

# The Locke Family Newsletter

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## Another Memorable Reunion...

Family reunions are about many things. Of course, we all like to enjoy the Southern cooking that is always plentiful and tasty, and where else can you spoon out a little Banana Pudding, and Peach and Blackberry cobblers, and finish it all off with a piece of **Gladys Howell's** scrumptious Pound Cake. But the main reason we continue to gather every year is a simple one. We treasure being together as a family and sharing the memories that make us Lockes so special.

This year's meeting was especially important for the family of **Jerry and Carolyn Locke** of *Rodman*. Jerry's older brother, **John Franklin Locke, Jr.**, attended for the first time. With John were his daughter, **Cathy**, granddaughter **Jennifer** with her husband, **Wayne Taylor**, and their kids, **Claire** and **Dillinger**.



John and daughter, Cathy...

At last year's reunion we learned that John had been diagnosed with cancer. It was wonderful to have him with us, and to hear his dry sense of humor. What we didn't know was that within three weeks, John would no longer be with us. He succumbed to his illness with his loving family around him on August 28th. John (1930-2015), was the son of **John, Sr.**, (1903-1963), who was the son of **Henry Jefferson Locke**, (1862-1937), whose father was **Josiah Henry Locke**, who died in the *Civil War*. Josiah's father was **Benjamin Locke**, who had moved south from *Halifax, North Carolina* with his father, **Josias Lock**, around 1800. John was still living on the original Benjamin Locke farm until his passing.

As I have said so many times in the past, these reunions are so important for us all. These are rare occasions to be together, and the personal interaction with each other is priceless, not just for the older family members who have so much to share, but for the new generation, who has so much to learn. When you have these opportunities, take advantage of them. None of us knows what tomorrow will bring.

# Landsford Canal State Park- August 8<sup>th</sup>

It was a perfect day for a reunion. For August, temperatures in the 70's felt more like Fall, and a breeze off the Catawba River made the morning all the more comfortable. Recent showers brought a fresh scent of wet pine needles, and rocking chairs on the porch of the 1790 log cabin were the place to sit and watch the river meander by.



Mary Emma Bunch and Gladys Howell



Maddy, Tammy, and David Boyce



Donna Parker with sister Debbie Fox and Savannah



Debbie and granddaughter Savannah



Lewis Whisonant chats with Fred Herres, G-son of Walston Locke



Carl Doster with John Franklin Locke, Jr.

Daughter Cathy chats with her Aunt Carolyn Locke



Carl and John with Don Locke and Eddie Helms



Dora Locke with Carol Berry Helms

Eddie Helms and his wife Carol came all the way from Ft. Lauderdale after spending a week in New Jersey visiting with his younger daughter, Sherrie Kukulski, her husband Mark, and Eddie's granddaughters, Delaney and Madison. Mattie Locke was Eddie's grandmother.



Dora Boyce



David Boyce, Larry Williams, Edd Helms, and Nancy Locke

Dora Winchester Boyce is the wife of the late William “Bill” Boyce of Monroe, N.C. Bill was one eight children of Mamie Scenia Locke and Hugh Boyce. David Boyce is her son. Nancy Locke is the wife of the late William Calhoun Locke, who was the son of John Tillman Locke, Sr. Nancy’s son Don attended with his mom, and is visible just over her left shoulder in the photo above.



Don Williams and wife Phyllis



Don eats with Nancy and her son Don

Don Williams is the son of the late Dallas Heyward Williams, and grandson to Minnie Belle Locke and Newton Whitesides Williams. The photo on the right shows the interior of the historic log cabin with its stone fireplace and hand hewed logs and wide board plank floor. The cabin was disassembled from a place a few miles west, and rebuilt on the current site in Landsford State Park. Although the porch and roof were replaced, all of the 1791 logs are original and in their same position as they were when the cabin was built.



Cathy Locke Robb with Carolyn Knox Locke, wife of..... Gerald T. "Jerry" Locke



Aunt Carolyn speaks with Jennifer and Wayne Taylor.

Jennifer with her son, Dillinger

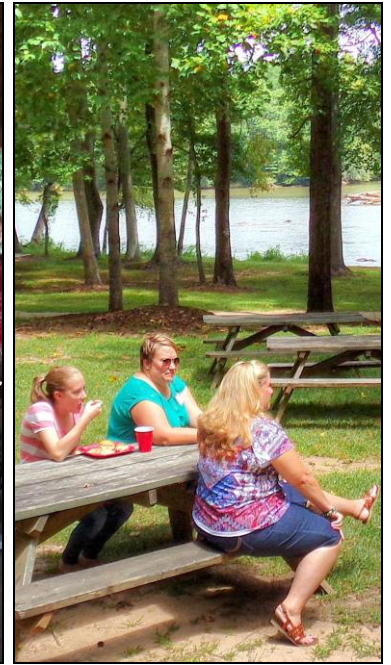




Eddie with Dora Boyce



Jesse and Tom Carter



Maddy and Tammy Boyce with Donna Parker



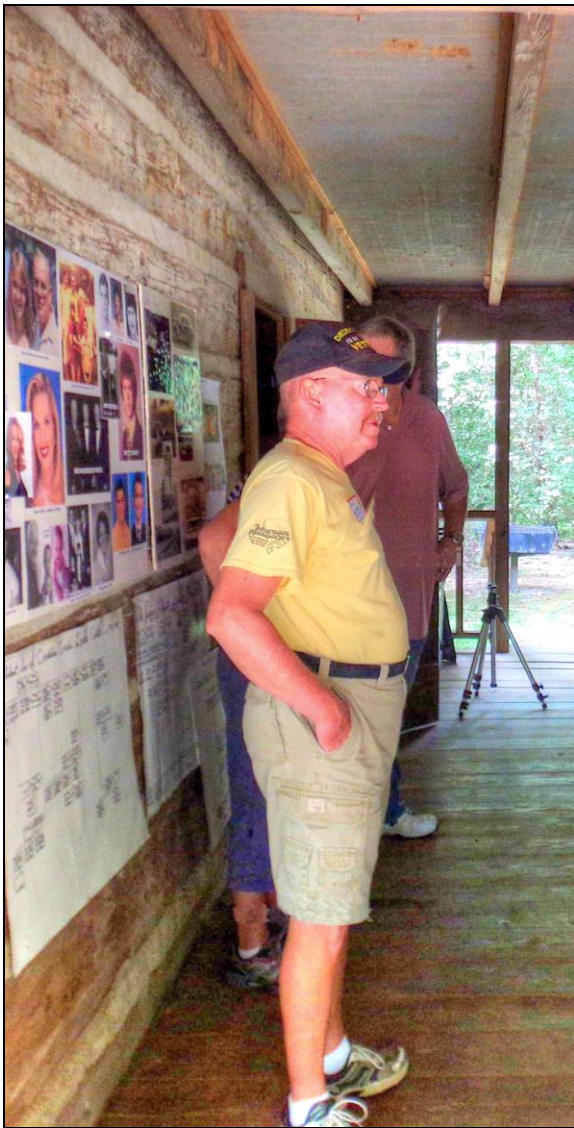
Eddie with first cousin Ted Moore and wife Sophie, and with Ted and Sophie's son, Tim.



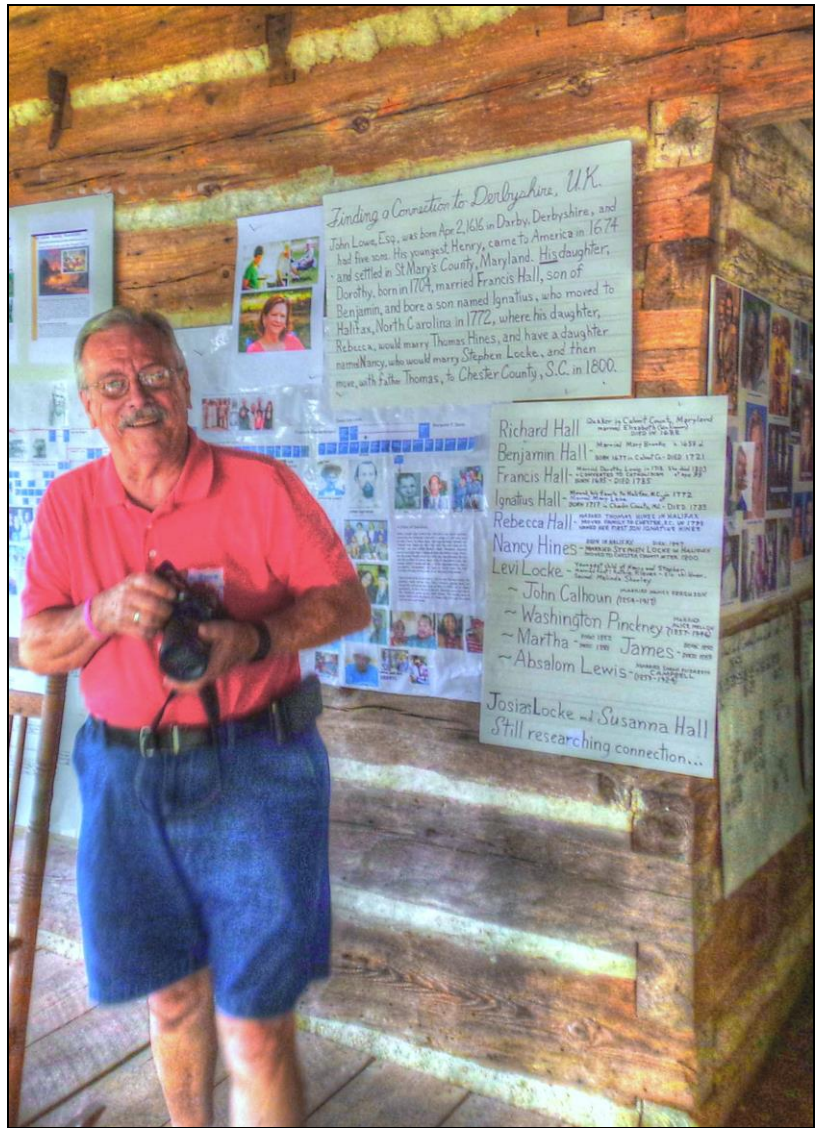
Carl Doster sits in front of the Locke Family Tree Scroll



Mary Branham Ayers



Lewis Whisonant



Mike Bunch in front of family posters.



Ginny Whisonant and Gladys Howell prepare the Iced Tea.



Maddy Boyce comes in for the food...



We had so much food and such a variety of Southern delicacies. Quick, go for the Low Country Pork!







Pecan Pie, Blackberry Cobbler, Pies. Fresh Fruit, Pound Cake, Banana Pudding, and Chocolate Cake



Carol Helms, Tammy Boyce, Donna Parker, and David Boyce.



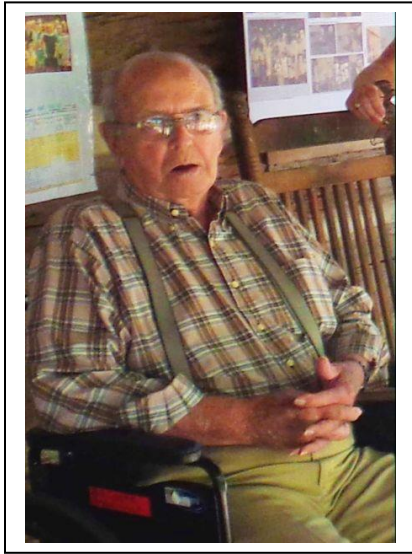
Mike and Mary Emma Bunch



It was a wonderful day of family stories, and good food, and good Locke vibes.... Check out this short video that I made just walking around the cabin and along the Catawba River.

[https://youtu.be/8600NL\\_KZto](https://youtu.be/8600NL_KZto)

# John Franklin Locke, Jr.



Born in 1930 just as the Great Depression was beginning, John Locke knew what hard times meant, but he used those tough years as a way to learn how to succeed in life with very little. He came from good genes. His great-great-great grandfather Josias had moved his large family from the Virginia-North Carolina border region after 1800 to the rolling red hills of northern South Carolina near the great Catawba River. His great-great grandfather Benjamin Locke would build a successful farm just east of Chester, and raise a big family. Two of his boys would go away to war and never return. One was John's Great-grandfather, Josiah Henry Locke, who died at Petersburg in 1864. John's grandfather, Henry Jefferson Locke, was just two years old when Josiah died, and his mother, Dorothy White, would raise him and his sister, Mary Jane, on her own in very dark days after the war. "Jeff", as his grandfather was called, stayed on the family farm and built a large house for his wife and their ten kids. When John's father, John, Sr., grew up, he also stayed on the same farm, where John and his brother Jerry were born.

John would marry his sweetheart, Nancy Mae, after he was discharged from the Air Force in 1949, and the two would remain together on the family land for 66 years, raising three children, Cathy Locke Robb, of Rodman, Diane Locke Agustsson of New York, and John Franklin Locke, III, also of New York. When Nancy recently passed on, he told his daughter Cathy that her mother had gone first so she "could pick out that perfect fishing place for when he joined her."

John made a career with the Celanese Corporation of America, and worked at their Cel-River plant on the banks of the Catawba near Rock Hill until his retirement in the mid-1980's. The plant produced synthetic textile fibers and woven acetate fabrics for clothing, carpeting, upholstery, and draperies. For years Celanese was the largest employer in the county, but was shuttered and dismantled after 2005, and is now the location of parks and light industry.



John passed on August 28<sup>th</sup>, just five days before plans for a memorial plaza were unveiled at the sprawling Riverfront site, dedicated to the thousands of employees who spent their lives at the Cel-River facility.

In addition to his three children, John is survived by five grandchildren, Barbara Locke, Jennifer Taylor, John F. Locke, IV, Chris Dover, and Chrissy Locke, and four great-grandchildren, Claire and Dillinger Taylor, and Xander and Malachi Dover. His brother, Gerald Thomas "Jerry" Locke lives in Rodman with his wife Carolyn.

# Bennie Lenora Locke Wallace

If there was such an award as “Best Dressed in the Locke Family”, Bennie Wallace would have won it, hands down. As a career sales associate for the prestigious Ivey’s Department Store in Charlotte, and later for Dillard’s, who absorbed Ivey’s, Bennie knew what was in style, and what the well dressed Southern woman was wearing. On August 29<sup>th</sup>, Bennie passed away in her home at the age of 91. Known for her bright blue eyes and incredible smile, she was loved so dearly by her family, her friends, and her work associates.

Bennie was born into a farming family near Waxhaw, where her grandparents lived. Her father was the late Furman Master Locke, and her mother was Sue Belle Winchester. She had an older sister, Irma, and an older brother, Furman, Jr., and they grew up playing along the railroad track in Waxhaw, along with two more brothers, Elvin and Arnold. Her Grandma and Grandpa Locke lived just down the road, and the Locke kids learned how to milk cows and tend the mule and the chickens at an early age.

When Bennie was a teenager, she moved with her family to the big city of Charlotte, and in 1941, she graduated from Oakhurst School in southeast Charlotte, just in time to see her brother Furman go off to fight in World War II. (Years later, yours truly would spend his first four years also at Oakhurst, and I’m sure that Bennie was as affected as was I when the historic school went up in flames in 1960.)



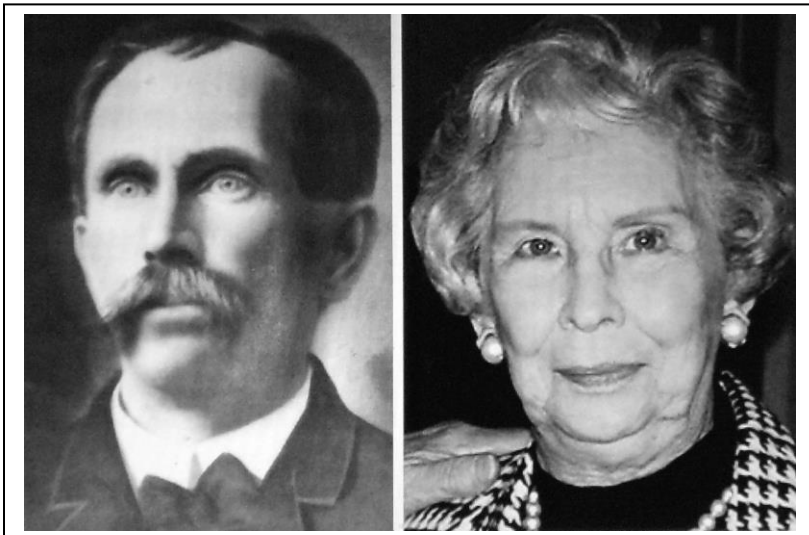
Bennie, brothers Elvin and Furman, Sister-in-Law Mabel Dover, with mother Sue and dad Furman 1948 (Sadly, Elvin was killed in a car wreck near Savannah in 1954)

Bennie would marry the love of her life, James Conrad “Jim” Wallace, and they would have their son, David, who would marry Patricia, and have two beautiful daughters, Taylor and Jordan. Jim passed away in 1981, and Bennie dedicated herself to her work, and to her church. Until the end she was a member of Eastern Hills Baptist Church, and she was a mother figure to everyone who sought her counsel. She enjoyed working with clay and made many beautiful pieces that she often gave away as gifts. She kept a beautiful yard and garden, and prided herself in the meals that she would prepare for family and friends.



Here are her sister Irma, cousins Sadie Hope Boyce Flowe and Charlie Winchester, Bennie, and cousin Helen Boyce Hendrix, at the funeral for brother and cousin, Furman, in 2009. Irma and Charlie will be 97 their next birthday. Hope is 79 and Helen is 82. Cousin Locke Boyce in Jacksonville is 87.

Bennie's family has quite a history of longevity. Her grandmother, Sarah Elizabeth Campbell Locke, was 85 when she passed in 1942. Bennie's dad, Furman, passed in 1985 at age 95, and her mother, Sue, passed in 1991 just shy of her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. Brother Furman was 87. Her Uncle Walston Locke passed in 1993 at the age of 97. Her Aunt Mattie Locke Helms was 83, and her Aunt Mamie Locke Boyce was almost 85. Her Aunt Sadie Locke Winchester was almost 80. They all had their mental faculties until the very end.



I always thought that Bennie favored her grandfather Lewis Locke (1859-1924) so much. Lewis was 43 when this photo was made, and the photo of Bennie was made in 2003. They both had piercing blue eyes, similar high foreheads and facial structure, and a similar hairline. In the Locke family, the apple never falls far from the tree.

Bennie especially enjoyed decorating her home during the Christmas holidays, and having the entire family over for special holiday meals. She had a wonderful sense of humor, and loved a good story or a good joke.



The Service...



Granddaughters Taylor and Jordan with mom Patricia



Son, David Wallace



Niece, Kay Locke Godlewski at Sharon Memorial Park



Charlie and Myrtle Winchester with Gladys Howell in center.



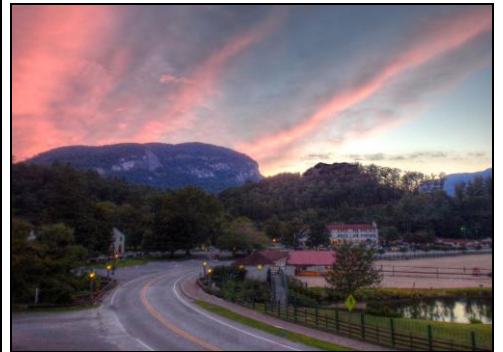
Scott and niece Kim Locke Agnew with Gladys and Myrtle.



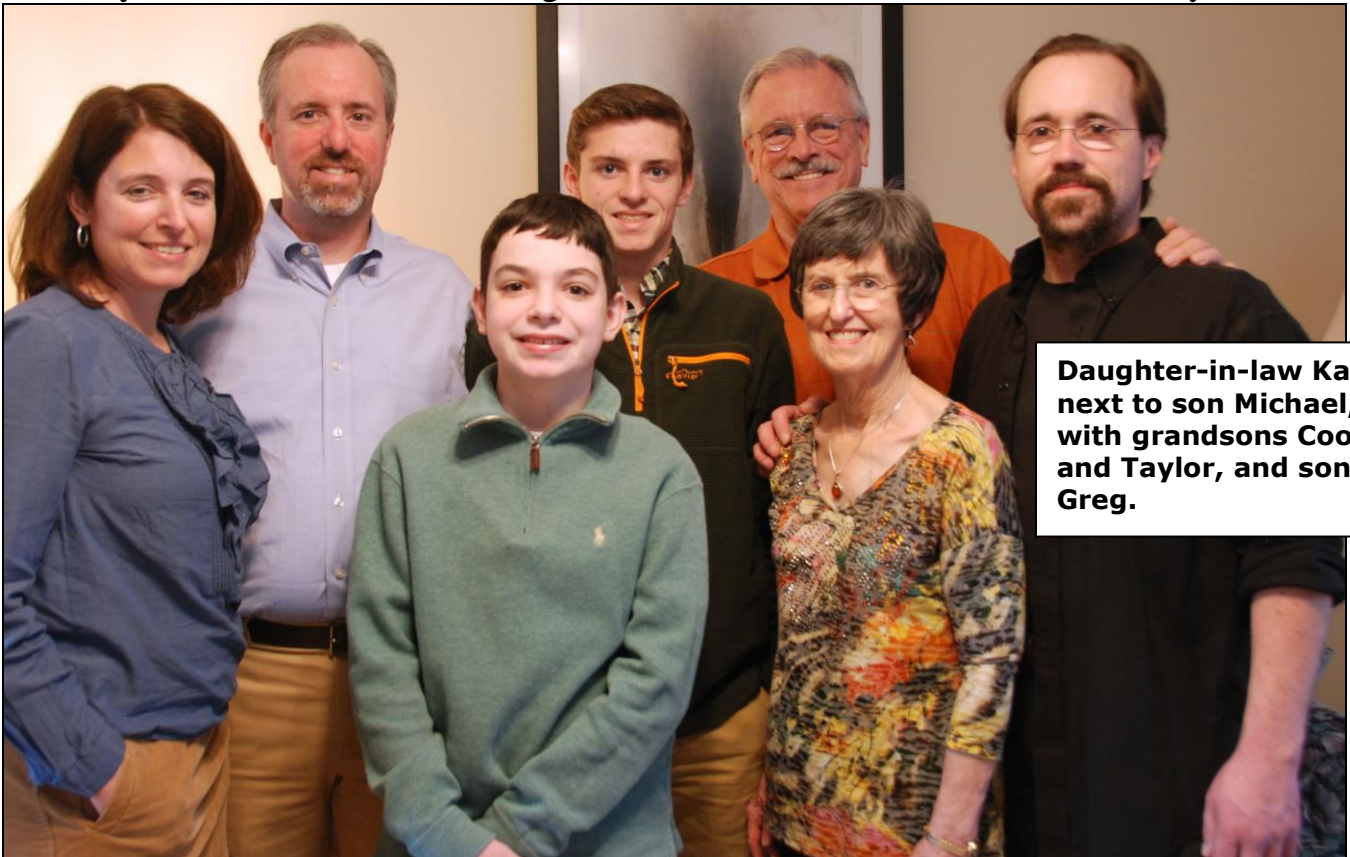
Myrtle and Kay

# Spending two days with Cousin Mike Bunch

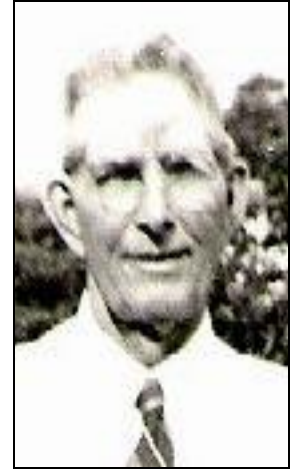
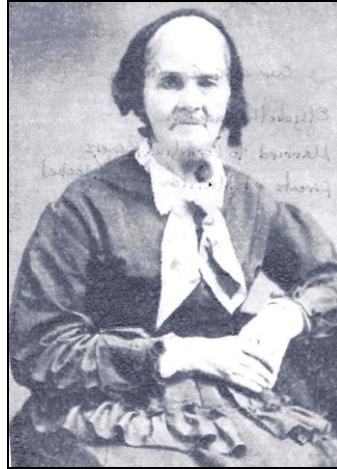
In early September, Mike and Mary Emma Bunch made the trip across the mountains from their home in Knoxville, and we spent many hours going through his Locke family research. They had been at the reunion, but we didn't have time to talk and share. Mike's grandmother was Rosa Lena Locke, the daughter of Judson Lafayette Locke of Chicora, Mississippi, who was the son of James Henry Locke of Alabama. James Henry was the son of Jesse McCullough Locke of South Carolina and North Carolina. Before getting down to business, we toured the area around Lake Lure and Chimney Rock.



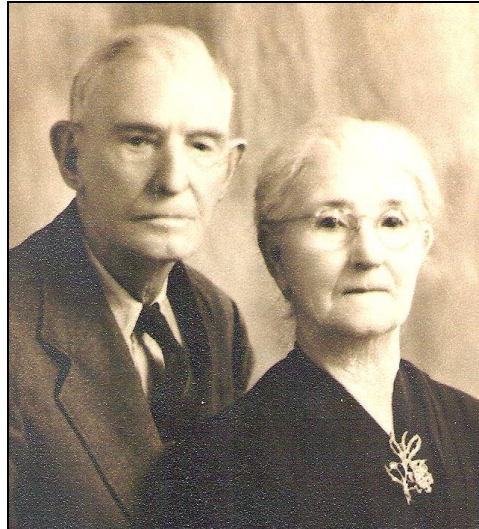
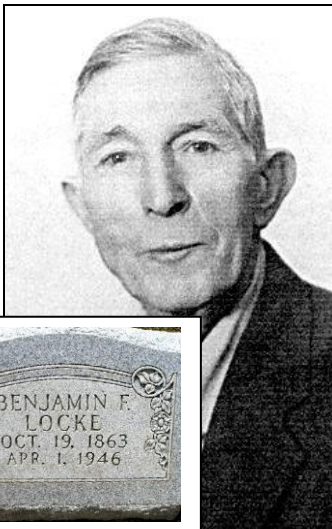
Mike has assembled a large collection of Locke grave marker photos from the "Find-a-Grave" web site, and also has amassed a large number of historic Locke photographs from his many sources. He was nice enough to allow me to share some of them with you.



**Daughter-in-law Karen next to son Michael, with grandsons Cooper and Taylor, and son Greg.**



William Henry and Matilda Rogers Locke were the parents of Judson Adoniram Locke. The man in the hat was Matilda's father, Cornelius Rogers, and the woman in the bonnet was Matilda's mother, Elizabeth Anderson Rogers. On the right is John William Henry Locke, (1879-19 67), who was the son of Judson Lafayette Locke and brother to Rosa Lena Bunch.



Benjamin Franklin Locke was the son of James Henry Locke, as was Jesse R. Locke, shown with his wife, Alice Jane Johnson. Benjamin McCullough Locke was the son of Jesse Culp Locke by his second marriage to Margaret Fletcher Davis. He is also the great-grandfather of Burnice Harris of Mobile, Alabama, whose grandfather, Owen Thompson, was Benjamin's son with the black cook in Jesse Culp Locke's house. "Mattie" Rogers was Benjamin's wife.

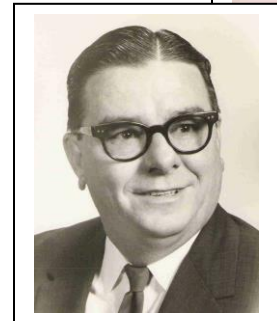
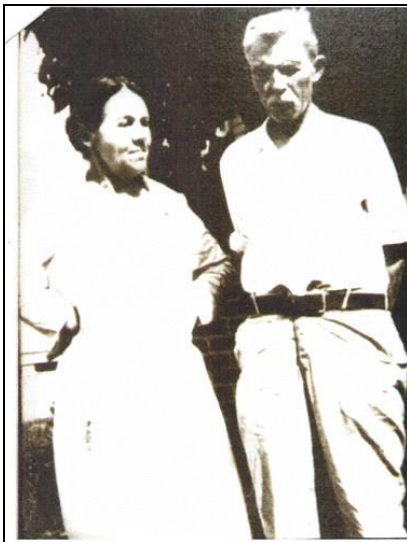


James Buchanan Locke, left, was the son of John Coffee Hayes Locke, who was a son of Jesse Culp Locke by his first marriage to Elizabeth Rogers. He married Mimmie Pennington and they had two surviving children, Doris and Devater, shown in the other two photos. One daughter, Adelle, inset, died at age three. Devater drowned at sea while working with the Merchant Marine in 1965. Another son, Hogan, died at age two.





Aubrey Lee Bunch, Sr., first two photos, was the son of Rosa Lena Locke. He was Mike Bunch's father. The wedding photo is Aubrey's family at the marriage of Aubrey, Jr. That's Mike on the left next to his older brother, Aubrey, Jr., who is next to their mom, Amy Merle Cockroft, then Aubrey, Sr., daughter Jacqueline, and youngest son, Charles Ray.



John Coffee Hayes Locke was the son of James Henry, with Julia Reynolds. Center is Judson Adoniram "Jake" Locke with his wife Mary Gertrude Lee. Judson was the brother of Rosa Lena Locke, and son of Judson Lafayette Locke. On the right is Jake's son, Alfred Alto Locke. Alfred is the father of Sandy Locke Wright of Mobile, Alabama, who has done more than anyone to preserve the Locke legacy of the Jesse McCullough Lock side of our family.



That's Victor, son of Jesse R. Locke, with his wife, Winnie Brewer. The girls are Ruby Lee Locke, daughter of Jesse R. Locke, with Lillie Mae and Lucille Locke. Having Mike and Mary Emma here was such a treat.

# Four Locke Generations Visit Lake Lure

It's always nice when I'm visited by four generations of the Locke family at the same time. In August, Gladys Hucks Howell, the widow of John Glenn Howell, Jr., brought her granddaughter Heather, and Heather's two kids, Elizabeth and Ethan, to the mountains for lunch and a day of swimming at Lake Lure. Glenn Howell was the oldest son of John and Mae Helms Howell, and the first grand child of Mattie Locke and Lonnie Helms. That makes Heather, Mattie's great granddaughter, and her children, Mattie's great-great grandchildren. First we stopped for lunch on a deck overlooking the Broad River that flows out of Lake Lure. I took the kids down to the river and we explored among the stones.

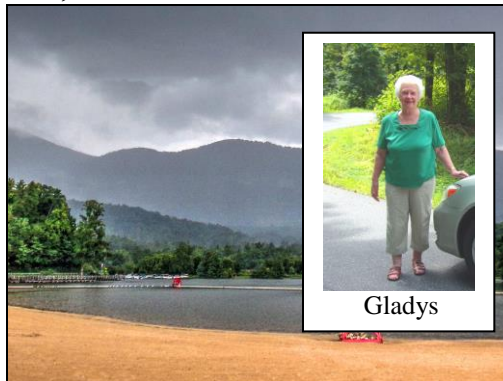


Grandma Gladys with Elizabeth, Heather, and Ethan...

At the Lake Lure beach.



Ethan liked the water slide....



A sudden storm approached...



Heather and the kids



Heather, her husband Ray, and the kids spent two weeks in August on a Mission Trip to Slovenia in Europe. It's the second year in a row they have gone there to work on schools and other needed projects. They're already talking about going back again next year.

# The Extended Locke Family

*Here are a number of family members that you should keep on your prayer list.*

**Karen Winchester Brooks** is being treated for pancreatic cancer. She is the middle daughter of Charlie and Myrtle Winchester.

**Mary Alice Kridler** from our West Coast family is being treated for multiple cancers. You'll remember her from five years ago when she and her sisters, Maydell, and Patty, came to the first reunion we held at my house in the mountains. She is the daughter of Arthur Hayden Locke of Oklahoma, and lives in Oregon.

**Betty McAuley Allred**, daughter of Margaret Helms McAuley, continues to fight pancreatic cancer. She is a long term survivor of the disease, but has lately had complications that require frequent long trips to Duke University from her home near Boone, North Carolina.

My sister, **Nancy Helms**, has recently spent time in the hospital and is now in a nursing home while she recovers from a pain medicine dependency, and orthopedic problems. She is getting better steadily, but has a long road ahead. She is a granddaughter of Mattie Locke Helms, as is Betty McAuley Allred.

*Other happenings...*

**Dustin Howell**, son of Rick and Sherrie Howell, and great-great grandson of Mattie Locke Helms, has become engaged to his long time sweetheart, Tabitha.

Ray and Bruce Howell, Dustin's great uncle, have added another great grandchild to their family, and have another on the way. Granddaughter **Cara** is a new mom, and granddaughter **Linsey** is expecting her second. Granddaughter **Lacey Burt**, who sings with the acapella group, *Avante*, is getting married soon. I'll get names for the next newsletter.

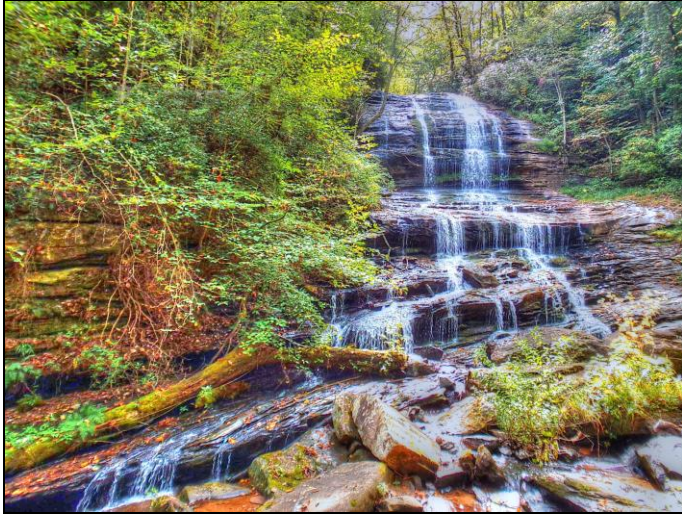
**Nate Agnew**, son of Scott and Kim Locke Agnew, is a student at Appalachian State University. Kim is the younger daughter of the late Furman "Smiley" and Mabel Dover Locke.

Please send me your family announcements and news. My e-mail is [mountainvann@gmail.com](mailto:mountainvann@gmail.com).

Next summer's **Locke Reunion**... We will gather once again at Landsford Canal State Park near Chester, South Carolina, on Saturday, August 6<sup>th</sup>. Mark your calendars now.

# Autumn Arrives along the Blue Ridge...

After a dry summer, the colors this year are expected to be especially vibrant. Over the past two weeks I've already found many areas where the leaves are ahead of schedule. Here are a few of my photographs. Visit my photo blog at [www.blueridgeimpressions.org](http://www.blueridgeimpressions.org).



**Pearson's Fall in Tryon, N.C.**



**From the 4,000 foot summit of Hawsbill Mtn.**



**Linn Cove Viaduct at Grandfather Mountain**



**Brown Mountain from Linville Gorge**



**Blue Ridge Parkway**



**Cedar Creek Gorge**



**Cedar Creek Road**