

# THE COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER

April, 1999

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## COWARD FAMILY REUNION - SUNDAY, JUNE 20 - WESTERN CAROLINA UNIVERSITY PAVILION, CULLOWHEE, NORTH CAROLINA - ALL COWARDS ARE WELCOME

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The 108th Coward Family Reunion will be held on Sunday, June 20, 1999, at the pavilion of Western Carolina University in Cullowhee, North Carolina.

Many thanks to Jack Norton of the Sallie Coward Norton family for making our reservation.

Please bring **food for a pot luck lunch, drinks, cups, paper plates, napkins, utensils**, and you may like to bring **folding chairs or a folding table**.

**DIRECTIONS:** Take the by-pass of Highway 107 through Cullowhee and turn into the campus at the Administration Building which is close to the highway - a traffic light is at this intersection. The pavilion can be seen off to the left. Turn in front of the Administration Building, go a short distance and turn left and then bear to the right for the parking area of the pavilion. There is a large grassy area near the pavilion with restrooms.

**Please do not park on the grass.** If the lower parking lot is full, drive in and let passengers out with the food, and then park in the upper lot.

See you June 20!

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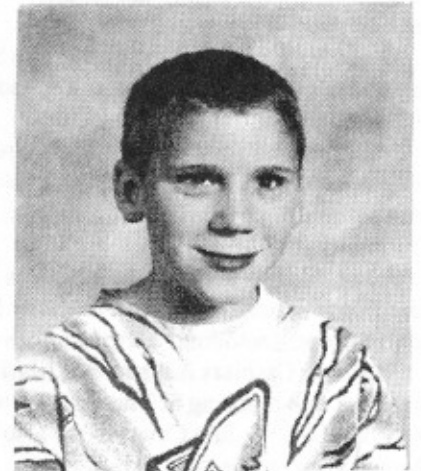
STEPHEN ALONZO COWART



HIRAM D. COWART



DAVID TAYLOE



David Tayloe, age 11 (son of Johnnie and Judy Nichols Tayloe, was studying heredity one quarter in his 6th grade class at Downtown Middle School, Winston-Salem, North Carolina. One of his projects was to write a poem about himself or a family topic. Below is what he wrote.

The picture of the man with the beard appeared in the April 1998 newsletter requesting help in identifying him. Anne Pendleton answered the request with the following comments.

"...I have seen a picture of Benjamin David many years ago, and he had a long, straight, narrow black beard that hung down to his chest. Therefore, I do not believe the unidentified man can be Benjamin David, my great-great-grandfather..."

On comparing "...my picture of Stephen Alonzo Cowart" with the other picture, "I was amazed at the close resemblance between the two men. The eyes, eyebrows, noses and cheekbones are almost identical. Even the shape of the heads is alike...**In my own mind the unidentified man is Hiram D. Cowart...**"

Stephen Alonzo Cowart, whom we called "Uncle S. A.," was the oldest child of Hiram D. Cowart and a first cousin of my grandmother. "...S. A. died in 1952 at the age of 93. He lived in Dallas, Texas."

**I personally agree with Anne's opinion, and we will identify him as Hiram D. ...unless some one comes up with proof that it is not Hiram D. Cowart.**

The woman in the picture with Hiram D. (see April 1998 newsletter) is probably his second wife, Phebe Ann Revis. His first wife, Sarah Goode, died on 8 August 1862, and at age 30, on 29 October 1865 in Pickens County, Georgia, Hiram D. married Phebe. Hiram D. was born 23 June 1835 and died after the 1870 census. He was a son of Benjamin David Cowart and Katharine Bailey and a grandson of Peter and Nancy Coward.

To make things clearer (or more confusing), Hiram D. Cowart above and Phebe Ann Revis had a son named Hiram Dee Cowart who also named a son Stephen Alonzo.

**"EVERY FAMILY HAS A START"**  
a poem  
by David Tayloe  
December 7, 1998

Every family has a start.  
We have Tayloe, Norton, Vaughn and  
Cowart,  
but that's not all for there is more.  
We have Nichols, Rogers, Stonewall  
Jackson, Bird and Williams, and lots  
of lore--  
stories that would never bore.  
Like Mary Norton during the night  
killing a bear that gave her fright;  
or the one about "Aunt Davie's ghost,"  
and room 212 at the Jarrett House.  
Soldiers, traders, farmers, teachers,  
and maybe even preachers be.  
So who knows what you will find  
when investigating your family tree.

## FAMILY NEWS

### CLARA COWARD SMITH FAMILY

Jack and Jo Ann Smith were to finalize the sale of their property in Raleigh in January 1999. They have not yet decided where they want to live in the future, but they will be keeping their post office box for a while.

### DAVE COWARD FAMILY

Rachel Coward was hospitalized with congestive heart failure in January 1999. She was put on medication and said she feels better now than she did before.

Rachel's grandson, Bryan graduated from Auburn University on 14 December 1998. Bryan is the son of Robert and Betsy Wilson. Bryan has a job that will send him to Thailand.

Larry and Margaret Bolin of San Diego, CA, had a visit from their daughter, Liz, husband Joe Olson, Malia (7) and Alex (5) who live in Hilo, Hawaii. Margaret and Liz took Malia to "High Tea." She was so excited she fell asleep on the way home.

Bob and Trudy Adams enjoyed a trip to Hawaii in November 1998, which included a 7-day cruise to Kauai, two days on Maui, and two different stops on The Big Island (Hawaii). On their return to Honolulu and Oahu they spent four days there. The highlight of their trip was having a visit with their great grandson, Tristan Cone.

Edna Earle Sutton had a bout with shingles for a couple of months, but is now recovered. She also fell and had trouble getting up, but finally got help, and fortunately did not have any serious injuries.

David Vail, son of Duncan and Sue Sutton Vail, is taking a year's course in Computer Technology in Charlotte, NC, and loves it.

Marilane and John Nichols had a great trip to San Francisco in summer 1998, visiting Muir Woods, Napa Valley with several stops at wineries, Sonoma, Sausalita, Alcatraz, Chinatown, etc.

Adam Riggsbee, Marilane & John's grandson will graduate from Western Carolina University May 15. He plans to go to Europe, including a trip to Kosovo (that may change).

While in Cashiers last summer Marilane and John had breakfast one morning at The White Goose, where Adam was their waiter. Jule Coward was also having breakfast there, so they had a nice visit, too.

Marilane and John drove to Houston, TX, in October and visited many places going and coming. In Houston they were with their daughter, Mary Diaz and her family.

Most of the Nichols family will be in Dallas, TX, for the June 19 wedding of Marilane's nephew, Bill Bird, during the reunion weekend. They will be missed.

Anne Bird, widow of David, attended her 50th high school reunion at Marshville, NC, and a Morgan family reunion. Sons Chuck & Bill Bird went with her.

### OSCAR B. NORTON FAMILY

Dale and Bobbie Coward went to Moore, Oklahoma and spent Easter with their daughter, Tammy Harrold and her family. In the terrible tornado that hit Moore this spring, the Harrold family survived and are fine.

Holly Coward is now attending AB Tech in Asheville, North Carolina, where she is studying dental hygiene. She worked for a dentist last summer and enjoyed it. Holly's following in the footsteps of her great-great grandfather, James Madison Zachary, who was a dentist.

### SALLY NORTON FAMILY

Jack and Kathleen Norton spent Christmas in California with their daughter Dona and her son Joseph Puma.

While in Sylva this summer Hazel Lewis went to Spartanburg, SC, to visit her son Jim and his granddaughters, Lauren 3 and Lexy 3 months, and she had a really good time. Hazel said she hasn't seen her great-granddaughter Shyler, whose mother Michelle came back from France to give birth but has returned to France. Hazel's daughter, Joyce is the grandmother.

Hazel spends every winter in Florida, but she flew to Virginia and spent Christmas with her children, Morris,

Billy, and Joyce. Christmas dinner was at Billy's and Mary's home, and Hazel's brother, Eugene Hooper joined them for dinner. James Hooper, another brother, has built a new home in Sevierville, TN, and he and his sister, Ruth, and their families had Christmas together.

### BENJAMIN COWARD (II) FAMILY

From *Our Purple & Gold*, page 4, Western Carolina University publicaion, no date, "Class Notes." 1977

**Renee Coward MAE '84**, a former Western Regional Teacher of the Year, has taken a position with the North Carolina Center for the Advancement of Teaching in Cullowhee. A middle school math and science teacher for nearly twenty years, she will design professional development seminars for public school teachers. A member of WCU's Alumni Board of Directors, Coward lives in Sylva with husband Jay and children, Natalie, Rebecca, and Dylan."



### BENJAMIN COWARD (I) FAMILY

Mickey Newton is said to have been involved in a wreck sometime back. Her current address is unknown. Does any one have any information on Mickey?

### WEDDING BELLS

Allison Bethea Smith and William Alfred Stanly, III, were married on October 17, 1998, at Arden Presbyterian Church, Asheville, North Carolina. Allison is the daughter of Bill and Laura Hughes Smith and the granddaughter of Nell Smith Hughes of the Clara Coward family.

### NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY

Angel Mae Harding was born December 24, 1998 in Montgomery City and County, Alabama. Big sisters Elizabeth age 4 and Eileen age 3 are proud of their new sibling. Parents are Helen Mary Adams and Michael Carl Harding, grandparents Bill and Judy Adams, and great-grandparents Bob and Trudy Adams.

From *Wesley Welcomes You*, August 13, 1998, a biweekly publication of Wesley United Methodist Church, Corpus Christi, Texas.

### SPECIAL MISSION PINS

**Chuck Bird** who works for CCAD as an Industrial Hygienist, was honored for serving faithfully as the Mission Co-ordinator for our church. This has entailed everything from picking up and distributing food for the food pantry to being the liaison with our child abuse caseworker collecting various items for children to organizing blood drives. Other areas under his umbrella are: Alcohol Anonymous Programs, the Learning Tree, Metro Ministries and the Boy Scouts. He has taught 6th grade youth in Sunday School. During VBS this past July, he helped with the first graders. He's a Texas Longhorn from UT Austin and has lived in CC for 13 years. He volunteered for CROP Walk & helped man a rest station sponsored by Wesley. For Habitat for Humanity, he helped to landscape a house near Hamlin. He's hauled items left over from Spring Fling down to Metro Ministries. He's taught classes at Del Mar, A&M & NAS in Industrial & Public Hygiene and in Industrial Safety.

(Chuck is the son of Anne Bird and the late David Bird.)

**DALE COWARD, CUSTODIAN OF THE CEMETERY FUND REPORTS THAT IT NOW HAS \$1,459.95.**