

28 December 1972

Hi Kinfolks!

Let's hope that all of you have had a very nice Christmas. We enjoyed ours. My sister, Frances Payne, and her husband, Jim, came to our home for dinner Christmas Eve. Mother spent Christmas with our sister Nell Hughes and her family in Winter Haven, Florida.

Cassie Wallace Griffin wrote that she planned to visit during the Christmas holidays with her two children, Floyd, Jr., and Peggy, and their families. Floyd, Jr., lives at Tucker, Georgia, and Peggy (Mrs. R. H. Spoope) lives in Morristown, Tenn.

Cassie said that she occasionally sees Florence McGuire Thompson.

A recent picture I saw of Lewis Smith, Jr., shows us what a nice family he has. He and Mary Lee have three fine boys. Like mine, they are practically grown. They live in Clarksville, Georgia.

Jane Coward has given us a report on the "Nathan Coward Memorial Fund". The price of the double stone to be placed at the gravesite of Nathan Coward and Jane Rogers Coward at the Coward Cemetary in the Caney Fork Creek Section of Jackson County, NC, was originally quoted to her at \$563.20. To date, donations have been made in the amount of \$410.00, with a balance needed of \$153.20. Mr. Dillard at the Monument Company told her that the price had advanced 10% since his first quotation to Jane, but that he would try to get the company to furnish it at the price quoted her last summer. If enough donations reach Jane Coward by February 15th, she can order the stone and have it in place by the first of June. Then it will be there for those who wish to stop by on their way to or from the reunion. If you have not yet made a contribution to the Memorial Fund, why not place your check in the mail to Jane Coward, Sylva, NC 28779. Checks should be made payable to the "Nathan Coward Memorial Fund".

Those of us who descend from Lewis J. Smith/Clara Coward Smith had hoped to have one of the new buildings at Western Carolina University named in honor of Lewis J. Smith. However, we were unsuccessful. Since Lewis J. Smith played a major role in the establishment of the school, many feel that he is deserving of some recognition. There are many of our relatives who played a prime role in establishing the school, and I hope that by working together we can see that proper recognition is given sometime in the future.

Elise McGuire Meeks wrote that she, her sister Clara McGuire Wendt, and a friend were going on a Christmas cruise to Mexico, Panama, and South America. I hope they fared all right during the terrible earthquake which leveled the capitol of Nicaragua. I feel sure many nearby areas felt the effect.

Jack and I were glad to get a card from Linden Coward this Christmas. He says while he is still going to the doctor periodically, that he is able to wait on himself and tend to his backyard flock of hens. He says he gets good reports on his check-ups, and we are glad to know he is doing so well. His address is Route 1, Box 273, Ware Shoals, SC 27692. I am sure he is always glad to hear from kin.

I hope Minnie Norton Wild had a good Christmas. She is at Methodist Home in Charlotte. I would so like to get up there to see her, and I hope that I can.

I keep up with Woodie Hooper as I see her son Conrad occasionally.

While at Mother's home in Franklin last September, we dropped by to see Aunt Gertrude Smith at Cullowhee and had a nice visit. Aunt Gertrude and I hit the campaign trail together earlier this year and helped elect our friend Jim Hunt to be our new Lieutenant Governor.

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

Your Kin,

*Jo Ann Smith*

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