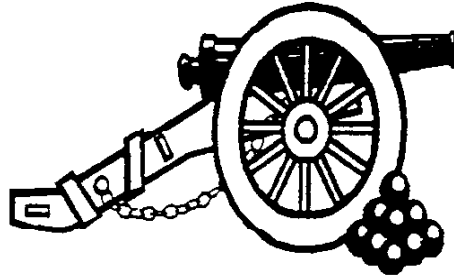


LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

VOLUME 3 SEPTEMBER 1995



PROUD DESCENDANTS OF
JESSE & NANCY COBB LEWIS

5924 STARLITE LN
MILTON, FL 32570

(904) 623-0572

Good morning to all of you family members. Today is September 1, 1995 and time to begin working on our newsletter.

Yesterday I spent my 66th birthday re-designing the letterhead. As you know each letterhead has been different. I do believe though I have come up with one which is something we would like to retain as a permanent design. It has our name, our progenitors, our address, volume number, date, and last but by no means least the Civil War Cannon which is similar to the one used in the Dedication Ceremony to our own Civil War Veteran Jesse Lewis at Robinson Point Cemetery in 1994. Please drop us a line letting us know whether you prefer this letterhead or if you prefer to see different ones. If you have a suggestion we will try to produce it. We want you to have a voice in your newsletter.

• REUNION UPDATE

Our 1995 reunion came off without a hitch in spite of our having experienced a direct hit from hurricane ERIN on the 3rd of August, only one week before the reunion.

The Friday night dinner was an outstanding event attended by approximately 45 of our family members. The meal was excellent, service great, facilities outstanding, and the program superb. It was such a joy to see so many of you there laughing, talking, visiting, and just plain old having a good time. If you were not there you missed a treat and we missed you. Maybe next year!

A special thanks must go to Betty Wolfe for providing such a delightful program. The "Belles of St. Rose" did a real professional job in song & dance of the Flapper era of the 1920s. They really kept us laughing and applauding. Unfortunately "Elvis" could not make his appearance due to illness (not death) so we look forward to his appearing next year. Mr. Warren Weekes, Santa Rosa County's Resident Historian, par-excellence, gave us about a 20 minute history of who, how, and why, Northwest Florida was settled. Perhaps we will be able to publish a copy of his remarks in a later issue of our newsletter. He is most

knowledgeable on local history and has a delivery second to none. One could listen to him for hours. In fact some of us have taken his course on Santa Rosa history and came away greatly enlightened.

We must also thank Lana Lewis Allen and husband Bud for the beautiful table decorations which were given as door prizes.

An anonymous donor gave a beautiful silk arrangement which was presented to our very own LUCILLE FRAAS, our unsung heroine, the person responsible for our cemetery being reclaimed, the one who started the Lewis Reunion, and our benefactor.

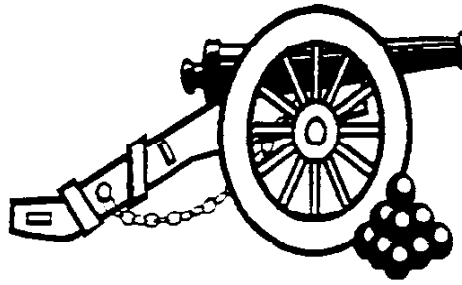
On Saturday we all awoke to what was a typical August day in Milton. I mean HOT, HUMID, HAZY, MUGGY, and if you can think of any other adjectives just add them to the list. The weather DID NOT deter the Lewis Family one bit. We met at Carpenter's Park in Milton about 11AM, put out our covered dishes, left-overs from last night's dinner, scrumptious deserts, and plenty well-iced drinks and NO ONE even noticed the weather. What a great time we had!!!

We all visited, looked at books, pictures, charts, etc. and just generally became better known to each other. We all enjoyed every ones company and were going strong until about 3PM when it came time for our afternoon thunder storm which finally forced us to call it a day.

At a brief business meeting before lunch it was decided that we would have the reunion on the LAST WEEKEND IN JULY 1996. This change was suggested because Florida schools start about the 3rd Monday in August which means children visiting would miss the first days of school. We hope this new date will be satisfactory to everyone. It was also decided to continue publishing the newsletter. We also are making available to you copies of a video tape of both events at this year's reunion. Again the tapes are being offered for \$15.00 which includes postage. The proceeds going toward costs of the newsletter. Please send in your order for the tape along with your check. We think you will like the tape for your personal history file.

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A few final words on our 1995 Reunion - No matter how you look at it: **IT WAS GREAT**

CEMETERY REPORT

Let us again thank you caring FAMILY members who continue to support our ancestral burial grounds, ROBINSON POINT CEMETERY. The cemetery is the "cement" which binds our large family together. We MUST NEVER forget or become complacent to this fact. Since our last report to you we have had contributions for cemetery maintenance from Betty Wolfe, Delores Mason, Lucile Shirley, Mabel Weekley (one of our most senior members and one who NEVER forgets her contribution), Lilyon Alton, Steve Cottle, and Brian Lewis. How rewarding it is to see our young folk like Steve and Brian care enough to contribute. THANK YOU ALL!!

Shortly before we were visited by hurricane ERIN we learned we had an oak tree in which a swarm of honey bees had taken over as a cozy hive in which to raise their young. Well since the tree is located right at the cemetery entrance we felt we must evict this nice family. To make a long story short, we had to have a professional bee keeper set up a hive and encourage the bees to relocate. It was learned it is illegal to spray or otherwise destroy honey bees. The bee removal was accomplished about 3 days before ERIN called on us. The cost of bee removal was \$50 which was paid by Lucille Fraas. We must now cement up the hollow in the tree to preclude future homesteading by these pesky little stingers.

Hurricane ERIN hit on August 3 and thank goodness there was no loss of life in our area but we did receive tremendous damage to our trees and buildings. At the cemetery we had a couple of trees uprooted, many limbs broken off, and "tons" of small limbs and leaves to remove. As luck would have it, or better the Lord was with us, Lucille Fraas arrived from California on August 7. She immediately took on the almost impossible task of having the cemetery available for other out of town family members to visit during the Reunion weekend. Don't ask me how she did it, but I'll only say that this lady is a "BULLDOG" when it comes to getting something done. When she sets out

to do something SHE DOES IT. Anyway by Friday, August 11 the cemetery was open and accessible to the public. Was all of this without cost? OF COURSE NOT. What did it cost? \$137.95. Did payment come out of the RPC Maintenance account? IT DID NOT!! Well, who paid for it? I'LL GIVE YOU ONE GUESS!! You are correct - LUCILLE FRAAS.

I have visited the cemetery a couple of times since the Reunion and it is looking better each time. I feel that time will take its toll on some more of the tree limbs and such, which will have to be removed. This we can probably take care with the monthly maintenance. We will keep you advised in future newsletters.

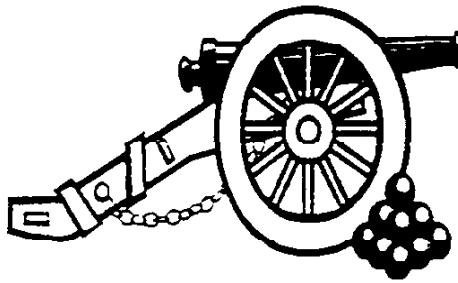
NEW COUSINS

In early July we had an unexpected but most welcome bit of information come to our attention. We were introduced by mail and telephone to a "whole nest of new cousins" living in the Tampa area. These folk are the descendants of Nancy Jane Lewis and Matthew Hawkins, both of Bagdad. Nancy Jane (1843-?1900) was the third child of Jesse & Nancy Cobb Lewis. She and Matthew had four children; George, Patrick (1871-1938), Josephine, and Marvin. Our newly found cousins are the direct descendants of Patrick Hawkins. While our information is still sketchy we know we have at least 5 generations of cousins the oldest of whom is Hermina Hawkins King who is 93 and going strong.

We came by this information because Hermina's Grand-daughter Donna Buchanan is researching her lineage. She learned that Bagdad was where a lot of her research led. She came to Bagdad not knowing anyone, what a shame since "the woods are full of us who could have helped her". She stopped in the Bagdad Post Office and Mary, the Post Master, put her in touch with Elaine Willis who was very helpful. Elaine then got in touch with Ida Mae Hudson who contacted me with the information. I, being the brazen editor(?) that I am called Donna. What a delightful conversation we had. Anyway, Donna was put in touch not only with Ida Mae but with Lucille and as the saying goes "the rest is history".

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We continue to be in touch with our Tampa cousins and have learned that they know some of folk who live in Perry where Hermina's father Patrick Hawkins is buried. The Hawkins clan is already making plans to attend our reunion next year. We all look forward to this. You might like to write Donna Buchanan, 9307 N. Highland Ave., Tampa, FL 33612 and get acquainted with your cousins.

COOK BOOK UPDATE

You will recall that in our last newsletter we invited you to participate in compiling a Lewis Family Cook Book of favorite family recipes. Well Joyce Murphy, who is undertaking the project has received a number of recipes but would like to hear from more of you with your favorite recipes. Joyce told us at the reunion she will have the cook book ready for distribution at the 1996 reunion. Will you please write down your favorite recipes and send them to Joyce Murphy 711 Dickey Drive, Euless, TX 76040. We received a call from Joyce the other day and she says not only is the cook book coming along well but she has already produced 10 copies of the video tapes of our 1995 reunion. Joyce also told me she had had a very mild problem with her heart recently and had been sidelined for a couple of days. She is fine now!! She probably is still coming down from the high she experienced from her visit to Milton. Anyway we are delighted she is doing well. As mentioned earlier in this newsletter if you want a tape please let us know. Thanks Joyce!

BITS AND PIECES OF THIS AND THAT

Had a very nice visit the other day from Fred Bonifay who lives here in Milton and is a descendant of Daniel J. "SEASE" Lewis the 8th child of Jesse & Nancy Lewis. Fred is a master at wood working. He made us a yard sign with the nicest looking Republican Party elephant that you have ever seen. When I ask him how much the sign cost he said "just put \$25 in the Robinson Point Cemetery maintenance account and we will call it even". Consider it done Fred and thanks again. This is the kind of thing which goes toward making this family a cohesive group. So next year when you come to Milton and are on Starlite Lane just look for the elephant and you will be at "Rollo's Oleo

Acres" or as we call it "The Low Priced Spread".

Just learned today, Sep. 16, that Lucille will be coming to Milton for a visit the last week of this month. Welcome back Lucille.

Birthday wishes go out to two of our Very Senior Family members, Neola ST AMANT of Biloxi and Mabel WEEKLEY of Milton. They are two of the sweetest ladies I know and I consider it an honor to be related to them.

We encourage you to send us information about your family so we can share it with others. After all this is OUR FAMILY NEWSLETTER.

NEXT YEAR'S PLANS

We mentioned earlier that in 1996 our reunion will be held the LAST WEEKEND IN JULY. The dates will be Friday and Saturday JULY 26 & 27. Please mark your calendar and make your plans to attend.

We decided at this year's reunion to have a dinner on Friday and a Pot Luck dinner on Saturday. We plan on using the same facilities which we will reserve shortly after the first of the year.

Betty Wolfe has again agreed to act as program and entertainment committee chairman. With her heading it up you know we will have a good time.

PARTING WORDS

I have heard over the years to be successful you must: Keep your shoulder to the wheel; Keep your ear to the ground; Keep your eye on the prize; Keep your head up; Keep both feet planted firmly on the ground; Climb the ladder of success; Always look forward; Don't turn your back on anybody; Go forward boldly; Walk softly; Speak kindly; If you want your axle greased you must squeak loudly; Don't take no for an answer; and at all times be Humble. GO FIGURE!!

That's it for now. See next page for our "new cousins".

RODNEY

These pictures are from a newly found cousin! Donna Buchanan descends from one of the Lewis' Nancy C. Lewis daughter's - Percy Eliza Lewis Hawkins. Patrick Hawkins is son of Percy & Matthew Hawkins & grandson of Lewis & Nancy Lewis

No picture of Percy Hawkins is available as of this date (August 1995). We do have one tintype photo of Percy & Nancy.

This date 4 pictures - 8 Descendants of LEWIS-HAWKINS descent.

Note: We seek photographs of the following children of J.W.C. Lewis: Nancy Hawkins, Wm. F. Lewis, Catharine Anne Roberts, John L. Lewis, & Lisa W. Lewis. (We have pictures of 4 children)

"Pat" is Third Generation



William Patrick Hawkins "Pat"
 (b) 16 Jan 1871 Bogard, FL.
 (m) 02 Dec 1896 " Maggi & May LEACH
 (d) 30 Nov 1938 Pompano FL.
 (b) Bryn FL.



- ① HERMINA HAWKINS KING
- ② EUGENIA KING BASS
- ③ DONNA BASS BUCKLEY BUCHANAN
- ④ DEBORAH BUCKLEY CAMPBELL
- ⑤ JOSHUA CAMPBELL

