

The Locke Family Newsletter

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Nostalgia Paintings of 19th Century Rural Life



Long before Norman Rockwell was even born, another American painter was perfecting the art of illustrating the daily life of a young country. **Edward Lamson Henry**, a Charleston born, New York and Paris educated artist, found a way to capture the essence of everyday life long before photographers had the technical skill to do the same thing. Back in those days, people depended upon the traveling painter to document common scenes of Colonial and pre-Civil war life. Edward Henry was the best of them all. Trained by the leading impressionist masters in Europe, he perfected a unique style that told many stories in each of his works. In, *An October Day*, we find ourselves at a roadhouse/General Store in a remote countryside. A farm mother has come to buy necessities with her two sons, and is walking back home. Another farm couple is heading in the other direction in their buggy after doing the same thing. Another horse and buggy waits patiently for its driver to return with provisions. A man on horseback, perhaps looking for a place of lodging, has just arrived, and is talking with other men and boys sitting on the long porch. Two dogs are playing in the yard, and chickens are looking for worms in the grass across the road. The road has many fresh tracks, telling us that this is a very popular stop. Barrels and wooden crates sit on the porch, filled with salt or sugar or freshly ground flour. In the distance on the right, we can see a barn or farmhouse, giving a possible destination for the buggy. There's a quaint humor in Henry's work, and, because of his great attention to detail, his paintings were treated by contemporaries as authentic historical reconstructions.



“The Latest Village Scandal”

I was first introduced to Henry’s work at an exhibition in Savannah in 2014, where I marveled at his ability to combine simple country moments with exceptional artistic technique. His work, *In Sight of Home*, shown below, is part of the Johnson Collection in Spartanburg, South Carolina. *Motherhood* shows a mother breastfeeding her baby.





"Passing the Outpost on the Old Kingsbridge Road"
British army shaking down Americans



Henry was well known for his depictions of American battle scenes. In *The Army of General Burgoyne*, above, from 1902, he recreates the southern advance of British General John Burgoyne as he approached Saratoga, New York. John Burgoyne is best known for his role in the *Revolutionary War*. He designed an invasion scheme and was appointed to command a force moving south from Canada to split away New England and end the rebellion. Burgoyne advanced from Canada but his slow movement allowed the Americans to concentrate their forces. Instead of coming to his aid according to the overall plan, the British Army in New York City moved south to capture Philadelphia. Surrounded, Burgoyne fought two small battles near Saratoga to break out. Trapped by superior American forces, with no relief in sight, Burgoyne surrendered his entire army of 6,200 men on 17 October 1777. His surrender, says historian Edmund Morgan, "was a great turning point of the war, because it won for Americans the foreign assistance which was the last element needed for victory". He also liked to show early railroad and canal travel, below.





In, *A Country Lawyer*, Henry shows a client making a point to his lawyer. In the office, we get a sense of the disorder that was present in many of these rooms of the day. Below, in his *Village Squire Entertaining the New Minister*, we get a glimpse into the home life of a wealthy family. Notice how they only used one oil lamp for the dining room.



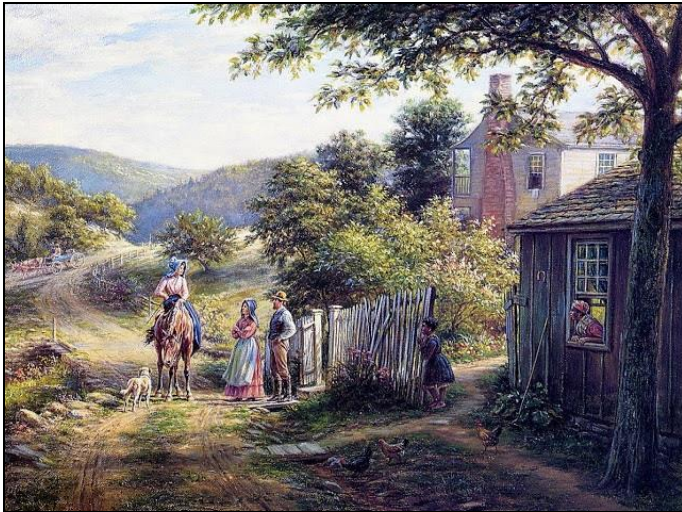


Afternoon Quiet

Before the telephone, people could not call ahead to make sure someone would be home. They just went there hoping for the best.

In *Unexpected Visitors*, we see a woman knitting and her husband standing in the doorway as friends or family arrive in their buggy.





In East Tennessee



Kept In



A Country School



Memories

Edward Lamson Henry may not be well known, but without his dedication to preserving America's past, much of that past would have been lost. He died in 1919 at the age of 78, but he will live on in the fine work that he created.



A Moment of Peril 1890

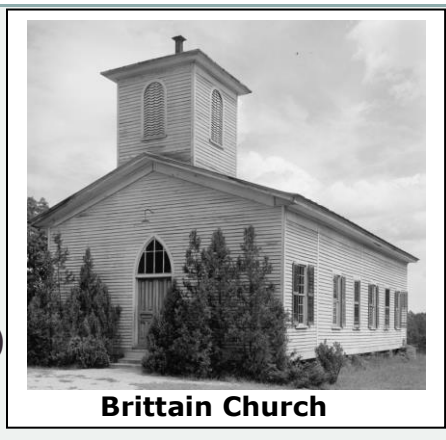
Finding a Missing Link in our Locke Family

All descendants in our branch of the Locke family can be traced back to **Philip Locke** and his wife, **Mary Hulse Locke**, of St. Mary's County, Maryland. Philip and Mary had six children that we know of through estate and property records. They were, **William, James Hulse, Philip, Mary Ann, Priscilla, and Meverell**. Up to now, we have known about the families of the four sons, but any information about the two daughters ended with their names being included in the estate record of Philip, Sr. This isn't unusual in the business of genealogy. Because women seldom had property rights, except through their husbands, the Locke daughters had just fallen through the cracks of history. That is, until now.

Recently I was scouring through search engines, looking for information about the Lockes of western Maryland, when up popped a strange link to a family who seemed to share some of our Locke ancestors. Digging deeper, I was led to the website of the **Shemwell** family, and there I found the name, **Priscilla Lock**, which instantly rang a bell. A few more clicks, and there it was, a page confirming that this Priscilla was the same as the daughter of Philip and Mary. I was elated. I had given up hope of ever finding out what happened to either of the Locke daughters.

Priscilla, who was born around 1712, had married a man named **William Shemwell** in 1732, in St. Mary's County. Eureka! William was the son of Isaac and Elizabeth Thorne Shemwell. William and Priscilla had six children of their own.

1. Joseph Shemwell (1749-1823)
2. William Shemwell (1755-1824)
3. Elisha Shemwell (1756-1826)
4. Priscilla Shemwell (1767-1774)
5. Rebeckah Hannah Shemwell (1767-1774)
6. Mary Shemwell (1767-1774)



Looking further into the marriages of these children, I learned that **Elisha**, the third son, moved to **Rutherford County, North Carolina**, around 1785, and married **Mary Merritt**, who had been born in Rutherford County. Elisha died about 1826, and was buried at **Brittain Church Cemetery** about seven miles northeast of Rutherfordton. Small world alert! I have driven past that cemetery many times. I live just twenty-five miles northwest of Brittain Church. I will be contacting descendants of the Shemwell family to see if they might have access to more detailed data about Philip and Mary Locke. This is exciting.

Anne Karen Winchester Sims

When we were little kids, Karen and I went to Oakhurst School together, and we sang together in a variety revue at St. John's Methodist church in the Oakhurst neighborhood in Charlotte. We were the same age, and our parents seemed to spend three or four nights a week at the Winchester house. Of course, there was older sister Cheryl who was the same age as my brother, Eddie, and there was Myra, who was between me and my sister Nancy. Baby brother, Chucky, was too little to cause any trouble, so we kids had fun playing Heart and Soul on the piano, and just doing what kids do while their parents sit around the kitchen table, talking about things that parents in the 1950's talked about. Then, my family moved to Florida, and the years made strangers of us, and those annual summer visits became less and less frequent. Thank goodness for the Locke Reunions. At least we had the chance every once in a while to reconnect, and remember those old times in Charlotte.

So, last spring when Myra called to tell me that Karen was seriously ill, it hit me like a brick. Not my little cousin Karen. Not Charlie and Myrtle's pride and joy. Impossible! I had been fortunate eight years earlier to survive throat cancer, but with pancreatic cancer, Karen would not be so lucky. She was strong, and did everything to fight it, but with that disease, it seems that everything is never enough. When Myra called in October to tell me that Karen was back in the hospital, and was no longer responding to treatment, I felt an emptiness inside that I still can't explain. Karen passed peacefully on the 10th of October, with husband Larry and her loving family surrounding her, and if ever a person had a loving family, it was Karen.

The Winchesters have been stalwart Locke Reunion attendees for almost seventy years. At the age of 96, Charles Locke Winchester is the senior member of our extended family, and Myrtle, just a year or so behind him, has always been involved in making our annual gatherings successful. We can all learn a thing or two from the Winchesters about family and faith, and loyalty. Karen's grandmother, Sadie Locke Winchester, came from good stock, and with all the descendants that Charlie and Myrtle have given us, the memory of Karen will live on for generations to come. Please hold all of them in your thoughts during this difficult time.



Myrtle, Charlie, Karen, and husband Larry



Karen made this “Shaggin” quilt because she and Larry loved to Shag so much....

Finding Lost Kodak Slides of my Family...

On Easter Sunday in 1981, my family gathered at Mama and Daddy's place on Lake Okeechobee in Florida. I wanted to get a family portrait, so I asked everyone to get together in the yard. Like herding cats, that wasn't the easiest thing to do. My family always liked to clown around. I managed to get that portrait (next page), but in the process, all the photos I made that day were misplaced and presumed lost. They were all Ektachrome slides. Recently I was looking for slides of one of my European vacations, when there they were, all the slides from that day 35 years ago. They had changed color over the years, and were mostly tinted red, but I used some modern day digital magic to reproduce them, and restore them to their original glory. Check these out... I'll identify them on the next page.





On the top row is me, my dad, Buddy, my sister, Nancy, Wade's wife, Vicki, brothers Wade and Eddie. On the bottom is Eddie's daughter, Charlene, Nancy's significant other, Bobbye, Eddie and Carol's daughter, Sherrie Ann, Mama's poodle, Beebe, my mom, Virginia, and Eddie's wife, Carol. You never know what you might find when you're rummaging through old boxes, but sometimes the past can come back to life, and for just a little while, we are all young again. Daddy passed in 2003; Mama in 1994, and Carol in 2006.

Christmas Card Photos

Every year we all receive cards with photos of our friends and family on them. If you're like me, you save them all, and it's always neat to look back over the years and see how the families changed. These are pictures from my cards this past Christmas. Please go through your own cards and scan the ones of your families, and e-mail them to me. I'll publish them in the next newsletter, and we can make it a new Locke family tradition.



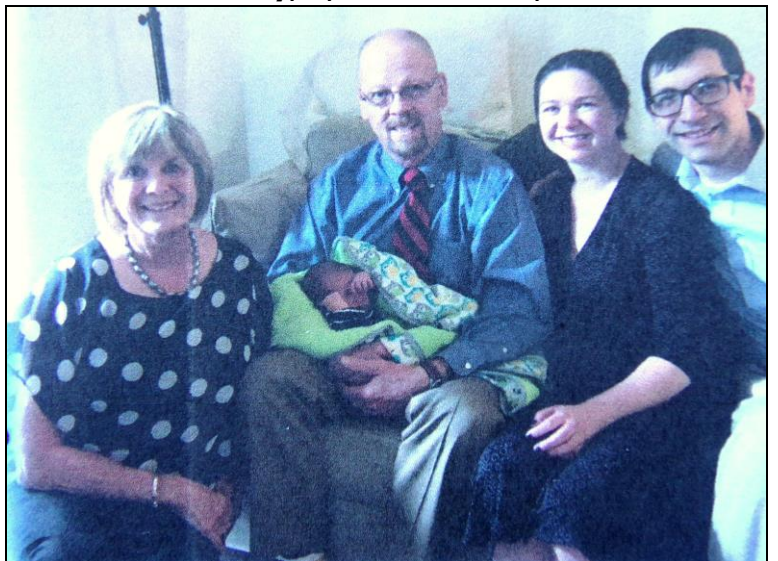
Michael and Charlene Helms Freedland with Ashley, 11, and Blake, 13.



Mark and Sherrie Helms Kukulski with Delaney, 4, and Madison, 2.



David and Stephanie Helms with Eric, 2.



Fred and Pam Herres with daughter Erin and Hubby, Michael, with granddaughter, Kingston, 2 mos.

Cousins Charlene, Sherrie and David, are great-grandkids of Mattie Locke Helms. Fred is the grandson of Walston Levi Locke.

Spending Christmas with Gladys Howell's Family

I had the pleasure of having Christmas dinner with Gladys Howell and her family. Gladys is the widow of John Glenn Howell, Jr., who was the son on Mae Helms Howell, and grandson of Mattie Locke Helms. Glenn was my first cousin and oldest cousin in our family.



Gladys with sons Pat and Rick



Rick and Sherrie's family. Daughter Tiffany with friend, left, and son, Dustin with fiancé Tabitha, right.



Pat and Kathy with daughter Hollie and hubby Derek, and daughter, Heather with hubby Ray, and grands, Elizabeth and Ethan.



Gladys with grands Heather, Tiffany, Dustin, and Hollie, and Heather's kids, Elizabeth and Ethan

Setting the Record Straight

John Franklin Locke, Jr.

In the October issue of this newsletter, I incorrectly stated that John Locke, Jr., who had passed in September, had cancer. I was mistaken. John had chronic heart disease, and succumbed to complications at age 85. Thank you to John's daughter, Cathy Locke Robb for letting me know. Also, I incorrectly referred to John's wife as Nancy Mae Thomas. Honest mistake. Nancy Mae Thomas was John's mother. His wife's name is Nancy Viola Thomas.

The Photographs of the Judson Lafayette Locke Family

Apologies to Mike Bunch, who provided old family photos relating to his Grandmother Rosa Lena Locke Conovah's family. Rosa Lena was daughter to Judson Lafayette Locke, not Judson Adoniram Locke, as was reported. Senior moment here. Also, the photo of Judson's parents should have read, James Henry Locke, not William Henry Locke. In a photo showing three young girls, their names should have been shown as Lucile, Lillie Mae, and Ruby Lee, who were the only children of John William Henry Locke and his wife, Dinah Gilder. John was one of two sons of Judson Lafayette Locke and his wife, Sallie MacKensie.

Other Happenings in the Locke Family

Betty McAuley Allred

Betty continues to battle cancer, and is currently getting treatments at Duke University. She is the daughter of the late Margaret Virginia Helms McAuley.

Mary Alice Locke Krider

Mary Alice is fighting very hard against her cancer. Please keep her in your prayers. She is the daughter of Arthur Hayden Locke, and sister to Maydell Thomas and Patty Pebley.



Patty, Nadine, Maydell, and Mary Alice

Charles Locke Winchester

Charlie will celebrate his 97th birthday in February. He and his lovely bride, Myrtle, will celebrate their 75th wedding anniversary this year. Congratulations to Myrtle and Charlie.

David Boyce Family

(Grandson of Mamie Locke Boyce)

Brant William Boyce- Born to Matt and Diane on July 18, 2015

Rosalie Hart Kirby- Born to Dakota and John Craig Kirby on October 9th, 2015.



Dakota, John, Maddy, Tammy, David, Matt, and Diane with mom and grandmom, , Dora, seated.

Matthew Ryan Helms



Matt with dad, Wade, and mom, Vicki

Matt, the younger son of Wade and Vicki Helms, spent last summer as an intern with the Turkish Embassy in Washington, D.C. He is a senior Political Science major at the University of Central Florida, where he also plays on the “A-Squad” of his school’s Ultimate Frisbee team, *The Dogs of War*. He hopes to celebrate a national collegiate championship when his team meets the top college teams at the national championship in Raleigh in May. You can bet his Uncle Vann will be there to cheer him on. Matt’s grand-dad was Buddy Helms, son of Mattie Locke Helms, who was the daughter of Absalom Lewis Locke and Lizzie Campbell.

Lacey Burt and AVANTE

Last summer I sent you a link to the new video by AVANTE, the acapella vocal group where Lacey Burt is one of the lead singers. She is the daughter of Lea and Robin Howell Burt, and great-granddaughter of Mattie Locke Helms. AVANTE put out a new video of JINGLE BELLS for Christmas. Take a look at the two videos below to see how AVANTE is doing...



That’s Lacey far left in the front row...

<https://youtu.be/Ej8jGCUtGUM> Jingle Bells

<https://youtu.be/NdcSxmp7mWk>

I need your family photos and information about what’s happening in your world. Variety is the key to the success of this newsletter, and I can’t do it without you. Send me all of your “news” and the pics that go with it. My e-mail is mountainvann@gmail.com and I expect my box to be full real soon.

If you would like to contribute an article, whatever it might be, I welcome your contribution. I’ll help you write it if you want. Come on, I know you want to...

Locke Reunion for 2016

For the last six reunions, we have gathered on the second Saturday in August. It seemed to be a good time, because it didn't compete with other reunions, and it came after most Camp Meetings were completed. As can happen, I have a serious conflict this coming year with that weekend. My 1966 high school class chose that weekend for their 50 year reunion, and no matter how much I tried to get them to change it, they wouldn't. Since graduation I have attended all seven of my high school reunions, and this one can be no exception. **The reunion will be moved to the third Saturday in August that falls on the 20th.** Mark your calendars today! We will once again gather at the Landsford Canal State Park on the banks of the Catawba River, in Chester County, South Carolina. Like in previous years, the park opens at 9 a.m., and you can come as early as you like, and stay as long as you can. There's lots to see along the river and the historic stone works of the canal. The 1790 log cabin will be reserved once again, and it is air-conditioned. Please let the rest of your family know about this date change, and encourage them to join us.



Nancy Locke is expecting you to be there... Nancy fell last October and broke her hip, and had it surgically repaired. After all she's been through, don't disappoint her.