

# The Locke Family Newsletter

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## The Shocking Sacrifice of Lewis Manning Williams

The **Locke** family has a long history of service to its country. Dating back to the *French and Indian War* of the 1750's, all the way through *Desert Storm* and *Afghanistan*, Lockes and their descendants have answered the call of duty to serve with honor and pride. *The Revolutionary War* saw a grandson of **Philip Lock**, our earliest documented ancestor in America, serve with **General Washington** at *Valley Forge*. *The War of 1812* saw our Locke brethren from South Carolina enlist to repel the British along the Atlantic and Gulf coasts. Many Lockes served during the *War Between the States*. In Tennessee, while **Jesse McCullough Locke** was serving in the Confederate Army, members of his family were murdered in their home near Chattanooga by invading Union soldiers. One of his sons served in the Union Army in that Civil War that often found brothers fighting brothers. But the ultimate price was paid by two brothers from *Chester County, South Carolina*, fighting in Virginia. **Andrew and Josiah Locke** died from wounds and from disease while they served in *Petersburg* and the *Battle of the Wilderness*. Their father was **Benjamin Locke**, son of **Josias Locke**, who had moved his family from *Halifax County, North Carolina*, in 1807. Some of these earliest *Locke Newsletters* reprinted battlefield letters that these brave men wrote home from the front before they were lost.



**John Calhoun Locke**, son of Levi and Malinda Locke, of York County, S.C., had a son who served in World War I. From July to September of 1918, he trained at Rhode Island College in preparation to be shipped to France. This historic photo is just a portion or a panoramic photo showing almost 1,000 men in his company. It was part of an archive of photographs rescued from an estate sale by Betty Carter, a Great Granddaughter of John C. Locke. It was part of a collection owned by her Grandmother, Georgia Cordelia "Cordi" Locke Carter. Enlarge to see the faces.



**Walston Levi Locke** (far left) served during World War I. After the war, he became an occupational therapist, working with veterans who had been wounded during combat. He was a son of **Absalom Lewis Locke**.

A grandson of Absalom Locke, **Harold Helms** (right) served valiantly in the Pacific theater, stationed on a battleship that was attacked by Japanese Kamikaze pilots. He survived the horrible Typhoon in 1944 that sank many American war ships.



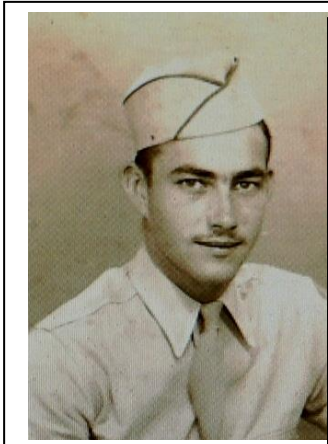
**Alfred Alto Locke** served in the Navy in WW II. He was son of Judson "Jake" Locke, and Great-great Grand-son of Jesse McCullough Locke.

**Joseph Wofford Locke**, son of Joseph Green and Leila Locke, enlisted in the Navy in 1945. He was stationed in the Pacific, and was at Bikini Atoll when the Atomic Bomb was exploded in 1946.



# The Williams Brothers

When **Minnie Bell Locke** married Newton Whiteside Williams in 1903, they had no way of knowing that four of their nine sons would be called upon to serve their country in a war that neither of them could ever imagine happening. Growing up in a quiet farming area in northern South Carolina near the North Carolina border, the idea that mankind would eventually be fighting the Japanese in the faraway Pacific Ocean was the farthest thing from her mind. But after the attack on Pearl Harbor, **Herbert Odell, Lewis Manning, David Fennell, and Harry Bruce Williams**, were all suddenly leaving home for places very far away. Special thanks to **Lewis Whisonant**, nephew to the Williams brothers, for his dedication in telling this story to honor his uncles.



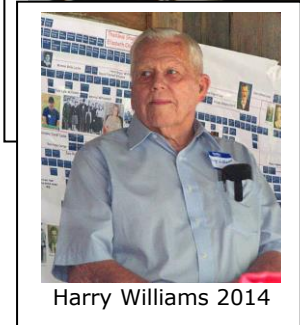
**David Fennell Williams**

He entered Service in April 1943, and was discharged in March 1946. Originally in the Army Air Corp, and later transferred into the Infantry, he saw action in the Philippines.



**Harry Bruce Williams**

He entered Service in April 1944, and was discharged in March 1946. He was assigned to Naval Logistics, in Jacksonville, Florida. He is still with us



Harry Williams 2014

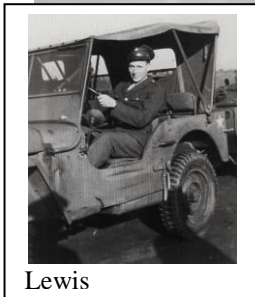




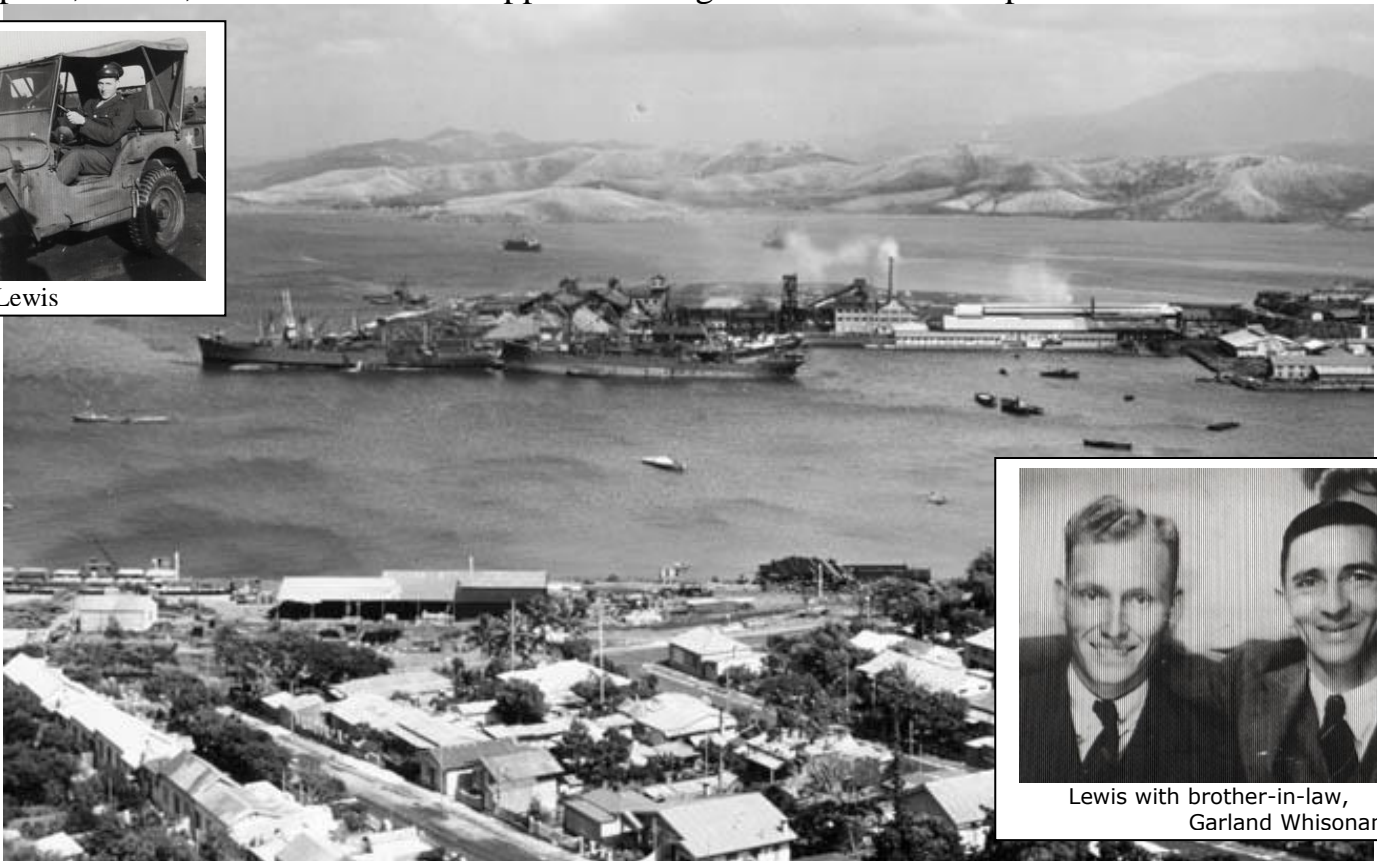
### **Herbert Odell Williams**

He entered Service in December 1942, and was discharged in November 1945. He was in the Army Salvage Repair Group and in the Battle of the Bulge, seeing action in France and Germany. He assisted in the liberation of Buchenwald Concentration Camp.

**Lewis Manning Williams**, the second oldest of the four boys, joined the Army in July of 1942, and trained in Georgia, New Jersey, and Texas. He was assigned to the **3007<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Base Depot Company** under the **316<sup>th</sup> Ordnance Battalion**. He arrived on the Island of **New Caledonia** in the Southwest Pacific on October 26, 1943. New Caledonia was a French Protectorate about 750 miles east of Australia. It was a strategic island for the defense of Australia against the Japanese and the link between Australia's life line and the United States. It served as a logistics base and staging area for the battles of the Samoan Islands and Guadalcanal. It had deep water port areas for unloading and uploading supply ships. There were two docks around **Noumea**, the capital, on the southern tip. On one dock, the **Finger Dock**, was stored ammunition, gasoline, bombs, explosives, detonators, blasting caps, spare parts, dishes, and various other supplies waiting to be loaded on ships.



Lewis



Lewis with brother-in-law,  
Garland Whisonant

The loading docks in the New Caledonian port of Noumea in October, 1943

It was *November 1, 1943*. It was *All Saints Day*. Things were quiet along the Finger Dock because all the local workers were given the day off. Lewis and his Army buddies were in the process of loading supplies onto a ship. It was just after two in the afternoon. Somehow a fire broke out on the dock, and everyone stopped what they were doing to fight the flames. The fire must have ignited the munitions on the dock and there was a chain reaction as bombs and bullets exploded. In an instant, over 100 men were dead or missing, and another 100 were seriously injured.

Here is the telegram that was delivered to the Williams home six days later:

- **I regret to inform you. Report received states your son Private First Class Lewis M. Williams missing since One November in New Caledonia. If further details or other information are received, you will be promptly notified. The Adjutant General**

An investigation was opened immediately. Recovery efforts, as you can imagine, were very difficult. In the end, Lewis and seventeen of his missing Army brothers were declared dead on *January 6, 1944*. Another telegram arrived at the Williams home.

Identification of remains was difficult. In those days, dental records and dog tags were the only ways to make identification. That process took until 1948, when all the “remains” of those eighteen men were assigned for a group burial at *Schofield Barracks*, Hawaii.

The group remains were transported back to the US and interred at *Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery* near *St. Louis, Missouri*, in October, 1949. Lewis’ brothers, Fennell and Harry Williams, attended the interment.

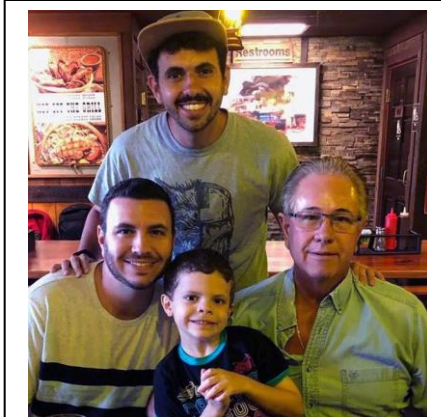
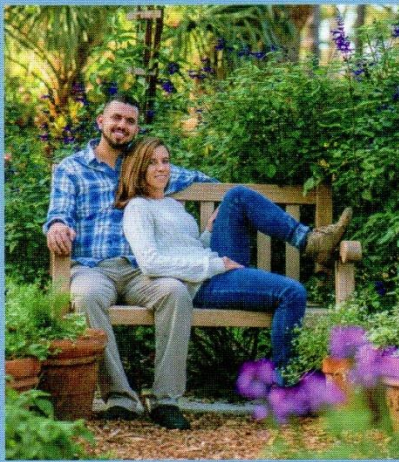
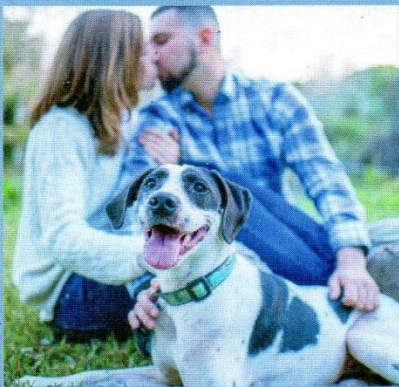


It took over five hours to bring the fire under control. Ships had been ripped from their moorings, but none were seriously damaged.

The cause of the explosion was originally reported as sabotage, but it wasn't until 1955 that details of the investigation were released, and it was found that improper handling of munitions was the actual cause.

### **Jefferson Barracks National Cemetery**





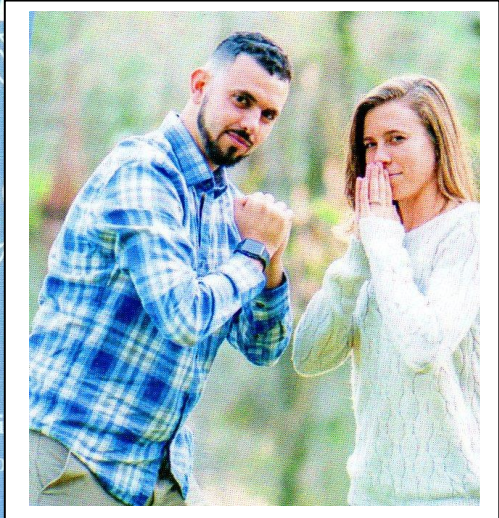
Three Generations-  
Matt with brother, David and  
David's son, Eric, and grand  
dad, Wade.

*Shayna Brock*  
&  
*Matthew Helms*  
invite you to our wedding celebration

Mead Botanical Gardens  
1300 S Denning Dr  
Winter Park, FL 32789

JAN  
**25**  
2020

The ceremony will begin  
3 o'clock in the afternoon  
Festivities to follow

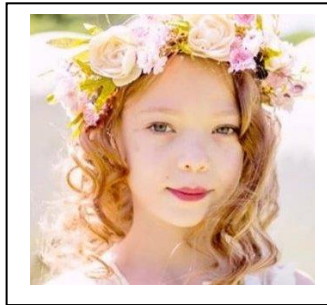


Matthew is the son of Vicki and Wade Helms of Ft. Lauderdale, Florida, grandson of the late Walston "Buddy" and Virginia Ratcliffe Helms, and great-grandson of Lonnie and Mattie Locke Helms. Shayna is the daughter of Tracy and Tim Brock, now of Spartanburg, South Carolina.

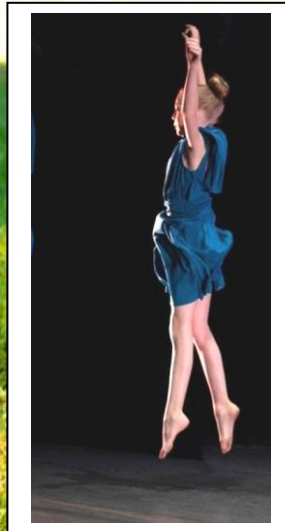


# The Gifted Dancing of Claire Violet Taylor

She may only be nine years old, but **Claire Violet Taylor** is already proving that it's never too soon to become the next Suzanne Farrell or Dame Margot Fontaine. Claire is the daughter of Wayne and Jennifer Locke Taylor, and granddaughter of Catherine Mae "Cathy" Locke Robb. Cathy's mom and dad were the late Nancy and John Franklin Locke, Jr. of Chester County, South Carolina. Let's call Claire a prodigy, because even at her young age, she already shows incredible flexibility and classical technique. Aside from all that, she loves to perform, and is already a featured dancer at the New Attitude Performing Arts Center in Rock Hill.



L to R- Brother Dillinger, Mom Jennifer, Grandmom Cathy, and Claire. Can you say, *Redheads?*

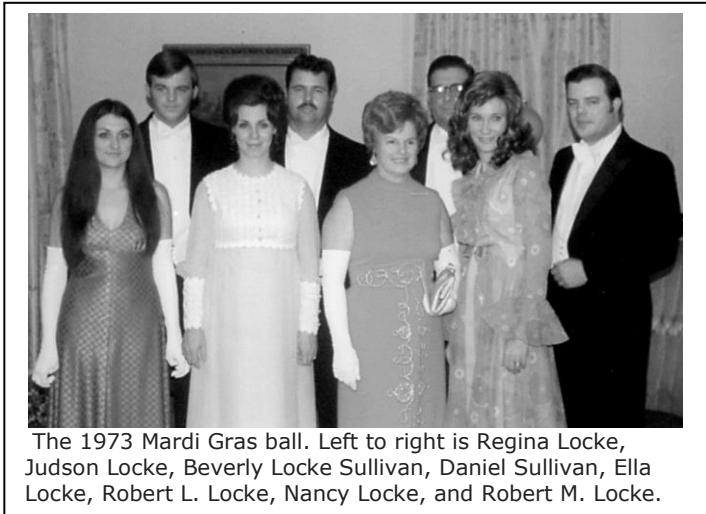


Jennifer with **Aquaman** star, **Jason Momoa**. You just never know who you're going to run into when you travel to New York

# Memories of Mardi Gras in Mobile

Most people don't realize that Mardi Gras in America started in Mobile, Alabama, before it spread to New Orleans. Recently, I spent a few days in Mobile, and was amazed at the history of the annual celebration on display all over town. Today, Mardi Gras is a major economic force in Mobile, employing over 50,000 people directly responsible for making Mardi Gras a success.

A descendant of Jesse McCullough Locke grew up in Mobile, and although he now lives in Kingsport, Tennessee, Robert Locke has fond memories of his days in the Bay City, and his family's involvement in the pageantry that filled the months and weeks before "Fat Tuesday" arrived. Here are his remarks.



The 1973 Mardi Gras ball. Left to right is Regina Locke, Judson Locke, Beverly Locke Sullivan, Daniel Sullivan, Ella Locke, Robert L. Locke, Nancy Locke, and Robert M. Locke.

*Having grown up with Mobile Mardi Gras, and having lived two years in New Orleans, I was lucky enough to experience both Mardi Gras.*

*However, Mobile Mardi Gras was the best for this young boy because my father's sister, Carmen, was a member in one of the crews. If we happened to be home during Mardi Gras, she would open the trunk of her Cadillac (big o'l trunk) and let us pick through the boxes and boxes of candy and trinkets she was storing to be thrown from her float in their crew's parade.*

*Later in life she got the family invited to her crew's ball. The member's wore their crew regalia, but guest had to dress in formal wear: men in white tie and tails, women in gowns. We wanted to go to breakfast after the ball but could not find a restaurant that was not already full. Can you just picture eight of us in full formal wear, side by side at the bar of a Waffle House? And great fun was had by all! Robert Mack Locke*



**Yours truly as King Felix**



**Ornate robes and trains...**



**Pig bladders as balloons...**



**A feast fit for a King and Queen...**



Beautiful floats, handmade gowns and costumes, and lots of colorful souvenirs can be found in the **Carnival Museum of Mobile**.

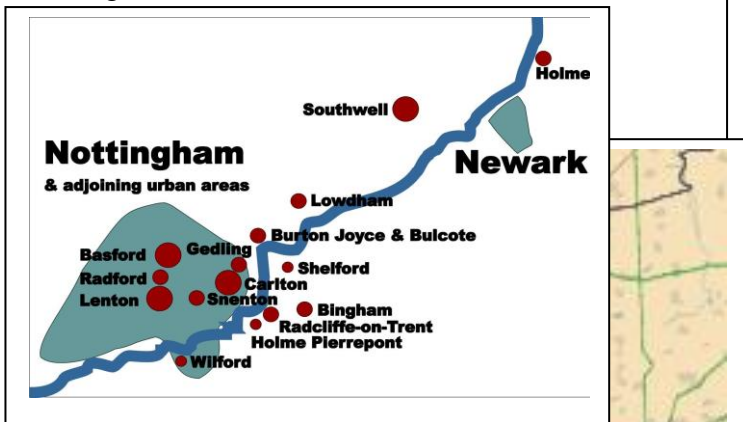


# Our Roots in Sherwood Forest

Watching *Robin Hood* on TV back in the 50's, I never imagined that my ancestors had lived there before coming to America. The evil Sheriff of Nottingham, Friar Tuck, and Little John, were just historical characters, right? Not so fast.

When **Philip Lock** married **Mary Hulse** around 1695 in Maryland, we were forever connected to that magical forest so far away. Mary's mother was **Martha Greenfield**, and her father, Thomas, had emigrated around 1650 from, you guessed it, Nottingham, England. They had settled in Charles County, Maryland, just north of St. Mary's County, where the Locks and the Hulses would eventually have their farms. Martha, who was also born near Nottingham, met a man, who also lived in Charles County, named **Meverell Hulse**. They were married, and bought land in St. Mary's County, next door to where Philip Lock was living and working on a large manor called *Resurrection Hundred*. Philip, and Meverell's daughter, Mary, hit it off, and the rest is history, *our* history.

The Greenfield family had a large presence in Maryland at that time. Two other Thomas Greenfields had emigrated from *Carleton, Gedling Parish, Nottingham, England*, at about the same time. One settled in Baltimore County to the north, and the other acquired over 2,000 acres in Charles County. Undoubtedly, these three Williams were from the same extended family back in England.



St. Paul's Church Carleton



Carleton Countryside





1,000 year old Major Oak in Sherwood

**Robin Hood, in red, welcoming King Richard to Sherwood Forest in Medieval times.**



The annual Goose Fair in Nottingham carries on to this day, but has gotten a little larger, as you can see below.





# Your Photographs...

The family photos here were taken from your Facebook sites, and from those you so kindly sent. Please send your family pictures, old and new, so that they can be featured in the next newsletter.

## Gerald "Jerry" Locke Family



Jerry & Carolyn with grandchildren, Julie, Jordan, Margo.

Margo with Steve and Dean Locke Jackson

## The Family of Harold Helms

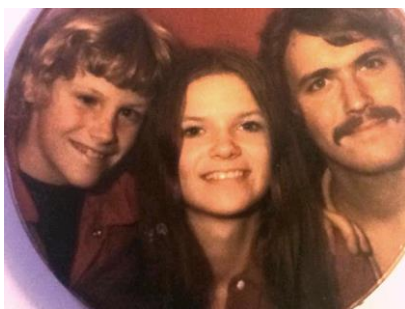
Harold Helms, son of Mattie Locke Helms, had three daughters with his wife Grace Caldwell Helms. Hazel was the eldest (1935). After her came Noraetta, then the baby, Martha.

**Hazel Cornelia Helms Brotherton-** Three children with her husband Bud. Debra, Mike, and Donna.

**Debra and Jim Fox-** Tracy Fox Adams, Erin Fox Clough.

**Michael-**

**Donna Parker-** Shelby Parker



Debra, Mike, and Donna

Donna, Debra, and Mike

Debra and Jim Fox's Family



Erin and Ritchie's wedding...

Erin

Tracy and son, Elijah Ginder





Christmas, 2018. Donna, Shelby, Raelyn, Savannah and Tracy Adams, Shannon Brotherton. Top: Ritchie, Erin, Elijah, Ron Adams, Mike Brotherton, Jimmy Hearn, Debra.

**Donna Brotherton Parker Family**



**Raelyn, Donna, and Shelby**



**... with Jim Morris**



**Ron and Tracy Fox Adams Family**



**Lake Lure before July 4<sup>th</sup> Fireworks**



**My newly painted home at Lake Lure**



**Belinda Sisk Daniel Clay's Family- Martha Helms Sisk's daughter**



Son Matthew Daniel

Grand kids- Jason, Ryder, Melinda, Chase and Shannon Albertson



The photo of Belinda's grandson (L) shows a remarkable resemblance to my brother, Eddie, (R) when he was about that age. Genetics...



Eddie and Vann 1950

Ryder

**The Burnice Harris Family- Burnice is the great-grandson of Benjamin McCullough Locke**



G-daughter Isabell

Son- Justin

Dad w/Godric & Crystal

G-son Isaac Harris

Alonzo Harris, Jr.

**Family of Walston Edd "Buddy" and Virginia Ratcliffe Helms  
Walston Edd "Eddie" Helms, Jr.**



Eddie with daughters Sherrie and Charlene and Sherrie's girls, Delaney & Madison



Eddie and Carol with Delaney and Madison in Ft. Lauderdale



Charlene and husband Michael



Blake at the throttle. He just turned 17.



Charlene and Michael near their Aspen home with daughter, Ashley, and son, Blake Freedland





Madison



Charlene with daughter Ashley, 14, and Aunt Sherrie



Eddie, clowning, with his granddaughters

### The Wade and Vicki Stein Helms Family



Wade, Vicki, Steph and David with daughter, Penny, and son, Eric, and Matt.



The family, joined by Shayna, Matt's fiancé



Matt skiing in Colorado in June



Wade with his grandbabies



The family at Disneyworld



Tim and Suzanne Whisonant with their daughter, Emily. Tim is the son of Lewis and Ginny Whisonant. (Minnie Locke)

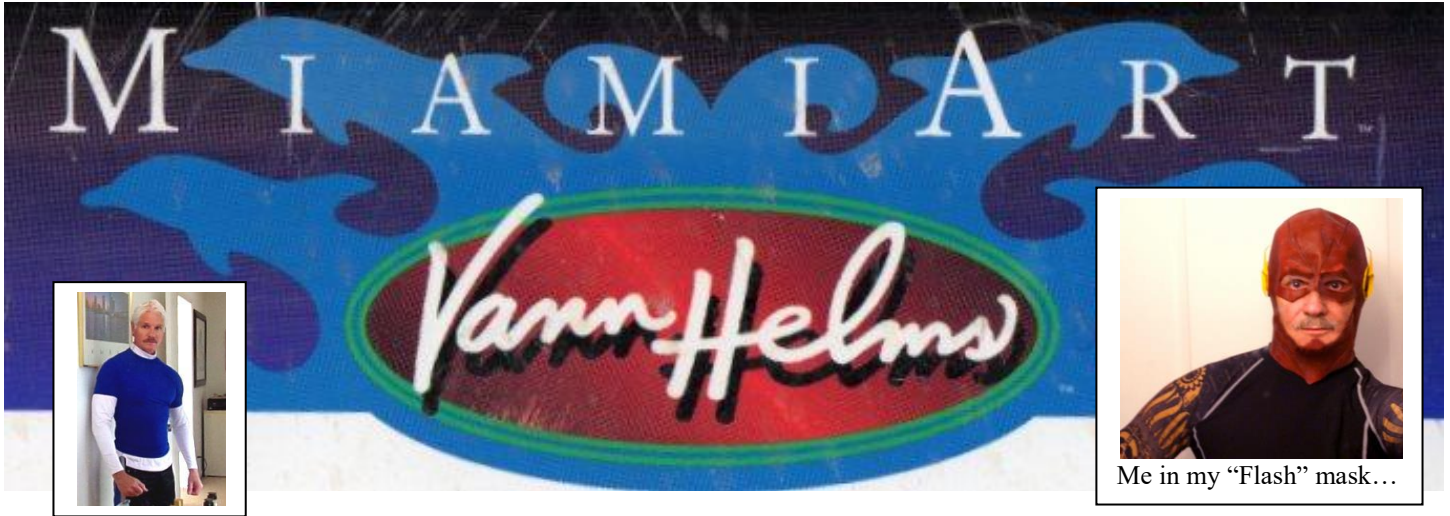


David, Maddy, and Tammy Boyce

Grandson of Hugh and Mamie Locke Boyce







For those of you who may not know, I became a painter in 1995, and for the next four years, produced a large quantity of work featuring historic architecture and the landscapes surrounding those structures. I painted in acrylics, and used large wooden panels as my image bases. Those panels featured jigsawed cutouts reflecting animals and shapes representative of those found in South Florida. These painted pieces were hinged together into four, five, and six panel freestanding screens. They were featured in galleries, museums, and other public places, and were selected to represent the preservation efforts of Dade Heritage Trust, the organization charged with protecting places of historical value in Miami and the surrounding environs. Here are a few examples.



**Cape Florida Lighthouse**



**Illuminated I.M Pei Tower**



**1924 Masonic Temple**



**Vizcaya Venetian Palace**



**Miami Beach Fantasy**



**1935 Colony Art Deco Hotel**

Take a look at my photo blog [www.blueridgeimpressions.org](http://www.blueridgeimpressions.org)

My email is [Mountainvann@gmail.com](mailto:Mountainvann@gmail.com)



## Happenings in the Locke Family

**Robert Franklin Carter**, son of Eura and Ray Hope Carter, and grandson of Robert Hope and Georgia Cordelia “Cordi” Locke Carter, passed on February 17<sup>th</sup>, 2019. He was born in York County, South Carolina, in 1923. He is survived by his daughter, Penny Carter.

**Donald Gaston Williams**, grandson of Newton and Minnie Belle Locke Williams, passed on February 25, 2019. Don was born in 1939 in Rock Hill, South Carolina. He is survived by his beloved wife of 55 years, Phyllis Beck Williams; son, Russell Williams (Tiffany) of Clearfield, Utah; two daughters, Tiffany Davis (Terry) and Colette Bell, all of Rock Hill; two grandsons, Cody and Brady Davis; two granddaughters, Devon Rodriguez (Brandon) and Amber Bell (AJ); a great grandson, Silas Rodriguez; and two sisters, Cyndi Barnier (Bill) of Ridgeland, SC and Mary Belle Ayers of Rock Hill.



## Maydell Locke Thomas celebrates her 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday



Son Houston with Maydell, daughter Norma Payne, sister, Erdice Patricia “Patty” Locke Pebley, and daughter, Sarah Prosak.



Mary Thomas, Houston’s wife, Norma and Bob Payne, Sarah Prosak.

**Maydell** is the daughter of **Arthur Hayden Locke** (1899-1967), and Great-great Granddaughter of **Jesse McCullough Locke** (1793-1869), of Halifax County, North Carolina, Chester County, South Carolina, and Meigs County, Tennessee. She lives in Southern California, surrounded by her loving family.



Patty Locke Pebley with granddaughters, Skyla Stalcup, Sydney Gagliardo, and Sierra Stalcup.



Patty with sons John and Jim Anderson at Mammoth Mountain