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THE LEWIS ASSOCIATION

No. one, organized August 28, 1886,
Lisle, N. Y.

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NOTES.

TEN subscribers added during March, and eleven in April.

THE Lewis League, when formed, will probably take charge of the publication of the LEWIS LETTER.

Now is the time to organize Lewis Associations and send reports of the same to this paper for publication.

THE name of the earliest known ancestor, is placed at the head of each BOOK of genealogical records.

SUBSCRIBERS are advised to carefully preserve every number of this paper, and when the volume is completed have it bound.

THE head of each family is requested to answer the family record questions to be found on page 40. Do not repeat the question but number each answer to correspond with each question.

MR. ROLLIN H. COOKE, Winsted, Ct., probably has the most complete record of names and dates of the descendants of William Lewis, late of Farmington, Ct., and will be glad to furnish any information possessed by him, private through the LEWIS LETTER.

Early Connecticut Lewises.

[BY ROLLIN H. COOKE, WINSTED,
CONN.]

I am very glad the LEWIS LETTER has been started, for I have tried, and am still trying, to assort out a few of the various Lewis families.

A genealogist of long experience recently wrote to me that "The Lewis is a big tract, and he who clears it up and fences it in, has a solemn job." The more one studies genealogy the less sure one feels about dates, when a grave stone gives one date, a town record another, and a family record still another.

The history of Wallingford, Ct., says that the name of Lewis is derived from the Welsh, *Lluaws*, signifying a multitude. The name of Lewes is derived from the same, as is the ancient town of Lewes, in Sussex, England. The spelling of the name was generally Lewis. Savage's Genealogical Dictionary names several who came to this country early, especially New England.

The Plymouth Colony records give George Lewis, of Scituate, as a freeman in 1636-7. John H. Sheppard gives dates and names of this George Lewis' family in the N. E. Gen. and Hist. Register, Vol. VIII, pp. 162-6. He says he from East Greenwich, Eng-
ore 1632.

Genealogical Records.

Book XVI.

BENJAMIN LEWIS.

CHAPTER I.

By J. B. LEWIS, EAST VIRGIL, N. Y.

Benjamin Lewis, in Llangranog, Cardiganshire, South Wales,—
1785; m. Hannah Perry 1814; emigrated to America in 1831; d. —, Wisconsin, — 1848-52.
children:

1. Elizabeth, b. L. South Wales, — 1815; m. Lewis Jones; d. Wisconsin about 1851, leaving six children whose names are unknown. Information desired.
2. David, b. L. S. W.—1818; d. about 1860, leaving three children, names unknown. Information desired.
3. John B., b. L. S. W., March 4, 1820; m. Mrs. Hannah W. Weaver at Nelson, N. Y., January 28, 1867, by Rev. James O'Dell, a Free-Methodist clergyman; she d., Freetown, N. Y., October 5, 1875.
 1. Winifred H., b. N., N. Y., Feby. 27, 1868.
 2. John B., Jr., b. Perryville, N. Y., January 15, 1870; d. East Virgil, N. Y., October 26, 1877.
4. James, b. L. S. W. — 1822; d. February 24, 1880, in — Wisconsin.
 1. Caleb.

2. Sarah.
3. Anna.
5. Sarah, b. L. S. W.; — 1824 ;
m. Robert W. Roberts, —
1844 ; d. — 1869.
1. Benjamin, b. — ; d. —
1869.
2. William.
3. John.
4. Mary.
5. James.
6. Edward.
7. Hannah.
8. Robert.
6. Enoch, b. L., S. W., — 1826 ;
d. — 1849.
7. Mary, b. L., S. W., — 1828 ;
m. David Davis.
1. Libbie, b. — ; d. —
2. Benjamin, b. —.
3. Mary A., b. — ; d. —
4. Mary A. b. —

PERSONAL.

JOHN B. LEWIS is a merchant and Post Master at East Virgil, N. Y. He will be glad to receive any information concerning his relatives which will enable him to perfect the records to be found in this Book.

BOOK I.

RANDALL LEWIS.

CHAPTER II.

By F. P. LEWIS, LISLE, N. Y.

The late James R. Lewis, M. D., of Trucksville, Luzerne Co., Pa., under date of Oct. 19, 1879, wrote

his grand-nephew, Secretary of Association No. 1, as follows :

“With regard to the origin of the name, Lewis, the name is an ancient British tribal name of Saxon origin, and in process of time became the surname of the individuals of the tribe. My grandfather, Randall Lewis, and probably his father came from Rhode Island and settled in Petersburg, Rennselaer Co., N. Y. My grandfather finally settled in Delaware Co., N. Y., where he and two of his sons died and were buried on the west bank of the west branch of the Delaware river. Forty-nine years ago I made the acquaintance of the Rev. Griffin Lewis, an intelligent Baptist minister, a native of Rhode Island, who informed me that he had traced his ancestry to *three* brothers by the name of Lewis who came from England and settled in Rhode Island, from whom all the Lewises of New England and Northern New York descended. Relying upon the reverend gentleman, who claimed me as a relative, I have no doubt that we and all the relatives by the name of Lewis are descendants of those *three* brothers.”

PERSONALS.

FRANK P. LEWIS, Lisle, N. Y., is compiling the genealogical records of this branch—his family—and solicits information, however meagre, concerning the earlier and

present generations. He is inclined to think that his branch is of kin to John Lewis, Book 8.

WILLIAM W. LEWIS, of Tylersburgh, Clarion Co., Pa., great grandson of Randall Lewis, has just returned from an extended tour through the west. While at Kinsley, Edwards Co., Kansas, he purchased a farm as an investment. He and his family expect to attend the next reunion of Association No. 1.

MRS. EDWIN R. STEBBINS, of Montrose, Pa., is convalescent from illness. Mr. Stebbins is the great grandson of Randall Lewis.

WE clip the following from the *Independent Republican*, published at Montrose, Pa.:

MARRIED.

BUSH—STEBBINS—At the M. E. Parsonage, Montrose, Pa., March 30, 1887, by Rev. H. C. McDermott, Judson A. Bush, of Bridgewater, and Miss Emma P. Stebbins, of Montrose.

BOOK. VIII.
JOHN LEWIS.

CHAPTER II.

BY MRS. EDNA LEWIS BRIGGS,
WATERFORD, N. Y.

David Lewis, fourth son of Abraham, Sr. b. Westerly, Washington Co., R. I., June 15, 1761; m. — 1785, Sarah Hammond, b. — 1761. children:

1. Mary, b. — 1786.

2. David, b. — 1788.
3. Aaron H., b. — 1790.
4. Elijah, b. — 1792.
5. Benjamin, b. — 1794.
6. Elizabeth, b. — 1796.
7. Esther, b. — 1798.
8. Jesse, b. — 1801.
9. Abram, b. — 1803.
10. Rebecca, b. — 1805.
11. Almeda, b. — 1810.

Corrections:

For Joshua in chap. 1, substitute John. Nathaniel was 1st child of Abraham, Jr.

PERSONAL.

MRS. EDNA LEWIS BRIGGS, of Waterford, N. Y., the 18th child of Abraham Lewis, Jr., will assist in preparing for publication the records pertaining to this Book. She thinks the progenitors of Book I. were born in Westerly, R. I.

THE following is from the Waterford, N. Y., *Advertiser* of March 18th, 1887:

An article in the LEWIS LETTER, concerning the preserving of the family traditions in the form of written or printed books, is worth the attention of all, and in our own case we propose to take early advantage of the suggestion. There are a few links still preserved in the family chain between ourself and grand-parents which bind us to revolutionary events, and if these are lost, only that which the younger members of the family can remember will be preserved. The interest which some are now taking in family records may seem to be

more than necessary, but the time is coming when these records will be of great interest. In the first place let those now living be careful to make a good record and then be careful to preserve it in a form not easily destroyed, and the generations yet unborn will have an interest in the people and events of the present which can in no way be so well incited.

BOOK XII.

WILLIAM LEWIS CAME IN SHIP LION IN 1632.

CHAPTER II.

BY LEMUEL LEWIS, OF COVENTRY, N. Y.

William Lewis came from England to Boston, Mass., in the ship Lion, Sept. 16, 1632. He was admitted freeman, Nov. 6, 1632, and was a member of the Baintree Company, which came to Cambridge in August, 1632. He was one of the earliest settlers, 1636, of Hartford, Ct., and was juryman and selectman in 1641. He became one of the first settlers, 1653, of Hadley, Mass. He represented Hadley in 1662, and Northampton in 1665. His wife's name was Felix who died in Hadley, August 17, 1671.

Soon thereafter he moved to Farmington, Ct., where he died August, 1683.

Their only child was William, born in —, England, — married — 1644, Mary Hopkins.

He was an important man in

Farmington, being the first register there. Their children were:

1. Samuel,
2. Sarah,
3. Hannah,
4. William,
5. Felix,
6. Ebenezer,
7. John,
8. James.

His children by a second wife were:

9. Elizabeth,
10. Ezekiel,
11. Nathaniel,
12. Abigail,
13. Joseph,
14. Daniel.

Samuel Lewis, 1st child of William and Mary (Hopkins) Lewis, b. —; m. Elizabeth —; was made freeman in 1676; held the rank of Sergeant; d. Nov. 1726. Their children were:

1. Hannah,
2. Samuel,
3. John,
4. Nehemiah,
5. Nathaniel,
6. Hester,
7. Josiah,
8. Job.

Nathan Lewis, 5th child of Samuel and Elizabeth, b. —; m. Mary Gridley, July 28, 1730; and settled in Southington, where he d. Sept. 7, 1799.

Their children were :

1. Job,
2. Rhoda,
3. Nathan,
4. Lemuel,
5. Timothy,
6. Mary,
7. Asahel,
8. Nathaniel,
9. Hannah,
10. Lemuel.

BOOK XVII.

BENJAMIN LEWIS.

CHAPTER I.

Ode to The Old Elm.

(Of Wallingford, Ct.) Over 200 Years old.

By P. C. LEWIS, OF WICHITA,
KANSAS.

On the east side of Main-st in Wallingford, Ct., not far from the north end, and nearly opposite the old homestead ; stands the largest, if not the oldest elm-tree in the state, planted by Benjamin Lewis, my earliest recorded ancestor this side the Atlantic ; and one of the original proprietors or settlers of that ancient town.

Its dimensions, by accurate measurement, taken by myself, are as follows : circumference, at base of trunk, near the ground, 60 ft. Circumference $1\frac{1}{2}$ feet from the ground 33 ft. circumference 3 feet from the ground 28 ft. Its average spread of bough is 105 ft. diameter, covering a superficial area of nearly one fifth of an acre of ground.

Allowing to each man a space of 18 inches square, this tree could shelter at one time, four regiments of soldiers, each, nine hundred and sixty-two strong !

Although this mighty Monarch of the wood, has defied the storms of centuries ; yet, to all appearance it exhibits no outward signs of approaching decay ;—on the contrary—as is shown by comparative measurement—taken thirty years ago,—it is still growing ?

Standing on a commanding eminence, with its majestic, leaf-crowned head towering to the skies, this venerable Patriarch is visible for many miles around.

I cannot better express my veneration for this old elm-tree, placed here by my forefather's hand, and whose glory and renown are spread over land and sea, than by the citation of the following original lines, composed beneath its spreading shade.

I

Majestic shade !

Ye Monarch of the wood,
Whose giant stem, time-worn, and
grey,

Flings its huge arms across the way

For ages, ye have stood,

Unbow'd—unsway'd—

And still your form uprears,

Waxing in strength, with lapse of
years,

As if ye dared a Mightier Power,
and defied

Heaven's own thunder, in your
strength and pride!

II

Proud, forest king!
Two hundred years ye've braved
The tempests' shock! Aye, long
before
Columbia's flag waved on our shore
In lofty pride ye waved!
And now, ye fling
A giant sceptre wide
From ocean to the ocean tide,
In all the proud, broad land, no
monarch-tree
Wears his green coronal as loftily?

III

Monarch of power!
The lordly hurricane,
And whirlwinds sweep from moun-
tain-height
And with thy sinewy arms of might
Grapple, but toil in vain!
Ay! like a tower
Of grandeur, beauty, grace;
Firm as Gibraltar's rocky base,
In full-grown strength, immovable,
ye stand,
Mightiest of all, the lordliest of the
land!

IV

Ancestral tree!
Ye grew beside his cot,
Placed here by my forefather's
hand
And like a stately sent'nal stand,
Guarding the hallow'd spot!
Majestic, free,

Long may your waving crown,
Upon this glorious realm look
down;
Where hills o'er hills lift up their
heads of green,
With pleasant vales and villages
between.

V

Emblem of might!
Firm as the mountain-oak,
Long may ye wave your brave, old
crest,
In proud defiance—o'er all the rest
Unbow'd, unscar'd, unbroke;
Upon this height
Still unassailed by ruthless hand,
O, dear old elm! long may you
stand,
Long, long may generations yet to
be,
With honor, love and reverence,
speak of thee?

Book XVIII.

NATHANIEL LEWIS.

CHAPTER I.

By S. D. LEWIS, WARSAW, N. Y.

1. Nathaniel Lewis was the father of Oliver, who was a British officer; married Hannah Kelley and died in Montreal, Canada.

Their son Oliver, b. January 2, 1758; m. Lucinda North, b. July 19, 1762, and were the parents of Truman, b. Nov. 5, 1784, Farmington, Conn., now of Avon, Conn. m. Lucy Porter, daughter of Seth and — Porter, of New Britain, Conn.

Truman and Lucy were the parents of S. D. Lewis, of Warsaw, N. Y., and Frank Lewis, of Norwich, N. Y.

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 data? 14—When and where he 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 have you of the Family Coat of Arms? 24—What traditions in family? 25—Family history? 26—Give several places and date of residence? 27—Give names and dates of birth of children? 28—Give names of paternal ancestors.

NOTE. The head of each family should answer the questions. 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 newspaper files, tomb stones, cemetery, church, school, town, county and probate, records and family bibles

should be examined and old people consulted.

List of Subscribers Added During March and April.

If any subscriber fails to receive his or her paper, please inform the office by postal card.

The first editions of the LEWIS LETTER are exhausted.

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