



PROUD DESCENDANTS OF:

**JESSE & NANCY COBB LEWIS
EARLY SETTLERS OF
BAGDAD, FLORIDA**

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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VOLUME 5

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A big hello from Milton and hoping you are enjoying the remaining days of summer. We here in Milton are having mostly hot and humid days with a thunder shower most every day. I hasten to say this is usual for this time of year. We enjoy it while at the same time look forward to cooler days with lower humidity which usually come in October.

Since our last newsletter yours truly was hospitalized from July 13 through 18 with congestive heart failure. All is well now except the doctors made it plain that I must lose 50 pounds. I'm already down from 255 pounds to 234. Will keep you posted on the weight loss.

This is our first newsletter since our reunion in July. **What a great time we had on July 25 and 26!!**

We started the weekend off with a Dutch treat breakfast a Reggie's Restaurant. We had 24 for breakfast. Everyone enjoyed getting together and some of us were even making new friends and meeting new cousins.

Following breakfast about 20 of us visited Robinson Point Cemetery. We enjoyed discussing the proposed long range landscape plans and enjoying the beauty of the Cemetery setting. For those of you who have not visited the Cemetery, it is located on Blackwater Bay about 7 miles south of Milton. The Cemetery is about one-quarter acre with about 100 feet of waterfront. What a beautiful sight our ancestors chose for a "graveyard". Thank goodness we have it back in our hands and

under our control. We can never afford to again let it go untended and overgrown which would lead to some greedy developer trying to move in and sell it off for a waterfront home site.

After about an hour at the Cemetery we visited the Bagdad Village Preservation Association (BVPA) museum. The Museum is a former church which has been restored and is now a beautiful Museum and meeting site. In fact it has sufficient room to accommodate a buffet dinner for our reunion if we so chose. We saw a very interesting film about the operation of the Bagdad Land & Lumber Company Sawmill. It is interesting to note that in it's hayday the Sawmill employed about 6000 workers. It had its own doctor, nurse, commissary store, and just about everything it's workers needed. The Mill finally ceased operation in 1939 and the Village of Bagdad is now a quaint village of early 1900s homes. The streets are lined with live and water oaks complete with Spanish moss hanging from their branches. What a beautiful place to visit. Our thanks to Jan Davis, President of BVPA, for providing this special event.

From the Museum we were scheduled to go to Pond Creek (the Old Swimming Hole in Milton) but due to heavy rains the previous several days we decided against taking chances on the water and instead we were invited to the beautiful waterfront home of Bill & Betty Wolfe for our lunch. We gladly accepted and so we took our picnic fixings and went to their house. We had a delightful lunch of

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sandwiches, drinks, cantalope, watermelon, and all kind of goodies. The Lord must have been looking out for us because just as we were finishing lunch the skies clouded up for the first time that day and we had what we here in Milton call a "Frog Strangler" or a "Lightered Knot Floater". In other words we had a down pour. The shower didn't dampen our spirits one bit. In fact we moved inside and continued to fellowship.

After consuming all the good food at the picnic we were free til about 5 P.M. when we all (about 40 of us) met at Gator's Seafood for our Dutch treat dinner. What a great time we had. Everyone had their fill of some of the best seafood in Florida and served with such grace and charm that one can only feel at home. We all left the groaning board about 8 P.M. and made our way to our respective sleeping accomodations. **AND THIS WAS THE END OF THE FIRST DAY!**

When we arose on Saturday the 26th we knew the Lord was still smiling on the Lewis Family beacuse the day was beautiful, not a cloud in the sky. The clan began gathering about 10:30 at Arcadia which is an old mill site and site of one of the first industrial plants in northwest Florida. We gathered at the Juniper and Cedar wood Country Style house complete with a porch about 6 feet wide on all four sides of the house. For those of you who are not familiar with our weather this is the kind of house found in this area before air conditioning. The square design and center hall provided cross ventilation in every room. The porch provided shade and if there was a breeze you could always find it and be quite comfortable. By the time we began serving the delicious covered dish dinner we had about 60 present. We had several cousins visiting for the first time. They were really impressed with the area as well as the effort put forth by those responsible for the reunion activities. All stated they would definitely be back next year. **WE HOPE SO AND HOPE YOU WILL JOIN THEM!!**

We had a brief business meeting at Arcadia and

it was decided to continue the newsletter which costs about \$45 per issue to print and mail to you. You should know we have 100 names of our kin on the mailing list so this amounts to about 45 cents to get the newsletter to you. If you are not contributing toward your newsletter just remember someone else is having to pay for you.

It was decided to have the reunion again next year on the same date, **THE LAST WEEKEND IN JULY WHICH WILL BE THE 24TH AND 25TH!**

As is our custom at the reunion we took up a collection to cover expenses for next years reunion and for Cemetery Maintenance. This year we are proud to say that our collection came to \$487. A financial report appears later in this newsletter.

CEMETERY REPORT

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter there were about 20 of us who visited the RPC on the 25 of July. The proposed landscape design which you received in your newsletter of May 1997 was discussed and everyone thought it was a worthwhile long range project. There was some discussion regarding the "foot bridge" over the "wet area". The proposed foot bridge is/was to be a memorial to all those who are buried in RPC. The discussion centered around a "brass plaque" with the name of all those intered in RPC. Several thought that would be a more suitable memorial than the foot bridge. Please let us know what you think.

All those visiting the RPC found it in good upkeep. Several comments were made about how well it was maintained. Thanks again to our very loyal grounds maintenance man, Mike Pendleton who gives us more than 100% performance. We are proud to have him.

We look forward to your visit to the RPC and thank you for your support of this on-going

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project.

Now comes the grievous part of writing the newsletter.

FINANCIAL REPORT

The financial condition of RPC including the Maintenance and Reunion accounts continues to be good. Since my last report to you in July we have received contributions from: Lucille Fraas, Joy Lee, Delores Mason, David Lewis, Jr., Margaret Scoggins, Edwin New, Lillian Richburg, Mary Hebb, Donna Buchanan, Henry McLeod, Sarah Hobbs, Regina Lewis, and several anonymous donations made at the reunion.

At the reunion it was voted to purchase Tee Shirts with printing as follows: "Proud Descendants of Jesse Lewis and Nancy Cobb Lewis. Early Settlers of Bagdad, Florida" Prices are: Size Large and X-Large \$12.00: Size XX-Large \$13.00 each including \$2.00 postage and \$2.00 for the RPC maintenance fund. To order please send your check to us at the address on page 1 of this newsletter. Since the shirt shop will only print shirts in lots of 10 to 12 so please order soon so we can get an order together.

As mentioned earlier we collected \$487 at the reunion. (It should be noted that \$300 of this amount came from 3 donations of \$100 each.) This added to our pre-reunion balance brought our bank balance up to \$910.39. Of this amount the group at the reunion OK'd leaving \$250 in the reunion account and \$660.39 in maintenance.

Following written correspondence with the Trustees, Dr. Smith and I purchased a \$500 CD from our bank using \$300 from checking and \$200 from savings. This transaction, along with paying other bills left us with \$483.69 in the checking account. We now have \$1500 in CDs and \$276 in savings for long range projects. Thanks to all of you who help with the finances!!

IN MEMORIAM

THOMAS ASA "BUBBA" HOBBS age 23 died early Sunday morning August 3, 1997 from injuries sustained in an automobile accident.

Bubba was the son of Steve Hobbs and Sarah Lewis Hobbs, the daughter of the late Asa Lewis who was the great, great grandson of Jesse Lewis. In addition to his parents Bubba is survived by his wife Tonya who is expecting their first child within a few weeks, his brother Steven J, his grandparents, and many aunts, uncles, cousins and friends.

We are sure you join us in remembering the Hobbs family at this time.
Sarah's address is: 558 Johnson Rd
Milton, FL 32583

We hate to close on such a sad notice but it can't be helped.

So until next time we will say good by for now.

Rodney & Ann