

# LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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## **Bless you on this Memorial Day!**

We, along with you, will spend this weekend remembering those military who gave their all so that you and I can continue to live in freedom and enjoy the many blessings that come our way as a result of their courage and patriotism. Several in the LEWIS family are among those who have given the ultimate sacrifice and many more served with honor.

Our very own progenitor Jesse LEWIS served as a Private in the Army of the Confederate States of America. On May 3, 1862 Jesse, age 58, 5'4" tall, light hair, blue eyes, light complexion, with a wife and 9 children, joined the Confederate Army. He enlisted at Camp Leon, Florida as a Private in Company A of the 5th Florida Infantry. The 5th Florida Regiment was ordered to Virginia, where it joined the 2nd Florida, assigned to Pryor's Brigade. They took part in the Second Battle of Manasses and in the Maryland Campaign and won distinction at Sharpsburg. Jesse was wounded in the left chest at Chancellorsville, Virginia in May 1862. Following hospitalization at Tallahassee Florida Jesse was honorably discharged. Jesse's injury was probably a blessing in disguise, for just a few days after his injury, his unit took part in the Battle of Gettisbury and the unit was almost completely destroyed.

Jesse returned to his home and family in Milton where he resided until his death on February 21, 1899. He is buried in the Robinson Point Cemetery alongside his beloved wife Nancy Jane Cobb LEWIS, other family members, and friends.

It seems appropriate that this newsletter is being written on Memorial Day weekend and will be mailed prior to Fathers Day.

Gregory LEWIS asked that the following tribute to his Father be included in this issue. Here it is, just as he wrote it.

**M**y Daddy taught me how to whistle, spit, ride a bike, fish, bait a hook, unhook a fish, clean fish, eat fish, open oysters, eat oysters, swim body surf, throw a castnet, throw a punch, throw a ball, throw a knife, throw horse shoes, throw darts, catch a snake, gig frogs, skin a squirrel, clean a turtle, hammer a nail, use a saw build a tree fort, build a fire, shoot a gun, drive a truck, steer a boat, grow a garden, pick weeds out of a garden, take out the trash, rake leaves, burn leaves, cut grass, and so many other things. But the most important things he taught me were values, morals, and respect.

He taught me to be honest, never lie, never steal, say Yes Sir, No Sir, Yes Ma'am, No Ma'am, never hit my sister, don't smack while eating, don't put my elbows on the table, say please, respect my elders, and never get in debt. If I can't afford it, I didn't need it. My Daddy taught me right from wrong.

When he punished me, he never hit me anywhere but on my behind. My Daddy is a very good man, and I love him with all my heart and soul.

I did not always live by the moral and honesty codes my Dad taught me. I have paid a heavy price by not following my "Fathers instructions". My Dad never gave up on me. He still loves me unconditionally.

**MAKE YOUR REUNION  
PLANS TODAY**

I would like to say "HAPPY FATHERS DAY" to my Daddy, David Franklin LEWIS Sr. Father of seven kids with ten grandkids, and one great grandson and another great grandson on the way. I love you Dad. You mean the world to me. May God bless you and keep you.

Your son,  
Gregory Z. LEWIS

## Cemetery Report

I got this far with the newsletter and thought I would take a break and visit the Robinson Point Cemetery to see how things looked and then I could report to you. The RPC looks pretty good. We will have it mowed and picked-up again prior to the **JULY 25 & 26 REUNION**. However, since I was there I decided to pull some weeds around the Arborvitae and Azalea plants beside the plaque containing the names of those buried in the cemetery. I had pulled several clumps of weeds, and as I reached for the next clump I saw movement and there was a rattlesnake about 3 inches from my hand. He moved just a bit and I moved a **lot and fast**. All of you would have been surprised at how fast I moved. He did not strike, but needless to say, **I stopped weeding**. I came home and told Ann "Now I have something to put in the newsletter".

This incident confirms what we have been taught; "Be careful when visiting wooded areas such as RPC and look where we step and watch what we are doing". I have always kinda prided myself in adhering to this teaching, but now realize how easy it is to become lax or just guilty of not paying attention.. **Believe me I have learned!!** This is not meant to discourage your visits to Robinson Point Cemetery.

# FINANCES

As reported in our last newsletter we continue to be in sound financial condition. We have one \$8510.00 CD with quarterly interest being deposited into the checking account. We also have another CD with quarterly interest credited back to the CD that is now is worth \$945.09, giving us at total of \$9455.09. We have \$438.91 in the Checking account and about \$225.00 in Savings.



## REUNION

**Remember our Reunion is Friday July 25 and Saturday July 26.** We hope you have already made your plans to attend. If not please do so today.

Again this year on Friday July 25 at 8:30 AM we will have a Dutch treat breakfast at Reggie's restaurant in Milton, followed by a visit to Robinson Point Cemetery for a brief time of remembrance. *You do not need to wear your snake leggings.* The remainder of the day will be free until we then reassemble about 5:30 PM at Grandma Restaurant, Highway 90 about 3 miles West of Milton, for a Dutch treat buffet dinner. On Saturday morning 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. Remember, bring a covered dish, your favorite beverage, and a lawn chair to the Saturday picnic. The pavilion is reserved, all we need is you.

Our cousin Robert Smith will have a laptop computer available at the Navarre Pavilion so that any family history you bring may be enter in the Family Tree Program. He may

also bring along a printer so that we can print out your history.

Please bring any family pictures and other history to share with those in attendance. Both Robert and I would appreciate your input.

It is not difficult to provide either of us with your family history. If you know who your father/mother, grandfather/grandmother, or great-grandfather/great-grandmother were we probably have enough information in our programs to fit you in the tree. Just give us their name and date of birth, if known, along with your name, spouse, children, and dates of birth. Either you can provide or ask your siblings to provide the information on their families.

I read something the other day that I thought was worthy of passing on to you. When you finish reading this excerpt I believe you will agree - **WE ARE FORTUNATE TO LIVE IN AMERICA.**

**K**arl Zinsmeister, Editor in Chief of The American Enterprise, in his "Dust and Stars, An Iraq War Journal" wrote: "...I am able to leave my wife and three children alone for a month or two, confident that they will be protected, and not extorted, by the local police. Unlike in many other parts of the world I needn't worry that some competing tribe or religious sect will rampage through my home community in my absence. I can be comfortable that the town government will pipe my family pure water, and that our utility companies will keep our house warm and electrified in winter. I am certain that local and national businesses will make food, and insurance, and gasoline, and all of life's necessities available to them. I can rely on numerous private companies to send generally trustworthy newspapers, magazines, and radio and Internet reports on the conflict I'll be in the middle of.

Rather commonplace victories, you're thinking. Except of course they aren't. Literally most of the families on this planet cannot go to bed confident that these kinds of services and securities will be there when they awake. America's relative peace and abundance, her deep cultural richness, her competence, her fair play, are very much *exceptions* in human history. The pleasures and accomplishments and confident assumptions that fill my final days in the U.S. are minor miracles".

### **DOESN'T IT MAKE YOU THINK THAT WE TAKE SO MANY THINGS FOR GRANTED?**

Guess it is bout time to close out for now. Hope you have a great summer and that you include **THE LEWIS FAMILY REUNION - JULY 25 AND 26 IN YOUR PLANS.**

**Don't be like someone I met at the funeral home the other month who said she was sorry she missed last year's reunion - "I just plain forgot about it"**

I'll bet **you** have a calendar somewhere in **YOUR** house.

We sure would like to see more of our **LOCAL** Lewis family members and friends at the reunion.

Until we see you on July 25 & 26,

Rodney and Ann