

Coward Family Newsletter

April 2005

114th Coward Family Reunion To Be Held in Cullowhee

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The 114th Coward Family Reunion will be held in Cullowhee on 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.

This year has been hard on many of our family members as the ravages of weather and age have often taken their toll. So, we hope to be able to celebrate our connection as a family with as many of you as are able to be there.

The reunion will be held at the Pavilion on the campus of Western Carolina University. It is very easy to find and if you need them I will happily supply you with directions. Just call or e-mail. Both phone and e-mail addresses are printed on the last page of the newsletter. We will begin around 11:30. Bring enough food for your family and we will put it all together to make a smorgasbord of good eating! If you are traveling and bringing food is difficult, you're invited anyway. We have a brief business meeting prior to the prayer and then we commence to eating and visiting.

And you may want to consider getting together on Saturday night with your branch of the family. The Dave Coward and the Lewis J. Smith families always have some kind of "do" prior to the "big" reunion on Sunday. It's a wonderful time to get to know others who share the same bloodline with you.

Hoping to see you there!

Needed!!!!: E-Mail Addresses



I am actively looking for e-mail addresses from **every** family member who has one! As you know, the costs of printing and postage go up all the time. There are approximately 325 Cowards to whom I send a newsletter. Lately, I have begun posting the newsletter on the family website and have notified those for whom I have e-mail addresses about its posting. Once notified, you can go to the website (www.myfamilynames.com), retrieve it at your convenience and print a copy in living color! However, I only have about 75 e-mail addresses so the cost of printing and mailing is reduced, but not as much as I'd like.

I had to beg for money through e-mail this time and, while the response was excellent, I feel that it would be much easier on and fairer to all of us if most of us got the newsletter over the internet.

So, if you have an e-mail address, please send it to me at jbrlnr@bellsouth.net. Be sure to tell me who you are in your e-mail. If you have received notification of the publication of this newsletter through e-mail, I already have yours and you don't need to resubmit to me.

Please take a few minutes to do this very simple task. It will lessen the costs considerably (and limit the times I have to come begging) and will be more convenient. Of course, if I don't get an e-mail address from you I will continue to send the newsletter by snail mail. :):)

In Memoriam: Horace Anderson “Jack” Smith

Jack Smith was born August 29, 1929 in McAdenville NC and died January 2, 2005 at Duke Health Raleigh Hospital. He was the son of Horace Abernethy Smith and Alma Hoffman Smith. Jack graduated from Shelby High School in 1947 and N.C. State College in 1951 with a degree in Agricultural Engineering. He then served two years in the Army Reserve, stationed in Germany for 15 months. He also joined the N.C. National Guard, completed 30 years of service, and retired as a Colonel. While in the service he received a Meritorious Service Medal. In 1953, Jack began a career in government. He worked in the State Department of Agriculture and the State Department of Conservation and Community Development and directed the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee. For a year he was director of the Wake County Natural Resources. He also served as

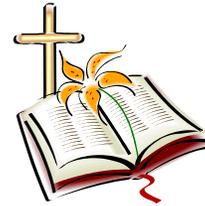
deputy secretary of the N.C. Department of Conservation and Development and directed the State Soil and Water Conservation Committee.

In 1978 he joined his wife in their family-owned management firm where he served as president until his retirement in 1992. During his retirement Jack enjoyed doing many things, including delivering mail at two Raleigh hospitals, working part-time in the legislative post office when the General Assembly was in session, delivering Meals on Wheels with his wife, and assisting some elderly friends.

Throughout his life, Jack was an active church member. Jack and Jo Ann were married at First Baptist Church in Raleigh on December 19, 1953. He was a member of Creedmore Road Baptist Church where he remained very active until his final illness.

Survivors include Jack’s wife, Jo Ann; sons, Andy and Doug Smith, and Jim Robinson; grandchildren Sarah Ellen Smith, Patrick Anderson Smith, and Samuel Troy Robinson; sister Dorothy Knowlton; aunt Faye Lineberger; and uncle E. B. Smith as well as many cousins and other loved ones.

Our sincerest sympathies are extended to Jack’s family.



In Memoriam: Rev. R. B. Coward

The Rev. R. B. Coward, 70, of Cullowhee’s Johns Creek community, died Wednesday February 9, 2005 at his residence after a period of declining health.

Graveside services were held Saturday, February 12, 2005 at Upper Coward Cemetery with the Revs. Don Riddle, Carl Adams, and Eddie Stillwell officiating.

Pallbearers were Robbie Nicholson, Logan Luker, Quincy Clayton, Alan Bishop, and Virgil Brown.

Rev. Coward was a native of Jackson County where he lived most of his life. He was a member of Wolf Creek Baptist Church, a farmer, an ordained Baptist minister, and an avid coon hunter.

He was the son of the late James Thomas and Belle Moore Coward.

Surviving are his wife of 50 years, Jacquelyn Steele Coward; three daughters, Ruth Ann Putnam and Glenda Rowe, both of Cullowhee, and Peggy Parker of Tuckasegee; three sons, Thomas Verlon Coward of Williamsburg, VA, Calvin E. Coward of Cullowhee, and Marvin E. Coward of Cherokee. He is also survived by two sisters, Margaret Coggins of Darrington, WA, and Joann Roberts of Marysville, WA; two brothers, Carl Coward of Granite Falls, WA, and Russell Coward of Sedro Woolley, WA. He also left behind 11 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the American Cancer Society, P.O. Box 925, Sylva, NC 28779.

Our sincerest sympathies are extended to the Coward family.



In Memoriam: Evelyn Coward Allen

Evelyn Coward Allen of Sumter S.C., 77, wife of Julian B. Allen, died Sunday, February 20, 2005 at her home.

Born in Ware Shoals, South Carolina, she was the daughter of the late David Lee Coward and Ruth Taylor Coward.

Evelyn was a member of Trinity United Methodist Church and was a graduate of the University of South Carolina School of Pharmacy. She received her M.A. in adult education from the University of South Carolina and was formerly employed by Sumter School District #17.

Surviving, in addition to her husband, are daughters, Julie Allen of Sumter, Katie A. Hutchens (Thomas) of Bismarck, ND,

Beth A. Edwards of Sumter, and Janie A. Kirkland (Steve) of Chapin, S.C.; six grandchildren, Lauren Edwards, Allen Edwards, Dan Hutchens, Elizabeth Hutchens, Sarah Talley and Will Talley.

Graveside services were held on February 23, 2005 at Evergreen Memorial Park with Rev. Stephen Taylor officiating.

Memorials may be made to the Easter Seal Society, Cerebral Palsy Foundation, P.O. Box 128, Columbia Sc 29202 or to Friends of the Library, in care of the Sumter County Library, 111 N. Harvin St., Sumter, SC 29150.

Evelyn's husband, Julian, can be contacted at 120 Miller Rd. Sumter, SC 29150.

Evelyn died very suddenly and peacefully during an afternoon rest after hosting an family birthday party for their daughter.

Our sincerest sympathies are extended to Evelyn's family.



In Memoriam: Jack Norton

Jack, Norton, 81, of Sylva died Saturday, Feb. 26, 2005 at Skyland Care Center following a period of declining health.

Funeral services were held Thursday, March 3 in the chapel of Moody Funeral Home with the Rev. Paul Christy officiating. Burial followed at Fairview Memorial Gardens in Sylva.

A native of Jackson County, he was a veteran of the U.S. Navy, having served in World War II. He was self-employed, a member of American Legion Post 104 of Sylva and a member of Izaak Walton League of America.

He was a former resident of Falls Church, VA where he was a member of Columbia Baptist

Church.

Jack was the son of Oscar Lee and Bonnie Lee Stephens Norton and the grandson of Sally Coward Norton.

Surviving are his wife, Kathleen Bearden Norton; son, Gary of Walkersville, MD; daughter Dona Euler of Rio Linda, CA; sister, Anna Deyermond of Prince Fredrick, MD; and three grandchildren.

Jack was one of the great supporters of and most constant participants in the Coward Family Reunion. He always took the responsibility for reserving the picnic area on the campus so that we had a place to meet each year. I believe that he went to the college the day

following each reunion to reserve the space for the next year. In fact, I had not checked with him prior to his death about the reservation, but Jule Coward found that the reservation had been in place for a long time prior to his death. We will miss him and extend all heartfelt sympathies to his family.



In Memoriam: Elise McGuire Meeks

Elise McGuire Meeks passed away March 22, 2005 at Holy Cross Hospital in Fort Lauderdale, FL. Elise was born on March 7, 1914 in Cullowhee, NC, the daughter of Frank Walker McGuire and Nannie Smith. Elise moved to Florida in 1935; initially to Bartow, then to Palm Beach and eventually to Fort Lauderdale. In 1938 she married W. H. (Herman) Meeks, Jr. who was Tax Collector for Broward County from 1953-1973 and deputy Tax Collector for many years thereto. Mr. Meeks predeceased his wife in 1992.

Elise was active until recent years with the Fort Lauderdale Garden Club. She was a member of Bethany Presbyterian Church, The Pioneer Women of Fort

Lauderdale, United Daughters of the Confederacy, and the American Orchid Society.

Elise is survived by her sister Clara McGuire Wendt of Commerce, GA; her stepdaughter, Kathleen M. Lenhardt of Panama City, FL; her son, William H. Meeks; her grandchildren, Michael J. Lenhardt (Eileen), Gennifer Jett (Richard), William H. Meeks IV (Brenda) and Julie M. Davis (Scott); her great-grandchildren, Linda Lenhardt, Lucy Lenhardt, Samantha Lenhardt, Ryker Jett, Riley Jett, Reese Jett, and Parker Meeks. She is also survived by many nieces and nephews.

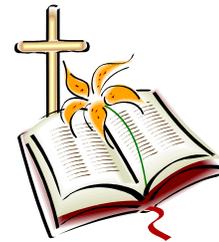
A private funeral was held for the family.

Memorial contributions may be

made in Elise's name to any charity of the donor's choice.

Elise was at the Coward Family Reunion a couple of year's ago and walked away with the "prize" for the oldest attendee. She was a lovely lady and we will miss her. If you still have your newsletter, look up her picture or you can snag it off the archives on the family website.

Our most heartfelt sympathies are extended to Elise's family.



GOOD JOB!!!

I LOVE YOU
GUYS!!!



I have to tell you that I had to go begging for funds for the Coward Family Newsletter this time. I e-mailed all those for whom I had addresses in my data-base. And, I must, say, the response was beyond generous! So I would like to thank all of those who were so kind to send money and who affirmed to me the value of this endeavor.

In memory of Jack Smith:

Marilane Nichols, Judy Tayloe, and the Floyd Griffin Family

In memory of Hazel Rohde:

Linda Maxwell

In response to Lynn's begging:

Miriam Foster, David McCann, Judy Tayloe, Linda Cowart, Glenda Conley, Gayle Keith, Mary W. Griffin, Ruth Cunningham, Barbara Rohde, Wilma Hooper, Trudy Adams, Carolyn Mohanty, Jule Coward, Dan Cowart, Gary Norton, Kathleen Norton, , Chuck Bird, David Russell and Ila Jo Mynatt.

Many thanks to all of you who stepped up to the plate. I think we're good for a couple of newsletters! :):)

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.

Carolyn Ruth Coward, Tallahassee, FL
Ed and Norma Robertson, Black Mountain, NC
Donna Hooper Beery, Newman, GA



Edna Earle Sutton, West Jefferson, NC.
Danny and Melissa Tymchuk, Gainesville, GA
Richard and Nancy Rideout, Raleigh, NC
Frank Wendt, Enterprise, AL
Darrell and Julia Rouse, Franklin, NC
Rob and Kathleen Smith, Knoxville, TN
Sherry Smith, Albany OR
Wayne and Anna Robinson, Winterville, NC

OTHER FAMILY NEWS



Logan Thomas Farrell was born on April 28, 2003. He is the son of Laurel Cowart Farrell and his extremely happy granddaddy is Joe Cowart!

Ariel Lauren Adams, daughter of Danny and Odelya Adams was born February 8, 2005 in Key West, FL. Her grandparents are Bill and Judy Adams and she is the 11th great-grandchild of Bob and Trudy Adams!

The Joe Cowart family is brimming with good news! In addition to the new grandson noted above, daughter Holly Cowart will graduate from Appalachian State University in Boone on May 7, 2005. She will leave with a degree in Education (a long-standing and noble family tradition). Not to mention that soon after, on May 21, 2005, she will marry Dusitn Booksh of New Orleans. Congratulations Holly!!! Send pictures!

Glenda Conley reports that her daughter, Susan Conley Wynne recently moved from Pickens, SC to Columbus, GA to take a new position at Columbus State University as head of cataloging and periodicals. Her son, David Conley and his family are enjoying a 6 month sabbatical leave in England where David is doing research and writing. Glenda is hoping to retire from her job as an intake specialist in Adult Education. She wants to spend time with the grandchildren! Don't you all think she deserves it? Glenda is the daughter of Robert Glenn and Gertrude Jordan Coward and the granddaughter of Robert Rogers and Lena Allen Coward.

William Roy Bird (Bill) (Dave Coward family) has passed the Certified Industrial Hygienist exam. This is a nationally recognized credential sanctioned by the Council of Engineering and Scientific Specialty Boards and is held by a very few highly trained and educated practicing industrial hygienists. Industrial hygiene is the art and science of recognizing, evaluating, and controlling occupational and environmental hazards such as asbestos, noise, radiation, hazardous materials and wastes, etc. Bill is my cousin! Does that give me points?!!! Congratulations, Bill!

MYFAMILYNAMES.COM

By John Tayloe

MyFamilyNames.com

The family website continues to grow with names and other items from the past. Currently the site is receiving over 150,000 hits from all over the world. E-mails are received everyday providing information that has been included on the site.

Many people have provided letters and documents that have been scanned and listed on the website under the "Notes and Letters" section. A new software program was loaded on the site that provides the ability for anyone to display different reports for the "Surnames" section. Currently, there are over 18,000 names listed on the site and I have many more that will be included as time permits.

To visit the site type www.myfamilynames.com

Anyone that has information that they are willing to share, please let me know so that I can post new information on the site. Please share your family history so that we can have a central location that people from all over the world can research their family history.

Just remember that we are keeping private information for those people still living for their protection. Please provide us with any corrections or additions. Also, feel free to make any suggestions that could improve the site.

The Butterfly

Friday, August 20, 2004 dawned bright and clear at the beach on South Padre Island, Texas, the serenity marred only by rough currents. Rob and Mary Diaz of Huffman, Texas, and their ten-year-old twins, Ana and Zachary, had arrived the night before with the intention of soaking up the sand and surf during a mini-vacation. The festive and relaxed atmosphere turned more somber when a fellow vacationer became snared in the current and in need of assistance. Rob, exhibiting the unselfishness for which his life was known, went into the water with another bystander to rescue Daniel Martinez and his brother Hilberto. Both swimmers were rescued and the other rescuer also returned to shore safely. Rob did not. Even though many people mounted heroic efforts to save him, Rob died on that beautiful beach.

During the long days between Rob's death and his funeral a butterfly chrysalis was found on the front porch of Rob and Mary's home. A family member recognized it for what it was and explained it's purpose to the children. Ana put the chrysalis in a jar in her room, waiting for the butterfly to emerge.

Rob's funeral mass was celebrated at St. Martha Catholic Church in Kingwood, Texas on August 25, 2004. Following the funeral the family returned home to find that a beautiful Monarch butterfly had emerged! Throughout that afternoon the butterfly clung to Ana's finger, returning even when she put it on the grass to take a picture. Finally, late in the day, the butterfly flew away, but the next morning it was seen on the milkweed plant outside the kitchen window. While we watched, it gently took flight and winged its way out of our sight.

While the butterfly has long been symbolic of death and resurrection, the timely appearance of this particular butterfly was a wondrous and visible sign to us that Rob's soul is safe and at peace and that God's comfort and love endure forever. While Rob's death has left an emptiness in all of us, we rest comfortably in the knowledge that we will see him again on another shore.

We love you, Rob.

Post Script: Rob Diaz has been nominated for the Carnegie Medal. This is an award that 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". The candidate for such an award is a civilian who voluntarily risks his or her life to an extraordinary measure while saving or attempting to save the life of another person. We think Rob deserves this medal. But even if he doesn't receive it, it takes nothing away from his extraordinary sacrifice and act of love for his fellow man.

Reach the Coward Family Newsletter!

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**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

Notes From Lynn's Desk

Well, it's spring again and it won't be long until the reunion. I really, really hope that as many of you who are able will make the effort to come to Cullowhee. I confess that I was a little jaded in regard to the importance that the family puts on the newsletter. But I changed my mind when I was forced to ask for money and the response was so great! You cannot know how affirming it was to hear that you like to receive it even though you don't know many of the family members. You know what? I don't, either, but every time I get a correspondence from someone I swell with pride at what we, as a family, have accomplished. We should rejoice in each other's successes and grieve in each other's losses. That's what families do.

John Tayloe has accepted the role of family genealogist. Bob Wilson, who is going to help John on special projects, found that his time is too limited. John's address, phone, and e-mail addresses are listed below mine. Help us get this family history recorded in full. Tell us about you!!!