

The Locke Family Newsletter

Publisher **Vann Helms**

Volume Number 11

Issue Number 3

June 2016



200 year old log farmhouse in North Carolina

Another Link in the Locke Ancestral Chain

When I was contacted recently by **Carolyn Llewellyn** of Northridge, California, in the San Fernando Valley, I was excited to be in communication with someone who had research that appeared to take our family back two more generations, into England. If you're a regular reader of this newsletter, you'll know that we have not been able to identify the parents of Philip Locke of St. Mary's County, Maryland, nor have we been able to link our Locke line through DNA with other Locke lines in America. With my contact with Carolyn, all of that could change.

Carolyn descends from **Walter Locke**, who was the illegitimate son of Elizabeth "Betty" Locke of Halifax County, North Carolina. Betty was one of two children of John and Sarah Locke who had moved from St. Mary's County in 1767, and settled in the Jackett Swamp district of Halifax. Following John from Maryland was his brother, James, and James' wife, Susannah Green. Also joining them was their first cousin, Philip Locke, the son of William Locke, who was the first born son of Philip and Mary Hulse Locke, our first known ancestors. Some also believe that John and James' father, James Hulse Locke, also came to Halifax with his sons,

and died there around 1788. We knew that Carolyn's ancestor, Walter, had moved to Williamson County, Tennessee, around 1800, where he married Sarah "Sallie" Bell, but until hearing from Carolyn, we had no knowledge of Walter's descendants.

Carolyn was born near Springfield, Missouri, in 1928. She actually is connected to two different Locke clans in America. Her connection to the Philip Locke group comes through her great-great-grandmother, Elizabeth Salena Locke (1832-1879), who was the granddaughter of Walter Locke (1775-1852). She is also connected with the Lockes of New Hampshire, through her great-great-great grandmother, Olive Shapely Locke (1795-1874), who descended from Capt. John Locke (1627-1696), the immigrant in New Hampshire.

According to her notes, the father of Philip Locke, our ancestor, was William Locke (1625-1712), who had emigrated from England with his son, Philip. She also has notes that William's father was a Thomas Locke, who was born and died in England. Currently, I am researching those names in Maryland, but have not found data that would prove or disprove Carolyn's notes. At least for the first time, we have names that might be connected to our first Locke ancestors in America.

Carolyn's Locke Line...

When Walter Locke moved from Halifax to Williamson County, Tennessee, he would marry twice. His first wife was Sarah "Sallie" Bell, who gave him one son, **William Lewis Locke (1807-1881)**, and one daughter, **Elizabeth**. Sallie died before 1811, and he married Rachel Ross, and they would have six children from 1812 to 1826. The sons were James Walter and Walter H., and the girls were Mary, Martha, Temperance, and Margaret. Carolyn descends from **William Lewis Locke**, who first married Rachel Keltner, and they had three children, Sarah Bell, Walter Alexander, and Mary Caldonia. Rachel died after 1830, most likely in childbirth, and William married **Nancy Carlisle Knox**. By this time William was living in Giles County, Tennessee. William and Nancy had four children, Luisa Ann, Joseph Porter, John Franklin, and **Elizabeth Salena**. Elizabeth (1832-1879) was Carolyn's ancestor, and she married **John Greer Knox (1833-1891)** on October 14, 1855, in Giles County, and they would have four boys and three girls. They were Joseph William, John, Samuel E., DeWitt Clinton, Sarah A., Ida, and Sarah Belle. During that time, John and Elizabeth would move their family to Greene County, Missouri, near Springfield. **Joseph William Knox** was Carolyn's Great-grandfather, and he would marry **Nannie Elizabeth Steele**. They lived on a large farm north of Springfield, and had two children, William Earl, and **Pearle Steele**, who was Carolyn's grandmother. Carolyn has vivid memories of her Great-grandfather, who lived until World War II, and of her Grandmother Pearle.

John Greer Knox and the Discovery of Knox's Cave



John Greer Knox

John Greer Knox, son of Joseph and Lovisa Davidson Paxton Knox, was born January 15, 1833, in Giles County, Tennessee. He was the grandson of Samuel Knox, a Revolutionary War patriot.

On October 14, 1855, J. G. Knox married **Elizabeth Salena Locke**, daughter of **William Lewis** and **Nancy C. Locke**. The newlyweds emigrated from Tennessee to Greene County, Missouri, and settled on a farm near Willard, a small community not far from Springfield. There they became parents of nine children--six boys and three girls. **Elizabeth Salena (Locke) Knox**, who was born September 7, 1832, in Giles County, Tennessee, died July 16, 1879, in Greene County, Missouri.

There are two service cards on file for J. G. Knox in the Jefferson City, Missouri, archives, recording his service in Co I 72 Regt EMM under Capt. John B. Perkins as: April 3, 1863---October 21, 1863, and May, 1864---November 14, 1864. Unfortunately, records of the EMM have not been well-preserved, and a muster roll documenting members of Capt. Perkins' unit between April and October, 1863, is missing. It was during this period, however, that troops were mustered to defend Springfield, Missouri, from attack by Joseph Shelby's confederate cavalry. There is a muster roll, including J. G. Knox, in the Jefferson City archives documenting his period of service between May and November, 1864, when troops were again mustered to protect Springfield and its supply depot from Sterling Price's confederate cavalry.

In 1864, while searching for his prized dog, Juno, who had disappeared when out hunting, John Knox and his oldest son, Joseph William, discovered a cave on the Knox farm. Because these large limestone caves were known for their deposits of saltpeter, the main component of gunpowder, Knox kept the cave a secret, fearing it might be taken over by either the Union or the Confederate army. Two years after the war ended, he decided to make his discovery public, and Knox put an advertisement in the Springfield paper for someone to explore the cave, and it was first explored on February 14, 1867. On February 27, almost two weeks later, the Springfield Women's Athletic Club showed up with torches, lanterns, ropes, and ladders. After the preliminary expedition by the cave gals, who found

untouched chambers with large, pristine formations, the owner knew he had something people would pay money to see. These twelve ladies are considered the first explorers of the cave, since they carved their names into the rock as graffiti and are mentioned in an article published in the Springfield Tri-Weekly Patriot newspaper. Initially, the cave was known as Knox's Cave.

In 1887, the Knox family installed electric lighting. This was also the time of the opening as a show cave, and probably there were some other developments like trails and railings completed at the same time. The cave light was powered by a steam engine for the first 25 years, then, a Delco-Light system replaced the steam engine.

Although electric lights were commonly used in cities, and many city residents enjoyed indoor plumbing, things were different in the country. Millions of farms still relied on oil lamps and lanterns, hand water pumps, and outhouses.

In 1916, Delco, the company that built the first electric starter for an automobile, introduced the Delco-Light system. Delco offered 25 models of generator sets capable of producing 500 to 3,000 watts of power. Even small towns that were beyond the reach of electric main lines were served by Delco-Light plants.

The large lead-acid storage batteries had clear glass cases and were arranged in banks of 16, usually on two shelves along a wall. Each battery put out 1-1/2 volts and the 16 batteries were wired in a series to provide the 32 volts of direct current necessary for the system. The batteries required periodic maintenance to make sure the water and acid levels were kept up to specification.

Why not with the aid of DELCO-LIGHT
make it possible for the wife to do them by Electricity -

and also enable the Farmer to do these things and have Light and Power in the Barns

A typical Delco plant put out a total of 750 watts at full load, which would have been enough to light 15 50-watt bulbs, or a combination of fewer lights plus an appliance or two.

Beside the batteries sat the combination generator and engine set. When the charge in the batteries dropped below a preset level, the engine would start automatically and then shut off when the batteries signaled they were fully charged. All the owner needed to do was to keep the fuel tank full and the oil level in the engine up to the mark. I'm sure the spark plug required

cleaning from time to time, and the oil would have needed periodic changing, but the operation was largely automatic.

In 1878, the following article appeared in a Springfield newspaper.

About seven miles northwest of Springfield is Knox's Cave, which has been explored more than a mile, and varies from twenty to seventy feet in width, from six to thirty feet in height, and is from seventy-five to one hundred feet below the surface of the ground. For some distance from the entrance it passes through the limestone rock and is hung with the most beautiful stalactitic formations constantly dripping with water.

In 1920, the cave became a popular Prohibition Era Speakeasy, and from 1925 until 1937, the cave hosted regular meetings of the Knights of the Ku Klux Klan. The cave changed owners many times over the years, and in 1950, the name was changed to "Fantastic Caverns", a much better name for marketing what was hidden inside.

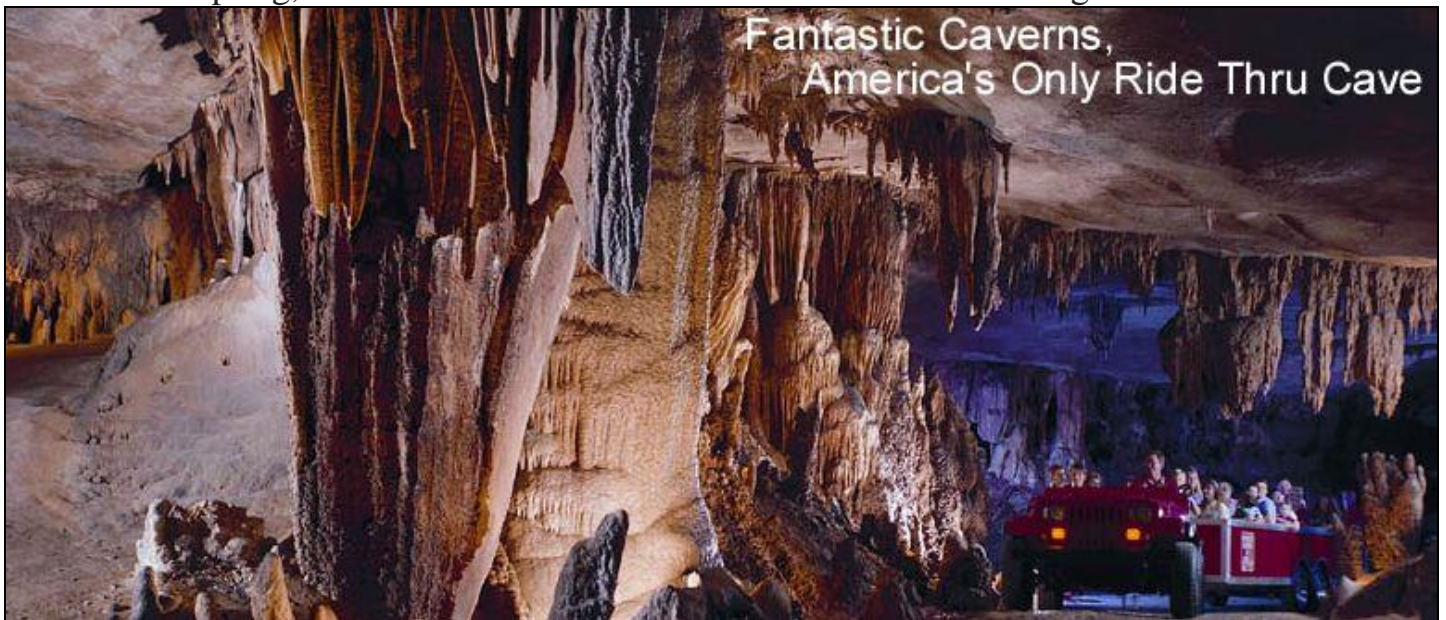


Unidentified boy stands for his picture at Cave Entrance winter of 1958-59

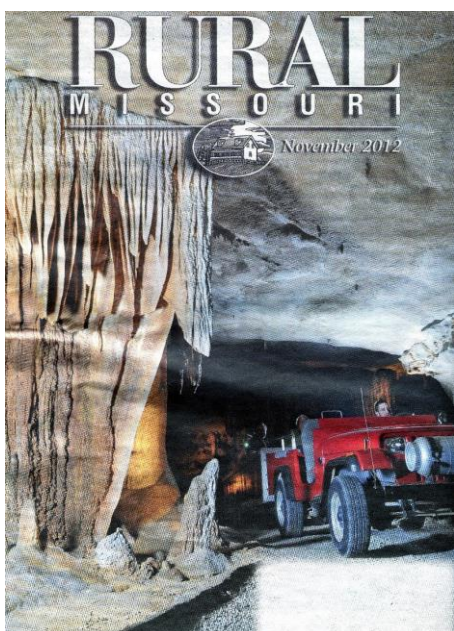
During the 1950's and 1960's, a large chamber inside the cave was used as a music concert venue, and live radio broadcasts were a regular feature on KGBX radio. Today, occasional concerts are still held inside the massive cave.

Commercial caves have a hard row to hoe. Caverns are natural wonders, and attraction owners must respect the beauty carved by Nature -- the delicate flowstones, fluted draperies, spindly cave flowers. At the same time, that splendor can't be appreciated without a way for people to actually see it. Believe it or not, most cave visitors would be discouraged by the prospect of a half-mile belly-crawl through muddy water over pointy rocks.

So, commercial caves provide convenient access -- passageways drilled to connect chambers, ceiling breakdown removed to minimize obstacles, and lights strung for safety and to create atmosphere. Missouri is a state with more than its share of caves -- over 5,600 -- so Fantastic Caverns needed something a little different. In 1961, the cave floor, long known for its flatness as it followed an ancient underground river bed, was re-outfitted to be a roadway, winding the entire length of the cave. Large sightseeing trams were hitched to World War II vintage Jeeps, and the "ride-through tours" began. At first they were gasoline powered, but when the patrons complained about the exhaust fumes, and the cave walls were suffering deterioration because of that exhaust, "America's Ride Thru Cave" upgraded the Jeeps to run on cleaner Propane. A lazy man's dream tour, it cuts out all that senseless walking required in other caves. It's the sole ride-through cave in the US, and one of only four in the world (the others are in Barbados, France and Yugoslavia). The temperature inside Fantastic Caverns is about 60 °F (15 °C) year-round. In the winter and fall, billboards advertise that the cave is a "warm 60 degrees," while in the summer and spring, billboards advertise the caverns to be a "cool 60 degrees".



At one stage of the tour, all lights are turned off, and the visitors can experience the sensation of total darkness and complete silence for a short period.



Early in the tour, tram occupants are encouraged to touch a particular stretch of low ceiling. The special "Touch Me" region acts as a kind of static discharge for tourist energy. Over 100,000 visitors do so a year, which essentially "kills" the stalactite and formation growth with skin oils. Fantastic Caverns knows people want to touch the cave, so it's best to get it over with here rather than having the prettier formations groped to death. Currently, Carolyn Llewellyn is active in having Fantastic Gardens added to the National Registry of Historic Landmarks, so it can be protected for future generations. Seems only fitting for a piece of Locke history to be so designated. If you've ever been to the Ozark resort town of Branson, chances are you have visited Fantastic Caverns.

Finding the Missing Census Record for William Locke

For the past ten years, I have been actively searching for evidence that links the Lockes of Chester County, South Carolina, with the Lockes of Halifax County, North Carolina, and St. Mary's County, Maryland, before that. Along the way, I learned that two brothers from Halifax, Josias and William, moved their families into Chester County around 1810. I found Josias' probate records from 1826, naming all of his kids, I found Josias in the Halifax census of 1795, and William in Chester County in 1810. I have never been able to prove that there actually was a William Locke living in Halifax, but today, all of that changed. While researching the Walter Locke family of Giles County, Tennessee, I happened upon a post from 1999, listing all the known William Lockes who had been found in census records through that date, and there, a third of the way down the list, was my proof. In the 1800 Halifax, N.C. census report, I found **William Lock as head of household, with a female child under 10, and another female 16-26, and nine slaves.** His wife must have died, because no female over 26 years is listed. My search will go on, but finding this record confirms so much that, before today, was unknown.

Sot-weed Factor;

Or, a Voyage to

Maryland, &c.

CONDEMN'D by Fate to way-ward Curse,
Of Friends unkind, and empty Purse;
Plagues worse than fill'd *Pandora's Box*,
I took my leave of *Albion's Rocks*:
With heavy Heart, concern'd that I
Was forc'd my Native Soil to fly,
And the *Old World* must bid good-buy. }

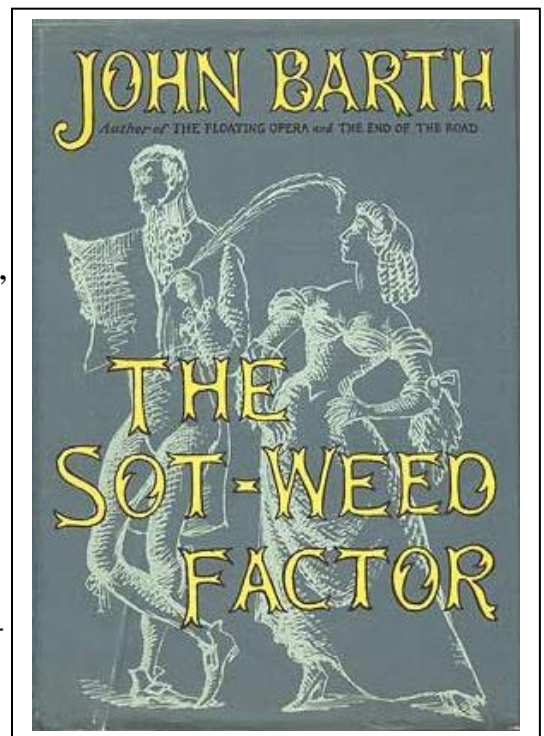
But Heav'n ordain'd it should be so,
And to repine is vain we know:
Freighted with Fools, from *Plymouth* sound,
To *Mary-Land* our Ship was bound,
Where we arriv'd in dreadful Pain,
Shock'd by the Terrours of the Main;
For full three Months, our wavering Boat,
Did thro' the surley Ocean float,
And furious Storms and threat'ning Blasts,
Both tore our Sails and sprung our Masts:

Poetic accounts of the harrowing ocean voyages of the 17th century are rare, but I found this opening stanza of a much longer epic poem, published in 1708 by Ebenezer Cooke (1665-1732, who claimed to be the Poet Laureate of Maryland, appointed by Lord Charles Calvert, himself). **Sot-weed** was a common term for the tobacco plant, and “**factor**” was the label put on the middleman who arranged for the sale of tobacco by plantation owners to their English customers.

Cooke wrote in the poetic style popular in England at the time, but he captures the pain and suffering endured by thousands of adventurous souls who left the mother country seeking religious freedom and prosperity in the new land. Often we forget that such things were being written about America that early, but Cambridge educated Cooke found his niche when asked to promote the new Maryland colony.

Needless to say, Lord Calvert was less than impressed with Cooke's rather satirical view of the immigration experience, and this was the last known example of his work published.

Ironically, 250 years later, the American novelist, **John Barth**, took Cooke's poem, and turned it into an 800 page satirical novel. Set in the 1680s–90s in London and Colonial Maryland, the novel tells of a fictionalized Ebenezer Cooke, who is given the title "Poet Laureate of Maryland" by [Charles Calvert, 3rd Baron Baltimore](#) and commissioned to write a *Marylandiad* to sing the praises of the colony. He undergoes adventures on his journey to and within Maryland while striving to preserve his virginity. The complicated [Tom Jones](#)-like plot is interwoven with numerous digressions and stories-within-stories.



Scenes of the Mountains...

Here are a few images I have made during this Spring as I toured my Blue Ridge Mountains of North Carolina. I have fallen in love with the place where I live. Can you blame me????



Henry Willis Locke of Chester County, S.C. and Auburn, Ala.

For those of us who descend from **Levi Locke** of Chester and York Counties in South Carolina, there has always been a void when it came to knowing anything about his family, other than names and dates. Levi was the youngest of six kids born to Stephen and Nancy Hines Locke. Stephen and Nancy had married around 1800 in Halifax County, North Carolina, and followed her father, Thomas Hines, to Chester County, South Carolina, just after their marriage. Within ten years, Stephen's father, William, and his uncle, Josias, also moved from Halifax to Chester, settling on land around Fishing Creek in northeast Chester. We know that the oldest of those six kids was Henry Willis Locke, called "Will", who was born in Halifax on March 4, 1803. Sister Theena came along in 1806, Martha in 1811, Nancy in 1812, Rebecca in 1814, and finally little Levi, who was born July 22, 1816. Next month will mark his 200th birth anniversary. We know about Levi's life, but knowing anything about his siblings has remained a mystery.

In my search for information about our ancestor Philip's possible link to a William Locke who came from England, I happened upon a file from an Alabama history quarterly that had information on a **William Green Locke**, who lived in the Auburn area of eastern Alabama near the Georgia border. When I saw that his grandfather, **Willis Locke** was living in the same area, I knew I was onto something. My records showed that Levi's brother, Willis, had married **Jane McCain** of Waxhaw, North Carolina, and at some point had gone west to Alabama. Finally I had a link to one of his descendants.

Digging deeper, I found a large amount of information about William Green Locke and his family and his descendants, and a number of old photographs. In the process, I connected the names of these people with the family names I already had, and confirmed my connections.

Henry Willis Locke was named for his great-grandmother's father, Henry Green, in Halifax. He had an uncle named Henry. Most likely, the "Willis" honored his paternal grandmother, who had died before the family left Halifax. In Alabama, Will and Jane had at least five children. They were Nancy Dulcina, named for Will's mother, Nancy Hines; William McCain, named for his grandfather and mother; Jane Pervina; Martha Isabella; and David (1820-1902). David married Elizabeth Pettus, and they raised a large family in Alexander City, Tallapoosa County, Alabama. Their kids were Jane Ray (1836-1925), William Green (1842-1927), Mary Elizabeth (1846-1926), and Stephen Willis (1852-1927), who was named for his grandfather and father.



L to R- William Green Locke, WGL and wife Melvina Kirkland, their daughter, Jane Ray, son, Rev. Stephen Willis and wife, Elizabeth, detail of Rev. Stephen Willis Locke.

William Green Locke would move his family from Alabama to Okaloosa County, Florida, and the town of DeFuniak Springs in the panhandle. He and wife, **Melvina** had eight children. They were Sarah (1867-1875), Elbert Lee (1869-1911), Isaiah, Charles, Emma Jean, David, Marion Riley (1878-1951), and Elsie (1885-1925). William Green Locke died on February 19, 1927, and is buried at Pleasant Ridge Cemetery in DeFuniak Springs, along with his wife, **Melvina Kirkland**, and their children, Riley and Elsie.

Stephen Willis Locke (1852-1927) married **Susan Della Smith** (1949-1909) lived in Walton County, Florida near his father. He and Della had two children, **Emma** (1883-1956), and **John** (1887-1901). Stephen became a minister in the panhandle, and died in the town of Bonifay in Holmes County, Florida, in 1927, where he was buried at Mt. Olive Cemetery, alongside his wife.

So far, that's where my research ends, but I hope that this information will inspire descendants of Henry Willis Locke to learn more about their colorful family.

The Wedding of Dustin Howell and Tabitha Lunsford

Dustin Howell's great-great-grandmother was Mattie Locke Helms. His great-grandmother was Mae Helms Howell, and his paternal grandparents are the late John Glenn Howell, and Gladys Hucks Howell, currently of Cornelius, North Carolina. His parents are Richard "Rick" and Sherrie Howell of Statesville, North Carolina. On Saturday, June 4th, Dustin married Tabitha Lunsford in a forest wedding at the Howell farm near Statesville. I had the pleasure of photographing Tabitha prior to the wedding, and here are a few of those images.



The happy couple honeymooned at Lake Lure, N.C., and will live in Boone in the Mountains.

Only Seven Weeks to the Locke Reunion

Hard to believe it's that time again, but we will gather on the banks of the Catawba River in Chester County on August 20th to celebrate our family heritage and to enjoy each other's company. This reunion is a week later than usual because I have my 50 Year High School Reunion the previous weekend in South Florida. If you haven't joined us in awhile, or have never attended one of these amazing gatherings, you'll love the 220 year old "Dog Trot" log cabin, with its air-conditioned interior.



For the fourth year in a row, we will gather at the **Landsford Canal State Park** just east of US Highway 21 in Chester County, South Carolina, after 9 a.m. for a full day of Southern delicacies and desserts, family stories, history, and incredible nature. Landsford has the well preserved granite locks, bridges, and gatekeeper's houses from 1813. It's also a short drive from the farms where our Locke ancestors raised their families, the churches where they worshipped, and the graveyards where they are buried. Call me at home at **828-288-4142** or at my cell at **828-333-0603** if you need to know more. Please alert your family. Please!