

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

3924 STARLITE LN
MILTON, FL 32570



PROUD DESCENDANTS OF
JESSE LEWIS &
NANCY COBB LEWIS

APRIL 1995
VOLUME 2

It hardly seems possible that the middle of March is upon us, but here it is and if we are to get this Newsletter out by April we better get clicking.

We hope you all had a blessed Christmas and are enjoying the best of 1995.



The time is fast approaching when we will once more gather for our **THIRD** annual family reunion. All of us here in Milton are looking forward to your arrival.

We have made reservations for the Locklin Education Building at Santa Rosa Medical Center where we will have our Friday night dinner on August 11. We will have a two entree buffet dinner with 2 starches, 2 veggies, salad, rolls, 2 deserts, coffee, and tea.

Betty Wolfe is planning an evening of entertainment and also some history of Santa Rosa County. It would not surprise me if Elvis shows up. I don't know all the details but when you turn Betty loose there is no telling. Remember the great job she did last year on the Jesse Lewis Memorial Service!! The evenings entertainment will be made available to you for only \$12 per person (children under 5 eat free).

We hope you will make your reservation early because we must know how many names to put into the pot. Send your check to us at the above address

The next morning we will again gather at Carpenter's Park in Milton for our Saturday August 12 reunion. We have already paid for the Park so all we need to do is bring a covered dish and enjoy another great day with our extended family.

CEMETERY UPDATE

The RPC Trustees, Dr. Charles Smith, Lucille Fraas, Ida Mae Hudson, Betty Wolfe, Lillian Richburg, and Rodney Rollo (Dorothy Lewis was absent due to illness) met on March 4, 1995 at the Cemetery.

The afternoon was warm and sunny with a gentle breeze. What a beautiful setting in which to conduct the business of preserving our ancestral graveyard.

The meeting was called to order by our Chairman, Dr. Smith at 1:30 PM. The minutes of our previous meeting were read and approved. Rodney gave a detailed treasurers report which included all contributions and expenditures to both the Cemetery Maintenance account and the Reunion Account which was established at the Family Reunion on Aug. 12, 1994. We have a balance of \$456.92 of which \$205.63 is in the Maintenance Account and \$251.29 in the Reunion Account.

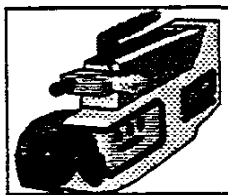
You should realize that it costs us \$25.00 per month for maintenance of the Robinson Point Cemetery. The State of Florida and Santa Rosa County law prohibit the use of public funds for cemetery upkeep. Therefore it is our responsibility to insure proper maintenance of the cemetery. In order for us to provide the **MINIMUM** of \$300 per year for maintenance you are encouraged to **ADOPT A MONTH** and contribute your \$25 toward the Maintenance of our Cemetery.

Since the last issue of our newsletter we have had Maintenance Contribution from the following family members: Ida Mae & David Hudson and Nicie Harrison; Mamie Kaltz; Dorothy Lewis; Virginia Kaye; Lucille Fraas; Robert P. Fraas; Rodney Rollo; and Lillian Richburg. We thank you for your contributions which will see us through the next several months.

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Folks I hope you believe I do not enjoy writing about money, money, money, but when you realize how close we came to losing our Ancestral Graveyard it becomes clear that we never let that happen again.



We have received and filled seven orders for the video tape of the Dedication Services honoring Civil War Veteran Jesse Lewis. The tape is just great and we owe a debt of gratitude to David Lewis, Sr. for

filming the ceremony and to David Lewis, Jr. for reproducing the tapes. We are making the tapes available to you for \$15 including all postage and handling. We believe it is something you will want to preserve in your family history file. As you view the film you will see most everyone who was in attendance. I don't mind telling you the sounding of TAPS brought a tear to this old veterans eye. If you want to order a tape please let us know whether you want it mailed or if you want to pick it up at the Reunion in August.

GENEALOGICAL UPDATE

GEORGE W. LEWIS (1844-1922)

George the fourth child of Jesse Lewis and Nancy Cobb Lewis was born in Talbot County Ga. The family had moved to Florida by 1850 where we find that George was 6 years old.

In 1861 at the age of 17 George enlisted as a Private in the Confederate Army Company E, 25th Georgia Regiment at Franklin, Alabama.

He was released from active duty in 1865 at Macon, Ga.

He married Sarah (?) from Abbeville, Al. in Georgetown, Ga. in 1867.

The 1870 census finds George (age 27) and Sarah (age 23) in Henry County Alabama. They had 1 son age 3 and 1 daughter age 11 months.

George who had been wounded in the Civil War applied for a pension in Alabama (his place of residence). The pension was approved in 1900. The documents show George & Sarah had 5 children: 1 daughter Mary Coates and 4 sons John W., J.T., R.B. & T.H. George died in June 1922 at age 77.

Sarah applied for a pension in July or August 1922 and at that time was living with son J.T. in Abbeville, Alabama..

You can see that we have another Confederate War veteran in our family.



The 1885 Florida State Census, under the heading of Productions of Agriculture in Santa Rosa County (1884) lists the following information on Henry Jackson Lewis the fifth child of Jesse and Nancy Lewis.

He owned 100 acres on Robinson Point of which 20 acres were "Tilled" and 80 "Unimproved". He produced 300 bushels of Indian Corn, 30 bushels Irish Potatoes, 20 bushels Sweet Potatoes, had 50 fruit trees, 6 cows, 30 swine, and 30 other Barn Yard fowl.

In addition to farming Henry Jackson was also the Keeper of the Lighthouse at Escribano Point in Blackwater Bay. The lighthouse was know as the Lewis Light until it was removed by the U.S. Coast Guard in about 1985. The lighthouse was one of many used as navigational aids to all boats and ships using Blackwater and East Bays in the Milton-Pensacola area. The lights were fueled by kerosene which the Keeper brought from Bagdad on his daily trips to light the light in the evening and turn it off each morning. Later batteries were used as a source of energy to the lights thus negating the need for daily upkeep by the Keeper.

We can be proud of Henry Jackson Lewis in his efforts to safe navigation of the waters in our area.

IN MEMORIAM

It is with deep regret that we announce the death of our family member Ernie Mason of Riverside California.

Ernie was the beloved husband of Delores Mason, the father of Bob, Jim, Linda, and Patti, and four grand children. He was the son-in-law of Emma Hinote Smith of Marianna Florida.

Ernie died February 6, 1995 and was buried in his home town of Mobile Alabama.



Please let us revisit the Buffet Dinner scheduled for August 11 in the Locklin Educational Building of Santa Rosa Medical Center. As we have said this will be our very own PRIVATE party for the entire evening with no others involved and no rush or hassle.

Since this will be a catered dinner we MUST pay for each reservation made. The rules of the caterer state that we must confirm reservations at least 24 hours before the dinner. Therefore it is NECESSARY that you confirm your reservations before BEFORE August 9, 1995.

Please make your plans early and confirm your reservations by completing the following information and sending it along with your check to cover the cost of those in your party.

This event will be much more relaxed than the over crowded dinner we had last year at Nichols. We will have time to get acquainted with our family members (I know there are many on the mailing list I have never met) whom I would like to know.

Come prepared to meet new friends and share with us a bit of your family history.

The dinner (including tax and tip), an evening of fun, fellowship, and entertainment is yours for only \$12.00 per person (children under 5 eat free but we must know how many will be in your party so we can provide a place for them).

PLEASE PUT OUR NAME IN THE POT FOR THE LEWIS FAMILY BUFFET DINNER ON AUGUST 11, 1995 CELEBRATING THE THIRD ANNUAL LEWIS FAMILY REUNION.

Please reserve _____ place(s) at the table

for us under the name of _____.

There will be _____ adults and _____ children under age 5.

Enclosed is my check for _____ to cover the cost of \$12 for each adult and child over age 5.

Please make check payable to Lewis Family Reunion and mail to Lewis Family Reunion, 5924 Starlite Ln., Milton, Fl 32570.

>>In the hopes of making your visit to Milton more meaningful Ann and I are opening our home to you and invite you to come by for a family visit and refreshments during your stay. We are located one block directly behind the Santa Rosa Medical Center. Our phone # 623-0572

Until next time may you have a very good Spring and we look forward to your visit in August.


Rodney Rollo

PS: We will have directions to Santa Rosa Medical Center, Carpenters Park, and other points of interest in the next issue of this newsletter.

If you want Motel reservations please let us know and we will put you in touch with those in Milton.