

COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER

June 22, 1977

Dear Kinfolk:

It was so good to see those of you who attended the 86th Annual Coward Family Reunion, at The Old House, Norton, North Carolina. There were approximately 135 persons present, and the day was certainly beautiful! How we love Jane Coward for having us! Bless her for going to so much trouble for all of us, to make our day enjoyable each and every year of the Reunion. We just cannot thank her enough for everything. She is a wonderful and hospitable person, and we are glad to be her kin. Isn't it just wonderful to go to The Old House in its lovely location, where there is always a cool breeze and a pretty view?

Also we should send a special thanks to Dan Coward for his magic tricks! I am sure that the children present will always remember the magician at the Coward Reunion. And the adults will also. We will look forward to more tricks next year, Dan. We appreciate your continuing Linden Coward's tradition of providing entertainment.

Those who signed the book were:

Dorothy Davis Bell, Box 406, Buckhead, Ga. 30625
Bob, Trudy, and Casey Adams, 2121 Darlington St., Birmingham, Ala. 35226
Edwin & Barbara Tyson & Laura Morris, 615 Harris St., Madison, Ga. 30650
Elda Coward, Norton Route, Cashiers, NC 28717
Robert, Betsey Wilson & Bryan, 488 Lemont Drive, Nashville, Tenn.
Fay Shelton Taylor, Rt. 4, Box 179, Canton, NC 28716
Jim, Glenda, David, Susan Couley, P.O. Box 42, Walhalla, SC 29691
Dale & Tammy Coward, Norton Rt., Cashiers, NC 28717
Talvin & Ruth Coward, Whittiers, NC 28789 (also Box 363, Lakeland, Fla. 33802)
John Lewis & Inez Wallace, 81 Mitchell St., Asheville, NC 28806
H. A. (Jack) & Jo Ann Smith, 1223 Wake Forest Road, Raleigh, NC 27604
Mrs. Ellen Smith, 112 Golfview Drive, Franklin, NC
Naomi Ashley, Asheville, NC.
Mr. and Mrs. Glenn Coward, Box 606, Belton, SC 29627
Mrs. Emma Coward Holeman, 907 N. Main St., Marissa, Ill. 62257
Fred & Betty Laumbattus, 405 E. Spring St., Marissa, Ill. 62256
Wilma P. Hooper, Box 2393, Gainesville, Ga. 30501
Robert Lee Hooper, Route 3, Box 420B, Sylva, NC 28779
Geneva Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Jack & Kathleen Norton, 6733 Westlawn Drive, Falls Church, VA 22042
R.L. & Betty Glenn, Ray & John, 7001 Ridgebrook Drive, Charlotte, NC 28210
Medford & Effie Messer, Bryson City, N.C.
Kent & Betty Coward, Sylva, NC 28779
Roger & Mary Jane Dillard, Box 535, Sylva, NC 28779
Roger Dillard, Jr., Connie, Lee, Chapel & Rachel, Sylva, NC 28779
J. Clark Coward, Route 1, Calhoun Falls, SC 29628
Roy, Olivia, Leslie & Shannon Coward, 2055 Evergreen Drive, Inman, SC 29349
Ray Coward, 2912 Plymouth Rock Road, Columbia, SC 29209
Dan Coward, Belton, SC
Joe & Donia Coward, Belton, SC
Edna B. Cotter, 203 Allens Creek Road, Waynesville, NC 28786
Jack & Ruth Fuson, 1109 Snowdon, Knoxville, Tenn. 37912
Keith, Kent, Brock & Dawn Fuson, Knoxville, Tenn., and friend Kathy Davis
Sally Bose & Byron Bose, Rt. 2 Box 349, Albany, Oregon 97321
Jay Coward, Sylva, NC
Hazel Potts, Norton Route, Cashiers, NC 28717
Oscar & Etta Lee Gates
Blanche Phillips Painter, Route 3, Box 454, Sylva, NC 28779
JoAnn Painter Mills, Charles & Carla Mills
Virginia Davis, Cornelia, GA. 30531
Allison Davis, Cornelia, Ga.
Wayne & Alma Henson, Rt. 67, Box 164, Cullowhee, NC
Louise Madison Reed, Webster, NC
Hazel Messer, 20 Cisco Road, Asheville, NC 28805
Leonard & Miriam Stillwell Allen, Boiling Springs, NC 28017 (Box 773)
Martha Loue Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC.
Clara McGuire Wendt, Route 1, Commerce, Ga. 30529
Terry & Caroline Levi, 17 Lakeside Drive, Asheville, NC 28806
Gail D. Howell, Kennon, Leigh, Rebekah, Box 385, Buckhead, Ga. 30625
Ray & Jane Stephens, Box 313, Walhalla, SC 29691
Jimmy Lee Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC
Angie & Jay & Julie Stephens, Walhalla, SC
Mark Taylor, Ebenezer, SC
Benny Coward, Ware Shoals, SC
Emma Hooper, Route 67, Box 5F, Cullowhee, NC 28723
Jane Coward, Box 576, Sylva, NC 28779

Several people did not sign the guest book, and if you were there but your name doesn't appear on the list, this would be the reason. The book is inside The Old House on the table each and every Reunion, and it has been a tradition for those who come to register. The name tags helped, don't you think? When we have 135 people together, the name tags "jog" our memory, especially when we only see each other once a year.

The youngest person there was Rachel Dillard, born March 24, 1977: 3 months old. The oldest family member present was John Clark Coward, who will be 83 years of age on July 11, 1977. He was born at Cowarts, NC, in 1894; his family moved to South Carolina in 1904, and he lives at Calhoun Falls, S.C. He had his twin sons Roy and Ray with him. They are nice-looking men. For that matter, we have a number of nice looking men and women in the family. I'm proud to be kin to you all. I don't know how long it would take me to tell the twins apart --- they look just alike to me.

The people who came the farthest were some of Ray Coward's wife's people: Joseph and Catherine Korbus of Germany. Of our family members in the United States, the one who came the farthest was Sally Bose, who was accompanied by her son Byron. They live in Albany, Oregon. Other states represented were California, Illinois, Virginia, Tennessee, Alabama, Florida, Georgia, South Carolina, and North Carolina.

The descendents of Sallie Coward Norton and of Dave Coward were represented in large numbers, about 26 or 27 for each family; Bob Coward's family was also represented with around 19 or 20.

We tried to establish where all the 86 Reunions have been held. The first one was in Webster in 1892. Then we have a record - written by my grandmother Chara Coward Smith - of those that took place through 1898. I believe that the Reunion was held by my grandmother in 1899, because Jane Coward said the first one she remembers was held at my grandmothers house, and she was about three years old.

Clara McGuire Wendt said that one year during WWII, because of the gas shortage, the Reunion was to be cancelled. She had not heard that it was cancelled so she came with her family; they went up to Caney Fork and found Woodie Hooper; a few others came, so they had the Coward Family Reunion anyway, so it has not missed a year since 1892 of being held on a Sunday in June. Reunions have been held at the homes of Clara Coward Smith, Dave Coward, Mary C. Zachary, Oscar Coward, Sallie C. Norton, Bob Coward, Frances C. Glenn, Mary Jane Hooper, Laura Belle Coward Davis (in Georgia) Nathan Coward's in Webster, Minnie Wilde in Bryson City, Woodie Hooper on Caney Fork, at Dix Gap, Cullowhee, George Coward at Whittier, Talvin Coward at Whittier. We need some of you older members of the family to help us get this straightened out - by years - as to where the Reunions were held. If I lived in Sylva, I would go to the old newspaper files and look up the editions after June 12 of each year to see if there is anything written about the Reunions. I would imagine there would be something. Usually a local paper carries this kind of news. I missed many Reunions when I was small, but I have been coming regularly to The Old House at Norton.

Congratulations to Glenn Coward for his hole-in-one on the 160-yard sixth hole at the Saluda Valley Country Club Golf Course on June 27. The ball never touched the ground from tee to cup. This is his second hoe-in-one.

Conrad Hooper is seriously ill with pneumonia; his condition has been listed as critical. He is in Rex Hospital in Raleigh, N.C. Orville Coward's wife is also quite ill. She has had heart surgery.

I talked to Emma Hooper at the Reunion; she said she was not in the best of health, but she was her usual good natured self and happy to be at the Reunion.

I called Jane Coward to see if we had worn her out at the Reunion, but she had rested and was doing fine. She said there was \$113.45 collected at the Reunion for the Coward Cemetary Fund, which makes \$263.16 in the bank, drawing interest. We need to build this fund up so that it will pay for the continued care of this cemetary. If you have not made a contribution, you can drop Jane a check at P.O. Box 576, Sylva, NC 28723, and she will add it to the account.

We extend our sympathy to our Stillwell cousins in the loss of their sister Kate Stillwell Reeves, who died June 6, 1977.

Jo Ann Smith, the family scribe



United States 13c

Tammy Jean Coward, dau. of Dale & Bobbie Coward, is a recent graduate of Blue Ridge High School & is to enter Brevard College this Fall & will study Special Education.

Mrs. H. A. Smith
1223 Wake Forest Road
Raleigh, NC 27604

Mrs. C. R. Bird
4907 Friendly Ave., West
Greensboro, NC 27410