

Coward Family Newsletter

May 2009

Generations Past and Present

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Newsletter
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This is your relative, Mary Elaine Bird Nichols. She is the daughter of Edna Clara Coward Bird, and Charles Roy Bird; the granddaughter of Jonathan David Coward and Lou Norton Coward; great granddaughter of Nathan Coward. She was born in the Jackson County town of Webster in 1924 (sorry to give away your age, Mama). The drawing of the house above is the Penland House. In a previous life, it was the county jail, and is where my mother was born. Since her maiden name is “Bird”, she has referred to herself as being born a “Jail Bird”. The more current picture above was made last Thanksgiving (2008) at our home in Charlotte. She looks good, doesn’t she?

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

Found Family Members

I received messages from two people since the last newsletter that are relatives of ours.

Glenda Coward Davis found the newsletter on the Internet somewhere and is looking for her Jackson County relatives in the Caney Fork area! Well, Glenda, we're all over the place. I sent her letter to John Tayloe who, I am sure, has figured out her lineage. She has been married to Ray for 46 years (beats me and Jim at 40), and has 4 children and 7 grandchildren. Welcome to the family, Glenda. We look forward to seeing you at the reunion!

Joy Sanford lives in Gastonia, NC. She is a great granddaughter of Dave Coward. Her granddaughter was Fannie Mae Coward Buchanan, the oldest of the Coward children. My grandmother, Edna Clara was the youngest, so Joy and I have close family ties. Joy's mother is Mildred Pearl Buchanan Garrison, who is still living in a nursing home near Gastonia. We are glad to have you Joy, and are looking forward to seeing you at the reunion!

News Blips

William Noland Coward, Jr. graduated from Mount Sinai School of Medicine on May 7, 2008. His dad, Will Coward is very, very proud...as are we all. Congratulations, William!!!

Bryan Wilson, son of Bob and Betsea Wilson, is engaged to Ms. Sara Fisher of New York City. The wedding date has not been set. Congratulations Bryan and Sara!

The **Tayloe** family remains busy. **Nathan** has expanded his business by opening an office in downtown Wilmington, NC and has taken on a partner. We wish him good luck in these unfriendly times!

Lee has set up housekeeping in Winston-Salem, is working for his uncle, Charlie Nichols, in a business that Charlie's father (and mine) opened in a little storage room 50 years ago. Lee will visit Taiwan this summer.

David will graduate from LSU with a Bachelor of Music Degree. He will attend the University of Miami for graduate study in vocal performance.

Judy and John stay busy with church, volunteer work, and are attempting "square foot gardening" this season. They do this while they wait for daughters-in-law and grandchildren. Good luck!!!

Goodbyes

Ray Coward

Ray Coward, of Sylva, died on December 3, 2008 at Mountain Trace Nursing Center after a brief illness. Services were held on Sunday, December 7, 2008 at Lovedale Baptist Church with Rev. Mike Farmer and Pastor Danny Pascal officiating. Burial was in the Lower Coward Cemetery.

A native and lifelong resident of Jackson County, he was the owner of Ray's Gas and Grocery Store in Lovesfield. He worked dredging the St. Lawrence Seaway and retired from Mead as a paper loader. He was a Merchant Marine veteran having served in WWII.

He was the last surviving child of the late Elbert and Irone Queen Coward.

Surviving Ray are his wife of 59 years, Martha Nicholson Coward, two daughters, Brenda Dillard and Kathy Watkins, both of Webster; one son, Stephen Coward of Webster; two grandchildren and five great grandchildren. Memorials may be made to Lovedale Baptist Church, 160 Lovedale Rd. Sylva, NC 28779

Irene Dillard Phillips

Irene Dillard Phillips, 82, of Hillcrest Street, Sylva died September 4, 2005 at Harris Regional Hospital after a period of declining health. Funeral services were held on September 7, 2005 at East Sylva Baptist Church where she was a member.

A native of Jackson County, where she lived most of her life, she worked as an inspector at Skyland Textile and as a greeter at McDonalds until her health began to fail. She was a 1941 graduate of Sylva High School, where she played basketball. She enjoyed watching Atlanta Braves baseball. She was the daughter of the late Will and Maebelle Riddle Dillard.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Jake D. Phillips; one daughter, Ida Jean Phillips; two sisters, Ilean Stephens and Willa Mae Poling; and one brother, Kenneth Dillard.

Surviving are two sons, John Dillard Phillips of Gastonia, and Gary Nathan Phillips of Tacoma, Washington; one sister, Alice Turner of Elyria, Ohio; and two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to East Sylva Baptist Church, P.O. Box 516, Sylva, BC 28779

Sarah Cannon Garrison

Sarah Catherine Garrison died on February 27, 2009 in Greenville, SC. She was the daughter of Alberry Pearl Cannon and Mada Ella Cannon. She was predeceased by her beloved husband of 53 years, Junius H. Garrison. Surviving are her children, J. Henry Garrison III of Greenville, Sallie Garrison Paschal (Jonathan) of Covington, GA, Mary Frances Roberts (Glenn), Catherine McDonald of Greer; and 5 grandchildren: Mary Catherine and Jon Paschal, Garrison Kirk, Sarah Elizabeth and Margaret Anne McDonald who she loved very much.

She graduated from Greenville High School in 1843 and attended Limestone College. She was a life long member of Buncombe St. United Methodist Church, a member of the Junior League of Greenville, and Shebas Investment Club. She loved playing golf and bridge.

Services were held on March 2 in the chapel of Buncombe Street United Methodist Church with interment at Springwood Cemetery.

Memorials may be made to Buncombe Street United Methodist Church, Overbrook Baptist Church, or Meals on Wheels.

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

David McCann, Chuck Bird, Bob Wilson, Brenda Norton, David Russell, Jo Winzenread

Elaine Nichols in honor of Jule Coward, and JoAnn Smith

Where Are You?

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

Returned Mail: Dennis and Bea Norton, Ben Coward, Paul McElroy, Robert and Sandra Gann, Brenda and William Meeks, IV, Ronnie and Dinna Norton, Daniel C. and Helen Cowart, Martha L. Hale

Undelivered E-Mail: Bob Hughes, Connie Goforth, Cynthia Buice, Evelyn Moore, James Coward, Kenneth Justice, Laverne LaQuey, Mary Wallace Griffin, Missy Spoone, Nan Rideout, Nellie Coward

Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

EDITOR

Lynn Riggsbee
3308 Champaign St.
Charlotte, NC 28210
Phone: 704-554-8765
Email: jbrlnr@bellsouth.net
riggsbee1@verizon.net

GENEALOGIST

John Tayloe
2626 Monticello Dr.
Winston-Salem, NC 27106
Phone: 336-724-6714
Email: johntayloe@triad.rr.com



**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

*You guys are just lucky that I got this newsletter written. As we speak, Jim and I are in the throes of moving. We will be relocating shortly to the Cashiers area of Jackson County, NC. As the crow flies, we are about 2 miles removed from the home place of Nathan Coward. I will have a new address and phone number as well as a new e-mail address. For those of you who contact me by e-mail, you can either use the current one, or you can use riggsbee1@verizon.net If you contact me by mail, you can use **PO Box 2872, Cashiers, NC 28717**. After mid-summer you should be able to contact me by phone at **828-743-5003**. Of course, that is predicated on the assumption that we can find the phone line that we haven't been able to find yet. I will let all of you for whom I have e-mail addresses know when I finally make the move.*

If you have an e-mail address and wish to receive your newsletter via e-mail, please let me know if I don't have yours already. Good wishes to all!!