocking chair on the deck, or just hanging downstairs studying the family scrolls and memorabilia. Speaking of family memorabilia, please bring photographs and other priceless Locke relics that you can share during "Show and Tell". Family Bibles and scrapbooks are most welcomed.

The paddle boat with life jackets will be on the lake down the hill, so bring your sunscreen and old sneakers. Bring a pole if you want to fish. There's a hiking trail down through the woods to Otter Creek down below that the kids will enjoy, and a new sunken grotto retreat if you want to just chill with nature for awhile. The deer and wild turkeys are shy, but might surprise you, so bring your cameras.



**Friendly neighbors...**



**Otter Lake down the road...**

## Who's Coming.....?

I've already heard from many people who intend to make the drive, or flight. Bill Locke, who I met through the DNA testing project plans to come all the way from Vancouver, Oregon. Michael and Charlene Helms Freedland are hoping to make it from Ft. Lauderdale, and stay at The Grove Park Inn in Asheville, as are Nancy Helms and Bobby Schuler, from Ft. Lauderdale. Eddie and Carol Helms hope to return to the reunion after a three year hiatus. It would be great if Wade and Vicki Helms could make the journey from South Florida with their sons David and Matt. Marie Locke Herres wants to come with her brother, Walt, and as many of her kids as she can bring with her. Donna and Shelby Parker from Charlotte will be here, as will Debra Brotherton Fox and her family. Johnny Turner and his family have made plans to join us, and we hope that cousins Mike Brotherton and Belinda Clay will do the same. Ray and Bruce Howell of Huntersville, and Gladys Howell of Cornelius, who is making curtains especially for the occasion, will be joining us. We're looking for Betty and Dale Allred from Valle Crucis, near Boone, and for Betty's brother Jeff McAuley from Chester, South Carolina. Charlie and Myrtle Winchester from Matthews will most likely car pool with one of their kids, Chuck, Cheryl, Karen, or Myra. Let's hope that Kim and Scott Agnew can join us this year with their sons, Nate and Max, from Concord, and Kim's sister, Kay Locke Godlewski, with her husband, Barry, who both recently moved to Concord. It's been a full year since they lost their dad, Furman, and we really miss seeing them.

Don Williams and his family will be here from Rock Hill, and we hope to see John and Betty Carter Phillips again, also from Rock Hill. I spoke with Nancy Locke last week. She is fully recovered from her surgery of two years ago, and she's hoping either or both of her sons, Don or Ron Locke, will provide her with a ride. Marilyn and John Ballard will most likely make the drive again from Charleston. It would be wonderful if Jerry and Carolyn Locke of Chester could join us once again, along with their daughter and her family. Jerry's cousin, Joe Locke, of Spartanburg, will hopefully be able to make the forty-five minute trip to Lake Lure with his family. Joe's dad, Wofford, a son of Henry Jefferson Locke, would bring a smile to all of our faces if he could come up with Joe.

Let's hope that Locke and Ernestine Boyce can make it three years in a row from Jacksonville, and Locke's sisters, Helen Hendrix and Sadie Hope Flowe, can join him. Locke's nieces, Valerie McRorie and Diane Simpson with her husband John, would round out a good representation by the Mamie Locke Boyce family. Fran Harris, who descends from John Calhoun Locke, wants to get back to the mountains. Perhaps she can coax a few from her large family to come with her.

Kristen Mildenhall from Atlanta wants to join us for the first time. She descends from Joseph Locke, son of Josias. She's been doing extensive research on that branch of the family, and discovered the two "Stephens" earlier this year. Another long time Locke researcher, Sandy Wright, from Huntsville, may join us for the first time, as might Sandy's cousin, Robert Locke, of Kingsport, Tennessee, with his lovely family. They all descend from the Jesse McCullough Locke branch. Another Jesse descendant, Burnie Harris of Mobile, would represent the Jesse Culp Locke branch. Burnie has built the largest Locke family tree of anyone I've seen yet. His daughter, Dr. Crystal Stardust Harris, M.D., graduated from the University of South Alabama medical school on May 8. It's nice to know we finally have a doctor in the family. The Locke Building is on that campus, and is named for the wife of Robert Locke, who was the son of Ben Locke, and great-grandson of Jesse McCullough Locke. Congratulations to the proud papa.

Please make every effort to join us on August 14. **It's important.** It's family.



From **Charlotte** take I-85 past Gastonia to US 74, and head toward **Shelby**. Go through Shelby toward Rutherfordton, and take **Exit 178**, which is **US 221** north. Go through **Rutherfordton**, and look for **US 64/US 74-A**, and head west toward **Lake Lure**. Go just past a Chevron gas station called **Green Hill**, and you will veer to your right onto **Cove Road**, which is also **NC 1001**. Go 8.6 miles, and you will come to **Bill's Creek Road** on your left, which is also **NC 1008**. Turn left and drive 7/10 of a mile, until you see **Otter Creek Road** on your right. Turn there, and drive around the hill, and you will see **Fibber Magee Drive** on your right. Turn there, and follow the signs to my house.

If you're driving on I-40, **Exit 85** at **Marion**, **US 221**, and head south for 3.7 miles. Just after a church on your left, you will make a right onto **Mud Cut Road**, and go about 3 miles until you run into **NC 1001**, at **Sugar Hill**. Make a left, and drive past **Whitehouse** (just a gas station) until you come to **Bill's Creek Road** on your right. Follow the above directions from there.

From I-26, exit at **Columbus**, and look for **NC 108**. Stay on 108 until you get to **Mill Spring**, then turn left onto **NC 9**, and drive 9 miles to **Lake Lure**. Make a right onto **US 64/US 74 A**, and drive about three miles until you find **Bill's Creek Road**, **NC 1008**, on your left. Go 8.4 miles to **Otter Creek Road**, and make a left. Follow signs to my house. Call me at **828-288-4142** if you need more directions.



I recommend three *wonderful* hotels. Just 20 minutes north of my house is the **Hampton Inn Marion** (828-652-5100), and the **Days Inn Marion** (828-659-2567), both at the I-40/US 221 exit. A great historic "honeymoon" hotel is **The Lake Lure Inn and Spa** just 25 minutes to the south on the lake. Call them at **828-625-2525**. If you're using a **GPS** system to get here, enter "**35.513417,-82.101495**", and that will bring you to **Otter Creek Road** and **Bill's Creek Road**. Just follow signs from there.