

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

5924 STARLITE LN. MILTON, FL 32570

TELE: (850) 623-0572 FAX (850) 626-2126

E-mail: rodneymollo@gulf.net

**PROUD DESCENDANTS OF JESSE LEWIS AND NANCY JANE COBB LEWIS
EARLY SETTLERS OF BAGDAD, FLORIDA**

VOLUME 5

MARCH 1998

The Christmas and New Year holidays are now behind us. We hope you all had a very happy holiday season and can look forward to a **healthy and prosperous** 1998. We also hope you are all planning to include a trip to the Lewis Family Reunion this year.



Shortly after the first of the year we received a note from **INA LEWIS HOLIFIELD**, descendant of Jesse's son Henry Jackson, and the daughter of Grover Cleveland Lewis. Ina made a substantial contribution to the RPC Maintenance and Newsletter. In fact her contribution has been invested in a Certificate of Deposit and the annual interest alone will pay for one (1) month's Maintenance and yearly issues of her copy of the Newsletter without ever using the principal.

What a great way for Ina to provide for the future of RPC.

If only **ELEVEN** of us would join Ina in making at least a \$500 one time contribution to the RPC we would have the monthly maintenance fee taken care of forever!!

THINK ABOUT IT!!! LET US KNOW!!!

We are saddened to report the death of our cousin Orvil Parker on December 20, 1997. Orvil, from Perry, Florida was a descendant of Jesse's son Henry Jackson and the brother

of June McLeod whom most of us know from our family reunions. Our sympathies go out to the Parker family.

On January 12th the following picture was printed in the Santa Rosa Press Gazette, our local twice weekly newspaper:

Baby of the Week



Austin Chase Miley

Austin "Chase" Miley will be 2 years old January 23, 1998. His great-grandparents are William & Betty Lewis Duffield. Chase is a seventh generation child from Bagdad. His family reaches back to Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis. Chase's parents are Cliff and Cherron Miley. His favorite person is PaPa. He has a very large family reaching from coast to coast. "Chase" is a great example of our "Heritage."

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

On February 9th we received a most welcome e-mail from Summer Jones of Kenner, LA. Summer, an eighth grade student at Saint Scholastica Academy, has an assignment requiring her to submit a Family Tree. She had read her Dad's Lewis Family Newsletter and hence the correspondence. I was pleased to send her a "Descendant Chart" beginning with Jesse Lewis and continuing through her Great grand mother Frances Louise Lewis Jones. It is encouraging to learn that our young people feel they have someplace to go for help on their family history. While I do not have a complete Lewis Family History in my computer am willing to share what I have. If you have any names, birthdays, marriages, deaths, children's name, births, etc. that you want included in my files please send them along to me.



REUNION PLANS

You will remember we asked for your input regarding our July reunion. To date we have received only one verbal response to the several topics raised. We can only surmise that your lack of response is (1) you do not care what we do or if we even do anything, or (2) you are satisfied with what we have done in the past and you wish us to go ahead and make all the plans and just keep you posted.

Unless we hear from you shortly we will go ahead with the plans as we see fit.

REGARDLESS OF WHAT PLANS ARE MADE WE WANT YOU TO PUT A STRING AROUND YOUR FINGER SO

YOU WILL REMEMBER TO BE IN MILTON ON JULY 24TH & 25TH.

CEMETERY REPORT

You will remember that we mentioned in our last newsletter that Dr. Smith and I were to meet with the Bagdad Water System Board on Dec. 11th to discuss what could be done about the \$7 per month minimum charges we have been required to pay. We did meet with the Water Board and following a lengthy discussion we were informed that the Board was forbidden to "give water away". They did agree to turn the water off during the rainy seasons and back on again during the summer months (at no cost to us). They stated they would discuss the possibility of reading the meter Annually and then billing us for the water actually used. They did in fact turn off the water and we have not been billed further.

I mentioned to Dr. Smith that it seemed to me that we should discontinue service with Bagdad Water and tap into his water line since we use only about 200 gallons per year. He agreed to this.

We will see what happens when we need to turn the water back on. If we are faced with billings even though we are not using water we can tap into Dr. Smith's water line. We will keep you posted.

Mike Pendleton continues to oversee the maintenance, even though there is little growth during the winter months. He goes to the RPC about every week or so and picks up any fallen limbs, etc and keeps RPC looking good. I visit the site every two or three weeks. It always

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

looks presentable.

Spoke with Lucille Fraas today, Feb. 21. She is doing real well from her heart surgery in December. She told me she feels better than she had in several years. In fact she said she wished she could have had the surgery a number of years ago. She also told me she had fallen in her kitchen a few weeks back and injured her lower spine and has been in quite a bit of pain. She is up and about some now and is hoping she will be able to join us in July for the family reunion. You may want to send her a card at 38120 Boulder Creek Drive, Palm Desert, CA 92260.



TREASURER'S REPORT

We mentioned earlier that Ina Holifield made a substantial contribution to our treasury. She is the only one who has contributed since our last newsletter.

This is the time to remind you of our responsibility to the Robinson Point Cemetery. You know we must maintain the RPC in order to keep some one from believing it is abandoned and trying to sell it off for development as was done a number of year ago. To maintain the RPC we pay \$25.00 each month (\$300.00 per year) in Maintenance fees alone. This does not include any other expenses such a water, storm damage, etc.

The funds for this upkeep come from those of

us on the mailing list of this newsletter. We have been fortunate to have enough contributors to keep up with expenses, but it seems somewhat unfair to expect a few to contribute when this newsletter goes to over 100 families related to Jesse Lewis. This writer finds it inconceivable that we who have as many as 20 or more in our family circle CANNOT come up with at least 25 dollars a year to support our ancestral burial grounds. There are several things a person or family could do: (1) They could "adopt" a month and send \$25 each year in a certain month, i.e. anniversary, birthday, etc. (2) They could go together and raise \$500 which could be used to purchase a Certificate of Deposit in memory of a loved one. (3) They may send any amount at any time during the year. PLEASE DO YOUR PART!!

Our bank balance as of February 22nd is \$208.29 in the Maintenance account and \$108.49 in the Reunion account for a total of \$316.78. These funds should see us through July when we usually have a number of contributions from those attending the reunion.

Your's truly continues his weight loss program. As of today, Feb 23 my weight is 205. Using the treadmill I walk 2 miles three times per week as well as other exercises. I continue to feel great and all systems are go.

That about wraps it us for this time. Will be back in touch with you in about three months.

Keep well and make your plans to attend our FIFTH Lewis Reunion here in Milton.

Rodney & Ann