

THE COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER

P. O. Box 30093
Raleigh, NC 27622

Dear Kinfolks,

Over the last little while, I have a bit of family news to report. I appreciate the cards and letters I have received over the last year. The family news can be reported here for all to read about, when it is sent to me.

Clara McGuire Wendt took a three-week trip to China, then stopped over to visit her daughter Johanna and family for Christmas 1981. (We keep hoping she will include a trip to Raleigh on her itinerary.)

Olive Merrell wrote that Rebecca Lee was born on December 1, 1981, weighing in at 8 1/2 lbs. Her parents (John & Connie) are just as proud of her as Olive is. Olive says, "she has lots of dark hair and of course I think she is beautiful".

Mrs. Jerome J. (Melba) Ashy writes: "Looking up my family history is something I have always wanted to do and have never taken the time. However, back in June, I was in N.C. for a funeral, the wife of G. B. Coward, Jr. of Balsam and my uncle. I decided then to get started on this while there were still relatives to help me. So I began looking and Blanche Painter pointed me to you. She is kin to my grandmother's side of the family, the Phillips of Cullowhee. I would like to get on your mailing list and would like to receive any information that you can give me. Perhaps there is a place that I could write for the information that I need. I know who my great grandparents were but can not go back further than that."

Melba, send me the names of your great-grandparents and a self-addressed envelope. If I have anything, I'll be glad to share it with you.

Effie S. Klyner of Portsmouth, Va. writes: "I, too, am interested in the Coward family, although I have not actively begun to research any records. I have been working on another branch of my family by the name of Bullock from Va., N.C. and later Tennessee. My mother's father was William Fielding Coward who married Nellie Butler of Cumberland County. I know very little of my grandfather's family. He was living in Ashboro at the time of his marriage about 1890-91. He had a brother Jim (James Isaac) and a sister Maud. Jim had a son, Clarence, who lived in Winston-Salem. I've been told that Maud owned a funeral home and/or a furniture store in Ashboro. My grandfather died in 1922 here in Norfolk (Va.)."

If any of the kin wish to correspond with Melba or Effie, their addresses are:

Mrs. Jerome J. Ashy, Route 4, Box 2040, Porter, Texas 77365

Effie S. Klyner, 30 Early Drive, Portsmouth, Va. 23701.

Unfortunately, I am unable to correspond to the extent I would like to. I find that the older I get, the less energy I have and the more demands upon my time there are, which leaves me somewhat frustrated at times. However, I welcome a telephone call, and I am a night owl, so a good time to reach me is between 10 - 11 p.m. at 919-782-6102. I always stay up to watch the 11 o'clock news, so feel free to call me any late evening. Another good time is between 9 - 10 a.m. at the same number, but the night time is the best time, usually. I'm giving you the best times, but I would welcome a call anytime. My work number is 919-781-7240, but I work part of the time at home and part at the office, with my hours varying from day to day. You used to get Newsletters from me several times a year, but now I do well to get one off just before the Coward Reunion and a follow-up just after the Reunion. I have enjoyed doing these but the time may come when I can't continue. I hope there is some young person out there who will be willing to take it up in order to keep the family news circulated.

I have received a letter from Pam Taylor, P. O. Box 93, Cullowhee, NC 28723, who is interested in the Rogers. Will someone write her? Trudy Adams has done a lot of good work on the family, and maybe she can drop her a line. Or Pam can give me a call and maybe I can answer some questions for her.

Some of you wrote for a copy of BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN MEMORIES. Did you receive your copy? If not, let me know. I still have some left. I hope I mailed each of you one when you wrote for one. It's a great book about the Cullowhee school (now WCU) and Jackson County folks in the early 1900's. If you want a book, send me \$4.50 plus 63¢ postage, and I'll send you one.

Another letter I have received is from Betty Lawrence, Route 1, Iantha, MO 64753. As you know another spelling of COWARD is COWHERD, which is an early spelling. She says, "My grandfather was James Oap Cowherd. His father was Jacob C. Cowherd who came to Boone County from Kentucky after the Civil War. He supposedly rode with Morgan's Raiders during the War. In Boone County, he married Louisa Hall. They had 3 children, James Oap, and twins - Permelia and Miles - who died at the same time as their mother, shortly after their birth."

Coward Reunion: June 20

Betty Lawrence continued-

"Jacob C. Cowherd then married Louvenia Hall, a niece of his deceased wife. He died only 3 months later of pneumonia. He and his family are buried in Overton, Missouri. My grandfather, James Oap Cowherd, was raised by his step-mother who settled in Barton County, Mo. where I live. Jacob C. Cowherd is depicted in the Hardin County, Kentucky, census of 1850 as a 12-year old child living with his parents: (see census record below)

HARDIN COUNTY, KENTUCKY 13 Sept 1850

NAME	AGE	OCCUPATION	BIRTH
COWHERD, James M.	42	Farmer	born Ky in 1802
" Permelia,	44		" Ky 1806
" Addison	15		" Ky 1835
" Miles	13		" Ky 1837
" Jacob	12		" Ky 1838
" Margaret J.	9		" Ky 1842
" Martha	6		" Ky 1844

"We, the descendants of James Oap Cowherd, are interested in learning anything we can of the rest of the Cowherd Family and corresponding with any descendants of the above James M. Cowherd, who might be interested. We are particularly interested in learning the parents of this James M. Cowherd. I have some very old pictures of Jacob C. and Louisa Cowherd that I would be willing to share."

Betty, you may find something in Edytha Cowherd Newton's COWHERD GENEALOGY, copyright 1962 by Edythe Cowherd Newton, Lyndon, Kentucky, printed by Roberts & Son, Birmingham, Alabama. It may be on some library shelves. You may be able to buy a copy from Mrs. Lemuel B. Felts, 106 Wood Road, Lyndon, KY 40222, Tel. 1-502-425-0103. In 1970, it was available for \$10 a copy plus postage. I don't know if copies are still available or not. Anyone doing the COWHERD/COWARD/COWART family history would be interested in it, I would think.

Sometime ago, I had a letter from Mrs. Louise Kembly, 4426 Aragan Drive, San Diego, CA 92115 which regrettably has not been answered. She says, "I am trying to find some record to verify information concerning Agnes Coward who married Richard Simms, mid-1700s (Orange or Lenison Co., VA) son of William Simms and _____ Buford of Hanover Co., Va. James Simms, son of Richard & Agness, married Mildred Durette of Albemarle Co., Va.I have wondered if Agness Coward may have been of the family of Elizabeth Cowherd who married Isaac Graves (brother of Thomas, Sr.)?" Louise, see if there is anything in the above mentioned book which could help you.

HERE ARE SOME CENSUS RECORDS, WHICH I DON'T BELIEVE I HAVE SHARED WITH YOU

Microfilm Page #	Head of Household	North Carolina 1830 Census Index County
236	Arthr	Green(?)
540	Benjamin	Rutherford
235	Cidnea(?)	Green(?)
235	Edward	Green
363	Elihu	Haywood
052	Elizabeth	Pitt
397	Feilding	Chatham
364	James	Haywood
230	Jesse	Green
363	Jonathan	Haywood
363	Jonathan Jr.	Haywood
230	Mary	Green
052	Michael	Pitt
518	Oliver	Rutherford
522	Peter	Rutherford

Microfilm Page #	Head of Household	North Carolina 1840 Census Index County
332	Ben Coward	Rutherford
122	Benjamin	Haywood
111	James	Haywood
122	Johetdan	Haywood
111	Jonathan	Haywood
322	Peter C.	Rutherford
332	Ste(phen)	Rutherford

Trudy Adams says she has not heard anyone mention the possibility of Solomon Coward who was in the 1800 Census in Rutherford County (?1810) along with James Coward and she feels that surely they must be related. She found a death date for a Solomon Coward in S.C. but thinks this must be s son. Let's try to determine the connection between Solomon and James by reunion time.

Trudy writes that Bob and Betsy Wilson, and Brian & Avery, have moved to Alabama. Bob is working at the pollution control center of L&N Railroad, and the family is living on a lake near Columbiana, Alabama. Bob is the sone of Rachel Coward and Ernest Wilson.

Trudy has found some Cowards in Tennessee who are supposed to be descended from a Benjamin Coward who immigrated into South Carolina.

DEATHS IN THE FAMILY:

ROBERT HUGH COTTER, 53, of 384 East 61st Street, Long Beach, California, died Tuesday, January 19, 1982, in a Bellflower California Hospital of cancer. He was the son of the late H. Thomas Cotter and Edna Cotter of Waynesville, the grandson of the late Ben Buchanan and Fannie Coward Buchanan, and the great-grandson of Dave and Lou Coward. Surviving are his Mother, one daughter Donna Westbrook, of Houston, Texas, and four sons, George Robert of Houston, Texas, and Patrick, Ben, and Robby of Long Beach, California, and one sister, Margaret C. Snyder of Fullerton, California, and one brother H. Thomas Cotter of LaJolla, California. His wife predeceased him on April 7, 1980. Tom Cotter, brother, will take care of the three youngest boys. Burial was in Rose Hill Memorial Gardens, Whittier, Cal.

JACOB D. (JAKE) PHILLIPS of Sylva, North Carolina, died 14 April 1982. He was born 24 Sept. 1912, the son of John G. Phillips (21 July 1877-10 Feb 1966) and Clara Bertha (Bertie) Smith Phillips (18 April 1884- 8 Dec. 1965). Sympathy is extended to his widow, Irene Dillard Phillips, and their two sons Dillard and Gary, and other family members. Jake retired from Mead Corp. in November 1973 after 28 years with that firm.

Since I last wrote to you, we have had a couple of marriages in our immediate family. On 8 August 1981, our foster son Jimmy Robinson married Nancy Robinson in Winston-Salem at the First Baptist Church. Our son Douglas married Betty Oswald on December 5, 1981, in the Pleasant Grove Methodist Church (next door to our home) here in Raleigh, NC. Our other son Andy was married three years ago, so now - not only do we have three boys - but we also have three nice girls. Betty and Douglas are planning to present us with our first grandchild on or about October 10th.

Mother (Ellen Higdon Smith) continues to live with us at our Pleasant Grove Church Road home. All of us love the little Methodist Church next door. Mother will be 82 on July 15, 1982.

My niece, Julia Kidwell Rouse and her husband Daryl, now have two daughters. They are expecting a third child soon. (Julia's mother is Frances Smith Kidwell Payne of Raleigh.)

My brother-in-law, Tommy Hughes of Winter Haven, Fla. (Nell's husband) had surgery this spring.

As I sit here trying to remember any family news, my mind draws a blank. My memory is not as good as it once was....a fact which bothers me greatly. The last two years have been a bit hectic for me, and I am showing it in a number of ways. I was so physically exhausted the first of the year; then I became ill, and it took me weeks and weeks to recover. I am still not up to par. I keep going, but I am not as productive as I was once upon a time. I now wonder if I will ever be as productive as I once was.

As it turned out, I was coming down sick when I started this Newsletter, but I have recovered. I have talked with Bobbi Coward, Dale's wife, and the plans are on to have the COWARD REUNION on Father's Day, June 20, at the Ol' House at Norton. (Look for the signs.)

Bobbi reported that Jane Coward is doing fine and looking forward to having everyone come to the COWARD REUNION this year.

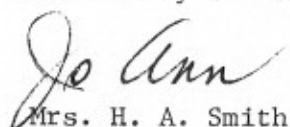
In the Feb. 1982 NC GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY JOURNAL, VOL. VIII, NO. I, p. 26, I found a COWARD: Under LIST OF TAXABLES, 1750 (compiled by Ransom McBride) in Granville County, NC in 1750 (as compiled from original document in the NC State Archives, Stack File #C.R. 044.701.23) is listed Benjamin Coward - 1 (poll). Granville County was formed in 1746. Several of the present-day counties in north-center of the state were in Granville County at that time, including present-day Warren, Franklin, Vance, Granville, Person, Caswell, and parts of Rockingham, Guilford, Alamance, Orange, and Durham.

The Dave Coward branch of the family will probably have their usual get-to-gether the evening before the COWARD REUNION, but I don't have details.

The Clara Coward Smith branch of the family plan to meet at the Jarrett House for dinner on Saturday evening, June 19, at 6:00 o'clock.

We hope a good crowd will be in attendance at the COWARD REUNION on Sunday, June 20, at the Ol' House at Norton. Be making your plans now to be there!

The Family Scribe,


Mrs. H. A. Smith