

Coward Family Newsletter

November 2005

114th Coward Family Reunion Held in Cullowhee

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Well, it was cool and it was pouring down rain and there were no children there, but we had a good time and ate way too much, anyway! Twenty-seven intrepid souls braved the weather and enjoyed the reunion for several hours. I have placed a couple of pictures in the newsletter, but Johnnie Tayloe has posted many more on the website (www.myfamilynames.com) and you can see for yourself who all was there.

Attendance by family is as follows:

Dave Coward-9; Oscar Bowman Coward-3; Sallie Norton Coward-15

The oldest Coward present was **Hazel Lewis** who is 89 years young and is just as beautiful as she ever was. The award for the "youngest" ended in a tie between **Dona Norton Euler** and **Renee Nichols**, both 49. Renee says she is really the youngest since her birthday comes later than Donna's! Too bad there isn't a monetary prize! Where are the children when we need them? Donna, however, is not to be outdone as she gets the commendation for coming the farthest distance...all the way from California.

The 115th reunion will be held June 11, 2006 in Cullowhee.



In Memoriam: Ruth Glazener Hooper

Ruth Glazener Hooper died Dec. 1, 2004 in Durham, NC after a long illness. She was born to Dan and Beulah Glazener on Nov. 22, 1921 in Rosman, NC. She graduated from Rosman High School in 1938 and worked for Ecusta Paper Co., in retail, and, after rearing her own children, devoted herself to work in daycare.

In May 1941 she married Ray Lowell Hooper, her husband of more than 60 years before his death in 2001. She is survived by her daughters, Marianna Osolin-Putnam and her husband, James Putnam, and by Marla Hooper Dunham and her husband, Robert Dunham, all of Chapel Hill; grandchildren, Anastasia Osolin and her husband, Derek Maus of Potsdam, NY, and Aaron Dunham and Leah Dunham of Chapel Hill; sister-in-law,

Thelma Glazener of Asheville and a number of nieces and nephews.

Ruby was committed to the communities in which she lived and devoted to the Methodist Church. A decade ago she said that her fondest wish for the future was for her grandchildren "to grow up and be alive-learning, giving, caring people who are vitally concerned with everything."

Ruby and Ray made their home together in Brevard until 1996 when they moved to the Methodist Retirement Community in Durham, then later to Croasdaile Village. In their later years they enjoyed traveling with family and friends, including trips to Mexico, Europe, Canada, and China. Ruby was the principal architect of a home that was always a haven of laughter, warmth, and hospitality.

The siege of Alzheimer's disease that robbed her of her memory, vitality, and wit in recent years did not diminish her family's memories of this mountain girl who became a woman of strength and grace, who loved her family with fierce love, who found joy in dancing and basketball, who cherished her neighbors, who embraced children, who loved yellow roses and anything chocolate and who could bake one mean apple crisp!

Our thoughts and prayers are with Ruby's family.



In Memoriam: Curtis Bell

Curtis Joe Bell of Buckhead, GA died May 16, 2005. He was born Dec. 8, 1943 in Morgan County, GA to Turner Lee and Dorothy Davis Bell. He grew up in Buckhead and married Amy Massey in 1963. He was a 1961 graduate of Morgan County High School and an honor graduate of the University of Georgia.

Curtis was a dairy farmer and active in the Dairyman's Association. He loved Morgan County and served as chairman of the school board for 25 years. He was a member of Buckhead Baptist Church and was a Sunday School Superintendent. He was also a long time member of the Buckhead Volunteer Fire Department and Buckhead Breakfast Club, where his dry sense of humor will sorely be missed.

He is survived by his wife, Amy,

and their children, Lydia Norburg and Terry of Tifton, GA; Kathryn Cox and Lee of Santa Barbara, CA; and Joseph of Covington, GA; sisters, Barbara Tyson, Miriam and Chuck Foster, and Laura Elaine and George Lohr; and sister-in-law, Margaret Bell. Other surviving in-laws are Larry Massey, Lydia Bennett, John Massey, Laura Hendrix, and Bruce Johnson. His grandchildren are Marty Norburg, Mindy Jones, Leslie Norburg, Joshua Cox and Caitlyn Cox.

Curtis was respected in the community as hard-working, highly intelligent, and a man of strength and principle. His legacy is a highly praised and award-winning school system that ushered thousands of Morgan County children to careers and higher learning.

Our sympathies are extended to Amy and the rest of Curtis's family.



In Memoriam: Benjamin Joel Coward

Joe Coward, former newspaper publisher, died May 17, 2005, following a battle with cancer.

Joe was a native of Belton, SC who spent most of his life in the newspaper and printing business except for a stint in the United States Air Force.

Joe was born Dec. 6, 1930, the son of Nathan A. and Susan Queen Coward. His father founded *The Belton News* and when he died in 1939, Joe's mother and uncle Glenn ran the paper and printing business which Joe and his brother Dan joined later. When Dan left to go into advertising, Joe and his wife, Donia, ran the paper on their own for several years before merging the Belton and Honea Path papers about 15 years ago.

Joe was a special person. He was even tempered and possessed a high

level of integrity which he passed on to the current owners of the paper.

Joe is survived by his wife, Donia, to whom he was married for 54 years. In addition to his wife, he is survived by his daughter, Evelyn Moore and her husband, Herbert of Belton; son, Benjamin Joel, Jr. of Belton; grandchildren, James Moore and wife, Leah; Anthony Moore and wife, Andrea. Jessica Coward, C.J. Coward, and Julie Coward; five great-grandchildren, Daniel and Justin Moore, Tyler and Emily Moore, and Chandler Frazier. He was preceded in death by his brothers, Allen and Dan Coward; and by his sister, Lena Jackson.

"Joe will be missed, but we know he'll always be here in our hearts and minds...through the things he taught us

as newspaper folks and friends." (BHP News-Chronicle)

Joe recently wrote his life story for one of his grandchildren who had a school project assignment. It is copied elsewhere in this newsletter.

We extend our sincerest sympathies to the family of this extraordinary man.



In Memoriam: Ruth B. Coward

Ruth Brown Coward of Lakeland, FL and Greeneville, TN died July 31, 2005. She was born October 9, 1913 in Okmulgee, OK, the daughter of Charles Richard and Cora Bodkin Brown and was the widow of James Talvin Coward.

She was a member of College Heights United Methodist Church in Lakeland and attended First Baptist Church in Greeneville.

Ruth is survived by four children: Joy C. Anderson of Suwanee, FL, Carolyn R. Coward of Tallahassee, FL, George T. Coward of Lakeland, and Robert C. Coward of Fort Meade, FL. She is also survived by 7 grandchildren, 12 great-grandchildren, and a great-great-grandchild.

Ruth's family noted that she was affectionately call "Grandmommie" by

her adopted family members who have loved and cared for her through the years.

Our deepest sympathies are extended to Ruth's family.



HELP WANTED!!!!

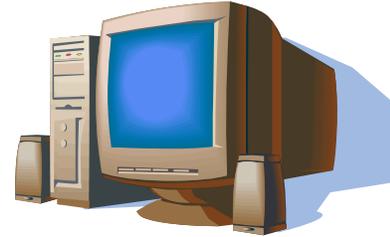
You know that technology is a wonderful thing, don't you? Well, it's wonderful when it works! I regret to say that I have had a very serious incident with my computer...the hard drive crashed...and as a result I have lost some of my Coward family records. I, (luckily) had most of them on another computer, but some e-mail addresses and snail mail addresses have escaped into the netherworld. I will notify as many of you as possible via e-mail and will mail as many as I can via snail mail. However, if you could be so kind as to do one

or more of the following, I will be eternally grateful:

If you know a family member who did not get a newsletter, please share yours and let me know who it is so I can reconstruct my database.

If you have the e-mail addresses of family members please get them to me so I can compare and update my address book.

I know that I will have many mistakes. Please bear with me and help me as much as you can.



Latest addition to the
endangered
species list :(

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.

Gordon/Caroline Cowart, Savannah, GA

Carolyn Wilson, Wallingford, CT

Robert/Carol Hughes, Warner Robins, GA

Bob/Pati/Keith Dockery, Taylors, SC



JoAnn Stamey, Sylva, NC

Mary Ruth Fowler, Waynesville, NC

Eric Smith, Raleigh, NC

Amy Rouse, Franklin, NC

Shannon Coward, West Asheville, NC

Margie/Homer Snyder, Fullerton, CA

Floyd Griffin, Cordora, TN

GOOD JOB!!!

Thanks to all of you who have been so generous in your contributions to the financial health of the newsletter. We collected \$148 at the reunion and many more of you have sent other contributions to me. I have sufficient funds for printing and mailing the next couple of newsletters, but I still want to continue reaching as many people as I can via e-mail. That way you can access the family website, print the newsletter, check out the archived ones,

view pictures of this and previous reunions, read some family history, and spend some time with your family. Please help me by letting me know the e-mail addresses of as many people as you can.

Thanks to the following for your generous support:

Marianna Osolin-Putnam in memory of her mother Ruth Glazener Hooper and Jack Smith.

Shirley and John Cowart, Carolyn, Wilson, and Donna Grant, Jo Winzenread, and David McCann.



“Benjamin Joel Coward”

By Benjamin Joel Coward

I was born December 6, 1930, at 406 O’Neal Street in Belton, SC. I had two brothers, Allen and Dan, and one sister, Lena.

My father was Nathan A. Coward and my mother was Susan Queen Coward. I am the only one living. My father founded *The Belton News* in 1925 and was editor until he died in 1939. My mother went to work at the newspaper to support the family. My childhood was good and I enjoyed playing tag, ball, and cow-boys and Indians with all of my friends.

My father was a member of the SC House of Representatives from 1932 to 1936. Sometimes he would take us to Columbia while the legislature was in session. One Sunday, when I was 5 years old, he took me and my sister to the Governor’s Mansion and Gov. Olin Johnston carried Lena and took my hand and we went to the back of the house where he had some deer and other animals.

My grandparents, Robert and Lena Coward, lived on a farm and I liked staying with them for a week during the summer. At first they had no electricity and they used oil lamps.

My grandmother cooked on a wood stove and my job was to keep the wood box filled. She cooked biscuits every day and for breakfast we had fresh eggs, butter, and homemade jelly.

The Korean War broke out in July 1950 and I thought I might be drafted in the Army so I enlisted in the Air Force. After basic training I was sent to munitions school to learn about bombs and rockets. Later I was trained to load bombs on airplanes and was promoted to crew chief.

I came home on leave and married Donia Campbell. We had two children, Benny and Evelyn. Evelyn is Daniel Moore’s grandmother (editor’s note: this was written for Daniel’s class). After getting my discharge from the Air Force I went back to work at *The Belton News*.

OTHER FAMILY NEWS

Amanda Hope Harrold of Norton Community, Cashiers, NC and Nathaniel Waldron Hollingsworth of Dillard, GA were married May 21, 2005 at Cashiers United Methodist Church. The bride is the daughter of **Joseph and Tammy Harrold** of the Norton Community and is the granddaughter of **Dale and Bobbie Coward** of the Norton Community and the late J.R. Harrold of Statesville and Ada Souther of Whitfield. The groom is the son of Wesley and Teresa Hollingsworth of Clayton, GA and the grandson of Glenn and Virginia Hollingsworth of Highlands and Fort Myers, FL and the late Judy White of Blairsville, GA. Amanda is a senior at Western Carolina University where she is majoring in accounting and corporate finance. Nathaniel is employed by Goodyear Performance Tire and Auto in Highlands.

Joe Cowart reports that we should all rejoice! **Laurel Cowart Ferrell** has graduated from law school. Now comes the hard part...passing the bar and getting a job!!

Robert Alfred Diaz, late husband of **Mary Nichols Diaz**, was posthumously awarded the Carnegie Medal. This award is given to a person whom the organization considers to be a “hero of civilization”. It is awarded to those who selflessly attempt to help or rescue their fellow man “in which no full measure of responsibility exists between the rescuer and the rescued”. Rob lost his life in the rescue of a swimmer at South Padre Island, TX on August 20, 2004. The awarding of this medal is an honor that is given to few people and is some comfort to his wife Mary, and to his children, Ana, and Zach.

Terry Barnett writes that she and her three daughters (**Elisha, Marenda, and Carissa**) visited with her cousins **Ellen, Devin, Connor, Tyler Dahl** in Manassas, VA as a side trip during a vacation to Washington, DC. It had been 34 years since Ellen and Terry had last seen each other, way back when they were both little kids. They discovered that they both grew up to be homeschool moms and had a nice time trying to catch up. Terry also saw lots of relatives when in Belton, SC for the funeral of Joe Coward. Even in sadness there is joy!

In Awe of Remembering Ruby

By
Marianna Osolin-Putnam

On the first Wednesday of December, 2004, Ruby Glazener Hooper died after a long, well-fought 13 year battle with Alzheimer's Disease. As her son-in-law Bob wrote in her obituary, "The disease that robbed her of her memory, vitality, and wit in recent years did not diminish her family's memories of this mountain girl who became a woman of strength and grace, who loved her family with a fierce love, who found joy in dancing and basketball, who cherished her neighbors, who embraced children, who loved yellow roses and anything chocolate, and who could bake a mean apple crisp."

Ruby was born in Rosman, NC on November 22, 1921, the youngest child and only daughter of Daniel Lawrence Glazener and Beulah Mae Galloway Glazner. She graduated from Rosman High School with a reputation as an excellent student and a capable basketball player. While she was still in high school, her older brother Charles brought home a fellow college student named Ray Hooper for Thanksgiving. Several years later, Ray graduated from NC State and took a job as a chemical engineer at Ecusta. With his first paycheck, he promised himself a new pair of shoes. If you had always had hand-me-down shoes-and wore a size 13-your own new shoes were a very big deal. He went into Plummer's Brevard store and asked for the shoe department. Ruby was working there as a clerk, and she recognized him-and, in her own words-"hot-footed it back to the shoe department" so she could wait on him, introducing herself as Charles Glazner's little sister. Their first date was to see the movie "Gone With the Wind" and the rest of their lives were spent happily together from their elopement on May 3, 1941 until Ray's death in 2001-also on the first Wednesday in December-over 60 years of a wonderful marriage to each other. Even after his death, and after Alzheimer's had robbed her of the ability to speak, Ruby would look at photos of Ray, and, with tears in her eyes, pat his face with her hands.

By the door of Room 121 in the dementia unit at Croasdaile Village, there was a picture of our family with Ruby and a brief profile of her. In part, it read, "She is a wonderful wife, mother, and grandmother, a long-time Methodist, a day care teacher, a devoted friend and neighbor known as "The Mayor of Rice Street". She can shoot hoops, ride a horse bareback, climb trees, decorate a lovely home, hike mountains, get dirt out of anything, rock babies to sleep-anyone's baby would do-, dance and sing, play a mean game of cards, and laugh at almost anything."

In 1996, after spending all their lives together in Brevard, my father knew that the time had come to move, and he chose Croasdaile Village in Durham, a wonderful Methodist Continuing Care Community in Durham, NC. After they moved, my husband Jim would drive from Chapel Hill most Saturday mornings and bring my parents over to our house for the day, which we knew would give my father a break from being Ruby's full time touchstone. While Jim and Ray would go to the hardware store and work together in the workshop, I spent those precious Saturdays with my mother. She missed not having a house to care for, and loved doing things in our house. Because she was relaxed and at home there, she could function without my father around and we had wonderful times. She cared for my plants, we cooked and cleaned together-she loved cleaning out my refrigerator for some reason!. We also took walks, played endless games of Skip-BO-most of which she won-and we talked about her childhood, an area where her memories were still strong and vivid. One day we were at the sink peeling potatoes for dinner when she leaned over to me and said, "Honey, I love your father more than anything, but it sure is nice to get a break from him!" It had not occurred to us before that my father was not the only one who needed a break occasionally.

In the summer of 1997-a year after they moved from Brevard-my sister Marla brought Ray and Ruby back to Brevard for a long visit. As they drove up the hill into town, Ruby pulled herself forward from the back seat so she could see better and suddenly said, "I had forgotten all of this, but now I am in awe of remembering!"

My husband Jim wrote about Ruby in an e-mail to friends just 2 days before she died. He said, "The world will not much notice that Ruby Glazener Hooper has left, but we know, and there is a wonderful peace in understanding how very much all of us, and perhaps through us the world, is a better place thanks to the life of Ruby. She made a difference, made us all better, and our memory of her will be of the green-eyed redhead making us laugh and think, and our life worth living."

It has been a long journey for Ruby-from Rosman to Brevard to Durham-from 121 Rice Street to 121 in a nursing home-and it has been a journey that no one every lived more fully or fought for so fiercely. On her last day of life, I sat by her bed and held her hands as the wonderful Duke Hospice nurse, Donna Radcliffe-Walker, tenderly cared for her. At one point in the late afternoon, Donna held Ruby in her arms and said to her, "Ruby, we can take the girl out of the mountains, but we can't take the mountains out of the girl!" Today Ruby's long journey is finally over, as we have brought our mountain girl home again for the final time, and reunited her with Ray where she belongs. I rejoice in thinking that they are together again, in a place where there is no Alzheimer's or heart disease, and I can see them out for a long walk, holding hands and smiling at all they meet. As much as we miss them both, they belong together, united at last-and forever.

Today, Ruby Glazener Hooper, we are in awe of remembering you.

Marianna Hooper Osolin-Putnam
Brevard First United Methodist Church
Brevard, NC
December 18, 2004

Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

I have had some rather serious issues with technology since the last newsletter and some of my databases have been corrupted to the point that they are incomplete and incorrect. I will do the best I can to get everyone who wants one a newsletter either through the mail or through an online communication. You can help me by touching base with family members to see if they received it. While I was reconstructing my e-mail address book, I became aware that many e-mail addresses are wrong, but I don't know the right ones. The same is true for my postal database. You can further help by sending me all the e-mail addresses of family members so I can cross reference my current database. I will mail letters to the same group as I did last time, so if you get one and have an e-mail address, please let me know.

Do visit the family website, www.myfamilynames.com and see all the information about the Cowards it contains. You can see archived newsletters, look at reunion pictures, check out the family tree, and read interesting documents. John works very hard on this and he will appreciate your input. His contact information is in the bottom box to the right of this note.

Happy holidays! Lynn