

LEWIS FAMILY NEWSLETTER

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

VOLUME 6

JULY 1999

Here it is the 26 of June and time to get started on the last issue of the Lewis Newsletter before the July 23 & 24 Reunion. We must be in the middle of the rainy season because it has rained almost daily for the last couple of weeks. The farmers must be delighted but it sure is hot and humid these days. Not complaining, just cutting you in on how it is here in the old home town. We get used to it, and in fact most of us had rather have it this way than freezing our buns off.

Since our last newsletter things have been going along swimmingly. Yours truly continues to devote almost full time to my latest non-paying job as Chairman of the Santa Rosa County Republican Party. We are still about 14 months away from an election but the activities are picking up. It seems, at least in this area, that most people are tired of the present administration in Washington and are looking for a change. With 10 Republicans already vying for the presidency we will have an interesting time.

Connie Taylor, "Coot" Lewis' grand daughter, call the other night. She and husband Charlie will not be able to attend the reunion this year. Charlie will be having a knee replacement in July so will be unable to travel for a few months. Connie sends their regrets and asks for your prayers for Charlie during this time.

The latest word from Lucille Fraas is that she will be attending this year. You will recall she was unable to attend last year because of illness. We will be glad to have her back.

Got a call last night from June and Henry McLeod in Perry. They will arrive a day or so before the reunion so we may install the post on which the Cemetery Memorial Plaque will be placed. How lucky we are to have folk like the McLeods in our family.

Flash!! Flash!! Flash!! Flash!!

We have recently located an anonymous donor who will match all donations toward the LONG TERM CARE OF RPC UP TO \$3000.

The terms specified by the donor are that the funds **MUST** be raised from now through our 1999 reunion activities **and** all funds **MUST** be used to purchase Certificates of Deposit to generate income to maintain RPC.

Folks I tell you this is an answer to our prayers and will go a long way toward the perpetual care of our Robinson Point Cemetery. We now have CD's totaling \$3847.86 and earning interest of about 5% for approximately \$192 per year. If we will all join together and raise another \$3000 which the donor will match we will have sufficient funds to maintain RPC for the foreseeable future without my having to harangue you about contributing.

Beginning today, June 27 all funds received OTHER THAN FOR OUR REUNION DINNER, will be held for inclusion in the MATCHING FUND.

Please, as an individual or as a family, make your contribution to RPC Memorial. As someone once

RESERVATIONS TODAY!!!!!!

CLIP OUT

I/we plan to attend the Dutch treat breakfast at Reggies on July 23 at 8:30 AM. There will be _____ in our party.

I/we plan to attend the Friday July 23 dinner at the Milton Garden Club beginning at 5:30 PM. There will be _____ Adults and _____ Children under age 5 in our party. Enclosed is my check payable to Robinson Point Cemetery Memorial to cover the cost of _____ Adults at \$10 each.

Please list the names of those in your party so we may have name badges prepared for each of you.

BREAKFAST	DINNER
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____
_____	_____

Mail to Lewis Family Reunion 5924 Starlite Ln Milton, FL 32570.

RESERVATIONS REQUIRED BY:

JULY 19, 1999

PLEASE RESPOND TODAY.

Hope to see you at the Reunion.

Rodney

The following article appeared in the Pensacola News Journal on Friday June 4, 1999. Thought you all would enjoy reading an article written by our own Joyce Nelson from the William Sherwood "COOT" Lewis side of the family.

Cherish our Redneck, cracker heritage

Redneck Cracker: Culturally deprived. That's what they call us. Cracker: A braggart, liar (1681). One full of conversation (Scottish). Cracker: One who cracks, a class of low whites from the Southern United States. To boast, to brag; that is, to utter vain, pompous, blustering words. Persons who have no settled habitation and live by hunting and plundering the industrious settlers. An attitude of mind and a condition of the soul.

In 1790 Spanish officials reported the "influx" into Florida of rootless people called "Crackers." Our blood runs deep into this earth, this Panhandle of Florida.

You will not find us on the sugar-sand beaches or living in the condos overlooking our emerald-green waters. We are in the forest, the swamps and bayous. Our families are in boats gathering crab and mullet. Our children are playing in our creeks. Laughter is heard. We are people of the out-back., known as squatters after the War of Aggression. Our lands, all possessions were taken from us.

Look back into time. You will find our forefathers, indentured servants, crossing the 31st parallel. They were coming to freedom. They built log cabins, married the Creek Indians, raised children. Their gardens fed the family. These are our people. We have a strength to our sense of kinship, a pecking order. We continued to work, sawing the yellow heart pine by the hand saws, sending timbers down the flumes to the sawmills. The timbers were squared and loaded into the sailing ships. Our yellow heart pine can still be seen in the cathedrals in Spain and throughout Europe. Our timber is gone, never to return. Our heritage remains proud.

Our farm lands are still on Pine Level. Cotton, corn, peanuts, watermelon, strawberries are still being grown.

Panhandle counties: Escambia, Santa Rosa, Okaloosa, Walton, Washington, Holmes, Calhoun, Gulf, Jackson, Bay: WAKE UP.

We cherish our Redneck Cracker heritage and it will not, cannot, be pushed away. Redneck Cracker does not always signify and economic condition; rather it defines a culture. It is woven into the very fabric of time.

Joyce B. Nelson is a resident of Milton with a family history of Milton residency dating back to the early 1800s. Her great-great-grandfather fought in the Indian Wars and in the Civil War, which she refers to as the War of Aggression.

said "Don't give til it hurts, give til it feels good". You will be glad you did!!!

Reunion Plans

Now comes what you all have been waiting for - **the final plans for our Annual Reunion July 23 & 24 1999:**

We will start the events with a Dutch treat breakfast on Friday morning beginning a 8:30 AM at Reggies just East of Milton on U.S. 90. Please fill in the clip out and let us know if you plan on attending and how many will be in your party. This way we can alert Reggie as to how many tables to set up for us.

Following breakfast we will visit Railroad Museum in Milton at the L&N Depot. There you will find many artifacts from the early days of railroading with a complete ticket office and a working telegraph system. There is a gift shop with railroad memorabilia. We know you will enjoy this visit.

Following our museum visit we will proceed to RPC for the dedication of the Memorial Plaque and a few minutes of reflection and remembrances. This will give you an insight into where your donations are going.

The remainder of the day will be free time until Friday evening beginning about 5:30 PM we will gather at the Milton Garden Center, 100 Alabama St, Milton for our catered dinner. We will eat about 6 PM. We have not decided on a menu yet, but as you know from last year the caterer, Rose Bowl, will do a good job for us. The cost will be \$10 per person, with children under 5 eating free. Please use the clip out printed elsewhere in this newsletter to make your reservations. Remember this is one of those dinners where you **MUST** have a **reservation**. We will order meals **ONLY** for those who have made **RESERVATIONS**. Please plan on attending and send in your completed clip out along with your check made payable to Robinson Point Cemetery Memorial.

We have engaged the "Navarre Kitchen Band" to perform from 7 to about 8 PM. This a local group of performers who play a number of instruments, from the wash board, wash tub bass, guitars, mandolins, fiddles, etc. They are well known around the county and we look forward to their visit.

On Saturday June 24 we will gather at the Navarre Pavilion, Highway U.S. 98 in Navarre, (same place as last year). Please bring a covered dish, your favorite beverage, and a lawn chair if you have one. There is a Winn Dixie that has a deli counter located in Navarre across the highway from the Pavilion. We will begin gathering about 10:30 AM and serve dinner about 12 Noon.

MOTELS

We now have at least three motels in the Milton area:

Comfort Inn 4962 SR 87 South. Exit 10 on I-10 7 SR 87 S. Ph: 800 228-5150

Emerald Sands 6436 Hwy 90 Milton. Formerly Hospitality Inn. Ph: 850-623-3821

Ashbury Suite & Inn Gateway Plaza Hwy 90 Milton Next to Waffle House. Ph: 850 623-2296

Comfort Inn 8680 Navarre Pkwy, Navarre near the Navarre Pavilion. Ph 800 222-5150

Barnhill's Bed & Breakfast 5347 Stewart Street Milton. Downtown Milton. 850-623-8412

All of these are very nice places with reasonable rates.

Make your plans now to attend the Seventh Annual Lewis Reunion. Let us know when you get in town. We welcome your visit.

As of today June 27 we have **ONLY TEN (10)** who have made reservations. You can imagine what kind of stress this **LACK OF RESPONSE** is causing yours truly who has to determine if the anonymous person who paid \$100 to reserve the Garden Center for us made a wise decision, how many meals to order, how many tables to set up, etc. **SO PLEASE MAKE YOUR**