

What is Charles' address? (your son)

THE COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER  
P. O. Box 30093  
Raleigh, NC 27622  
(New Address)

June 25, 1981

Dear Kinfolks,

The 90th Coward Family Reunion was held Sunday, June 21, 1981 at Jane's "Old House" at Norton, NC. Approximately 90 people attended. Dan Coward was our "m.c.". Jane Coward extended a welcome. Glenn Coward sang "Bless This House" before we ate. The picnic spread was delicious, and the weather was wonderful. Jo Ann Smith made announcements, and Dan Coward had some "tricks" after the meal. (THANKS TO ELDA, JULE, DALE, BOBBIE, AND ALL THOSE WHO HELPED

GET THINGS READY FOR THE 90TH COWARD FAMILY REUNION. - - - - - "ALL YOUR KINFOLKS.")  
The youngest person there was five-month-old Kelly Deyermond, daughter of James and Gail Deyermond of Waldorf, Md. The oldest persons present were Jane Coward of Sylva and John Lewis Wallace of Asheville, both 84. Jane had a great time and seemed to be doing quite well. We were glad that Lew was able to make the reunion. He had an auto accident in Jacksonville, Fla. last October 24 and was hospitalized for an extended period of time.

The Dave Coward/Lou Norton Family had the largest number present: 23. The Will Norton/Sallie Coward Family was next with 21. The persons who came the farthest distance to the Reunion were Al and Lena Jackson of Los Angeles, Calif. and Donna Norton of Sacramento, Calif. Kinfolks came from N.C., S.C., Georgia, Florida, Tennessee, Alabama, Arkansas, Maryland, and California. Geneva Crook from Pine Bluff, Arkansas brought two of her nieces and a great-nephew with her. We were glad to see her once again. She is a poet and usually has a meeting of poets the same weekend we have the Reunion.

Those who signed the guest book at the "Old House" were:

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| Olive Coward Merrill, Big Pine Key, Fla.          | James E. Hooper, McLean, Va.                    |
| Jane Coward, Sylva, NC                            | Oberia Wild Hyatt, Bryson City, NC              |
| Elda Coward, Norton, NC                           | Lucile Long Woodard, Bryson City, NC            |
| Fred, Judie, Frank & Melissa Wendt, Commerce, Ga. | Nellie Wild Sillmon, Greensboro, NC             |
| Julius Coward, Norton, NC                         | Frances Edwards Parsons, Lenoir, NC.            |
| Clara McGuire Wendt, Commerce, Ga.                | David Edwards, Lenoir, NC                       |
| Geneva I. Crook, Pine Bluff, Arkansas             | Miriam Stillwell Allen, Boiling Springs, NC     |
| Mary Lou Hull, Pine Bluff, Arkansas               | Leonard Allen, Boiling Springs, NC              |
| John, Connie, Lori and Chris Merrell, Tampa, FL   | Bob & Trudy Adams, Birmingham, Ala.             |
| Glenda Coward Conley, West Union, SC              | Lewis J. Smith, Jr., Clarkesville, Ga.          |
| Jim Conley, West Union, SC                        | Martha Lou Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC             |
| David Conley, West Union, SC.                     | David S. Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC               |
| Jay Stephens, Walhalla, SC                        | Dan Coward, Taylors, SC                         |
| Susan Conley, West Union, SC                      | Nathan Coward, Belton, SC                       |
| Mr. and Mrs. Lewis Smith, Clarkesville, Ga.       | Bob Deyermond, Waldorf, Md.                     |
| Gary S. Norton, Knoxville, Tenn.                  | Lori Debbis, Waldorf, Md.                       |
| Geneva Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC                    | James Deyermond, Waldorf, Mc.                   |
| Rachel Coward Wilson, Nashville, Tenn.            | Gail Deyermond, Waldorf, Md.                    |
| Ernest Wilson, Nashville, Tenn.                   | Kelly Deyermond, Waldorf, Md.                   |
| Noel Wilson, Nashville, Tenn.                     | Ray, Jane, and Jay Stephens, Walhalla, SC       |
| Annie Glen Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC                | Mary Henson Whitner, Waynesville, NC            |
| Jimmy Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC                     | Oscar Henson, Waynesville, NC                   |
| H. A. "Jack" Smith, Raleigh, NC                   | Jack Norton, Falls Church, VA                   |
| Jo Ann Smith, Raleigh, NC                         | Margaret & Charles B. Gray, Jr., Knoxville, Tn. |
| Trudy & Bob Adams, Birmingham, Ala.               | John & Elaine Nichols, Greensboro, NC           |
| Carolyn Harwood, Charlotte, NC                    | Jim, Lynn, Jonathan, Adam Riggsbee, Charlotte   |
| Rick Harwood, Kathy and Lisa Harwood              | Dale, Bobbie and Holly Coward, Norton, NC       |
| Warren & Anna Deyermond, LaPlata, Md.             | Hazel Potts, Norton, NC.                        |
| Lena Coward Jackson, Westminster, Calif.          | Glenn & Gertrude Coward, Belton, SC             |
| Albert F. Jackson, Westminster, Calif.            | Dona L. Norton, Sacramento, Calif.              |

(some people did not sign the book)

We missed Emma Hooper who did not feel well enough to come. Lois and Howard McNeill are staying with her. We missed Davie Sutton, Talvin and Ruth Coward, and all the rest who could not attend.

Congratulations to Trudy Adams who has published DAVE COWARD AND LOU NORTON and THEIR DESCENDANTS AND ANCESTORS. She has printed only 50 copies for the Dave Coward/Lou Norton family, and the book is not for sale generally. One copy very likely will be placed in the Jackson County Library. Another copy may be placed in the North Carolina State Library, Genealogy Department and/or the State Archives and History.

The book 'NEATH WESTERN'S SOD may be obtained from Howard R. Symond, Route 1, Box 139-B-1, Eufaula, Alabama 36027. If you want a copy, send him \$7.50 It has excellent cemetery records; also census records.

Another book of interest is BLUE RIDGE MOUNTAIN MEMORIES. It is just great - I've read it three times! It's a true story about Jackson County (early 1900's) written by Alice McGuire Bird Hamilton who grew up in Norton and whose first husband was Terrell Bird of Whittier. She has changed names slightly but if you knew the people you can tell who they were. Examples: Norman (Norton), Greg McCloud (George McGuire), Zimmer (Zachary), Walton (Wilson), Byrnes (Bird), Ellen Ritter (Ella Richards), Lew Smithers (Lewis Smith), Collier (Corbin) Leander Edmons (Land Edwards), Bowen (Bolick), Hilton (Higdon), Ted Bryant (Ed Bryson)

I want your help on this. Please send me names you know.

June 25, 1981

I am trying to learn who all the people are in the book. If you can help, please let me know. For those of you who wish to get a copy, I have ordered several copies direct from the publisher in Atlanta. (The first one I bought in a bookstore cost me \$6.00.) I got these for \$4.50 each plus postage and handling charges. If you want a copy, send me \$4.50 plus \$ .63¢ for postage. These books are hard to find in bookstores so I thought if I got a few, there would be family members who would like to read them.

After the Reunion on Sunday, Lewis, Mary Lee and Jay Smith, Jack and I went to the Coward Cemetery, up on Caney Fork, where the graves of Jonathan Coward/Martha Hudson Coward and Nathan Coward/Jane Rogers Coward are located. Someone had plowed and cleaned the ground at the cemetery but weeds are growing back rapidly. For the past several years, at the Reunion we have "passed the hat" for a Coward Cemetery Fund which is to be used to maintain the cemetery. Jane Coward has asked Dale Coward to look after this fund. Perhaps he can give us a status report on how much is now in the fund at our next Reunion. Davis and Conrad Hooper may wish to share their ideas with us on the best way to keep up the cemetery.

We extend sympathy to family members who have lost loved ones:

Died

October 1979 Charles David Bird, 52, in Texas  
 26 Feb 1979 Edna Coward Bird - in Greensboro, NC  
 20 Oct 1979 Clark Coward - in South Carolina  
 4 July 1980 Ray Whitner, 53 - husband of Mary Henson Whitner of Waynesville, NC  
 5 July 1980 Bonnie Norton - in Jackson County, NC

We know there have been some births in the family. I count on you to let us know.

Jane Coward said Raymond Glenn had died. She did not know when. The "Coward" family extends sympathy to the Glenn family.

IF ANY OF YOU HAVE A CHANGE OF ADDRESS, PLEASE LET ME KNOW. Every year there are several address changes and mail is returned. PLEASE NOTE THAT I HAVE A NEW ADDRESS: MRS. H. A. SMITH, BOX 30093, RALEIGH, NC 27622. Please send any family news to me. I don't know when I will do another newsletter, but I will try to send one before next year's reunion. I find it more and more difficult to keep up with address changes. Sometimes I find it difficult to find the time to address at least 150 pieces of mail per mailing. It would be a great deal of help if one person in each family would address a set of envelopes for each family member. These could be given to me at next year's reunion and hopefully they would have correct mailing addresses.

Take care, have a good year, and mark your calendar now for the third Sunday in June 1982 for the 91st Coward Family Reunion.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

On the border line of NC, there was a disputed area, and for a while it was called Walton Co, GA, but later it was surveyed and put back in NC. I found this in the NORTH CAROLINA GENEALOGICAL SOCIETY, VOL. VII, No. 2 issue. This is important to us because there is pertinent information for historians in our family.

WALTON CO., GA. 1802 CENSUS, WESTERN DISTRICT, UNDER CAPT. FANE listed Jothan Coward, as head of the household of 6 whites, 0 blacks. His near neighbors included Peter Weaver, Jas. Chasteen, Peter Chasteen, Ab Chasteen, In Feb 1807 Walton Co., Ga. citizens petitioned the Governor urging an exact boundary line be established. Signers included Johna Coward, Peter Weaver, James Chasteen, Sen., James Chasteen, Jr., etc. I also learned from the same issue that Buncombe County land grants were issued in 1803 to David Rogers, in 1805 to Matthew Rogers, and in 1806 to William Rogers together with Tho. Love. In the REVOLUTIONARY WAR INDEX I found several Cowards:

JOEL	SC	Wife Anna	R2389 (Pension File Number in National Archives)
JG&EFH	Cont. NJ	Res & Agency	S34255
SAMUEL	NJ	Elizabeth	R2390
WILLIAM	Sea Service, Md.	Nancy Ann	R2391

The Family Scribe,

Mrs. H. A. Smith  
 P. O. Box 30093  
 Raleigh, NC 27622

(Jonathan?)

Jimmy & Nancy's  
 wedding is  
 August 8.



6/27/81