

COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER

June 1, 1977

Dear Kinfolks:

It's time to be thinking about the 86th COWARD REUNION. I hope all of you are planning to come this year. It has been a while since I have written to you, and I will try to bring you up to date on what family information I have.

I received a nice long letter in January or February from Lena Susan Coward Jackson, who lives in Westminster, California. She said that she has the Nathan Coward Clock. She had a special crate built, insured it heavily and shipped it to her home in California. They were trying to find an expert to restore it and put it in perfect working order, using original parts. She wants it to look just like what it is - a family heirloom. She wants to get as much technical data on the clock and its maker as possible. She says "You can all be assured that we'll take as good care of it as possible. I've chosen to will it to Dan's son, Nathan, because he's more likely to remain in Carolina and because he has the same name (as Nathan Coward). My daughters would love to have it, but they understand that a Coward should have it. As soon as we get it (restored), I'll have .. some good pictures of it and send them to you." (Her husband, Al, teaches photography in the evenings at college.) They have three daughters, and she sends the following data on them:

- 1- Kay Susan Jackson, b. May 17, 1954, married Paul Nelson Larch in Feb. 1975. (Paul's father was born a Tucker from Virginia, but was adopted by the Larch family. John Larch, the actor, is his relative by adoption.) Their son, Trevor Paul Larch, was born May 4, 1976.
- 2- Kelly Margaret Jackson, b. May 22, 1956, married Glenn Meria Lizardo in August 1975. (He is Phillipine-Hawaiian from Honolulu.) Their son, Eric Glenn Lizardo was born August 10, 1976.
- 3- Amy Frances Jackson, b. Jan. 26, 1958, married David Bryan Pursche (that's German) in April 1976. Their son, Nicholas Adam Pursche, was born in Dec. 1976. (Don't bother to count on your fingers - he was induced early because of complications) All are doing fine and I love being a Grannie!

- Lena Susan Coward Jackson

Other bits of information in her letter: Doris Drewes, Ollie Coward McKnight's only child, lives in California. Doris visited Ollie and Mac last fall in Florida. Doris and her husband, Bernie Drewes, have three children: Glenn, who is in graduate school; Lynne who is at U.C. Santa Barbara; and Susan who is in high school.

(NOTE: I NEED OLLIE'S ADDRESS. - JAS)

She asked about our connect^{ions} to George Washington through Hugh Rogers and Nancy Thornton. Sooner or later, we need to discuss this. There were two David Rogers: one was a brother to Hugh and one was the son of Hugh. I have researched many records, and others have also on the Rogers family. There are many interesting and wonderful stories about this family, but the question is, do we want the correct information, which is documented. What has happened is that somewhere along the line, there have been mix-ups in the two Davids, which has created problems. I have obtained records from Archives, and there is further complication because there were two Revolutionary soldiers named Hugh: the one we know about and the one in Mecklenburg County. I and others have worked on this family, and have unraveled a lot of information. In unraveling the bits and pieces of factual information, we lose a lot of the things we would like to be true. This is a most interesting family, however, and I hope others of you will join me in getting the information correct about it. It is true, I am sure, that we descend from Robert Rogers/Frances Russell, but we may descend through Hugh's brother rather than Hugh's son, according to documented information (birth records; marriage certificates, etc.) I hate to go into this because it is so complicated, but I do try to gather the facts and compile an accurate family history. I really need to write this down for you at some time, citing the sources of information. This is one of the most complicated parts of the family I have worked on.

Lena Susan Coward Jackson would love to hear from any of you if you are in her area. Her telephone number is 714-894-6318. She says there are a few Cowards in her telephone directory; I hope she will give them a call sometime to find out where they came from. We do appreciate her newsy letter, and I hope we will hear from her again soon.

We all owe a great deal of thanks and appreciation to Linden Coward who did so much to awaken in us an interest in family history. His wonderful little book is one of my most cherished possessions, and we are so glad that his niece is doing such a wonderful job restoring the Nathan Coward Clock. It may be that I can put a picture of the restored clock in one of our future newsletters. In that way, we could all share in seeing it.

You will be interested to know that I have obtained quite a bit of information on our David Rogers' wife's family, the Berry family.

June 1, 1977

My husband had surgery May 17. He had a benign growth removed from his thyroid gland. He is doing just great! Because part of the thyroid gland was also removed, he will have to take thyroid pills for the rest of his life, but he is feeling no bad effects from the surgery and is doing well.

We saw Clara McGuire Wendt at Thanksgiving and Christmas time when she came to our capital city to see her daughter Nancy and family. Elise McGuire Meeks came to Duke Hospital at Durham the first of April for a check-up. After that was completed, Clara, Elise and I went to Williamsburg....a nice trip, just before Easter.

Jane Coward said to tell you that she has set up the COWARD CEMETARY FUND at the Wachovia Bank & Trust Company in Sylva. She has it in her name as treasurer, and Dale Coward is her co-signer. The amount in this account is now \$124.48. If you have not done so, you may wish to make a contribution to the cemetery fund. This money will be used for perpetual care of this cemetery.

I don't know how many of you have subscribed to HISTORIC WEBSTER, but I have enjoyed the articles and information about times past concerning relatives and acquaintances of an earlier time in Jackson County. Membership runs from January to January at \$5 per year. For information write HISTORIC WEBSTER, Drawer W, Webster, NC 28788. You may be interested in back issues.

Dot Williams is a Hemlock Nursing Home, RFD, Timberlane Road, Waynesville, NC 28786. I am sure she would enjoy a card from you. Jane Coward said she tries to get over there about every day to see Dot.

We all know how Dot has always helped Jane in getting things ready for the Reunion. And Jane is going to need some help this year. Dale Coward and Elda Coward will be helping her, we know, but it would be good if she had others to help also. Jane said she plans to take Annie Dorsey out to help clean up the house, and she plans to get someone to mow the grass, but there are tables to put up, signs to put up, big trashcans are needed and, of course, there is clean-up work after the Reunion. Some of you who live close by perhaps can give Jane a call and help with the work before hand, and those of us who will be driving a long distance maybe can help with the clean-up afterwards. Let's all give Jane a hand this year. Many hands will make light work.

We hope Dan Coward is planning to be with us and will provide after-dinner entertainment.

Talvin and Ruth Coward are at Whittier and will be planning to attend this Reunion.

Minnie Norton Wild will be celebrating her 94th birthday on June 9, 1977. She is at Wesley Nursing Home, Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205. I haven't had a chance to talk with her daughter Nell lately to see how she is getting along, but we certainly wish her well.

Let's each one make a name tag to wear at the Reunion. It would be helpful to list NAME, TOWN, & YOUR DESCENT. For example, mine would be:

MRS. H. A. (JO ANN) SMITH RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA Daughter of NATHAN & ELLEN SMITH G-dau. of CLARA COWARD SMITH G-G-Dau. of NATHAN COWARD

It would be helpful in seeing your kinfolk to know who is who since we only get together once a year, and some folks aren't able to make it every year, in which case it could be two or three years between visits.

This will be the 86TH COWARD REUNION. It will be held at Jane and Dot's Ol' House at Norton on Sunday, June 19 (Father's Day). Just follow the signs! We are looking forward to seeing you there. Be sure to sign the book at the Ol' House so that we know who came and can list your name and address in our next Newsletter. (Please keep me posted of change of addresses, and let me know the family news.) WE LOOK FORWARD TO SEEING EACH OF YOU AT THE REUNION! BEST WISHES!

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