

Coward Family Newsletter

October 2004

113th Coward Family Reunion Held in Cullowhee

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The 113th Coward Family Reunion was held in Cullowhee on June 13, 2004. Needless to say, there was plenty of food and fellowship and, though the afternoon was hot, it was a wonderful time to enjoy scenic western North Carolina and get together with friends and loved ones. I, personally was unable to attend this one, but I hope not to miss any more in the near future!

Thirty-four people signed the register, but when we counted up the family members there weren't that many, so somebody for-

got to vote! In addition to the usual crowd, we had some guests and some people who are not usually able to attend were present.

The following Coward families were represented:

Clara Coward Smith (2)

Dave Coward (15)

Oscar Bowman Coward (1)

Sally Norton (13)

The oldest Coward was Hazel Lewis, a spry 88 years young. Hazel was the oldest at last year's reunion, also. The

youngest was Julie Coward, coming in a tad younger at 7 years old. She also was the youngest at last year's reunion.

Rob and Mary Diaz and their children, Ana and Zach, came from Huffman, Texas to join the other family members and to spend some vacation time in the NC mountains.

Trudy Adams was present at her 34th consecutive reunion and I imagine that Bob, her husband, was at his 34th also. I never remember seeing Trudy at a reunion without Bob! Next year's reunion will be held on

Sunday, June 12, 2005. That is the actual birthday of Nathan Coward for whom the original birthday party was held. Later, it became a family reunion as Nathan died and family members spread across the nation.



**Hazel Lewis
Oldest**



**Julie Coward
Youngest**

Onward... into the 21st Century

I know that most of us "older" people are struggling with moving into the 21st Century. However, in an effort to save family money and the editor's time, I am, beginning with this issue, going to post the newsletter on a website. Those of

you for whom I have an e-mail address will receive a notification of the posting. You may then visit the website and read your newsletter there. You will need Adobe Reader as the newsletter is posted in PDF format, but that is easily downloaded

off the Internet. You may print your own copy from there also.

I only have about 50 e-mail addresses, so if you are reading this in hard copy and have e-mail, please take a few minutes to let me know. The cost of postage and printing has become

prohibitive and if some changes are not made it will not be financially possible to continue publishing the newsletter twice a year.

Thanks for doing your part!

In Memoriam: Madge E. Kirchner

Madge E. Kirchner died Friday, September 28, 2001 after a brave battle with cancer. She was 68 years old.

Madge was the daughter of Lee and Zet Henson, who moved to Detroit, Michigan at the beginning of WWII. Madge, however, went to high school in Sylva, NC and lived with her grandmother, affectionately called Nanny. During the time she was in Sylva, Madge attended many of the Coward reunions.

Madge was employed by the state of Ohio as a legal secretary.

She was preceded in death by her husband, John Francis Kirchner, Jr. and is survived by her children, Susan (Michael) Mulligan; John (Renee)

Kirchner; Lee Thompson; Anne Kirchner; and William Kirchner. She is also survived by her siblings Barbara (Bud) Crews; Patsy (Jack) McDermott; Marie Henson; and William Henson. Madge is also survived by 10 grandchildren.

Memorial contributions can be to the Hunger Taskforce or Choices of Victims of Domestic Violence in her memory.

Our sympathies are extended to Madge's family.



Madge Kirchner and Nanny

In Memoriam: Robert Alfred Diaz

Robert Alfred Diaz died on August 20, 2004, while rescuing a swimmer in distress at South Padre Island, Texas. Rob was 46 years old.

Rob was a businessman in Huffman, Texas where he and his brother owned an international tire company. He was also heavily involved in the YMCA Adventure Princesses and Guides programs, supporting the growth and development of his ten year old twins.

Rob was a member of St. Martha Catholic Church and was a regular attendee of Strawbridge United Methodist Church in Kingwood, Texas where he was involved with the youth and Sunday School programs.

Rob is survived by his wife, Mary Nichols Diaz and two children, Ana and Zachary, each 10 years old. He is also survived by his parents, Aurea Diaz of Naples, FL and Fernando Diaz of Arizona; two sisters, Maggie Diaz and Ive Miro, both of Naples, FL; and by a brother, Rick Diaz of Kingwood, TX. His death is also mourned by his many in-laws, nieces and nephews, and friends.

Rob's life has touched many of us and while we will miss him for a long time, we will love him forever.



Rob Diaz
April 14, 1958
August 20, 2004

I am including this old will in the newsletter because I think it is interesting. It is certainly different than those we see today. Take a little time to read it. I think you will be surprised at some of the "property" that is being bequeathed as well as at the language of the 1820s. Here's the Coward connection:

William Nicholson and his wife, Martha were parents of a daughter, Mary. Mary married Barak Norton, one of the original settlers of Cashiers Valley in southern Jackson County. Barak and Mary had a son, William who married Susannah Zachary, the daughter of another of the original southern Jackson County families. William and Susannah had a daughter, Lou who married Dave Coward, a son of Nathan Coward. Got that???

WILL OF WILLIAM NICHOLSON

I William Nicholson of the state of south Carolina & Pendleton District knowing the certainty of death and the uncertainty of the time thereof being weak in body but of a sound memory & understanding do make & constitute this my last Will & testament hereby utterly revoking all former wills by me made do make & constitute this my last will & testament in manner & form following that is to say first I recommend my spirit to God who gave it secondly I give my body to the Earth from whence it was taken lively hopes of a glorious resurrection after a decent Christain burial and payment of all Just debts, I will & bequeath to my beloved wife Martha the plantation with the tools thereto belonging together with the house & household furniture and five Negros to wit Leath, Febe, Elijah, Jack, & Robert together with all the stock of every kind for the purpose of raising the children during her natural life & then the said five Negroes with their increase (if any) to be valued & distributed among the children to make their portions as nigh equal as may be with convenience provided they are not to go out of the family nor to be slaves longer then untill they are fifty years of age provided also they conduct themselves in a suitable manner for to be free.

To my daughter Sarah Nicholson I give one Negro girl Named Loosey until she is fifty years of age & a horse & saddle together with a bed & furniture & clothes & two Cows & calves.

To my daughter Martha I give a Negro girl named Viney untill she become fifty years of age and a horse & saddle, bed & clothing and Cattle Equivalent to Sarahs portion.

To my daughter Harriet I give a Negro girl named Sarah untill becomes fifty years of age together with a Horse & Saddle, Clothes, bed & furniture & tvro Cows & calves & to be made Equal Sarahs portion.

To my daughter Belinda one Negro Girl named Ony untill she arrives the age of fifty together with a horse & saddle, Clothes, bed & furniture two Cows & calves & to be made equal to the portion of the other Girls.

To my son William Nicholson I give all that part of the plantation, which lies on the other side of the Creek from where the house stands.

To my son Lemuel Nicholson I give all that part of the plantation on the side of the creek which the House stands on which he now Live also the three tracts I bought of the state Lying on the Waters of Craven's Creek.

The other two plantations to be sold & divided.

To my Daughter Mary I give one Negro Woman named Mary to be given to her against the 25 of December next & to belong to her & the Heirs of her body after her the Child that Negro Mary is now with if it lives not to belong to Mary Norton but to be returned to the rest of the family at the age of two years.

At my wifes death what property may be remaining to be Valued and divided in such a manner as to make all their portions as nigh equal as is convenient.

And I do hereby nominate Constitute & appoint my Wife Executrix and my Sons Evan & William Nicholson Executors Jointly with their Mother to Carry this my last will & testament into Execution according to the true intent & meaning of the same.

Read, acknowledged, & signd by the testator in presence of us.

John McWhorter

William Nicholson (SEAL)

his

Robert X Partain

mark

Recorded in Will Book A, Page 251-252 Anderson Co. SC

Recorded August 7, 1820

Proved August 7, 1820 John Harris, O.P.D. Roll No. 509

Coward Family DNA Project

By Trudy Adams

FAMILY TREE DNA is an organization that has surname projects and can help tie our COWARD family to other COWARD families. Males carrying the COWARD surname can have their Y chromosome DNA easily tested to see if our family is related to other COWARD lines.

The Y chromosome is passed from father to son unchanged, except for a mutation about every 500 generations. Testing the Y chromosome will provide a genetic fingerprint consisting of 12 to 25 numbers. By comparing this fingerprint to others with the same or similar surnames, it can be determined if they are related. There is a \$99 plus postage charge for the 12 number test, which is recommended for establishing

the project. A 25 marker upgrade costs \$169 plus postage. Credit cards are accepted.

The method for testing the DNA is simple. A kit is sent to the male with a Q-tip inside a vial. The Q-tip is scraped along the inside of the cheek, returned to the vial and sent back to Family Tree DNA. Two individuals are considered related for the 12 marker test if the match is 12/12, 11/12, and sometimes with 10/12. If three males will get tested, FAMILY TREE DNA will set up a Surname Project for the COWARD/COWART/COWHERD name.

If you are interested, please let me (Trudy) know and I can furnish more detailed information.

Trudy's e-mail address is
trudy99@charter.net

FAMILY TREE DNA is online at
<http://www.familytreedna.com>

J Mark Price is the Genealogy Counselor and his telephone number is 713-868-1438.

His e-mail address is
mprice@familytreedna.com

OH WHERE, OH WHERE CAN YOU BE?

The last Coward Family Newsletter to the following people were returned to me as undeliverable. If you can help me get the correct addresses, I will be very grateful.

Ora Smith, Hendersonville, NC

Tanya Dillard, Sylva NC



Becky Michaels, Raleigh, NC

Thanks for helping me keep up with as many people as possible!

GOOD JOB!!!



Thanks to all of you who have been so generous in your contributions to the financial health of the newsletter. We collected \$50 at the reunion and many more of you have sent other contributions to me. The newsletter fund is struggling a bit at this time. I have enough money for this publication, but after this...we'll see. One of my cost cutting plans is explained on the front of this newsletter, so help me by taking a few minutes to send me your e-mail

address. My e-mail address is
jbrlnr@bellsouth.net

Contributions to the newsletter this time have been made by **Fred Murphy, Judy Tayloe, David McCann, Chuck Bird, Barbara Tyson, Glenda Conley, Bob Wilson, and Patsy McDermott.**

Thanks to one and all for all your support!

MYFAMILYNAMES.COM

By John Tayloe

www.myfamilynames.com

Have you ever wondered where your family came from way back when? Do you ever wonder how you are kin to someone? Do you miss someone telling you about people they knew or how things were when they were growing up? Well, I had the same questions and decided to collect names, pictures and other items that would tell me the story of our family. Many people have contributed many years of work to collect this information, but until now it has only been in written form in many different places.

My goal is collect as much information and publish it on a website so that it will be available to anyone no matter where they live in the world. This website was established in March 2004 and in the month of September 2004 had over 21,334 hits from all over the world.

This website contains over 8000 names, wills, pictures, letters and copies of this newsletter just to name of few items. Information arrives everyday and is posted as soon as it can be formatted and uploaded to the website.

If you have information that you would like to share, please let me know. We can scan documents and pictures that you have and this way you keep the original items.

We are keeping private birthdays of people that are still living for personal identification protection. So as you review the site and see the word "private" in the personal information, this is for your protection.

Please visit the website at www.myfamilynames.com and contribute items that can be shared and also kept in a central location for many to review.

OTHER FAMILY NEWS

Winnie Swingle writes about her grandmother Lena Smith, daughter of Clara Coward Smith and Lewis J. Smith. Here is what she said:

I never met my grandmother, Lena Smith. She must have been a remarkable woman. She was in the first graduating class of what is now Western Carolina University at Cullowhee, NC. When she married Cassius Wallace they moved west where they both taught on reservations. The first was in Minnesota. They then went to North Dakota where Cassius died of typhoid fever. This brave young woman came back to North Carolina with three young children. The youngest was just 6 weeks old. The oldest was my father, John Wallace, who was just four. She brought her young husband's body back (he was just twenty-eight) to be buried in his family plot in Qualla. She then returned to Cullowhee to be with her family. There she taught school and raised her children. She suffered many losses. She died when I was a very little girl. Even then I felt the loneliness of her passing. However, I did get to know and love her sisters Nannie, Cannie, Ida and her brother. I know the faith my grandmother had is the same faith that sustains me. I am proud of my southern heritage.

My father, John L. Wallace joined the navy after the first World War. He met my uncle, "a Yankee" and they became good friends. He met and married my mother, Carolyn Swartz, a Yankee girl. I have the best of both worlds.

Judy Forcier writes to brag about her three grandsons. She is so proud because they each look to be promising for a professional football career. **Jason**, the oldest, will be graduating from high school in San Diego this year and is being recruited by four universities, all offering him a full scholarship in exchange for his talent. He is leaning toward choosing the University of Utah at this time. **Christopher**, the middle grandchild and **Robert**, the youngest, both are fast and promising players. Judy is, just like all grandmothers, very, very proud and we salute her grandchildren's success.

Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

I hope that this newsletter finds you well and in good spirits. The holiday season is approaching and my wish for each of your families is that you have a happy one filled with love and laughter. Some of you have suffered this year through the death of a loved one, through the on-set of ill health, or through some other heartache. Like many of you who live in the southeast my husband and I have suffered the loss of property courtesy of the "Quad Hurricanes". The NC mountains were treated to immense quantities of rain and wind. We spent days cleaning up debris. We were dirty and smelly and we had no electricity (which meant no water). As we have a little creek on our property we decided to take our soap, shampoo, and towels down there and bathe. The water was cold, cold, cold, but the sun was warm and as it kissed our bare skins we were touched by the realization that God's grace is present even under the most difficult of circumstances. May His grace touch you.