

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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Hi everyone, bet you thought we had forgotten about you all. NO WAY!! As you all know the economy has been in a slump and the interest rates have plummeted. As a result when Dr. Smith and I renewed our CD's in September we found they would only be earning about 2.15% interest, instead of the 6.5% we had been earning. This means our income has dropped considerably. Therefore, in order to save some funds, we did not send a newsletter in September and that saved us about \$50. More about finances later.

Our reunion back in July was pretty well attended. We had 12 or so for breakfast at Reggies and about 16 at Friday dinner at Grandma's Restaurant in Milton. On Saturday we had about 40 attend the covered dish picnic at the Navarre Pavilion. Everyone seemed to enjoy the events, plenty of good food. It is always enjoyable to have the opportunity to visit with family members. I believe I can speak for those who attend our reunions that the high point of the weekend is the renewal of family ties. We may not see each other often, but these annual visits are most heartwarming. For those of you who do not, for whatever reason, attend the reunions are missing one of life's treasured moments. I can guarantee you it is more enjoyable to meet and greet family at the reunion than it is at the funeral home.

We here in Milton are doing fine. Ann and I have been busy with politics. I did not seek re-election as party chairman.

Thought it was time to turn the leadership over to someone younger. We both will continue to be active in the party, but let someone else have some of the headaches along with the "glory".

Received a note from Lucille Fraas' son Bob a while back. He reports she is slowly recovering from her lengthy illness. We all wish her the best and want Lucille to know we think of her often.

I received a letter from Vam C. York inquiring about the Lewis family. She found in the Witherington family bible an entry saying "Elizabeth Lewis (born 8 September 1741 in NC) was the daughter of Louise and Zilpha Lewis. Elizabeth married William Witherington about 1764 probably in SC". If any of you have any helpful information please write to Vam at 4020 SW 78th St., Gainesville, FL 32608 or e-mail at etyork@mail.ifas.ufl.edu.

I also received some information regarding Virginia "Virgie" Lewis Kaye. Virgie is the daughter of Henry J. Lewis Jr. and the granddaughter of Narcissa Elizabeth Lewis (Jesse & Nancy's second child). Virgie married Erwin Kaye. They have no children and have lived in Boca Raton Florida for many years. Now widowed, Virgie resides at 3205 Excelsior Dr. Pensacola 32514 and is under the care of Maria White. When Mrs. White called me she did not give any details on how she came to be guardian for Virgie. She only wanted to

know if there were any children. She then wanted to know about nieces, nephews, etc. Since I had no information, I contacted Bob Smith, in Marianna who said he would be in contact with Mrs. White. Bob Smith, as some of you know is the nephew of Lucille and has much more information on the Lewis family than I. If any of you want to contact Mrs. White, phone number is 850 476-3172.

Our dear cousin, Mabel Weekley the granddaughter of Henry Jackson Lewis celebrated her 98th birthday in September at her home in Milton. Mabel, now bedridden, is the mother of Lillian Richburg and Mary Louise Hebb. Mabel, Lillian, and Mary Louise have been faithful attendants of the Lewis Reunions. We think of them often.

Our friend, Warren Weekes celebrated his 80th birthday a couple months ago. Warren has attended many of our reunions. Some of you will remember his interesting history of Santa Rosa and the trip around Santa Rosa County when Warren pointed our many historical sites to us. The County Commission honored him for his dedication to pursuing the history of the County as well as teaching Santa Rosa History for many years in county schools.

REUNION PLANS

The 2003 Lewis Family Reunion will be held on Friday July 25 and Saturday July 26, 2003. Again this year we will have a 8:30 Dutch treat breakfast at Reggie's restaurant in Milton, followed by a visit to Robinson Point Cemetery for a brief time of remembrance. The remainder of the day

will be free until we then reassemble at Grandma Restaurant for a Dutch treat buffet dinner. On Saturday we will meet again, beginning at about 10:30, at the Navarre Pavilion, Highway 98 in Navarre where we will have our covered dish picnic lunch at Noon.

Please make your plans to attend the reunion and bring along your family history, pictures, and join us in sharing together.

FINANCES

Thanks to all of you who contribute, who have contributed, and continue to do so we continue to be in good financial condition. Since the last newsletter we have had contributions from Karen ENGLAND, Lucille FRAAS, Jerry and Ann LEWIS, Robert FRAAS, and LEWIS FUNERAL HOME.

In September our CDs matured and the best renewal rate we could get was 2.15% which is a real come down from the 6.5% we were earning. Haven't gotten a statement from the bank yet showing any interest, but I know it will be a lot less than the \$134 we were receiving quarterly. We have \$564.49 in the checking account and \$9410 in CDs. We will keep you all posted on the finances.

CEMETERY REPORT

Robinson Point Cemetery continues to be maintained in good condition. As you recall Mike Pendleton has been ill and unable to work for the past year or more. I have had to get others to take over for

him and we just can't get anyone for the \$25 per month we paid Mike. I am only having the RPC cleaned about every 3-4 months now for \$60, so it all comes to about the same amount. I have been in contact with Mike from time to time throughout the year. He keeps saying he will be returning to work, or at least will call, but I hear nothing from him. We are doing well with the present arrangement and will keep you all posted if any changes are necessary.

OUR ANCESTORS

In our last newsletter we finished reporting on the third generation of Jesse and Nancy Cobb LEWIS that included their nine children and 53 grand children. Having heard from none of you with your input for the fourth generation, I'll begin with the family of my Mama, Lina Mae (Aunt Liney) LEWIS (1898-1992.

Lina was born on November 11, 1898 in Bagdad to William Sherwood "Coot" LEWIS and Nicie Ann STRICKLAND. Lina was the youngest surviving child of nine children. Lina attended school and grew up in Bagdad where Coot worked at the Sawmill and also ran a small store. In February 1917 Lina married Marion Jefferson "MJ" ROLLO (1896-1951) who lived on Peterson Point across Blackwater Bay from Bagdad. MJ was born at the family home on July 27, 1896. MJ and Liney had five children: #1. Kathryn "Sister" (1917-1971) married Emmitt Charles Thom (1917-present). They had 4 children, Janet (1939-present), Emmitt Charles "Tommy" (1942-present), Marian Jean (1943-present), Samuel Charles "Sammy" (1946-present). Later Kathryn married Jack Palmer (1927-present) and

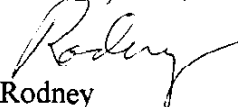
they had one son John Edward (1951-present). #2. Marion Jefferson "Buddy" Jr. (1921-1974). Buddy married Betty Jean Petresky and had one son Marion Jefferson IV(1946-1986). Buddy later married Ann Jenkins and had one daughter Rebecca Ann (1965-present). #3 Amy Doris (1923-1977) married Terrel Clark and had two children, James T. "Jimmy" (1946-present), and Sandra Jean (1951-present). Amy later married Delbert Watkins. #4 Rodney Allen (1929-present) married Ann LoVecchio and has no children. #5 Betty Jo Rollo (1933-present) married William A. Wolfe and has no children.

If you would like to share your family history with the LEWIS family, just send me the information.

As the old saying goes, "That is about it from this side of the fence" so we will talk with all of you later.

In the meantime, Ann and I wish a Very Merry Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2003 to each and every one of you and your family.

**PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING
THE LEWIS REUNION ON JULY 25
AND 26, 2003.**



Rodney