

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

5924 STARLITE LN

MILTON, FL 32570

(904) 623-0572

VOL. 2 ISSUE 1

SEPTEMBER 1994

We can only hope that you enjoyed the 1994 Lewis Reunion as much as we did. We still have not completely gotten down from the high experienced on Friday evening of August 12 at the Robinson Point Cemetery when we honored our own Jesse Lewis and then on Saturday the beautiful day, wonderful food, and most heart warming fellowship with you our family.

For the benefit of those who did not attend our reunion please let us recap the activities of August 12 and 13, 1994:

On Friday morning the day was quite nice which as you know means hot and humid in Milton at this time of year. As the day progressed we had our usual afternoon thunderstorm which dropped about 2 inches of water on all of us including our Robinson Point Cemetery. However by 4 PM when we began gathering at the Cemetery for the ceremony honoring Civil War Veteran Jesse Lewis the rain had stopped. The Sheriff's Office was kind enough to assign two Deputies to provide traffic control. As you may know Robinson Point Road is on a narrow two lane road with hardly any shoulder area. Thanks to the Deputies and our neighbors we were all able to park along the roadway and in neighbors yards. While the footing was muddy and some water standing we continued to gather right on schedule. Shortly after 5 PM we had about 125 people assembled in the Cemetery. What a beautiful sight to behold. All those who cared assembled under the huge oak trees among the grave markers of our ancestors. The ceremony began with the arrival of the First Florida Volunteer Infantry Company of the Confederate States Army all in uniform and carrying muskets. The cannon was positioned and the colors posted. Following a few opening remarks on Robinson Point Cemetery, and a prayer by Mr. Mike Lewis, The Master of Ceremonies Mr. Millard Adams, a family friend, conducted the ceremony with dignity giving a brief history of the life and times of Jesse Lewis. The Infantry Company held roll call and all reported present except Jesse Lewis. The troops then honored their fallen comrade with several volleys from their

muskets and the cannon. The salute was followed by the sounding of Taps wafting gently over the Cemetery from about 50 yards down on the beach. I must say I doubt if there was a dry eye in the Cemetery. To tell the truth mine are so misty now I can hardly see the computer monitor. The soldiers placed a Civil War grave marker and a wreath was laid by Ida Mae Hudson.

The ceremony was covered by the local TV station and was shown on the 10PM news that night. Plans are underway to obtain copies of the video from the TV station and also from David Lewis who taped the entire ceremony.

We cannot conclude this recap of the ceremony without giving a special thanks to Betty Wolfe for her untiring effort in bringing off this Ceremony.

After leaving the Cemetery about 93 of us gathered at Nichols Seafood for dinner. The response to the dinner was much greater than we anticipated and therefore was somewhat crowded but we did not complain. Everyone seemed to be served promptly and the meal was great. Since we were not in a private room some of us had to take seats in with the other patrons. It would have been better to have had a private room in which we could have mixed and mingled with our own for the entire evening without having to make room for another paying customer.

Saturday morning we were up early and gathering together materials needed for the festivities at Carpenter's Park. Lewises began gathering at the Park about 10:30 complete with many, many delicious covered dishes. We will not try to tell you what all we had to eat but only that there was everything you could imagine from baked chicken, baked ham, meat balls, turkey, fried chicken, seafood gumbo, to you name it. The veggies and deserts were plentiful and mouthwatering. We will only say that **NOBODY WENT AWAY HUNGRY!** The day was sunny (no rain) with a light breeze which was not enough to blow things off the tables but enough to keep the fly population down or at least gone.

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We had Kari Hankins handle the guest register and Ida Mae Hudson pass out name badges. We are quite sure that several got by without signing the guest book (see list of attendees and if you or someone you know was at either the Cemetery or the Park please let us know).

We conducted a brief business meeting just before dinner at which we decided: 1. We wanted to continue having family reunions on the same date (SECOND WEEKEND IN AUGUST); 2. We wanted to have a Friday evening activity and a Saturday gathering in Carpenter's Park; 3. We wanted to pay the bills for this year's reunion which totaled \$280 (\$100 contribution to CSA Army Unit, program printing, portable toilet, paper products, refreshment, etc.); 4. We wanted to continue the newsletter with 4 issues per year to 95 families at a cost of \$180; 5. We wanted to obtain and make available to you copies of the video tapes of the Ceremony at RPC at a cost of around \$15. Any profits going into the reunion account for 1995; 6. Yours truly, Rodney Rollo, was selected to keep records of all contributions to the Robinson Point Cemetery Memorial Account and the Reunion Account with the understanding that monies were not to be co-mingled and to be reported to the Trustees of the Robinson Point Cemetery. Following the above actions a hat was passed among those in attendance and ample funds were contributed to cover all costs.

The remainder of the afternoon was spent enjoying our meal together, looking at many photo albums, playing lawn bowling, renewing acquaintances, telling and retelling events from our family history, and just having a great time fellowshiping.

During the meal we again got everyone's attention and introduced ourselves and gave our lineage. The oldest Lewis was recognized. It was none other than Mabel Lewis Weekley of Milton who was born Sep 9, 1904. I might say that Mabel has been a personal friend of mine since before I knew we were related. Happy Birthday Mabel!!

On the table where we had the sign-in sheet we had the names of the children of Jesse and Nancy Lewis. Each persons was asked to indicate their lineage. Some knew and some did not know that far back. Below is the list :

CHILDREN OF JESSE LEWIS AND NANCY COBB LEWIS listing Name, Date of Birth, Date of Death, Burial, and Number of Children.

1. William Franklin 1839-1914 Myrtle Grove Cem. Pensacola, Fl Seven Children
2. Narcissa Elizabeth St. Mary 1840-1914 Bagdad Cem. Six Children
3. Nancy Jane Hawkins 1843-?1900 RPC Four Children
4. George W. 1845-? Unknown
5. Henry Jackson 1847-1909 RPC Eleven Children
6. Catherine Roberts 1849-?1900 RPC Three Children
7. Daniel J. "Sease" 1855-1927 Bagdad Cem Five Children
8. John L. 1857-1916 Bagdad Cem Five Children
9. William S. "Coot" 1859-1919 RPC (moved to Bagdad Cem) Nine Children

Below is a list (by lineage number) of those who either signed in or we recalled having been at the Reunion on Friday and/or Saturday, Aug.12 & 13, 1994:

1. WILLIAM FRANKLIN
None
2. NARCISSA E. ST. MARY
Margaret Sweat Lewis of Pensacola
Laura Durant of Pensacola
3. NANCY J. HAWKINS
None
4. GEORGE W.
None
5. HENRY JACKSON
Clarence Parker & Family of Perry
Floyd & Ruby Jaycock of Biloxi, Ms.
Neola Lee St. Amant of Biloxi, Ms
George & Joy Lee, Sr. of Biloxi
Scarlett Waites of Royal Palm Bch.
Lillian Richburg of Milton
Celia Turner of Perry

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Ralph & Mary Hebb of Whittier, Ca.
Mabel Weekley of Milton
Thelma Cox of Milton
Victoria Hebb Davis of Marina, Ca.
Asa E. Lewis of Milton
Sarah Lewis Hobbs of Milton
Steven J. Hobbs of Milton
Kari Hankins of Dothan, Al
Inda Roberts & Son Joe Frank of Perry

6. CATHERINE ROBERTS

None

7. DANIEL J. "SEASE"

Dot Lewis & Friend of Milton
Lana & Bud Allen of Milton
Janice Bowersox of Milton
Fred & Edith Bonifay of Milton
Sam Lewis of Milton
Michael S. Lewis of Milton

8. JOHN L.

Susie & Taghy Fakharraee of Pensacola

9. WILLIAM S. "COOT"

Delores & Ernest Mason of Riverside, Ca
Betty & Duffy Duffield of Valdosta, Ga
Catherine & Carl Edwards of Lake Placid
Joyce Beach Murphy of Euliss, Tx
Betty & Bill Wolfe of Milton
Nicie Hinote Harrison of Pensacola
Rodney & Ann Rollo of Milton
Emma Smith of Marianna
Bob Mason of N.C.
Steve & Susan Cottle & Kids of Tampa
David F. Lewis Jr & Family of Pensacola
Ida Mae & David Hudson of Pensacola
Craig (Jesse) Lewis of Pensacola
David F. Lewis, Sr of Pensacola
Dean E. Lewis of Pensacola
Sharon L. Lewis of Milton
Nancy Lewis of Ft. White
Clyde & Syble Lewis of Milton
Cindy Lewis Cilia of Milton
Lilyon Antone & Friend of Paisley
Phyllis Anderson of Pensacola
Dee Hammond of Pensacola
Joan & Robert Bradshaw of Pensacola
Marion & Clarence Werhan of Pensacola
Shirley Sue Bowman of Pensacola
Bob & Connie Smith of Marianna
Rebecca Simmons of Milton

missing please let us know. We would like to have everyone on our register.

We hope you enjoyed reading this bit of geneology. I sure know more about our family history than I did last year.

Maybe next issue we will try naming the 3rd generation of Jesse and Nancy Lewis which would be their 51 grand children. Most of us who attended the reunion are from the 4 - 8 generation. Don't see us trying to go that far but hopefully it will encourage you to do some further research into your own lineage.

We want you all to view this newsletter as OUR newsletter. You are encouraged to send along any announcements, articles, interesting background information or any other items you want to share with your extended family.

In the September 1 Pensacola News Journal there was a very interesting article titled "Family honors Civil War veteran" which was an account of our ceremony of Aug 12 complete with a picture of Ida Mae placing the wreath of the grave of Jesse Lewis. We are reproducing the complete article for you on the next page of this newsletter.

Before we close out this issue of our family newsletter we must remind you that for the upkeep of Robinson Point Cemetery we pay a private contractor \$25 per month for routine maintenance. This includes only mowing, weeding, and during dry spells maintaining the low maintenance plants we have to beautify our ancestral graveyard. Other services are extra. While our treasury is currently in satisfactory condition we must not let it become under funded. You should know that while RPC was deeded " for use by the public forever" neither the State of Florida nor Santa Rosa County owns or maintains cemeteries. It is up to us (descendants of those buried there) to see to its upkeep. If you would like to adopt a month to provided maintenance please send your \$25 to RPC Memorial to the address on the masthead above.

After reading the above list of those who attended if you know of anyone whose name is

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Family honors Civil War veteran

By Lucy Quina
News Journal

With moss-covered oak trees and Blackwater Bay as a backdrop, about 100 descendants of a Civil War veteran came together to pay their respects.

The group, all descendants of Jesse Lewis (1804-1899), met recently at Robinson Point Cemetery. They placed a newly carved marker commemorating his participation in both the Civil War and the Florida Indian War.

"It's long overdue," said Ida Mae Hudson, Lewis' great-granddaughter.

"This marks an important time in his life and we should remember it," Hudson said. Hudson, of Pensacola, and her sister Lucille Fraas, of California, organized the grave ceremony and family reunion. Fraas was unable to attend.

The grave's current marker is a simple granite slab marking his grave and that of his wife, Nancy, which lies alongside. Mike Lewis, Lewis' great-great-grandson and owner of Lewis Funeral Home, arranged for the special marker through the Veterans Administration, which donates them free to all veterans.

"This is wonderful," Lewis said looking out onto the crowd.

"When you get all these people together — well, that's what family is all about."

While Civil War reenactors stood at attention, Millard Adams emceed the event, which included a moving rendition of "Dixie," a short history of Lewis, and the installation of the marker. Once in place, Hudson placed a wreath of magnolia leaves and blossoms on the grave.

Joe Frank Roberts, 10, of Perry, traveled nearly five hours with his grandmother, Celia Parker Turner and his mother, Inda Roberts. The group represented the fourth, fifth and sixth generation of Lewises respectively.

Roberts looked forward to the event because of the reenactors and the history.

Knowing one of his ancestors fought in the war will bring it alive when he studies it in school, he said.

His grandmother, Turner, on the other hand, looked at the event with some nostalgia. She still remembers the homesick cries of her mother, Jane Lewis, Jesse's grand-



Lucy Quina/News Journal

Ida Mae Hudson places a wreath on the grave of her great-grandfather, Civil War veteran Jesse Lewis.

daughter, when the family moved to Perry.

"She left a piece of her heart here," Turner said.

"The distance was so far then and now it's just a day's drive."

Thursday, September 1, 1994

Pensacola News Journal

TIL NEXT TIME
Rodney