

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 6

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Today is August 24th and about time to start with the first newsletter of our 6th year of publication to the Lewis Family. For your information we are proud to tell you we have 101 Lewis Families on our mailing list. We know there are many more Lewis out there because several of you have told us that you share your newsletter with some of your close kin. We are glad you are on our mailing list and hope you enjoy reading the newsletter as much as yours truly enjoys writing and publishing it. We will keep it coming as long as you good folk keep paying the postage and printing costs, and we sincerely thank you for providing the \$200 per year it takes to get the newsletter to you.

Reunion Report

The weekend of July 24 & 25 was a time of family fun and togetherness. We had 24 present for breakfast at Reggie's, and everyone enjoyed the meal and we showed photo, talked family history, and just plain enjoyed each others company.

Following breakfast we then visited the Santa Rosa County Historical Museum to see the many historical documents and memorabilia. Mrs. Laurie Green was our guide during this period. After about 45 minutes we then went to the Bagdad Preservation Association Museum to visit one of the restored homes used by the Bagdad Mill workers and also the old church now used to store the many interesting items and history of the Bagdad mill. Mrs. Jan Davis conducted this portion of our day's outing. From there we all visited Robinson Point

Cemetery for a period of remembrance and reflection. The Cemetery was in a good state of maintenance and thanks to Bud and Lana Allen there was an array of blooming potted plants which were provided by their nursery.

While at the Cemetery we discussed the possibility of providing a brass plaque with all the names of those buried in the Cemetery. Henry McLeod of Perry volunteered to lead such an undertaking. He has recently has some experience in such a project and is going to research the costs involved. We will keep you posted as to the progress of this most worthwhile undertaking.

Following the Cemetery visit we had the rest of the day free until we met again at the Milton Garden Club for dinner. There were 53 of us who made reservations for the delicious buffet dinner of roast beef & gravy, princess potatoes, southern style green beans, corn/okra&tomatoes complete with rolls, coffee, tea, and a most wonderful assortment of homemade pies catered by Miss Peggi Smith of The Rose Bowl Caterers. Following dinner we were entertained by the Belles of St. Rose which is a group of ladies from St. Rose of Lima Catholic Church. Their performance included song and dance routines from the 1920s. This year they also had a very good comic in their group who entertained us. A contribution of \$50 was made to the Church from our reunion account.

We then had a historical presentation of the early lumber industry in Santa Rosa County. Mr. Warren Weekes, local historian and friend of the Lewis Family conducted the presentation. All present enjoyed the presentation which was followed by a very informative question and

answer session. We were fortunate to have with us Mr. Vernon Cobb, who was an employ of the Bagdad Mill when it closed in 1939. He gave us first hand information about conditions back then. In fact he described how he lost 3 fingers in a mill accident.

About 8:30 or 9 o'clock we all went our separate ways following a **GREAT DAY TOGETHER!!**

"Age is a very high price to pay for maturity"

Today is Sep. 8th and we are back to writing the newsletter. Since the above paragraphs were written I have taken time off for my 69th birthday, 3 training sessions on overseeing an election, working 16 hours on Sep. 1st at the polls, and going to Gainesville, FL for a 50th anniversary celebration for one of Ann's cousins. Now it is time to get back to work on our newsletter.

On Saturday, July 25th about 35 of the Lewis Family met at Navarre Pavilion for our annual covered dish picnic. While the crowd was smaller than in prior years we made up for it in good old fellowship and food. The weather was kinda threatening but we had no rain. Everyone enjoyed the day and said they wanted to have the reunion in Navarre again next year. About 3:30 P.M. we called it a day and all departed for their return trip home.

AGAIN, WE HAD A GREAT WEEKEND TOGETHER AND IF YOU WERE NOT HERE YOU NOT ONLY MISSED A TREAT BUT WE MISSED YOU!!

CEMETERY REPORT

As mentioned earlier in this newsletter the RPC continues to be maintained in good condition. Our ancestors would be proud of the work and

money you put into the Robinson Point Cemetery project.

We on the Board of Trustees thank all of you who are so generous with your money and make the RPC project the pleasure it is.

It was mentioned above that Henry McLeod will look into the costs involved in purchasing and installing a brass plaque engraved with the names of all who are buried in the Robinson Point Cemetery. We will keep you informed of the progress and any expenses incurred. Depending on the costs we may be asking you for a donation toward the project.

"If you try to fail, and succeed, which have you done?"

FINANCES

Since my last report of contributions in the May newsletter we have received donations from Martha Presley, Bessie Ellis, Gayle Dietz, Delores Mason, Margaret Lewis, Lucille Fraas, Scarlett Ehlers (in memory of her Aunt Thelma Cox), Henry & June McLeod, Lillian Richburg, Jerry & Ann Lewis, Ralph & Mary Hebb, Celia & Frank Turner, and Betty and Duffy Duffield. These are in addition to those of you who paid dinner reservations, and bought T-shirts. Due to your generous donations we were able to purchase a \$700 CD with the interest payable annually to the checking account. The interest will pay for at least one month cemetery maintenance.

We have sufficient funds to provide routine maintenance and newsletter expenses for near future.

The rosy financial report above does not mean that we would not like to add your name to the list of contributors in our next newsletter. If you have not paid for one (1) monthly maintenance (\$25.00) we encourage you to do so. You may want to make this a family affair and do it every year in memory of some of your loved ones.



Rachel Denise Hobbs, 7th generation descendant of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis, celebrates her 1st birthday this month. You will remember that Rachel is the daughter of Tonya and Thomas "Bubba" Hobbs who lost his life in an automobile accident just weeks

before Rachel was born. We all wish Rachel a very happy birthday and look forward to seeing her next year at our Lewis Family reunion. Our thanks to the Sarah Lewis Hobbs, Rachel's grand mother for bringing the picture to the Lewis Reunion.

If you have pictures you would like printed in the newsletter please send them along to us. This gives me a chance to play with my recently purchased scanner.

If quitters never win, and winners never quit, what fool came up with, "quit while you are head?"

LOOKING AHEAD

As we look ahead to the Lewis Family Reunion in 1999 we find that the 4th weekend of July is the 23rd and 24th. A number of you who attended our 1998 reunion expressed satisfaction with the arrangements so we are planning along the same lines for next year. We will again have a Friday morning Dutch treat breakfast. Maybe we will change restaurants. We will keep you posted. We are making reservations for the Milton Garden Center for our Friday evening catered dinner. If you have suggestions for the menu please let us know and we will try to accommodate you. We have reserved and paid for the Navarre Pavilion for our Saturday July 24th covered dish dinner. **Remember July 23 & 24, 1999!!!!**

We are sad to report the death of THELMA LEWIS COX. Thelma died July 10, 1998. She was age 92 and a lifelong resident of Santa Rosa County. She was a descendant of Henry Jackson Lewis the 5th child of Jesse and Nancy Cobb Lewis. Thelma and her sister, Mabel Weekley always supported all activities of the Lewis Family Reunion and the Robinson Point Cemetery. Our condolences go to her family and we will always remember Thelma and the contributions she made to our family.

We continue to hear from those of you out there and appreciate your kind words about your Family Newsletter. Without your support the Newsletter would wither and die.

WE DO NOT WANT THAT TO HAPPEN, so please continue to support the RPC and Family Newsletter with your contributions.

What was the best thing BEFORE sliced bread?

Lucille Fraas is scheduled to visit her sisters Nicie and Emma between Sep. 14 thru 19. Hope we can get together for lunch or dinner while she is in town. Am sure she will make it a point to visit RPC while she is in the Milton area.

This about does it for this time. So you all have a great fall season and we will be talking with you again in December or January.

Rodney & Ann