

The Locke Family Newsletter

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A Tribute to Vann Helms

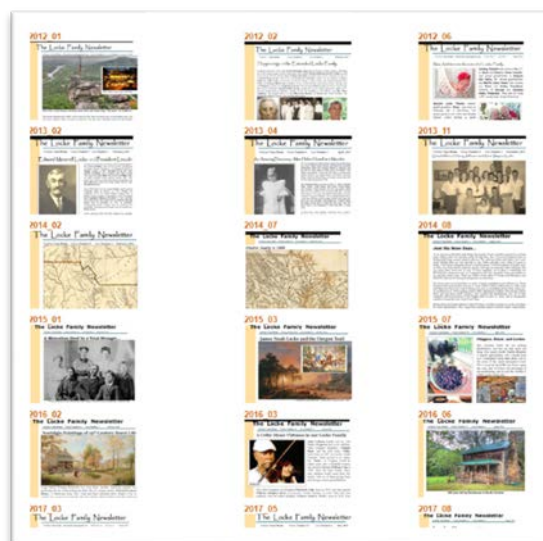


I have been trying to remember when I first met Vann. One of my earliest memories was when we shared our research notes back in Sept of 2009, after I received an earlier newsletter from Vann. Don Locke, with the Family Tree **DNA Locke Project** told me that Vann was researching some of my family, so we made contact...and the rest, as you know, is history. I, like many of you, relied on Vann for a lot of information sharing and new contacts. His Newsletters were engaging, informative and sometimes hard to follow. But, that is the way it is with family research, especially with anything prior to the mid 1800's! Vann enjoyed photography, traveling, especially in the Blue Ridge mountains of North Carolina and researching our family history. He really enjoyed getting together with friends and family.

I hope that we can continue to share information and pictures of our extended families and carry on with our newsletters. I revamped my history site and added thumbnail links to all of the newsletters that we have.

[CLICK HERE](#) to view the newsletters.

It is my intent to continue to collect information and periodically publish to our family contacts.



Speaking of contacts...

I only have a little over 50 emails that Vann used to distribute newsletters. I know he had at least 100 more than that. So, I encourage you to share this with others and ask that they click on this [CONTACT FORM](#) and enter their name and email address for us to use to distribute future newsletters and to collect updated information from our families. If you prefer to email me directly, please do. Looking back at some of our reunion pictures brings fond memories of Vann.



Left:

2011 Locke Reunion

Right:

2016 Locke Reunion



Research Updates

While the search to verify the parents of **Phillip Lock** and his family “across the pond” continues, I am happy to let you know that we are making some progress. With the help of the Family Tree **DNA Locke Project**, along with Donald Locke and George Locke, we have identified someone in England who has agreed to do a Big-Y test. This will add one more person doing this test for a total of 7 people in our family group who have completed the Big-Y test. In addition, I have initiated a Legacy Tree Genealogist research project to verify my tree and to extend the search into England.

If anyone else is interested in supporting our research efforts by submitting DNA, please let me know and we can discuss the process.

To “E” or Not to “E”

Lock vs Locke ... that is the question!

For our family line, there is an ongoing discussion about when and why the “E” is either added or removed from our last name. The March 2017 newsletter has some great information and a summary of **Christopher Locke’s** book: “**GENERATIONS A Detailed History of the Locke, Miller, Jacobs & Lemerise Families**”. One hypothesis is that Phillip may have removed the “E” to leave England (refer to Chris’ other book: **SUSPECT JOHN LOCKE and the RYE HOUSE PLOT**). After reading this I started going through my line to see when we added the “E” back in.

The records that we have for **Phillip, James H, Josias J., Benjamin L.** all are spelled without the “e”. This includes Census records, Wills and other documents like land transfers, etc. Then for my line, Benjamin’s son **Josiah H.**, I have found both with and without the “e”. Here is a brief summary:

- 1850 Census **Lock** (Mary Head of Household)
- 1860 Census **Locke** (Mary Head of Household)
- 1864 Letter signed **Lock**
- List of civil war soldiers killed **Locke**
- 1864 Headstone **Locke**
- 1870 Census **Locke** (Dorothy Head of Household)
- 1880 Census **Lock** (Dorothy Head of Household)
- 1900 Census **Lock** (Elizbeth, Benjamin’s Daughter)

From around 1890 forward, Josiah’s son **Henry Jefferson** (my great grandfather) and everyone since then is a **Locke** with the “e”. So, what was going on the last half of the 19th century that would cause our family to add the “E” back to our name? Census records are known for misspelled



names; however, family records and legal documents, etc. can help to clarify the spellings. There must be another reason for this to have occurred in the different branches of our **Locke** family.

As I read **Christopher Locke's** book on the Rye House Plot, I enjoyed the rich history of our family and as I went through the records trying to find when our line added the "e" – a thought overwhelmed me. If Chris' hypothesis is true, that Phillip changed his name slightly – what would cause our family to add it back? The one thing that kept coming up in my mind the most, was the influence of **John Locke**.

You have to remember that when our country was formed, news did not travel fast. In addition, many did not read and write. We know that John Locke's works were first published in 1714. In 1764, John Locke's First American edition of **A Letter Concerning Toleration** was published. Locke based his **Two Treatises** around the idea of a social contract in which individuals consent to surrendering some of their rights in exchange for protection and order. American Revolutionaries adopted this notion and others, particularly in the **Declaration of Independence**. **Lockean Thought** and the rise of John Locke's philosophy in America was certainly an influence on Thomas Jefferson with his three natural rights: life, liberty and property as well as other language of the Declaration based on Locke's Second Treatise. The Declaration of Independence also expands Locke's theory that revolution is not only a right of the people but an obligation in some cases. His promotion of separation of powers and theory that a government's authority is derived from the consent of the governed laid the groundwork for such principles in the **U.S. Constitution**.

There have been **27 Amendments** to the U.S. Constitution that have been ratified, even though there have been more than 11,000 proposed! The first 10 Amendments were ratified in 1791 and one in 1795. Four more were ratified in the 1800's and then 12 more in the 1900's. Between 1865 and 1920 there were 7 Amendments ratified to the U.S. Constitution. These were:

- XIII - Slavery abolished
- XIV - US Citizens by birth or naturalization
- XV - Right to Vote not denied based on race, color or servitude
- XVI - Taxes on Income
- XVII - Senate composed of 2 from each state
- XVIII - Prohibition of Liquor (later repealed by Amendment XXI)
- XIX - Right to Vote not denied based on sex

Life after the **Civil War** was hard on both sides and the South suffered greatly. The industrial revolution moved forward; however, working conditions were very poor. Living in the south was very hard for many people. After the war, reconstruction began, settlers continued to travel west to expand boundaries of our nation and railroad expansion created connections that allowed for news and goods to be transported faster than ever before. Literacy rates were increasing and disposable income began to rise. The newspaper publishing industry grew during the 1800's and news products became cheaper and more accessible in the mid to late 1800's. **Penny Press** newspapers were on the rise from the 1830's forward thanks to mass production capabilities with



the steam powered printing. A popular one during the Civil War was **Harper's Weekly**, an American political magazine based in New York City. Published by Harper & Brothers from 1857 until 1916, it featured foreign and domestic news, fiction, essays on many subjects, and humor, alongside illustrations. It carried extensive coverage of the American Civil War, including many illustrations of events from the war.

Right: **Hon. Abraham Lincoln**

Creator/Contributor: Homer, Winslow, 1836-1910 (artist)

Date issued: 1860-11-10

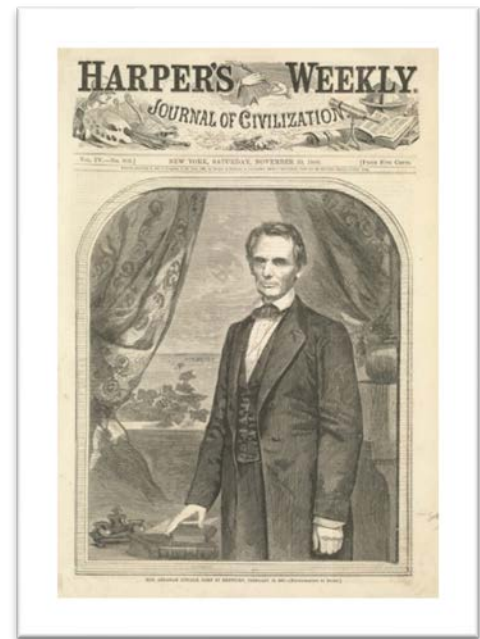
Physical description: 1 print : wood engraving

Genre: Wood engravings; Periodical illustrations

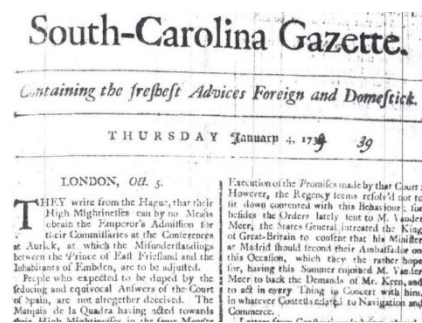
Notes: Published in: Harper's Weekly, Volume IV, No.202, 10 November 1860; Photographed by Brady.; Signed lower right: H.

Collection: Winslow Homer Collection

Location: Boston Public Library, Print Department



More than sixteen hundred newspapers have been established in South Carolina since 1732, when Eleazer Phillips, Jr., of Boston printed the colony's first newspaper in Charleston, the South-Carolina Weekly Journal.



The first successful newspaper in South Carolina was the **South-Carolina Gazette**, printed in Charleston in 1732 by Eleazer Phillips, Jr. of Boston. The **Post and Courier** is the main daily newspaper in Charleston, South Carolina. It is a combination of three newspapers: the Charleston Courier (1803), the Charleston Daily News (1865), and The Evening Post (1894).

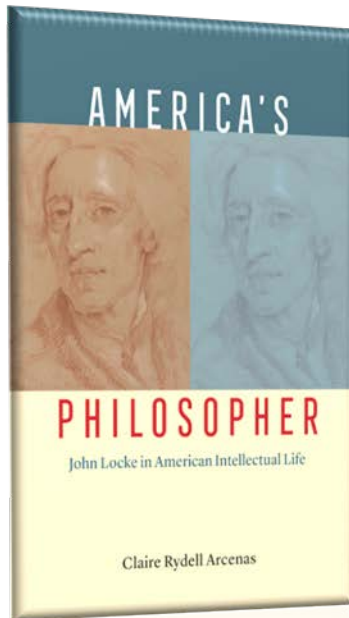
The first newspaper in Spartanburg, South Carolina was **The Spartan**, which was first published on December 22, 1843. The newspaper was founded by attorney Thomas Oliver Perry Vernon. The newspaper went through several name changes, including:

- The Spartan: First published in 1843
- The Carolina Spartan: Published in 1852
- The Spartanburg Spartan: Published in 1896
- The Spartanburg Journal: Published around 1900
- The Spartanburg Herald: Published in 1872

The Spartanburg Herald and The Spartanburg Journal merged in 1982 to become The Spartanburg Herald-Journal.



Newspaper publications helped to spread the news to more people than ever before, including political news. “By the middle of the eighteenth century, Locke's polyvalent influence had permeated American society.” (*Quote from the book below.*) Is it possible that our family, in the mid to late 1800's knew that Phillip changed his name to come to America, yet – with the popularity of John Locke's works growing, they wanted to reconnect with our family in England?



As I looked for various articles on John Locke between the mid 1800's to the early 1900's I ran across a book by **Claire Rydell Arcenas** called **AMERICA'S PHILOSOPHER John Locke in American Intellectual Life**. We know the impact he had on early America and how his works, especially his Two Treatises of Government, were used both politically and on a wide range of other topics. Prior to 1860 his works were widely read and studied. During and after the Civil War the context of slavery, his political thoughts on social contract theory and private property became problematic for some leaning towards Scottish moral philosophy, German idealism and American pragmatism. This changed again in the early 1900's as people related his works in the Second Treatise to the emerging political thoughts around individualism, private property and capitalism. With this, Lockean Thought became the symbolic essence of the American Political Tradition.

Could our family have added the “e” back to our name due to the impact of pride for a distant cousin **John Locke** and hope for restoration of family heritage? I wish we had more information from our ancestors that could help us prove either of these hypothetical propositions on why the “E” was dropped and later added back. We may never know; however, if anyone has another idea or information on this topic, please share it with me for a future newsletter.

In closing, I would like for you to **share some photos, stories or updates** to any of our Locke families for the 2025 Newsletters. Reply back to my email or use the contact form. If you know of someone who would like to receive these, you can, or you can have them, fill out this form:

Locke Family Newsletter Contact Form: [CLICK HERE](#)

Merry Christmas

