

The Locke Family Newsletter

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A Week Later This Year...

Our reunion is fast approaching, and this is just a friendly reminder that we will converge on **Landsford Canal State Park** along the historic **Catawba River** on **Saturday, August 20th**. Because my *50 year high school reunion* will be held in Florida the second weekend in August, I had to move the Locke Reunion back one week. This might be better for folks coming from out-of-town because school starts the previous Monday in most places, and kids **MUST** be home for that big day. If you weren't able to join us last year, make a point to drive down to the park and experience the beauty and history of this special place. Our Locke ancestors settled on land just a few miles west of the river, and there's nothing quite like being so close to our roots. The walk along the **Catawba** will take you back to a time over two hundred years ago when brothers **Josias** and **William** fished and hunted here with their sons, and when their daughters set up housekeeping in a cabin very much like the 200 year old cabin where we will be gathering. The view across the expansive stream will be the same view that they would have known. What better way to honor them than by walking in their footsteps? When does any family have that opportunity?



The shallow swift waters of the Catawba are home to the largest collection of the Rocky Shoals Spider Lily in the world. The Landsford Canal bypassed these amazing plants growing on rocks, and you can see the remarkable 200 year old stone work of Scottish masons all along the western bank of the river. Locks, bridges, walls, and channels remain to this day. Bring your walking shoes.



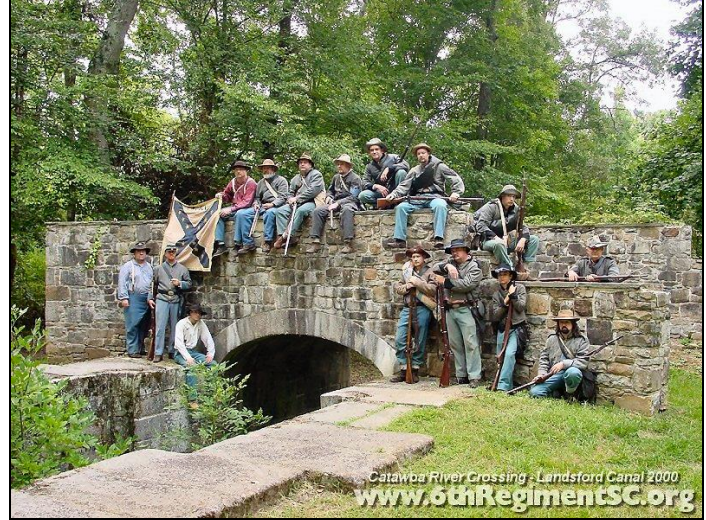
Landsford is popular for bridal photo shoots...



One of the stone bridges over the ten foot wide canal



Civil War re-enactors cross the Catawba River at Lands Ford



The same men pose at the most famous of all the canal bridges...

You will have plenty of time to explore the old canal locks and bridges. They were designed by the same architect who designed The **Washington Monument** in our nation's capital. The ancient Indian north-south trading path crossed the river at this place, and the bridge where the Confederate re-enactors are posing was built specifically for this path to cross the canal.



Plan to arrive by 10 a.m., and we'll eat around 12:30. After lunch, you can tour the Canal locks, or just sit on the front porch, sharing family stories. The cabin is air-conditioned with lots of tables and seating, but you might want to bring folding chairs for the porch. Bring those Southern delicacies to share, and Gladys will make lots of ice tea. Don't miss the Peach Cobbler.....

A Correction to the Henry Willis Locke Story...

In the June Newsletter, a story about the descendants of **Henry Willis Locke** appeared, and thanks to research by cousin Sandy Locke Wright of Huntsville, Alabama, corrections to that article need to be made. The mistake was an honest one, and had been made by other researchers before me. This can happen when you have Locke people of the same name and relative age living in the same geographic area at the same time, and this is what happened here. With more research and DNA testing, we might actually discover that these two Willis Lockes who lived near Auburn, Alabama, in the mid 1800's, were related through Lockes who lived in Pennsylvania in the mid 1600's. The names of males in both families are eerily similar, and with so few Locke clans in the colonies that early, the chances that they were related are good.

Our ancestor who lived in eastern Alabama and appeared in the 1830 U.S. census was **Henry Willis Locke** (1804-1866). Willis was born in Halifax County, North Carolina, in 1804 to **Stephen** and **Nancy Hines Locke**. Stephen was the son of **William Locke**, who was one of three sons born to **James** and **Susanna Green Locke** in St. Mary's County, Maryland. James and Susanna had followed James' brother, **John**, and Susanna's father, **Henry Green**, to Halifax in 1767.

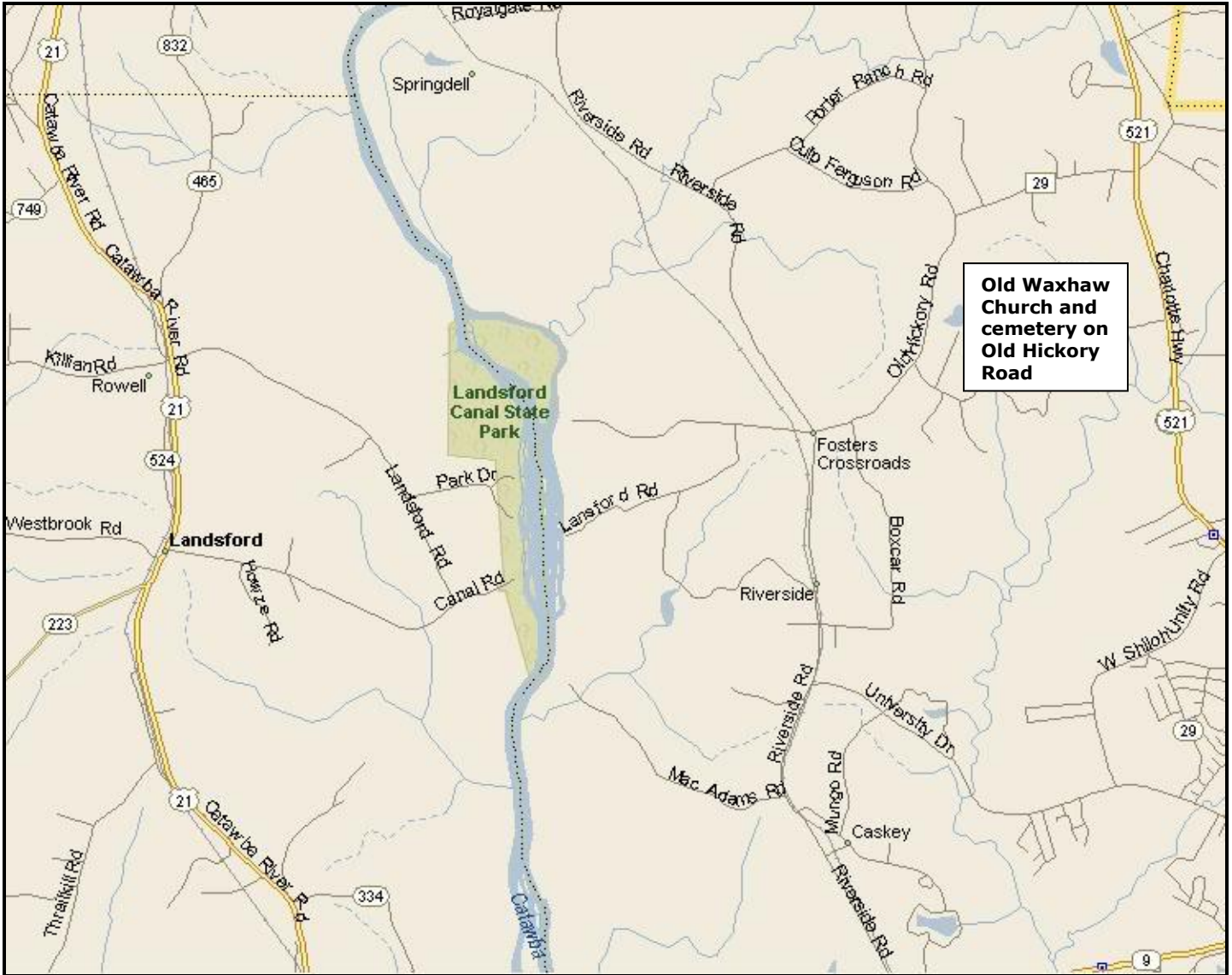
The other Willis Locke living near Auburn, Alabama, at the same time, was **William Willis Locke**, born in South Carolina in 1799, who was the son of **David Locke**, who was the son of **Thomas Locke**, who was born in Robeson, North Carolina in 1758, and was the son of **William Locke**, who was born in Bladen County, North Carolina, in 1736. William's father, **Thomas Locke, Jr.**, was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, in 1713, to **Thomas Locke, Sr.**, who was an original immigrant from Somerset, England, born in 1684.

As reported in the June Newsletter, Carolyn Llewellyn, a descendant of our relative, **John Locke**, of Halifax, North Carolina, believed that our ancestor, **Philip Locke** of St. Mary's County, was son of **William Locke**, who had emigrated from England, and was a son of **Thomas Locke**. Right away you can see the amazing similarities of names in both of these Willis Locke families.

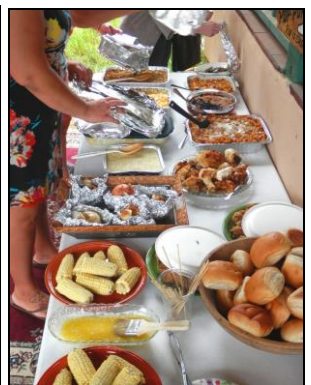
To complicate matters even further, **William Willis Locke** of Alabama had two grandsons, **William Green Locke** and **Stephen Willis Locke**. This led me to assume, wrongly, that they were named for our Willis' father, **Stephen**, and his father, **William**, and for **Henry Green**, Stephen's great grandfather. It was an honest mistake.

Our Willis married **Jane McCain Walker**, a widow, in Chester County, South Carolina, around 1825. They had two children in Chester, **Nancy** in 1826, and **William** in 1828. The family sold their farm in Chester in 1829, and relocated to eastern Alabama, where their third child, **Pervina**, was born in 1830, and their last child, **Martha**, was born in 1833.

Much of this research comes from **Dr. J.R. Peacock** of Clermont, Florida, who descended from **William Willis Locke** of Alabama.



Landsford Canal State Park is just east of **US-21** off of **Landsford Road**. From **Charlotte**: take I-77 exit 77 to Highway 5 & 21. Turn left (south), travel 16 miles to the **Landsford Canal State Park** sign and turn left. The park entrance is on the left. From **Columbia**: take I-77 north to exit 65 to Highway 9. Turn right and travel 2 miles to Highway 223. Turn left on Highway 223 and travel 9 miles to Highway 21. At Highway 21 turn left and travel 2 miles to the State Park sign. Turn right and the park's entrance is on the left. My cell number is **828-333-0603**. My home phone is **828-288-4142**. mountainvann@gmail.com



2011

2013

2005

2012