

PROUD DESCENDANTS OF:

JESSE & NANCY COBB LEWIS
EARLY SETTLERS OF
BAGDAD, FLORIDA

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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MARCH 1996

We hope and trust that you all had a very good Christmas and an equally blessed New Year. We here in Milton, Betty & Bill and Ann & I, had a very good Christmas with our Nephews and Nieces and their children. The family is not as large now as in years past but we are thankful for what we have.



Things have been going pretty smoothly in Milton since the first of the year. Probably because of the record setting winter we have experienced. We realize that 18-20 degrees is not cold to you folks "lucky" enough to live in such places as Wisconsin, Up-state New York, etc. but to us it is bone chilling. While we did not have any snow we had several days in succession when the temperature did not get above freezing. That temperature accompanied by a 15 to 20 MPH north wind (although some of us say there is no NORTH wind only a SOUTH wind coming back home) will cut through you like a knife. The last several days have been warmer and back to our seasonal temperatures about 48 at night and around 68 during the day. This we can stand!

If this year follows its usual pattern we will have another cold snap shortly before Good Friday and then the gardeners will begin to put in their spring vegetable plantings. Some early planters can't wait and get started in January or February. They usually lose one crop to a freeze but have plenty of time left to get in a garden. If they are lucky and the weather is warm they can make their garden before

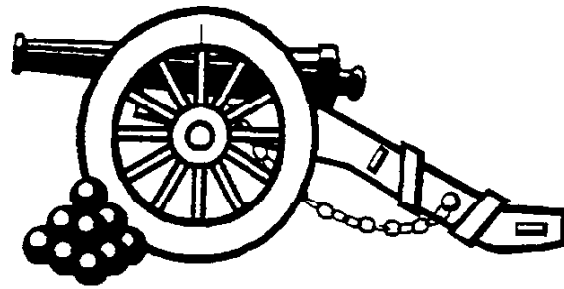
arrival of the bug population in late April and May.

CEMETERY REPORT

Most of you know the history of Robinson Point Cemetery (RPC), but we can all learn something new by way of a review. RPC came into existence in probably the mid 1800s. It was first deeded as a graveyard in 1896 when William Sherwood "COOT" Lewis sold a number of acres of land on Robinson Point. Written into the deed was this "1/4 acre graveyard for use by the public forever". RPC was an active cemetery for many years, in fact "COOT" was buried there in 1919. The last recorded burial was in the 1920s. The cemetery was maintained by family and friends after it ceased to be an active cemetery. As years passed and waterfront property became expensive some one who owned adjacent property decided to bulldoze the property which he had fenced and pad locked and sell it off for home building. When Lucille Fraas learned of this she began a ten year legal battle to reclaim the cemetery. Finally following a three year court case the Judge ruled that the cemetery did exist and was to be returned to the public. The Santa Rosa County Commission was directed to appoint a board of Trustees to oversee the cemetery, which they did. Yours truly became involved in RPC because "COOT" was my grandfather. We hope this brief refresher has been of some value to you in that it will make each of us more aware of our heritage.

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Now we will get on to the current state of finances for the RPC. The Trustees met at RPC on March 14. Trustees Chairman Dr. Charles Smith called the meeting to order at 3 P.M. Trustees present were Secretary Betty Wolfe, Treasurer Rodney Rollo, Lucille Fraas, Nicie Harrison for Ida Mae Hudson. Lillian Richburg and Dorothy Lewis were absent because of illness. Minutes of the March 4, 1995 meeting were read and approved. Treasurers report was presented. Highlights follow. The checking account shows a balance of \$538.78 with \$316.63 in the Maintenance Account and \$222.15 in the Reunion Account. Net proceeds from the 1994 Dedication Tape were \$183.18, Reunion Tape -1995 \$45.00 to date, The 1995 dinner shows a loss of \$26.00. Newsletter expenses were \$187.01 for 4 issues. Maintenance expenses for 12 months \$350.00 which included \$50 for Bee removal.

The Trustees discussed a long range plan for the beautification of the Cemetery. Such a plan should include a landscape plan as well as plans for stepping stones to the lower part of RPC.

The purchase and placing of a monument naming all those buried in RPC would also come under a long range plan. It was decided a first step toward such a long range plan would be to establish a Landscape Committee. Lucille said she would volunteer to chair such a committee. Other names mentioned as members were Bud and Lana Allen who are commercial landscapers, Dr. Smith, and Celia Turner.

The Trustees decided to place the Savings Account under control of the Treasurer in order to have all funds under one records keeper. Any funds removed from the savings account must be approved by the Trustees. The Treasurer will contact Mike and Dot Lewis for the signature cards and will along with Dr. Smith sign new Savings Account forms.

The Trustees were satisfied with the maintenance of the Cemetery and suggested that a tour of the Cemetery be included in the

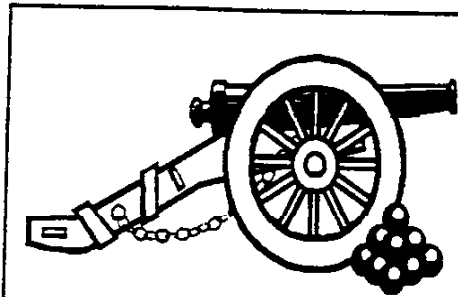
activities at the Reunion. They were assured this was what we would do. We all **MUST** realize the Cemetery is the adhesive which binds us together. We all must encourage each other to support it and also make our younger generations understand what this attachment to our heritage means to us.

REUNION 1996

Plans continue to be on track for an outstanding reunion weekend on July 26 & 27. We have reserved the Medical Center Education building for Friday night's dinner. Carpenter's Park has been reserved for Saturday's Pot Luck. Betty assures me the tour and entertainment for Friday are on schedule. It looks like all we need is for you to make your reservations for the Friday Santa Rosa County Tour and The Friday night dinner. If you are expecting out of town family or friends the last weekend of July PLEASE ASK THEM TO COME WITH YOU TO THE REUNION.

There are several motels available in Milton, however none of them are major motels since we are not on the tourist circuit. We do have a very nice locally owned motel which several of our family have used on their visits and reunions. The rates are, as of last week, \$43.50 per day for a double room. Some of the rooms have a Jacuzzi and others have a 5 passenger Hot Tub in the room. They also have a pool. The rooms are quite spacious and those who have stayed there have been satisfied. Their address is: HOSPITALITY INN 6436 HIGHWAY 90, MILTON, FL 32570. TELEPHONE: (904) 623-3821.

There are four major supermarkets in Milton which have Deli service, with everything one may need for a Pot Luck Dinner. They are Food World, DelChamps, Winn Dixie, and Piggy Wiggly and are within 2 miles of



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Carpenters Park.

**FAMILY
NEWS
FROM
YOU**

We have received several pieces of mail during the last few months from you our readers and family. We are always delighted to hear from you letting us know what is happening so that we may share it with the rest of the family.

>> Received a nice note from Joyce Murphy regarding the COOK BOOK. The following have contributed recipes: Ann Rollo, Betty Wolfe, Joy Lee, Lillian Richburg, Carolyn W. New, Betty Duffield, Deta M. Lewis, Rubyce Rees, Jan New, Bev C. Bohannon, Nancy H. Lewis, Lucille H. Fraas, Cherron D. Miley, Pam Duffield, "Rosie" - Pam's Greek Mother (I'll bet she can do wonders with a leg of lamb), and Bobbie Jean Duncan.

We thank them for their efforts however we need more participation if we are to put out a cook book truly representative of the LEWIS name.

Joyce will bring the forms to the reunion and give everyone another opportunity to contribute their favorite recipes. We'll see what happens. Betty & Duffy Duffield have a new Great Grandson Austin Chase Miley born Jan 23, 1996. Everyone is doing fine.

>> Received a nice note from our first cousin Lucile Shirley of Meridian, Ms. Lucile is a descendant of Frances Lewis Jones of the "COOT" Lewis family. She reported that her brother Bill Jones died on Sep. 8, 1995 following lengthy illness. While I did not know Bill personally we are grieved at his passing. He and his family had planned to attend the 1994 reunion but we have no record of their having attended.

>> Asa E. Lewis 83 of Milton died on March 13, 1996 in a local hospital. Asa was a native and lifelong resident of Santa Rosa County. He was a veteran of World War II, Korea, and the Vietnam War. Asa served his country in both

the U.S. Navy as a SEEBEE and then joined the U.S. Army where he rose to the rank of Master Sergeant. Asa was an Intercoastal Waterway tug boat captain following his Army Retirement. He was a member of the First Baptist Church of Bagdad and a member of VFW post 4833. Asa is survived by 4 sons Elmer, Ed, Jerry & Lamar. One daughter Sarah and one sister Ina Holifield.

All of us who read this newsletter are also cousins of Asa's and many of us will long remember his playing the fiddle and guitar in local bands and even on to Nashville. Asa was also a veritable fount of local and family history.

WE WILL ALL SURELY MISS HIM.

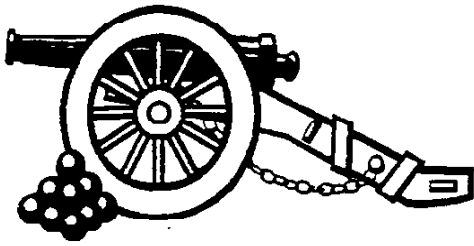
>> Dorothy Lewis, the hostess to our very first Lewis Reunion, has been ill but is now recovering. We will all want to remember this most gracious lady in our thoughts and prayers.

>> Cindy Lewis Calia of Milton a Great, great, great, great grand daughter of Jesse Lewis is home recovering from major surgery. Cindy you know we are wishing you a speedy recovery and look forward to your smiling face at our reunion in July.

We have gone through our mail and scrapbook and this is all the news from here. Keep sending those tid bits you wish to share with your family along to us. We put them in the scrapbook and send them out in the next newsletter.

PUBLIC ADDRESS SYSTEM

This subject was discussed at the last Trustees meeting. We could use a portable PA system at our Reunions because as you know it is almost impossible to get everyone to listen to the speaker. Not because we are not interested in what he/she is saying, but because we are so tied up in talking to our kin folk. Any way it was suggested that we look into purchasing a "Bull Horn" type portable PA for our use.



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With your permission I will check Radio Shack to see what they cost. I believe we can purchase one for around \$25-50. If several of you will drop me a line or call OK'ing this I will go from there. We have sufficient funds in the Reunion account.

It is about time for me to get out of here but before we go here is another picture from the past under what we can call the "WHO DAT" section of our newsletter. This month is a picture taken at the 1993 First Lewis Family Reunion. These are some of the descendants of Henry Jackson Lewis at that reunion.

PICTURED LEFT TO RIGHT: Kneeling Victoria Davis, seated "Beady" Parker. Standing; Mary Hebbs, Thelma Cox, Mabel Weekley, Laura Durant, Edna Parker Ellis, Margaret Lewis, Adele Ellis Deitz, Gayle Ellis, June McLeod, Robert Ellis, Meredith Parker, Inda Roberts, Clarence Parker, Celia Turner, Edna Ellis, Ina Lewis Holifield, Joe Holifield, and Asa Lewis. (We hope there are not too many improper identifications).



LET'S CALL THIS KUPON KORNER

I/we plan on joining the Friday July 26, 1996 Historical Tour and agree to pay our pro rata share of the costs. There will be _____ in our party. Signed _____

NOTE: We have reserved one 15 passenger van for a cost of \$85 plus tax. If we have more than 15 we can look to another van or car pool.

I/we plan to attend the Friday July 26, 1996 Family Dinner for a cost of \$10 per adult, \$5 per child 5 - 10 years, and children under 5 eat free. There will be _____ adults, _____ children 5-10, and _____ children under 5.

Signed _____

NOTE: We must ask for advance paid reservations because we must guarantee payment for reservations made.

That is about all from Milton at this time so we will close by wishing you all a happy, healthy, and prosperous summer. Looking forward to seeing you in July. Please give us a call when you get here. If it is a few days early maybe we can meet for dinner somewhere.

Rodney & Ann