

THE LEWIS FAMILY Thomas Walter Lewis Branch

set 10/1/60

The first Lewis antecedent of Thomas Walter Lewis in Winnsboro of which there is a definite record was William Blivings Lewis.

An English sea captain, William B. Lewis' ship plied between Charleston and Boston.

Coming inland from Charleston in 1796 "to explore," Capt. Lewis met the fair Mary Quirrell (Quarles) and married her. Mary's father, Joseph Quirrell (Quarles), was an upstanding citizen of the relatively new town. He owned property that had been deeded to him by John Winn as a town founder, shortly after Winnsboro was laid out and surveyed.

William B. Lewis died two years later, in his early twenties, and was buried in Winnsboro. His son, William, Jr., was born shortly after his death. Young William was a co-inheritor from his grandfather Joseph of Lot No. 41 on Congress (or Main) St. in Winnsboro, next to the lot on which the Bank of Fairfield now stands. Lot 42, on the corner of Congress and Washington, where the bank now is, had been left vacant on the town's plat and set aside for a church.

—more—

As a youth of 19, after his mother had remarried and was living in Chester County, William was apprenticed to a Winnsboro shoemaker. William B. Lewis, afterward also moving to Chester County, was the progenitor of numerous Lewises, including his son, James Carroll Lewis, and grandson, Thomas Walter Lewis.

James C. Lewis served with the Confederate Army with the 7th Florida Infantry, Co. D (Alachua Rebels) and fought with the Western Army and in the Battle of Atlanta. Moving to Fairfield County a few years after the death of his wife, Mary Jane Weir Lewis, and settling in the Greenbrier Community, James Lewis in 1912 opened the first of a succession of Lewis stores that passed down through the generations, ending with the death of his grandson, Lunceford Blaydes Lewis, in 1964. James Lewis also operated a store at the site of the home of another son, William "Wade" Hampton Lewis, dying at his son's house January 14, 1925.

Thomas Walter Lewis was the third son of James and Mary Jane Lewis. He had come to Fairfield as a young man, bringing with him his wife, Mary Ellen "Mollie" Street Lewis, whom he had married in Burlison, Tenn., and their two sons, Burr, born in Tennessee, and Lunceford, born at Woodward.

"Tom" Lewis participated fully in Fairfield life. He was especially interested in ^{the} legal profession and politics. One of the county's most successful planters, he was at one time co-owner of the 1,080-acre Robertson Place (sometimes called the Doty Place), on the Winnsboro-Columbia Road. A great believer in higher education for young people, he sent his sons Walter and Van "Brick" Lewis, and daughter, Julia, to the University of S.C. as daily commuters in the days when commuting between Winnsboro and Columbia was unheard of. Thomas Walter Lewis died in Winnsboro April 18, 1952; his wife Mollie preceding him in death, also at their home in Winnsboro, Feb. 12, 1945.

He served as Magistrate for the Greenbrier Magisterial District for a period of eighteen years.

- more -

Walter Woodward Lewis, a son of "Tom" Lewis, was elected Fairfield Clerk of Court at age 23 and served a tenure of 32 years, including the duties of Register of Mesne Conveyance and Master. Later, he was appointed to the S.C. Tax Commission by Gov. Donald Russell and when the A.B.C. Commission was formed, Gov. Robert McNair named him Commissioner.

E.V. "Brick" Lewis, fourth son of Tom and Mollie Lewis, was a pioneer in Rural Electrification in Fairfield, afterward moving to Newberry to manage the electrical cooperative there. He died in Columbia in 1976 while manager of Central Electric Cooperative (a group of 15 statewide cooperatives). He was deemed "one of the nation's foremost authorities on rural electrification and transmission of electric power." He was an organizer and founding vice-president of Cooperative Finance Corporation (CFC), Washington, D.C.

Crosby Lewis, son of "Brick" Lewis, who now lives with his family at Fairfield (the old Kincaid-Anderson Place), became a member of the State House of Representatives in his twenties, serving two terms of Columbia, and his brother, Daniel Street Lewis, have their law firm in Columbia, with a branch in Charleston.

Children of Thomas and Mary Ellen Lewis, all of whom grew up in Fairfield County, and their spouses were: E. Burr Lewis, who married Rebecca Smith Starnes; Lunceford B. Lewis m. Margaret Ashford of the Bethel Community and after her death, Marjorie Perry Robinson of Greenbrier; Julia Anne Lewis m. Calvin W. Robinson, Greenwood County; Walter W. Lewis m. Florrie Jane Bethea of Dillon; E.V. "Brick" Lewis m. Nell Crosby Brooks of the Bethel Community; and Mary Kathleen Lewis m. Eugene Blakely Sloan of Columbia and Clinton.

- mollie -

Children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren of Thomas Walter and Mary Ellen Lewis now living in Fairfield County are: Mr. and Mrs. E. Burr Lewis and their daughter, Nancy Lewis Frazier, who married Locke Frazier, all of Winnsboro; Mr. and Mrs. Walter W. Lewis, Winnsboro; Mrs. Marjorie P. Lewis, of Greenbrier; Gladys Lewis Bass, her husband, Gary Bass, Jr., and their sons and wives, Mr. and Mrs. Gary Franklin Bass III, and Lt. Luncford Lewis Bass, now on active duty with the U.S. Navy at Jacksonville, and Mrs. Bass, all of Winnsboro; and E. Crosby Lewis, his wife Cleo Brooks Lewis, and their sons, Ernest Crosby "Brickie" Lewis and Gage Lewis, of Fairfield, near Jenkinsville.
