

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 7

March 7, 2001

March is here, the weather is chilly and invigorating. Just the kind of day one wants to get out and do something, so I am here writing this newsletter to some of my favorite people. We have had a pretty good winter and it is probably just about over. We had a few very cold days, not much rain. Maybe we had enough cold to kill off some of the fleas, which should be a blessing to those with pets.

- Speaking of pets, we had to have our dog, Blondie put to sleep a couple months ago. She was about 13 years old, blind, deaf, and incontinent. I don't mind telling you when I took her to the vet I broke down and sobbed. We have not gotten a replacement yet, but expect we will before very long.
- The news media and their band of vote counters here in Florida are still bombarding us. Just this week there are three media types in the Supervisor of Elections office looking at the ballots. I don't know just what they hope to prove with their review, but they are bound and determined to continue looking at the ballots. Guess they are just going to keep the public in an uproar over the close election of

last November. If I owned a newspaper, I would probably do the same thing - sell newspapers!

- Ann and I had a nice visit from our cousin, Shirley Bowman, the other day. Shirley is the daughter of the late Dee Bonifay Hammond, grand daughter of Nancy Lewis Bonifay who was the daughter of William S. "Coot" Lewis, a son of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis. Shirley lives in Milton, is now retired from the West Florida Medical Center, and is enjoying travelling and visiting family and friends. She is very interested in getting to know more about her Lewis family, so we expect her to be at our reunion this year. We mentioned to her about all the information Joyce Nelson and June McLeod have compiled and said they will probably bring it to the reunion again this year.

**LEWIS FAMILY REUNION
FRIDAY & SATURDAY
JULY 27 & 28, 2001
MILTON, FLORIDA**

- Received a very welcome e-mail from Scarlet Ehlers, of Palm Beach. Scarlet is the daughter of Lillian Richburg and grand daughter of Mable Lewis Weekley who was the daughter of Gus Lewis who was the son of Henry Jackson Lewis, the 5th. She and husband Glenn regretted being unable to attend

last year's reunion, but are already making plans to attend this year. We hope you are also planning to attend. Remember that these are your reunions, and only your attendance makes them worthwhile.

FINANCES

We continue to be in good financial condition. As mentioned in the last newsletter we have \$8,510 in a CD account paying 6.25% interest. The interest is credited quarterly to the checking account which takes care of Robinson Point Cemetery (RPC) maintenance. We also have \$254.96 in a savings account and \$227.12 in the checking account. So far we have sufficient funds to also pay for publishing this newsletter. We will keep you posted and will let you know when and if we need additional money. Again we must remember that we are charged with taking care of the RPC forever and ever. You will all remember that when "Coot" Lewis sold his property he "deeded ¼ acre to be used as a graveyard by the public forever". However, he did not set aside funding to maintain the graveyard and Florida law does not provide funding for maintaining public cemeteries, so we, Coots descendants are caring for our ancestral burial grounds.

CEMETERY REPORT

Visited RPC today. Most of the plants are blooming and within the next week it should be beautiful down there. One of the three arbor vitae planted beside the Memorial Marker died and was removed. Will buy something else to put in its place. The other two are doing well. RPC wintered over pretty well. The dead tree we discussed last year must be removed this year. The trunk is now rotting and we don't want it to fall on the neighbor's yard. I will ask Mike to take a look at it and see if he can remove it, otherwise I will contact a professional. The drive into the cemetery will have to be pruned after this blooming season, otherwise it looks like we are in pretty good shape at RPC.

**Friday July 27 – 8:30
Dutch treat Breakfast at
Reggies**

**Friday 5:30 PM - Dinner at
Country Road Buffet,
Woodbine Road, Pace**

**Saturday July 28 10:30
AM - Picnic at Navarre
Pavilion, Hwy 98, Navarre**

REUNION 2001

For a change of pace we will have our Friday evening dinner at the Country Road Buffet, 4325 Woodbine Rd, Pace, FL. Ph: 995-4580. They serve an

extensive buffet with very good food. We will have a separate room so we can visit without being disturbed, or disturbing other patrons. The cost will be \$8.77 each including tip.

While you do not need to make a firm reservation, I would appreciate you letting me know if you plan to attend.

- The other events for the reunion will be:
- Friday morning Dutch treat Breakfast at Reggies BBQ & Seafood, about one mile East of

Milton on Highway 90. (The same place as prior years) and

- Saturday July 28 we again will have our covered dish picnic at the Navarre Park on Highway 98 in Navarre. We will meet in the RECTANGLUAR Pavilion instead of the Octagon shaped one we have used in the past. As usual you are asked to bring a covered dish, your favorite beverage, and a lawn chair if you like. We will begin to assemble about 10:30 and will eat about noonish. I must say that all of you do yourself proud with the dishes you bring. All of the paper products, serving utensils, flatware, plates, cups, ice, etc will be furnished.
- Would you be interested in a pontoon boat trip on Blackwater River from Milton to Bagdad to see the village of Bagdad and the old mill site. We can rent a pontoon boat from the Navy Recreation Center for about \$15 per hour plus gas. We could leave the boat dock about 11AM Friday and return about 2 which would leave time to freshen up before dinner at 5:30. Let me know what you think, if more than 15 -20 want to go boating we can reserve two boats. We must remember there are no restrooms on these boats, so we will have to tighten our puckering string or ask everyone to look the other way and use a five-gallon plastic bucket. That or either you will have to get overboard.

OUR ANCESTORS

In our December 2000 newsletter we listed the children of Jesse & Nancy Cobb Lewis who had nine children. Now let's begin listing the next generation, beginning with their first child William Franklin Lewis 1839-1914 and his wives Sarah (?) and Annie Smith). They were; Georgiana (1863-?); Henry C."Harry" (1874-1971); Louis B. (1876-1895); Lawrence (1879-1899); Sarah E. (1889-1890); Mary Lucy (1865-?); and Charles (1870-?).

Next was their second child Narcissa Elizabeth (1840-1914) and husband Joseph St. Mary who had 6 children, namely: Frank(1874-?); Rosa (1874-1907); Pauline "Piney" (1878-1940); Josephine (1881-1977), Joseph "Jodie" 1882-?; and Delphine "Dell" 1884-?).

That will be it for this time. We will continue in future issues.

We will close for now with another reminder to make your plans to attend the Lewis Family Reunion on July 27 & 28, 2001.

Rodney & Ann