

Coward Family Newsletter

June 2011

120th Coward Family Reunion Held in Cullowhee

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The 120th Coward Family Reunion was held in Cullowhee on June 12, 2011. It was a beautiful day, and as always, there was plenty of fattening food. My husband says that James Hooper provides some of the best desserts, rivaled only by his sister Ruth Fuson.

The crowd was the smallest that we have had in years, only 13 people attending. But we broke tradition of sitting with our own family groups and mingled, talked, told jokes and stories, and had a delightful afternoon.

The Dave Coward and Sally Coward Norton families ran neck and neck for the most attendees, with 6 and 5 respectively, and the Oscar Bowman Coward family had two members. Oldest attendee was Anna Deyermond, and the youngest was her son Bob. This duo also traveled the farthest distance to attend (Maryland).

Below are some pictures taken of the family members who attended.



Jule Coward
with his joke
book!

Enjoying
lunch!



Bob Wilson

The next Coward Family Reunion will be held at the park in Cullowhee on June 10, 2012. Hope to see you there.

Family News

Important News About the Newsletter

I have been doing this newsletter for the past 11 years, and will continue to be happy to do so. However, there are some frustrations that have gone along with it, and I now find that some changes must occur.

My first frustration is money. I have to beg for it, don't get enough, and then must subsidize its publication with my own funds. So, given the state of today's technology, and the wide accessibility of the internet, further publications will be delivered electronically. That is free and removes the necessity of money. Therefore, if you wish to receive further issues, please send me your electronic address so that I can add you to my data-base. If you received this newsletter through electronic means, you do not need to resend your address. My e-mail address is: riggsbeel@frontier.com You will also continue to be able to access the latest newsletter at: myfamilynames.com

Secondly, I have trouble getting family news, and as it seems counter-productive to publish a newsletter with no news in it, I am going to decrease the frequency of its publication to once annually. I will send it in PDF format, so you can access it with either a PC or a Mac. I will e-mail and ask for news several times a year, so you can keep me apprised of births, deaths, special events in your family, or to share remembrances of family past.

I sincerely regret any inconvenience that these changes may cause

From Glenda Coward Davis:

In April, Glenda was on two transplant lists, awaiting a kidney. All of us wish her success and good health.

Granddaughter Sophie will be two years old on July 4.

Grandson Anthony will attend UNCG next fall.

Son Scott graduated from University of Arizona nursing school.

Son, Ray, Jr. is with Continal Teves and the Horse Farm.

Daughter (Sherry?) is still with Etawouah Elementary School.

From JoAnn Smith:

Sister, Frances Smith Payne had her 90th birthday on March 25, 2011.

Sister, Nell Smith Hughes, was 88 in October 2010.

JoAnn was 82 on April 9, 2011.

JoAnn says, "Time is marching on!"

Goodbyes

Elmira Coward

Elmira Coward was born May 15, 1926, and died February 16, 2010. She was the daughter of Fred Elmer Coward, and Moody Parker Coward. She was buried in Waynesville, Haywood County, NC.

William (Bill) Smith

William (Bill) Smith of Knoxville, TN died March 17, 2011 in Jacksonville, FL, after having surgery to receive a pacemaker. Bill was the husband of Laura Hughes Smith, niece of JoAnn Smith. Bill's memorial service was held at Groce Funeral Home in Arden, NC.

Many thanks to the following for making contributions to the publishing and mailing of this newsletter.

Bob and Betsea Wilson
Ruth Fuson

Vernon Coward
David McCann

JoAnn Smith sent this interesting bit of family information.

Dear Family Members:

Over many years, I have found researching history -- particularly family history -- to be a very enjoyable and interesting experience. Recently I came across some information which I compiled in 1983, and I thought I'd share it with you.

On April 25, 1983, when I went to the Masonic Grand Lodge at 2921 Glenwood Avenue in Raleigh NC, I learned that the East Laporte Masonic Lodge, No. 358, was chartered in 1877, and my grandfather Lewis J. Smith was the first Worshipful Master. He was Worshipful Master again in 1878, then Secretary in 1879, 1880, and Senior Deacon in 1881, and Secretary again in 1882. Reports for 1877, 1879, 1880, 1882 were filled out by Lewis J. Smith in his own handwriting. Jonathan David Coward (Uncle Dave) filled out the 1881 report. (There were no records available from 1885 to 1890). Lewis J. Smith was Treasurer 1891, 1892, and 1893.

(Note: In the 1888 general election, Lewis J. Smith was elected State Senator for the 43rd Senatorial District which was made up these counties: Jackson, Macon, Swain, Graham, Clay, and Cherokee. In January 1889, he traveled by train to Raleigh. The 1889 General Assembly convened on January 9, 1889, and completed its Regular Session on March 11, 1889, at which time Lewis J. Smith returned to Jackson County.)

My Great-Grandfather Nathan Coward was listed as a member of this Lodge in all the records I checked from 1877 up to 1893. Lewis J. Smith was not listed as a member of this Lodge in 1900, and he died May 22, 1901.

There was a Unaka Masonic Lodge, No. 268, in Webster NC that was chartered in 1867. It had become inactive prior to the chartering of the East Laporte Masonic Lodge. Although I would like to know who the members were, I have not been back to the Masonic Grand Lodge to look up these records.

Jo Ann Smith



Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

Please remember that this is the last print newsletter you will receive. If you wish to continue receiving the newsletter, you must send me an electronic address. If you have no access to e-mail, please get a member of your family to print out a newsletter and mail it to you. I am truly sorry to have to make these adjustments, but the newsletter will not survive without them.

*Relatively yours,
Lynn*