

"A Home To Remember by

Barbara R. Lord

Blanche Hall Melvin

Situated in the Northwest corner of the town of Waterboro, near the Hollis town line, are the scarcely visible remains of a once beautiful farm house and out buildings ie: large workshop, barns and chicken houses. This was known as the LEWIS farm. William Lewis owned the land per map of 1856. The LEWIS family came early to York County.

The homestead farm of William Lewis of Waterborough was bounded northerly by lands of James Mills, Henry S. Lewis and Anthony Garey; easterly by lands of James U. Earl, Enoch Carpenter, William Nelson, and Benjamin F. Sayward; southerly by land of Jacob Bradeen; westerly by lands of William Mills and Ebenezer S. Huff. Also, William Lewis owned the "meadow lot" situated on both sides of the "Killick Brook" so called in said Waterborough which is bouded on all sides by land of the heirs of John Chadbourne per deed dated June 7, 1859.

William Lewis died May 9, 1859, age 62, making his birth date about 1797. His wife was Polly Lewis, (maiden name unknown) born about 1800. She died June 9, 1856, age 56. Jeremiah, son of William and Polly Lewis, born about 1819, died October 19, 1843, age 24. Joseph, son of William and Polly Lewis, born about 1825, died August 18, 1831, age 6 years.

The Lewis property was bought in 1859 by Samuel E. Lewis and his brother, James F. Lewis, from Alfred S. Lewis of Boston, Massachusettes and Tristam S. Lewis, of Buxton, Maine and Ivory Chadbourne of Waterborough.

James F. Lewis, brother of Samuel E. Lewis was a blacksmith. James married Addie Bradeen of Buxton, Maine. She made exquisite crocheted lace for pillow cases. They had 1 son, Frank Lewis. The map of 1872, shows his blacksmith shop just beyond the Samuel E. Lewis home. It was near a brook in a big shop which was on the right-hand side of the road before going up the steep hill to the Mills place. The road that passed by the Lewis home came out on the road to Edgecomb's bridge and Limington. Gypsies sometimes passed by the Lewis home in the summer-time but they never bothered anybody.

James F. Lewis died of gangrene at age 59, August 16, 1895. He was buried in the Lewis family cemetery (not sure if Addie was or not), and James' body was later exhumed and buried in Saco, Maine.

James and Addie's son, Frank Lewis, married Lilla Clay of Biddeford, Maine. They had no children. Last we heard from him he lived in the Bradford or Haverhill, Massachusettes area. He was remarried.

Samuel Edgecomb Lewis was born January 14, 1835, married Sarah A. Burrows on March 10, 1858. (It is believed Sarah came from a large Burrows family from Lebanon, Maine). She was born January 5, 1837, and died April 22, 1903, age 66. Samuel built a beautiful home for he and his wife Sarah. It is also believed that James and Addie Lewis lived with them. Samuel died June 1, 1903, age 68.

Sarah Lewis's sister, Lizzie Burrows married Hayes Chadbourne and they had 4 children: Chester, Ida, Lauriston and Fred.

Samuel E. Lewis and wife, Sarah had 2 children:

Elizabeth (or Lizzie) Ella Lewis born February 23, 1862, married Charles Henry Stevens on February 21, 1880, at Rochester, New Hampshire. Ella Stevens died August 5, 1936, at East Waterboro, Maine.

William C. Lewis born April 27, 1875, married Blanche B. McCray on September 6, 1905, at Rochester, New Hampshire. They moved to Orangebury, New York. She died young. No children. William was a Civil Engineer and later settled in Revere, Massachusettes. He never remarried. William died July 13, 1946.

Some time after 1880, Charles H. Stevens who was born December 4, 1858, Alfred, Maine, and being an expert carpenter, built a nice, spacious home for he and his wife, Ella on Church Street, Sanford, Maine, and the house remains today. They were blessed with one child, a daughter, Edna Lewis Stevens, born on June 7, 1886, in Sanford, Maine. Ella was an expert seamstress and took in sewing. For several years she did sewing for Kate Clarke and daughter,

Ethel Clarke Trafton. Edna attended the Longfellow School in Sanford, Maine. She had fond memories of Mrs. Hosea Willard and always enjoyed her visits at her home located on the site of Central Park.

The Stevens family later moved to Brockton, Massachusetts, where Charles was employed as a janitor. Their home on Church Street, Sanford, Maine, had been sold. Edna completed her education in the Brockton, Massachusetts schools and took piano lessons. Incidentally they lived on Church Street in Brockton, Massachusetts, also Newbury Street. In March 1907, Charles Stevens moved their belongings back from Brockton, Massachusetts, to the old home place in North Waterboro, Maine. Charles resumed his carpenter work. He died on January 4, 1928. Ella Stevens bought her brother's share of the property in the Fall of 1929. She managed to farm and transported the students for a few years. She loved animals, especially horses. She made beautiful tatted lace, and she and her daughter, Edna, were great cooks. Edna always said that her happiest days were spent on the farm in an isolated section of North Waterboro. She loved animals and had many pets and many friends. She was seldom lonely.

On October 12, 1915, Edna Stevens married Ernest Hall from Alfred. They had one child a daughter named Blanche, born September 18, 1924. Edna and Ernest were later divorced. Blanche married Wilmot Melvin, date September 20, 1947, and resides in Sanford. They had one child, a son, Donald.

As a young girl I used to visit the Lewis farm with my parents in the middle to late 1920's, Aunt Ella Stevens and her daughter Edna and granddaughter Blanche. Aunt Ella was then a widow her husband, Charles, having died in 1928. His sister Harriet was married to George N. Roberts from Alfred who were the parents of my father, George L. Roberts. I remember a big white house which contained eight rooms, attic, a kitchen, pantry and woodshed. The interior woodwork was made of brownash cut on the property. Everywhere was evidence of beautiful needlecrafts, embroidered and crocheted pillows, bureau saines, tated pillow cased edgings and arm chair sets. Ella and her daughter did beautiful needlework.

In talking to Blanche and through letters I have learned some of the history of the Lewis farm. Blanche had been told by her mother that the house Sam Lewis built was the third house built on the land. The first house is believed to be a log cabin built further back up on the hill behind the house that Sam built. Edna remembered Sarah Lewis lived in an older Lewis home, the second dwelling between the two elms, before Sam built a third larger home for he and Sarah further back from the elms. Sam and Sarah differed about the size of the house. He wanted a big one and Sarah a small one. He won and for a few years took in summer boarders.

Life was full at the Lewis farm and a very busy place. Sundays brought many visitors from nearby and as far away as Saco for a day of exchanging news and feasting. Blanche has told me that her folks thought nothing of walking through the woods to visit at the "Brick House", another lonely old home here in North Waterboro, built in 1846. People by the name of Sturtevant rented the "Brick House" in the early 1900's by being connected with a tailoring company in Philadelphia. Mrs. Sturtevant did beautiful china painting and painted several dishes for Ella and Edna Stevens. The "Brick House" used to be named the "Orchards". The Sturtevants were there as late as 1909 and were famous for their entertaining especially on holidays.

Mr. Sturtevant died May 1927 at his home in Shuff, Virginia, and was buried in New York.

A neighbor, Ethel Duggin Bradeen Davis, tells me that she and her husband to be, Raymond Bradeen, visited the Sturtevants one winter nite in 1916, before they were married, traveling to the Sturtevants home by horse and sleigh.

The road going to the Lewis farm became known as "Lewis Lane" which connected to the road going past the "Brick House" and Hollis and North Buxton in the other direction. Going from the "Brick House" about a mile one had to turn left to get to "Lewis Lane".

Sam Lewis and Sam Davis were responsible for getting R.F.D. mail Service to that section of town, the address being RFD 3, West Buxton, Maine. Mail was delivered at the end of "Lewis Lane" at a triangle in the road.

Further down past the triangle on the left hand side of the road going toward Hollis there

lived another family named Nelson who were from England.

Blanche's great grandparents used to tend the home when they were away. They gave their family Bible to Charles and Ella, also a teaspoon with the initials L.N. for Lydia Nelson.

On the same road was the Lewis ice pond which was named the "Klondike".

It soon came time for Blanche to go to school. The family then moved to a house on Route 5 in North Waterboro, about 1931. Later in July 1936, they moved to East Waterboro in a house bought by Will Lewis, and was known as the Jefferson house, the lot where Clinton and Marjorie Abbott now live.

The Hall Lewis house was destroyed in the 1947 forest fires. Edna, Blanches mother, was remarried in 1943 to Ulysses G. Ham and left East Waterboro to reside at his home in Springvale. He died in 1951. Edna remarried in Springvale. In 1971, Edna went to live with her daughter and her daughter's husband in Sanford until her death in 1978.

The Lewis home stood empty and silent for several years. Vandals taking their toll of a once lovely house. It was finally torn down about 1943 by someone from Buxton. I do not know whether it was used to build another house or not, I only remember a lovely white house setting between two stately elm trees. One still stands, a lovely sentinel.

MEMORIAL CHAIRS

In order to furnish the upstairs meeting room the society is selling chairs. These chairs will remain in the building and will have a brass plate affixed denoting that the chair was bought in memory of John Doe. If anyone is interested in purchasing a chair the cost is \$30. This may be remitted to:

Edith Pierce
Box 46
North Waterboro ME 04061

Remember to include how you wish to have the brass plate inscribed.

Examples: In Memory of John Doe Given by
John Doe 1850-1900 John Doe

MUSEUM

The society is very proud of the progress that has been made on the museum. The upstairs has been completed and the downstairs is well on its way. The members who have worked on this project should be very proud of their accomplishments.

HELP WANTED

We are in great need of newsletter articles. If you have articles you have written, found, borrowed or whatever, that you think would be appropriate and of interest, please forward them to James Carll, Box 326, North Waterboro, ME 04061.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

If you are interested in joining the Waterborough Historical Society, Please clip and mail the following:

WATERBOROUGH HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

PHONE: _____

Membership: \$5.00 per year,
Life Membership \$25.00

Mail to:

Edith Pierce
Box 46
North Waterboro, ME 04061