

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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The 2003 Lewis reunion is now history. If you did not attend, we missed you. If you did attend you know we had a good crowd and enjoyed visiting with our extended family. There were about 18 at breakfast on Friday morning, 26 at the buffet dinner on Friday evening, and 60 at the Saturday picnic. We were especially pleased to have Betty McMurry and family from Birmingham as first time attendees. Betty is a descendant of Frances Lewis Jones Waller, daughter of William Sherwood "Coot" Lewis. The weather was beautiful. As you may know we have had a very rainy summer in Milton, but the Lord smiled on us for the reunion.

It was decided to return to four issues per year of the Newsletter. We will get your newsletter to you in September and December 2003, and April and July 2004. The dates for the 2004 reunion will be Friday July 16 and Saturday July 17. Please make a note of these dates and make your plans to attend.

We continue to add information to the Lewis Family History and would appreciate your sending us the name, date of birth, date of marriage, spouse, children, grand children, date of death, and any other information you would like included in our history.

The latest word I have concerning Lucille Fraas is that she and husband Bob are both in an extended care facility in California. If you have any late information, please let me know and we can share it with the rest of the family in the next newsletter.

Pictured is the youngest member of the Lewis family to attend the 2003 reunion. He is Dylan Rouse, age 9 weeks. Also pictured is Dylan's father, Travis, mother Tonia, and brother Levi. Dylan can trace his lineage back seven generations in Santa Rosa and Escambia Counties. His



grandmother is Regina Lewis, great grandfather David Lewis, great great grandfather Clyde E. Lewis, great great great George Franklin "Frank" Lewis, great great great great grandfather William Sherwood "Coot" Lewis, and great great great great great grandfather Jesse Lewis (1804-1899).

Jesse Lewis and Nancy Jane Cobb were early settlers of Bagdad where they raised their family.

Jesse, on May 3, 1862, 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,

Virginia 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 Gettysburg and the unit was almost completely destroyed.

Jesse returned to Bagdad and lived out the remaining years of his life with his family and many friends. Jesse and his beloved wife, Nancy are buried in Robinson Point Cemetery, Bagdad Florida.



Pictured above is Eula Mae Lewis Mayo the oldest family member attending the 2003 Lewis reunion. Eula is the daughter of Jesse Vanderbilt Lewis who was the son of Daniel J. "Sease" Lewis, the eighth child of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis. I won't tell you exactly how old Eula is, but she is about 4,255 weeks older than our youngest attendee, Dylan Rouse.

We hope to see Eula Mae and Dylan many more Lewis Family Reunions.

Cemetery Report

The Robinson Point Cemetery was in great shape for the reunion. Our new maintenance man, Carl Howell, does a good job for us. We have been using him about once every

four months and find this schedule keeps the cemetery looking presentable and at somewhat less expense than when we paid \$25 per month for cemetery maintenance. The ownership of the property on which Robinson Point Cemetery is located recently changes hands. The new owners are Dr. David and Becky Phillips. I have not yet met the Phillips, but I have spoken with Becky on the phone. They are very pleased to own the cemetery property and are as concerned as we about having it maintained properly. In fact Becky told me they were willing to keep the cemetery mowed and maintained along with their property if that was OK with us. I responded that would be fine with us. I told Becky about the problems with the cemetery being desecrated and the lawsuit we had to file to regain access to the cemetery. We are only interested in continued access to the cemetery and did not really care who maintained the property. I will visit the Phillips and I am sure we can work out something agreeable to everyone. I will keep you posted.

Finances

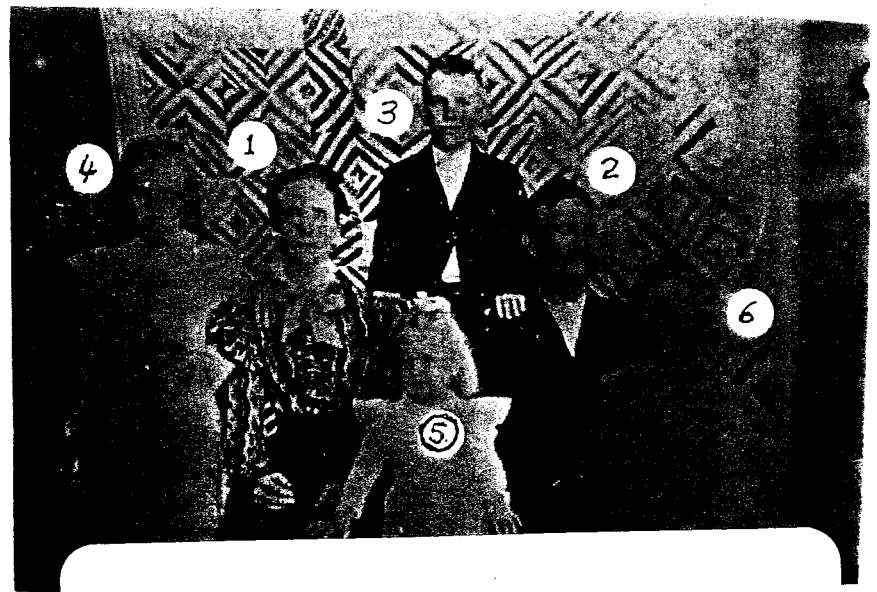
We continue to be in good financial condition. We have \$9460 in CDs paying about 2.15% interest. Our checking account presently has \$483.53 and savings account of \$333.73.

Thanks to Tom Cottel and Karen Dees for their contributions.

**The 2004 Lewis Family
Reunion will be held on July
16 and 17**

Until next time,

Henry J. Sr. & Elizabeth Lewis



"Sease" Lewis Family

1. Mary Edward Calloway Lewis
2. Daniel Jefferson "Sease" Lewis
3. Jesse Vanderbilt Lewis
4. Lela Palestine Lewis
5. Eula Elizabeth Lewis
6. Daniel Edward "Eddie" Lewis

Henry J., "Sease", & "Coot" are sons of Jesse & Nancy Lewis.

Nancy Lewis Bonifay is daughter of "Coot"

GRANDPA COOT & GRANDMA NICIE LEWIS



Frank & Nancy Bonifay

