

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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December 6, Christmas is rapidly approaching, and it is time to write to our extended family and wish each and every one of you and Very Merry Blessed Christmas and a Happy, Healthy, and Prosperous 2004.

All is well here in Milton. We came through the hurricane season (June 1, through November 30) without any major storms. Our fall season has been gorgeous.

On October 25 approximately 65 family and friends assembled at Andrew Jackson Park, in Pace Florida for a fish fry in support of Cindy Lewis, pictured below, and her battle



against cancer. Cindy's first cousin Regina Lewis Brigham and hubby Robert hosted the event. Cindy, the daughter of Clyde and Sybil Lewis, is the great, great, great, great grand daughter of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis. Cindy has undergone surgery, chemotherapy, and radiation treatments for breast and lung cancer as well as treatment for Hodgkins disease. In October 2002 the doctors told Cindy she had only about two months to live. On Wednesday, December 3, 2003 Cindy's doctor told her she was "95% improved over any other lung cancer patient he has ever had". He wants her to have a few more chemo treatments. Cindy thanks

everyone who attended the fish fry and for the financial assistance. Cindy, through prayers and personal strength is still very active and determined to overcome this obstacle in her life.

Our cousins Bill and Audrey Bonifay visited family in Pensacola during the summer. Unfortunately, we were unable to get in a visit with them but enjoyed talking on the phone.

Lilyon Alton's son Michael has recently undergone back surgery, but is reported to be doing well. We wish him a speedy and complete recovery.

Have not heard anything from Lucille Fraas. We wish her and hubby Robert the best and think of them often.

Karen England's California home was located in the area of the forest fires that destroyed so much of California in the summer. Fortunately, her home was not damaged.

Gregory Z. Lewis, a great, great, great, great grandson of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis, wrote the following fictitious short story. Thanks Greg.

"Jesse and Nancy Lewis' First Christmas"

It was a cold December morning in 1836. There had fallen the night before a light snow that blanketed the landscape. However, this particular morning there was not the slightest breeze, and with the warmth of the sun which was standing above the

distant hills, the cold was bearable. Yet, regardless of the weather conditions, there was not much that could spoil a day like this, for it was Christmas day, and not just another Christmas day, but a very special one, and the first of many, many more to come for a very special newlywed couple. Jesse and Nancy had been married just seven weeks, and were blissfully enjoying their newfound love. They lived in North Georgia on a quiet little hillside overlooking a canopy of wooded hills, and forest. Jesse had worked hard to build their little farm, a comfortable cabin complete with a wood burning stove, and a brick fireplace. Outback was a sizeable barn to house their two horses and a fenced-in portion of the yard to allow the horses space to graze

There was still much work to be done, but on this day Jesse and Nancy were giving their attention to the true meaning of this special day. They sat by the fireplace enjoying its warmth along with cups of hot cocoa and a plate full of cookies Nancy had baked. Jesse picked up their bible that was given to them for a wedding gift, and began to read the story of the birth of Jesus. Nancy sat in quiet anticipation as she listened to her favorite story coming from the lips of the man she so dearly loved. "For unto you is born this day in the city of David a savior which is Christ the Lord and this shall be a sign unto you. Ye shall find the babe wrapped in swaddling clothes lying in a manger. And suddenly there was with the Angel a multitude of heavenly host praising God, and saying Glory to God in the highest, and on earth peace, good will toward men". (Luke Chapter 2).

Jesse continued to read the rest of the historical account of the birth of Jesus, and when he was finished he and Nancy finished their cocoa, and spent a few more minutes enjoying the comfort of the fire and the

silence of their first Christmas morning together.

The silence would not last due to the fact that they had invited their closest neighbors over for Christmas dinner. They were expected to arrive a noon. Mr. and Mrs. Smith lived about a mile or so away and had invited Jesse and Nancy over for Thanksgiving, so now Jesse and Nancy were returning the invitation.

Later that morning Jesse was out tending to the horses. The little snow that had fallen the night before had melted and made the ground soft, and the dirt trails muddy.

As he finished up with the horses and was coming out of the barn, he heard the chatter of kids, and sure enough off in the distance he could see the buckboard wagon coming down the trail being pulled by two mules Mr. Smith had named Zeke and Ned. Mr. Smith at the reins with his wife, Lilly, sitting beside him and their seven kids piled up on the back of the flatbed wagon was a welcome sight. Jesse could only wait with adamant anticipation for the day he would father his own bunch of younguns, but for now he would be satisfied with being Uncle Jesse to the Smith children. And a fine bunch they were too, well mannered and respectful.

Jesse's excitement grew as the wagon pulled into the yard. Nancy came out to stand beside him and to welcome their guests. Mrs. Smith had a couple of covered dishes and three different kinds of pies that she brought to add to the feast. As she and Nancy greeted each other and took the dishes into the house, Jesse and Clem (that's Mr. Smith) wandered over to the horse corral where the two horses were grazing in the lot. Jesse gave the OK for the kids to take turns riding one or two laps each. It wasn't long before the women came outside

to announce that it was time to eat. After the kids washed up they filed into the house one by one. The adults had chairs on each end of the table while the kids sat on benches on each side of the table. Jesse had built these benches for just such occasions as this. Once everyone was seated and quiet Jesse asked Clem to say the blessing.

Clem prayed a beautiful prayer asking the Lord to bless the food and their families, and gave thanks for the gift of Jesus who came into the world to bring salvation to sinners. Christmas for the Lewis' and the Smiths' was a joyful occasion. They ate til their hearts were content and afterwards they all joined in together and sang Christmas Carols. They sang songs like "Away in a Manger" and "Oh Little Town of Bethlehem" and "Silent Night".

Later on that afternoon as Clem and Lilly Smith loaded up their kids to go home, Jesse gave all the kids a peppermint stick for a Christmas present. With many thank you's, goodbys, and God bless you's the Smiths pulled out of the yard with Mr. Smith slapping reins and yelling "giddyup... Zeke, Ned,... hee yaw...giddyup".

The end.

REUNION JULY 16 & 17 2004

We will have a Dutch treat breakfast on Friday July 16 at Reggie's in Milton. Then we will plan on a trip to Robinson Point Cemetery. The evening of Friday July 16 we will have a Dutch treat dinner in a site yet to be chosen. We have a number of new restaurants open in Milton, so we will wait until later to pick a location. We will let you know in the next newsletter. In any case you will want to make plans now to attend.

CEMETERY REPORT

The Robinson Point Cemetery is in good condition. Our new neighbors, Dr. and Becky Phillips are maintaining the cemetery as if it were their own property, which in fact it is. I have made several trips to RPC and on each one I find the grounds to be clean and well cared for. The gate is decorated with Christmas wreaths and looks real nice. We appreciate the Phillips' being such good neighbors and taking an interest in the cemetery.

FINANCES

We continue to be in good financial condition. Our only expenses since during this last quarter of 2003 appear to be \$37.28 to reserve the Navarre Pavilion and approximately \$67.00 to print and mail this issue of the newsletter leaving us a checking balance of \$394.93. We have two CDs worth \$9465.86 paying 1.5% interest. We also have \$334.01 in our savings account.

That's it for now. Remember **July 16 & 17, 2004. Plan to attend!!!**

Rodney & Ann



Cindy's parents, Clyde & Sybil Lewis