

THE COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER
1223 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, North Carolina 27604
June 21, 1978

Dear Kinfolk:

We couldn't have had better weather for the 87th COWARD REUNION. It proved to be one of the best reunions ever. There were approximately 120 people there. And it was good to see so many young people. Several people brought cameras, so we hope there will be some good pictures. I would like to suggest that next year we display all the pictures we have taken over the years on bulletin boards, if they are snapshots. If any of you took slides, please let me know. I have some from years past.

Dr. Cliff Lovin and his wife Fran attended this reunion. Dr. Lovin is director of the Mountain Heritage Center at Western Carolina University, and this center is interested in compiling authentic material about the history of the university and the mountain people. Since many members of our family were responsible for the founding of the school which is now WCU, he particularly asks our help in gathering the type of material the center needs, such as diaries, deeds, manuscripts, etc.

We collected money for the perpetual care of the Coward Family Cemetery; however I don't know the exact amount. We urge each member of the family to contribute something to this fund. Mail your contribution to Jane Coward, P.O. Box 576, Sylva, NC 28779 or Dale Coward, Norton Route, Cashiers, NC 28717. Every little bit helps.

Speaking of Dale, let me say - for all of us - thanks to Dale, his wife Bobbie, his daughter Tammy, and his mother-in-law Hazel Potts for all the help they give to getting things ready for the reunion and for helping to clean up afterwards. The same thank you should also be expressed to Elda Coward. They are all wonderful people who pitch in each and every year to help Jane get ready for all of us. Isn't it great that we have such wonderful kinfolk! ALSO: SPECIAL THANKS TO JANE COWARD!!!

At the reunion we learned of the death of Clark Coward's wife Lessie, who died 26 Dec 1977. We extend to the Clark Coward family our sympathy.

There are a number of new births in the family.

ROBERT HUNTER SMITH, born 11 June 1978, son of W. Y. Smith/Laura Hughes Smith.

FRANK WALKER WENDT, born 6 Oct. 1977, son of Fred and Judie Wendt, Commerce, Ga.

LAURA AVERY WILSON, born 30 Sept. 1977, dau. of Robert and Betsy Wilson of Nashville, Tennessee. (Rachel Coward Wilson is the grandmother)

ALEXANDER OWENS, born 3 May 1978, son of Steve Owens and Cynthia Stephens Owens.

(Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Coward of Belton, SC are the proud great-grandparents.)

RELATED BEST WISHES TO MINNIE WILDE, who celebrated her 95th Birthday earlier this month at the home of her grandson, Dr. David Sillmon, in Greensboro. Edna Coward Bird said Minnie stopped by to see her while she was in Greensboro for her birthday.

REUNION NOTES: Present were Edna Coward Bird, Emma Hooper, and Jane Coward, all 81 years young. The youngest person at the reunion was Alexander Stephens Owens, six weeks old. The persons who came the greatest distance for the reunion were Gray Norton from Colorado and Lynn and Elizabeth Russell from Oklahoma. Other states represented were Illinois, Tennessee, Florida, Georgia, Virginia, Alabama, and North Carolina.

Next year on the night before the family reunion, the Dave Coward family members plan to get together for dinner. That is a nice idea. Maybe some of the other ones may do likewise. (I'd like to get together with the Clara Coward Smith kin.)

Olive Coward Merrell lives on Big Pine Key in Florida, which is a deer reserve. She says that deers come into her yard, and she feeds them by hand. Two years ago her son John Arthur Merrell, who was 31 at the time, had a heart attack, and because of health reasons had to retire from the fire department. He and his family are moving to Brandon, Florida, a suburb of Tampa, and he is now selling insurance. He and his wife have two daughters: Lori Jane Merrill, b. 21 Oct. 1973, and Christina born 10 June 1975.

We learned that Gary Stephen Norton has two children: Heather Colleen Norton, age 3, and Stephanie Lynn Norton, who was born in April of this year.

Those of us of the Lewis Smith-Clara Coward Smith family need to do our part for the East LaPort Cemetery, where we have several generations of our family buried. Helen Zachary is treasurer of the East LaPort Methodist Church, and they have arranged for the cemetery to be mowed every month. Florence McGuire Thompson said we would be responsible for the cost of mowing one month, which is \$60, and we need to divide it out among the different families. Florence and I will be in touch with you about this again. She is going to figure up how to divide it out. Let's all back Florence up on this.

Glenn Coward served as M.C. at the reunion, and did an excellent job. He was seriously ill back in March with pneumonia. He entered the hospital March 23 and was there eleven days. He looked great at the reunion, like he had never been sick.

Joe and Dan Coward from Belton, SC, did not make it this year. We missed them and we missed the magic tricks.

John Lewis Wallace's daughter Winnie went back to school, and now she is a recent graduate of the University of New York. We extend congratulations.

ANOTHER NEW FAMILY MEMBER: CRAIG TAYLOR GRADY was born 12 Feb. 1978 in Fresno, California.

Conrad Hooper recovered from his serious illness which I wrote to you about last year, and he is back working hard in the Wake County School system.

Below are those who signed the book. Let me say it is very important that you sign the book at the reunion. This is our permanent record of who attended. And this gives me a chance to get correct addresses. Please, please, please sign the book each year and give your current address. Every mailing I do, some newsletters are returned to me. You don't get your newsletter, and the postage is wasted. Please help by keeping me informed about address changes.

(Jane got out of the hospital on Wednesday

Jane Coward, Box 576, Sylva, NC 28779 (so she could prepare for us. She's wonderful)
Jo Ann Smith, 1223 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27604
Elda Coward, Horton Route, Cashiers, NC 28717
Dale, Bobbie & Tammy Coward, Horton Route, Cashiers, NC 28717, and Mrs. Hazel Potts
Ray and Betty Glenn, son John, 7001 Ridgebrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210
Wilma P. Hooper, P. O. Box 2393, Gainesville, GA 30501
Robert L. Hooper, Route 3, Box 420-B, Sylva, NC 28779 Cullowhee, NC
Garth and Florence McGuire Thompson, Hayesville, NC; their son Jarrett (Bud) of /
Clara McGuire Wendt, Route 1, Commerce Ga. 30529

Fred and Judie Wendt; their two children, Rt. 1, Commerce, GA 30529
Richard & Nan Rideout, 5016 Quail Hollow Drive, Raleigh, NC 27609
Lewis and Mary Lee Smith, Box 751, Clarksville, GA 20523
John Lewis Wallace and Inez Hooper Arrington Wallace, 81 Mitchell St., Asheville, NC
Ray L. Hooper and Ruby Hooper, 121 Rice Street, Brevard, NC 28712
Talvin and Ruth Coward, Box 363, Lakeland, Fla. 33802
George Talvin Coward, Box 363, Lakeland, Fla. 33802
Carolyn Coward Law; and dau. Judith Ann, 839 Lake Shore, Tallahassee, Fla.
Jackie Sharkey, a friend of Carolyn Law, 2036 Greenwood Drive, Tallahassee, Fla.
Dr. and Mrs. Clifford Lovin, Western Carolina University, Cullowhee, NC
Mrs. Emma Hooper, Route 67, Box 5F, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Eugene N. (Gene) Hooper, 6415 Shady Lane, Falls Church, VA 28210
Edna Coward Bird, 4907 Friendly Avenue, Greensboro, NC 27104
John and Elaine Nichols of Greensboro, NC; Mary Nichols of Greensboro, NC
Kerr Palmer (guest), Shelby, NC
Olive Coward Merrell, Route 1, Box 317B, Big Pine Key, Fla.
Bob & Rosemary Brassell, & Rachel C. Wilson, 2121 Fernwood Dr., Nashville, Tn. . .
Juanita Levi; son Johnny, 700 Biltmore Avenue, Asheville, NC
Ron and Sharon Levi, 200 Morgan Court, Greer, SC 29651
Terry M. Levi, 17 Lakeside Drive, Asheville, NC
Elizabeth & Lynn Russell, Bristow, Oklahoma
Emma Holeman; Fred & Betty Laumbalters, Marissa, Ill.; & Terri Brown, Tilden, Ill.
Laura Morris, 615 Harris Street, Madison, Ga. 30650
Mrs. Gail Howell, Buckhead, Ga. 30625
Judy and Johnnie Tayloe, B711 Enfield Road, Bethania, NC
Edna Cotter, 203 Allen's Creek Road, Waynesville, NC
Bob and Trudy Adams, 2121 Darlington St., Birmingham, Ala. 35226
David S. Stillwell; also Martha Lou Stillwell, Route 68, Box 21, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Leonard and Mariam S. Allen, Box 773, Boiling Springs, NC 28017
Charles Bell and Family; and Mrs. Turner Bell, Buckhead, Ga. 30625
Mrs. Charles (Margaret Coward) Gray, 121 Sunrise Drive, Knoxville, Tn.
Mrs. Carl (Cynthia Gray) Buice, 259 Buford Place, Macon, Ga.
Steve and Cindy Owens, ch. Brantli & Lex, Rt. 9, Box 465, Easley, SC 29640
Glenn & Gertrude Coward, Box 606, Belton, SC 29627
Ray & Jane Coward Stephens, ch. Julie, Angie, Jay, Walhalla, SC; guest Lynn Fowler.
Glen Buchanan; Geneva Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC
Conrad Fray, Cullowhee, NC
Ray and Norma Cooper, 6 Sandpiper Place, Arden, NC 28704
Bonnie Norton, Route 66, Box 4, Cullowhee, NC
Jack Norton, 6733 Westlawn Drive, Falls Church, Va. 22042
Roy L. Norton, Route 67, Box 17-M-52, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Gary S. Norton, 762 Roslyn St., Denver. Colorado, 80220
(I do wish everyone had signed the book. It would be such a help.)

CORRECTION: In last newsletter, I referred to Lewis Smith Class Reunion. It was the 30th, not the 40th. My mistake. Lewis has to wait another 10 years for the 40th.

I want to make a special comment about Talvin Coward. First of all, he is 73, but I can say - if this is true - he is the youngest 73 I've ever seen. Secondly, I appreciate the way he loves all the family and the way he supports the Reunion. Ruth is just as supportive as he is. She is a wonderful gal. Talvin has a lot of interesting pictures to show at this reunion, which we all enjoyed. Two of Talvin and Ruth's children came this time: George and Carolyn, also Carolyn's daughter, who was just a wee baby the last time I saw her, which was at the reunion at Whittier several years ago.

I am counting on YOU to keep me posted on the family news. And I am counting on YOU to please help me keep addresses up-to-date. Postage is just too high for me to send mail out and it come back. PLEASE HELP!!!!'

I enjoyed seeing you all. If you are in Raleigh, stop by to see me, or call me on one of these numbers: 834-6019 or 876-0885, both area code 919. I am usually at one or the other number.

Have a good year!

Jo Ann Smith, The Family Scribe