

The Historic Huntsville Quarterly

Volume 27
Number 1 *The Five Points Historic District: A
Community of Neighbors*

Article 7

3-20-2001

In Memoriam: Mattie Ozelle Locke

Debra Brasher

Rusty George

Follow this and additional works at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly>



Part of the [Historic Preservation and Conservation Commons](#), and the [History Commons](#)

Recommended Citation

Brasher, Debra and George, Rusty (2001) "In Memoriam: Mattie Ozelle Locke," *The Historic Huntsville Quarterly*. Vol. 27: No. 1, Article 7.

Available at: <https://louis.uah.edu/historic-huntsville-quarterly/vol27/iss1/7>

This Article is brought to you for free and open access by LOUIS. It has been accepted for inclusion in The Historic Huntsville Quarterly by an authorized editor of LOUIS.

In Memoriam: Mattie Ozelle Locke

Interview by Rusty George

Written by Debra Brasher

Mrs. Mattie Ozelle Locke's was one of the first signatures received on the petition to help Five Points become a historic district. She liked the idea then, and she hoped the area would continue to improve and grow. Her life was a testimony of the type of folks who live in the district.

Mrs. Locke celebrated her 101st birthday on November 11, 2000. She lived in three centuries and kept an attitude of strength and Southern charm throughout. After growing up in Hurricane Valley as the second of ten children, she and her family moved to Huntsville in 1926.

Married to J. F. Locke at nineteen, Mattie and her new husband received a horse and buggy for their wedding gift. It is rumored that Mr. Locke had \$1.50 when they married, but went on to do quite well. Mrs. Locke is noted to have said, "He could make money on a flat rock." The Lockes purchased a 1926 Ford Touring car and moved with their children to Florida to make their fortune. Unfortunately, a huge hurricane came and blew everything away. The Lockes returned to Huntsville in their Ford, minus the roof.

In 1945 the family moved into a blockhouse Mr Locke built in Five Points. He ran his business out of the first floor, and the family lived on the second floor. The main house was built in 1952. Both houses are still standing. When asked why they chose Five Points Mrs. Locke remarked simply, "We just liked it."

Mrs. Locke, a homemaker until her children were grown, became the bookkeeper for the family business. Mrs. Locke survived her husband and had three children, six grandchildren, twelve great-grandchildren, and two great-great-grandchildren. She credited hard work for her longevity. "That's all I've ever done," said the gracious woman. Mrs. Locke worked until she was ninety. Sadly, Mrs. Locke passed away on the twenty-eighth of November, 2000.