

LEWIS LETTER.

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THE LEWIS ASSOCIATION

No. one, organized August 28, 1886.

HON. T. H. B. LEWIS, *President*,
WilkesBarre, Pa.

ALONZO LEWIS, *Vice-President*,
Lisle, N. Y.

FRANK P. LEWIS, *Sec. and Treas.*,
Lisle, N. Y.

Office of LEWIS LETTER in Secretary's
office, Lisle, N. Y. [o. c.]

A limited number of FIVE LINE Business Cards will be inserted for the remainder of the year at Forty Cents each; cash to accompany the order.

WITH the birth of a new year, is born a new idea, a new enterprise, a new paper for the Lewis race. In this initial number of our *inter-family letter* we come with blessings to greet you. The LEWIS LETTER marks a new epoch in the history of the race, and has an important mission to accomplish. Its aim is not only to cultivate the acquaintance and friendship of the members of the family, but to serve as a medium through which every one of the name may become and remain known to their kindred; and at the same time to record and perpetuate their traditions, history and pedigree.

THE one great fault common to all people, and especially noticeable in Americans, is the lack of genealogical records.

THERE should be a system of town records fully and faithfully kept; and each family should have a book of family records to be transmitted from generation to generation. If such records were made would it not tend to improve the *social*, moral and intellectual condition of the people? Would they not emulate the best models of probity and virtue? Would they not strive to have a clear record? The policy of this paper will be to suggest and encourage all efforts in this direction; to gather and disseminate useful and interesting intelligence concerning the Lewises for their pleasure and profit, to the end that the world may be the better and perhaps the wiser for our having lived in it.

“PEOPLE who do not take pride in remote ancestry, will never achieve anything to be remembered by their remote descendants.”—*Macaulay.*

Lewis is defined as a bold warrior.

First Reunion of Lewis Family.

[FROM WHITNEY'S POINT REPORTER.]

On Saturday at a late hour we had the pleasure of visiting the fair ground and witnessing a reunion of the Lewis family. Mr. F. P. Lewis Esq., of Lisle had labored assiduously for this gathering and he had the pleasure of seeing his efforts crowned with success. We arrived after the banquet and just before the organization for the coming year was perfected. Mr. F. P. Lewis called the meeting to order and in a few well chosen remarks stated the object of the gathering and trusted that succeeding years would see it increase in numbers and interest. All with whom we conversed expressed themselves as highly pleased and very thankful to Mr. Lewis for his untiring efforts in arranging such an enjoyable meeting.

The following officers were elected for the coming year:

President, Hon. T. H. B. Lewis, of Wilkes Barre, Pa.

Vice Pres. Alonzo Lewis, Lisle, N. Y.

Secy. and Treas., F. P. Lewis, Lisle, N. Y.

It was voted to hold another reunion next year. Mr. Alonzo Collins and the Broome County Agricultural Society were tendered a vote of thanks for the free use of the beautiful grounds. The reunion was composed of smart and intelli-

gent, appearing people, and we trust not, that another year, all will look forward to their annual gathering with much pleasure.

SPEECH OF PRES. LEWIS

Pres. Lewis first spoke of the name Lewis as related to nationality. He said that it was the generally received opinion that all Lewises were of Welsh origin, and that in his younger days he had never doubted the correctness of the supposition. As however all our names in their origin had some meaning aside from being simply a name, being usually the appropriation of the name of some animal or other object, or given to designate the occupation or some prominent characteristic of the individual, he had a desire to know the meaning of the word Lewis. He therefore asked its meaning of many educated Welshmen that he met, and to his surprise none of them could tell. The name was evidently as arbitrary in the Welsh as in the English language, and he came to the conclusion that he was not necessarily a Welshman by reason of his name, though he might be one by blood. Some years ago, however, the mystery was cleared up in his mind by an article on the subject of names in one of our leading magazines. Among other names the writer spoke of the name Lewis, and said that it was of Saxon origin and meant a lion, being given to some

brave warrior, and coming in that way to have bold warrior as a secondary meaning.

In accounting for its use among the Welsh people the writer said that William, the Conqueror found the Welsh people without any tribal name, that each individual was simply John, the son of Thomas, or William, the son of James, as the case might be, and that was all. William, therefore for political purposes, divided them into hundreds, a hundred families constituting a tribe, and gave to each hundred a distinctive name, and among the names so given was that of Lewis, which in that way became a tribal name, and has so continued ever since. Mr. Lewis further said in this connection that undoubtedly there were Lewises among the Saxons who come over and settled in Britian at the time of the Saxon conquest of Britian, so that a man of that name might be a descendent from Welsh, Anglo Saxon or Saxon origin.

Referring to the present gathering and the organization just effected, he said that its immediate and primary object was to promote acquaintance and sociability among relatives and people of the name, and those of other names related to them, but that it had a higher and more enduring object, which was the helping them all to live better and more useful lives. This was a

day of organization. Every thing of any account was accomplished by the means of some sort of organization. This was necessitated by our human nature. There was only here and there a man who alone and without support and encouragement will even attempt anything worthy in life, or who without some outside restraint will live a life of average morality. The mass of men require both encouragement and restraint. This is furnished by organization in its multitudinous forms. A man who is identified with any organization is assured of its support and sympathy in any undertaking consonant with its purposes, and of its condemnation of any one act inconsistent therewith, and acts accordingly. Now what was sought by this organization, was to assure every one belonging to it that in everything worthy and laudable, he will have the sympathy, goodwill and moral support of the whole Lewis name and lineage, and in everything unworthy he will have their disapprobation. The organization would in that way become to every one of its members an incentive to virtue and usefulness, and a restraint from evil. All present were therefore urged to give the organization their hearty support that it might accomplish its most worthy purpose.

SPEECH OF PROF. G. H. STILWELL.

Such a person as I, is only *half*

Lewis and it seems to me that the *Lewis half* should do the speaking, especially as it is the *better half*.

You know it is said of Adam that, when he got tired of giving names to his descendants he said "Let all the rest be called Smith," but I think it would be true to say that for a hundred years or so previous to this he had been giving them the name of Lewis and only changed to Smith when he had grown tired of that. You find Lewises everywhere, of all ages, sizes, kinds and occupations, and true also to say, of all colors. Up in Madison-co., you can find nothing but Lewises and their relatives, the Curtisses. When a politician goes round up there hunting up votes and meets a person, he says at once "How do you do Mr. Lewis?" If the person says "You are mistaken that is not my name," the politician says, "I beg your pardon, I took you for your relative, how do you do Mr. Curtis?" Then he is always right.

As far back as the family to which I am connected, can go in their geneology is to my great grandfather, Judson Lewis, who lived in revolutionary times at Stratford, Conn. About 1795 he moved to Madison Co., N. Y., and one street there now is called Stratford-st. in honor of the place from which he came. He brought with him eight sons who soon developed a great

liking for Madison Co. Six of them married Curtises, then to cap the climax the seventh one married the widow Curtis. I don't know what the eighth one did but presume no Curtis was left for him.

A fact worthy of consideration by the Lewises is one in reference to a Col. Whitney, a British officer in the French and Indian war of 1755. He had charge of some troops in the northern part of this state, and history speaks of him as rallying his soldiers after a repulse by the Indians, four miles north of Fort Edward. He loaned the British government £1500 for which he was never paid, and which has increased at this time to about \$15,000,000. This Col. Whitney, was the great grandfather of Alonzo Lewis, whom you have just chosen as your vice president and some of the Lewises have been looking up the records with a view of getting the money back into the family and dividing it. Another fact worthy of our notice is that some claim that the word Lewis is only a corruption of the French word *Louis* and that we are descendants of a long line of European Kings of that name. In my mind there is no doubt of this fact. Now if the Lewises can prove this and get some one of their number seated upon a European throne, then get this \$15,000,000 and divide it, I don't think they need ask any odds of any family or

tribe upon the face of the earth.

Lewis family association register of attendance at the first reunion and basket picnic held on the Broome County Fair Grounds at Whitney's Point, N. Y., Saturday August 28, 1886 :

LISLE, N. Y.,

Alonzo Lewis, Vice President; John C. Lewis, Tribe Clerk; Mary J. Lewis, Dollie Lewis, Sarah Stoddard Lewis, Ida Lewis, George W. Lewis, Carrie R. Lewis, Minnie E. Personcous, Elmer J. Lewis, Harriet M. Stoddard, Parley Lewis, Margaret M. Lewis, Willie M. Lewis, G. Clarence Lewis, Henry W. Lewis, Fred Johnson, Mary E. L. Lewis, Herbert M. Personcous, James R. Lewis, S. Eugenie Lewis, F. P. Lewis, Secy. and Treas.

WHITNEY'S POINT, N. Y.

Isabelle Lewis, W. D. Lewis, Ella B. Lewis, Vina M. Lewis, Edith Lewis, Freeman Lewis, Edwin S. Lewis, George Hyde, Albert C. Lewis, Lillie A. Lewis, Cora Lewis, Della J. Stoughton, Fanny M. Stoughton, Geo. W. Stoughton, Mrs. L. A. Terwilliger, DeEtta Bush, Libbie Lewis Wagoner, Laura Lewis, Deloss Hibbard.

LAMB'S CORNERS, N. Y.

Lottie Marsh.

LONDON, ENGLAND.

Milly Ryan.

GEDDES, N. Y.

Prof. G. H. Stilwell, Mary Lewis Stilwell.

BINGHAMTON, N. Y.

Albert J. Self, Mary E. Self, Erwin R. Self.

TRIANGLE, N. Y.

Joseph Self, Adelia P. Self, M. D. Pearsall, Erwin B. Whitney, Luella M. Whitney.

WALLINGFORD, CT.

Mrs. Wm. Bolton.

CENTRE LISLE, N. Y.

Marquis H. Lewis, Olive A. Lewis.

GLEN AUBREY, N. Y.

Cassius W. Hendricks, Henry Hodges, John W. Adriance, Delilah Lewis, Samantha Adriance, Frank Hodges, Ida Hodges, Clarence Hodges, Floyd Hodges, Laura Hodges, Hattie Lewis Hendricks, Cyrus Lewis, Caroline Lewis Hodges, Arthur Merrill.

KATTLEVILLE, N. Y.

Leonard Lewis, Tribe Clerk, Mrs. Leonard Lewis, Julius Lewis, Mary Lewis, Joshua Lewis, Eunice Carroll, Mrs. Joshua Lewis, P. H. Palmer, Tessie C. Lewis, Ella Palmer, Sarah Carroll.

MONTROSE, PA.

Edwin R. Stebbins, Tribe Clerk; Blennie Stebbins.

WILKESBARRE, PA.

Hon. T. H. B. Lewis, President, Blanche Lewis.

CASTLE CREEK, N. Y.

Jacob S. Hodges, Betsey Hodges, Merton Hodges, Loran Hodges.

VESTLE CENTRE, N. Y.

Mrs. Judson Lewis.

OXFORD, N. Y.

Mrs. H. E. Lewis, Mrs. Samuel
E. Lewis.

GLAD BROOK, IOWA.

Mrs. G. R. Dunn, Jennie Dunn.

HAMMONDSPORT, N. Y.

Nancy Vanderburg, Arthur Van-
derburg.

Books.

For convenience the records to be found in this paper will be divided into BOOKS, and each book into CHAPTERS.

BOOK I will contain all the records pertaining to Randall Lewis, *progenitors* and *descendants* (among whom is President Lewis.)

BOOK II will contain all the records pertaining to Judson Lewis, his *progenitors* and *descendants* (among whom is Vice President Lewis.)

BOOK III will contain all the records pertaining to Stephen Lewis his *progenitors* and *descendants* (among whom are Prof. Burr Lewis of Lockport, and J. O. and G. W. Lewis of Lisle, N. Y.) A new BOOK will be added for each distinct branch of the Lewis family to be found among the subscribers to this *paper*.

If any of the branches are traced to a common ancestor the proper change will be made in the BOOK.

It is desirable to have one chapter in each book in every issue of this paper, so that the records of each branch of the race may be published contemporaneously. The subscribers are solicited to send their records to the office for publication. All correspondence intended for publication should be written upon one side of the sheet in ink, and the BOOK in which it belongs should be indicated. Write *names* and *dates* plainly.

Every subscriber is urged to communicate with the office every month by postal card or letter and note births, marriages and deaths; change of residence and any matter of interest.

Family Record Questions.

1—Name in full? 2—Last P. O. address? 3—When and where born? 4—When and where married? 5—By whom and to whom married? 6—Her *maiden* name? 7—Her father's name? 8—Her mother's *maiden* name? 9—When and where was wife born? 10—When and where died? 11—Cause of death? 12—Where buried? 13—if re-married give same date? 14—When and where died? 15—Cause of death? 16—Where buried? 17—Occupation? 18—Politics? 19—Religion? 20—When and where educated? 21—What army or navy service? 22—When and what offices held? 23—What knowledge

of Family Coat of Arms? 24—
 What traditions in family? 25—
 Family history? 26—Give several
 places and date of residence? 27—
 Give names of paternal ancestors.

Note. Write on one side of sheet.
 Write all middle names in full. In
 giving dates—give day, month, year.
 Answer all questions as fully as
 possible and give names of such
 people as you think may be able to
 complete the record. Old news-
 paper files, tomb stones, cemetery,
 church, school, town, county and
 probate, records and family bibles
 should be examined and old people
 consulted.

Notes.

A HAPPY New Year to you.

WILLIAM TERRELL LEWIS, of
 Louisville, Miss., has compiled a
 genealogy of the Lewis family,
 embracing a period of about 250
 years and several thousand names,
 and placed the manuscript with the
 Louisville, (Ky.) Courier Journal
 Job Printing Co. to publish as soon
 as enough subscriptions are received.
 The price of the book is \$2.00.

LEWIS ASSOCIATION No. two, with
 Seth Lewis, Esq., Secretary, was
 organized at Ulysses, Potter Co.,
 Pa., Dec. 6, 1886. A full report
 will appear in the February issue.

LEWIS, the child, King of the
 Germans, died in 911, not having
 attained manhood.

List of Subscribers.

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 list for correction.

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Ralph Powers, 627 Hudson-st,

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