

MANY IN LEWIS CLAN SETTLED IN OOLTEWAH, JAMES COUNTY

By John Wilson
Pioneer Families
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Henry Lewis was a War of 1812 veteran who was a pioneer of the Sequatchie Valley and spent his last years in Hamilton County. Alfred Lewis was at Bledsoe County at an early date, then moved over near North Chickamauga Creek with the Thomases.

Henry Lewis was born in 1780 in Virginia and is said to be the son of Samuel and Esther Whitley Lewis of Botetourt County. Henry made his way to Knox County, Tenn., where he married Eleanor Howard in 1806. She was from Burke County, NC, and the daughter of Rezin and Dicey Walker Howard. Her grandfather, George Walker, was born at Fauquier County, VA, in 1745. He was living on the south fork of the Catawba River in Rowan County, NC, when the Revolution broke out. He was in campaigns with Gen. Griffith Rutherford and was at the battles of Ramsour's Mill and Cowpens, but he arrived too late for the Kings Mountain fighting. He married Elinor Hicks.

George Walker and his son-in-law, Rezin Howard, made their way to Bledsoe County and Henry Lewis joined them there. At the time of the War of 1812, Henry Lewis traveled over 100 miles to Knoxville to enlist as a private under Capt. John Lewis. He was in the service until June 5, 1815, and was at Mobile, AL, when the peace was announced.

Henry Lewis died in 1864 and was buried in the family cemetery at Long Savannah. In 1950 a ceremony was held as a marker was placed at his grave by the Daughters of 1812. Some 60 of his descendants were present including the teacher and historian J. Eugene Lewis.

A son, Rezin, was born in 1809. He married Patience McNulty in 1831 and they had four sons and four daughters in the section that became James County. He obtained a grant of 40 acres in 1841 for just 50 cents an acre.

Rezin Lewis was "a man of strong character and body who lived to the age of 91, never becoming an invalid." He "believed in developing strong bodies" in his children as well. They were required to get up before daylight, go to the spring to wash and then put in a day of hard work on the farm.

Two of the sons, Samuel M. and Manuel Jackson, became doctors. The other children were George W., Martha J. who married Andrew J. Carr, Hannah E. who married John P. Morgan, Mary Catherine who married James W. Haven, Sarah who married Monroe McMillian, and Rezin Peter.

Early in the Civil War, Rezin Lewis and his son, George W., were among those taken as prisoners by Confederate authorities to Alabama for suspicion of bridge burning.

Manuel Jackson Lewis, who was born at Long Savannah in 1839, studied at Rutherford Academy at Birchwood and at Oak Grove Academy at Cleveland. He would read medical books by the light of an oil lamp or the fireplace at night, and he went to medical school at Cincinnati. He practiced at Birchwood and Georgetown, then opened an office at Ooltewah in 1874. After his office was destroyed by fire, he moved to Hixson in 1875 and on to Chattanooga in 1882. He owned his own pharmacy, filling his own prescriptions.

Dr. M. J. Lewis married Harriet J. Matthews, and their children were Mary "Mollie," Cenyth J., Samuel Luther, George Andrew and Eugene Sylvester. Harriet taught at the Tallant School, including the 1865 term of four months in which she charged \$6 per scholar for orthography, reading and writing, arithmetic, geography and English grammar.

Dr. Lewis and Dr. Cooper Holtzclaw performed the first Caesarean section operation in Chattanooga, but there were complications of hemorrhage and the mother and baby died. The mother was Dr. Lewis'

daughter, Mollie. Less than two weeks later, the two doctors performed a similar operation, but this one was a success.

Rezin Peter Lewis married Mary E. Anderson, and they had sons James M. married Minnie Norman, but she died in 1907 when she was 30 and he died in 1920. George R. married Elizabeth Jane Smith, and their children were Mary Elizabeth, George Jr., Hugh Neal, Kathleen Drucilla and James Eugene. G. R. was elected Circuit Court clerk for James County in 1910, and he later operated Lewis Bros. general merchandise at Ooltewah with James M. His 360-acre estate was "one of the best farms in the Savannah Valley."

George W. Lewis and his wife, Dilla A., had George J., Mary L., and Henry F. George J., known as "Tobe," was a Baptist preacher for 45 years. His last pastorate was Crossroads Baptist north of Ooltewah. His children were John H., Buddy, Guy, Bill C., Henry, Mrs. Paul Roberts, Mrs. W. R. Anderson, Mrs. Walter Biggs, Mrs. Will Sutton and Nellie Goodwin.

Alfred Lewis, who was born about 1812, was in Bledsoe County near the Thomas family with his wife, Catherine. Their large family included James C., Martha, Bird, Rebecca, Sarah, Isaac, Margaret, Susan, John, Amos L., and Thomas A.

Alfred Lewis got a grant for 70 acres at \$7.50 an acre in 1839. The Lewises settled near the Lovelady family, and there were several intermarriages. James married Mariah Lovelady. Rebecca married James Lovelady. Margaret married Lewis Lovelady. Susan married hasten Lovelady. Amos married Isabel Lovelady.

Alfred Lewis died not long after the birth of Thomas A.

James and Isaac Lewis enlisted at Chattanooga with the Union's Sixth Mounted Infantry on Aug. 2, 1864.

James and Mariah had Martha J. who lived only a year during the war, Nancy E., Mary A., William A. who died in 1894 at age 26, Melville, Catherine and John H. who died in 1889 when he was 14.

Isaac and his wife, Miranda, had Susan E., James A. who moved to Arkansas, Margaret C., Asa Leander who died in 1892 at 21, William F. who died in 1885 at 12, John H. who died in 1883 at 6, Thomas, Miranda E., Lula B. and Sarah C.

Thomas A. married Martha Jane Smith. Their children were Minnie belle who married a Rhea, Margaret L., Frank Thomas, Eva E., Judith C., Salle E. who married R. A. Gann, Thomas F. and Ida P. who married J. Floyd Gooden.

Frank Thomas Lewis was a mail carrier out of the Hixson post office. He married Lula Gooden. His daughters were Hilda Louise and Betty Jean who married Ned Thaxton. Their son, J. Hutcheson "Hutch" Lewis, was named for a railroad engineer. He was coach at Red Bank High School for many championship teams from 1949 to 1981. He married Donna Callahan.

John and Elizabeth Wilcoxon Lewis also came here before the Civil War. They were previously at Giles County. Their children were Leonard L., Charles L., John H. and Josiah F. Leonard, who served with the Union's Sixth Mounted Infantry, Married Altha Vandergriff. Their children included Eliza J. who married William A. Smith, Mary A., Lovie E., John M. who lived on Daisy Mountain, Joseph G., Ida B., Sally and Lula.

Elizabeth Swafford Lewis, daughter of William and Nancy Swafford, was another early settler. Her children were Peter, John, Pryor, Nancy, Chaity M. who married Richard Burton, Mary, Elizabeth and Aaron.