



Christmas 2004

Above is a copy of an interesting old photograph of the Lewis Lester, Jr., plantation home which stood on the Cleveland Road in Clarke County, Georgia. This is a real southern plantation house, not a Tara or Twelve Oaks. The house was erected about 1835 when Lewis moved his family from Oglethorpe County to Clarke County. I never saw this photograph until about twenty years ago and there are no notations on the back of the original old photograph to identify any of the persons. All we know is that Lewis reared his family of sixteen children on this plantation (a very large extension of the house stood to the right of the house, so I have been told, but it does not appear in the photograph). I hope the reproduction is clear enough for you to see the quintessential cook at the top of the steps on the front porch with her bandanna around her head and her big apron over her full skirt. The old man with the long beard in the foreground is either Lewis Lester, Jr., or Francis Marion McLeroy. Lewis was my great, great grandfather and Francis Marion was my great grandfather. Lewis' granddaughter Elizabeth married Francis' son James and they were the parents of my mother.

Sylvia joined three of her friends this year in having a hip replacement which has proved successful. When I made my annual trip to Asheville to see the doctor who performed the operation for my double dissection of the aorta two years ago, he advised me that everything looked good and that he was "cutting me loose", until and unless I needed him in the future.

We are ever thankful for the health which we are given and acknowledge to be a miracle given to us by God.

Sylvia and I wish for you a happy, healthy and blessed Christmas and New Year.

Bobby