

January 1975

Dear Kinfolks,

Happy New Year! It had been my intention to get out a Newsletter in December, but unfortunately I developed back trouble and spent a good part of December in bed.

Since our last Newsletter our family has lost several of our beloved family members:

LINDEN J. COWARD of Route 1, Ware Shoals, SC, died June 29, 1974, in an Easley nursing home after a lingering illness of two and a half years and a serious illness of two weeks. He was a native of Covarts, NC, and a son of the late Robert R. Coward/Lena Allen. Linden, who wrote our NATHAN COWARD-JANE ROGERS FAMILY history, was by profession an entertainer. He traveled throughout the United States performing magic and ventriloquism acts for many years. He always provided entertainment at our reunions. Services were conducted by the Rev. R. W. Morgan at Parker White Funeral Home in Belton, SC; burial was in Graceland Cemetery in Greenville. Pallbearers were Allen, Joe and Dan Coward, Glenn Russell, David Dyal and Billy Bowie. Had he lived, Linden would have had his 78th birthday on August 19, 1974.

WOODIE ZACHARY HOOPER, 81, b. 30 Aug. 1893, died Sunday December 29, 1974, at C. J. Harris Community Hospital, Sylva, NC, after a long illness. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m., Tuesday, December 31, 1974, at Cullowhee United Methodist Church of which she was a member. The Rev. George Weekley officiated. Burial was in Upper Coward Cemetery on Caney Fork Creek. Her grandsons were pallbearers. Besides her two sons, Conrad and Davis, she was survived by eight grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren. A life-long resident of Jackson County, Woodie was the dau. of Christopher Bradshaw Zachary/Mary Alice Coward.

JOHN G. (JOHNNY) PHILLIPS died unexpectedly Monday, January 13, 1975, from a heart attack. The funeral was Thursday, January 16, 1975, at Cullowhee. Johnny's wife is Margaret Newland Phillips and they lived in Mableton, Ga. Johnny was born 19 April 1917, at Cullowhee, son of John G. Phillips/Bertie Smith.

CLAUDE HENSON died of a heart attack. It is my understanding that he was stricken while on a trip to Chicago. Claude was president of the First National Bank of Asheboro, NC. He and his family attended the 1974 Reunion, the first one for him in a long, long time, and at that time he looked the picture of health. Claude was born 23 Nov. 1917, the son of Will L. Henson/Beulah J. Norton.

Several months ago Emma N. Hooper wrote that Florence Coward Brown's son died last summer (late June or early July 1974.)

All of these loved ones will be dearly missed as they meant a great deal to their family members.

On Tuesday, Jan. 14 I was in Washington, D. C. attending a reception for our new U. S. Senator, Robert Morgan, and who should I run into but our cousin, James E. (Jim) Hooper, son of Emma Norton Hooper. He lives in McLean, Va. A pleasant surprise!

Cousin Emma Hooper's grandson, Morris Lewis, was married 29 June 1974 to Elizabeth Ann Cannon. Our best wishes to the newly-weds! Morris is Hazel Hooper Lewis' youngest son.

Cousin Emma Norton Hooper had a birthday this month. On hand to help her celebrate the special occasion were Mrs. Clarence (Juanita) Levi and son Johnny, Dr. and Mrs. Jack Fuson (Ruth) and children Keith, Kent, Brock and Dawn, Mr. and Mrs. Bill Lewis (Hazel) and their son Billy, his wife and children, John and Katy.

David Stillwell and Martha Lou Stillwell spent Christmas in Charlotte at the home of their sister, Mrs. Carolyn Harwood.

Mr. and Mrs. Harry Duke recently visited friends in Jacksonville, Fla. On their return trip, they stopped in Decatur, Ga., and brought their grandchildren, Terry Lynn and Patricia Ann, home with them for a few days visit.

Floyd S. Griffin, Jr. and family are now in Florence Ala. Last August Cassie Wallace Griffin and dau. Peggy Spoons and her family took a trip to upper N. Y. and Canada.

Clara McGuire Wendt, who now lives in Ga. came up to Franklin, NC while I was visiting Mother early in December. She and I rambled around Jackson County and spent a wonderful day together. She and Mother drove to Florida January 10th. Mother is visiting my sister Nell Hughes in Winter Haven, Fla., and Clara has gone to Fort Lauderdale, Fla. to visit her sister Elice McGuire Meeks.

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My sister Frances and her husband Jim Payne also have gone to Florida for a visit this month.

Clara's dau. Nancy and her husband Richard Rideout, and their son Will, are now living in Raleigh. We are delighted to have kin so close. They moved here from NY.

My niece, Laura Hughes Smith, her husband Bill Smith, and their daus. Jennifer and Allison have moved to Winston-Salem, NC this year, much to our delight since they will be close enough to visit. My sister Nell and her husband Tommy Hughes came to Winston-Salem for Thanksgiving with Laura and her family, and then they came down to Raleigh after Thanksgiving for a short visit with my sister Frances, and me and our families. Bill Smith is working for Coca-Cola in Winston-Salem.

Blanche Phillips Painter said that Wiley and Helen Jenkins (who live in Lanham, Md.) came down to Jackson County in November, and they went to Chattanooga, Tenn. for Thanksgiving with their sister Thelma Phillips Forester. Wiley's mother passed away Oct. 27, 1974 after a long illness.

Lewis J. Smith, who is with the U. S. Forest Service, has been transferred from Clarksville, Ga. to Hot Springs, Arkansas, effective October 1, 1974. He has been assigned to timber management activities in the Resources Division of the Ouachita National Forest headquarters in Hot Springs. During his 25 year career in the Forest Service he has served on National Forests in North Carolina, Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, and the Ozark National Forest in Arkansas, as well as the Southern Regional office in Atlanta, Ga.

Jack and I traveled through Arkansas in August and had a nice - although short - visit with Geneva Crook at Little Rock.

Elise Meeks spent last August at Hayesville, NC. A number of the Smith cousins got together there for a cookout. We all had a wonderful time.

James M. Conley, for the past three years teacher and assistant principal at Cedar Grove Elementary School in Belton, SC, on July 1, 1974 took the position of Principal of Manning Primary School in Manning SC. His wife is the former Glenda Coward, dau. of Glenn Coward/Gertrude Jordan. The Conleys have two children, David and Susan. Our best wishes to you in your new home and new job!

The last newsletter mailed to Ron Levi was returned. Who can send me his correct address? Incidentally, please keep me informed if any of the relatives move, because I usually do a newsletter about every six months. Also keep me informed of all the news.

I've been trying to compile the location of all the Family Reunions. Do you recall where the reunion was held any particular year. For years it rotated from home to home, but we have no record when it was held where. Can you help on this? Perhaps someone in Sylva could check through the back newspapers in the month of June at the newspaper office. Surely there would be a write-up each year.

Best wishes to you all,

Your kin,

*Jo Ann Smith*