

Coward Family Newsletter

October 2008

117th Coward Family Reunion Held in Cullowhee

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The 117th Coward Family Reunion was held in Cullowhee on June 8, 2008. It was a beautiful day and a number of the children had lots of fun playing in Cullowhee Creek. As always, there was plenty of fattening food.

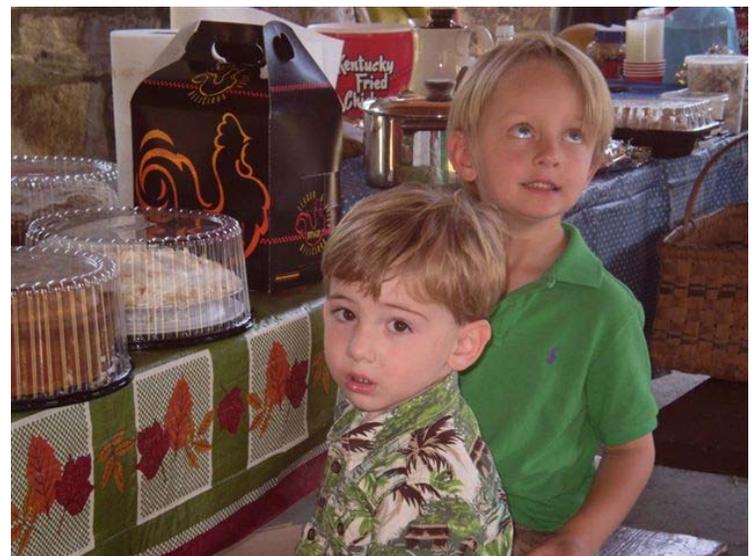
The crowd wasn't too big, and we missed some the long time attendees. Of course, Trudy Adams and her husband, Bob, were missed. Trudy passed away in July of 2007, and Bob's health kept him from attending, also. And we sorely missed Joann Smith, who felt unable to make the trip alone. We hope to see her next time!

The Sally Coward Norton clan took the honors this year with 19 attendees, followed by the Dave Cowards with 10 attendees. O.B. Coward contributed one member to the group. Although it was small, it was lots of fun getting to know people that we only see once a year!

Honors for the oldest attendee go to Elaine Nichols; the youngest attendee was Barak Collins (and a cutie pie he is). Gary Norton and his family claimed the award for coming the farthest distance, hailing from Maryland.



The next Coward Family Reunion will be held at the park in Cullowhee on June 14, 2009. Hope to see you there.



Scenes from the 2008
Reunion. Do you recognize yourself? :):)

New Family Members

Avery Ana Riggsbee was born on June 4, 2008 in Chapel Hill, NC. She is the daughter of **Adam and Shanna Riggsbee** and the granddaughter of **Lynn and Jim Riggsbee**. She's a cutie pie and is doted upon by all of us. I will say that she has a very healthy cry, a fact that became abundantly clear to us during a recent babysitting trip. She slept all night, though!

Big sister,
Gracie
2 1/2



Avery Ana
Riggsbee

Jennah Michelle Rohde was born in Lakeland, Florida on October 23, 2008, weighed in at 8 lbs and 9 oz, and was 20 inches long. She is the daughter and first child of **Mitch and Selina Rohde**. Her paternal grandparents are **Barbara Rohde** and the late Ed Rohde. Her great grandmother was the late **Hazel Rohde**. **Jennifer Williamson** tells me that the whole family is besotted with this new little person. What wonderful things babies do for us! Congratulations!

Maahir Haque, son of **Dramma Coward Haque** was married on May 30, 2008 to Julia (I don't know her maiden name). The happy couple has relocated to New Jersey where Mahir has begun his residency in Orthopedic Surgery.

Kristin Lea and Alfred Alapisco became the proud parents of a baby girl on February 7, 2008. **Kaelynn Averi** is the granddaughter of **Wanda Milligan**. Kristin and Alfred now have three daughters, Ayah (age 6), Tori (age 5) and the new baby, Kaelyn. Congratulations to this family and to those who love them!

Tidbits from the Grapevine

We want to welcome a newcomer to the family who found us on the web. **Glenda Coward Davis** lives in Asheville. She has been working with John Tayloe who has helped her find some “leaves” for her family tree. Glenda says she can’t wait until the next reunion. Welcome, Cousin!



And, speaking of cousins...check this web site out. Herbert “Cowboy” Coward is related to us. This is a very interesting article.

<http://www.imdb.com/name/nm0184662/>

Glenda Conley had a once in a life-time experience in June as she traveled to New York City to sing with a choir from Anderson, SC along with about 175 other singers in Carnegie Hall under the direction of John Rutter. She told me about this **before** she went, and I don’t really know how things went, but, Glenda, fill us in!



Many thanks for the following for donations to support the printing and mailing of the Coward Family Newsletter :

Kirby and Gene Coward in memory of Hazel Coward Rhode

Elaine Nichols in memory of Trudy Adams and Jack Norton; and in honor of Jule Coward and Joann Smith

David McCann

Attendees at the 2008 Coward Family Reunion

Goodbyes

Lucille Hester Coward Justice

Lucille Hester Coward Justice died December 15, 2006. She was born on February 18, 1928 in Madison County, NC, daughter of William Grady Coward and Nola Suttles Coward. She married William Franklin Justice of Madison County in 1946 and raised four children in Waynesville, NC. Lucille is survived by her four children, Kenneth Justice of Salt Lake City Utah; Donna Norton, Ann Siler, and Rebecca Shepherd, all of Waynesville. She is also survived by a sister, Maude Fisher of Waynesville; two brothers, William Grady Coward, Jr., of Waynesville, and Coleman Dean Coward of Lawrenceville, GA. She was preceded in death by her husband, William and her twin sister, Wanda Ferguson. Lucille was laid to rest in the Woody Cemetery at Spring Creek, Madison County, NC.

Rebecca Nan Smith

Rebecca Nan Smith died on January 7, 2008 in Hendersonville. A memorial service was held on Thursday, January 10 in Hendersonville, NC, and Rebecca was buried in the UMC cemetery in Cullowhee, NC where several of her family members have also been laid to rest..

Where Are You?

I've lost the following people. Can you help me find them?

Returned Mail: Candance Mynatt, Ben Coward, Phillip Queen, Noland and June Coward, Irene Phillips

Undeliverable E-mail: Jenelle Bebo, Patsy McDermott, Jeffrey Wilson, Mike Smith, Madge Turner, Betty Barrow, Carolyn Mohanty, Judy Forcier, Casey Adams

Family Notes from JoAnn Smith

JoAnn Smith, who served as our newsletter editor before Trudy, sends me tidbits from time to time. This winter she sent me some information about one of our relatives, Revolutionary War soldier, Lewis Smith. He was born on March 4, 1763 in Lancaster County, Pennsylvania. His parents were German settlers. His father was Johann Ludwig Schmidt (This name was anglicized to become John Lewis Smith in America.) His mother was Anna Gertraud Erfert. On April 22, 1760, Johann and Anna were married in the Trinity Lutheran Church in Lancaster, PA. They had four sons. The church in which they were married is still there and is still an operating church. JoAnn was told that only the door and the steeple have been changed, so today it is very much like it was in 1760.

Before the Revolutionary War, the Smith family moved from Lancaster to Augusta County, VA. At age 17, Lewis Smith became a soldier. He was at Yorktown when Cornwallis was defeated, and he helped disarm Cornwallis' troops. His military record is in the National Archives. On October 27, 1791, he married Mary (Polly) Wikle in North Carolina and the Lewis Smith/Clara Coward Smith branch of the Coward family are descended from this union.

If you have stories about your branch of the family, I will happily publish them and John Tayloe, the family genealogist, will happily insert them on the family website.

From John Tayloe

The Coward and related families continue to grow and move around the world. Help in keeping the family history alive and share what is happening with your family. Please help keep our website up to date with most current information. Send information about births, deaths, obituaries, marriages, graduations and other important events in your life. Include full names, dates, locations, newspaper clippings, pictures or any other items you are willing to share.

This information can be:

Emailed to jtayloe@myfamilynames.com

Or

Visit www.myfamilynames.com and click on "Contact Us" and filled out the form

Or

US Mail:

My Family Names

2626 Monticello Drive

Winston Salem, NC 27106

I'd like to add my two cents worth here, also. The Coward Family Newsletter is infinitely more interesting when there are some items about family, either historical or contemporary. I know everybody is busy, but I'd like to include some interesting tidbits in each newsletter. I'm easy to reach, just call, e-mail, or snail mail!

Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

Once again I find myself apologizing for not getting a newsletter out in the spring. Despite all intentions to the contrary I allowed someone to talk me back into school for a semester and, as is always the case with school work, there was time for nothing else. You will be glad to know, however, that I declined a similar offer last week! I'm trying to get this retirement thing down pat!

I also had knee replacement surgery this summer, and while my recovery has been uneventful, it hasn't been a walk in the park. I'm fully recovered now, have been released from therapy, and am enjoying my new mobility. I have a whole new respect for people who are handicapped as it is severely limiting and so much of the joy of life is missing. If you're thinking about a knee replacement...DO IT!!

I hope all of you have a happy holiday season with friends and family.

Relatively Yours,

Lynn