

Dear Kinfolk,

The 84th Coward Family Reunion was held at Jane and Dot's cabin - The Old House - at Norton, N.C. on June 15. Rain threatened but held off, and the day was nice and very cool. Persons representing at least twelve states were present (Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Maryland, North Carolina, Oklahoma, South Carolina, Tennessee, Texas, and Virginia.) Here is the best list I was able to compile of those present, and I am sure it is not complete. I left off a number of names last year when I tried to list those who attended. Please let me know of those I leave off here.

Jane Coward, Sylva, NC 28779
Dot Williams, Sylva, NC 28779
Edna Coward Bird, Greensboro, NC
Emma Norton Hooper, Cullowhee, NC
Mildred Hooper Stanley, Jacksonville, Fla
Wilma Hooper, Gainesville, GA
R. L. (Bob) Hooper, Rt. 3, Sylva, NC
Raymond N. Hooper, Gainesville, GA
Mr. & Mrs. Jimmy Hooper, Dallas, Texas
Mr. & Mrs. Robert D. Gann & children
Forest Park, GA
Donna H. Steerman & dau. College Pk., GA
Clara Wendt, Commerce, GA
Juanita Phillips, Sylva, NC & 4 guests:
Pat & Jo Love Jackson, Winter Haven, FLA
Bill & Lena Jackson, Haines City, FLA
Blanche Phillips Painer, Rt. 3, Sylva, NC
Mrs. Margaret Phillips, Hableton, GA
Sue Bare (Margaret's sister), Indiana
Thelmas Phillips Forester, Chattanooga, TN
Joy Forester, Chattanooga, Tenn.
Wiley & Helen Jenkins, Lanham, MD.
Jack & Jo Ann Smith, Raleigh, NC
Talvin & Ruth Coward, Lakeland, FLA
Glen Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC
Jim Buchanan, Cullowhee, NC
Martha Lou Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC
David Stillwell, Cullowhee, NC
Leonard & Miriam Allen, Boiling Spgs, NC
Carolyn Stillwell Harwood, Charlotte, NC
Lynn & Elizabeth Russell, Bristow, OKLA
Casey Adams, Birmingham, ALA
John & Mary Elaine Nichols, Greensboro, NC
Jim, Lynn, & Jonathan Riggsbee, Pineville
Judy Nichols, Winston-Salem, NC /nc/
Charles & Cecilia Nichols, Columbia, SC
David, Anne, & Bill Bird, Dallas, Texas
C. David Bird, Richardson, Texas
Jim Osgard & Lucile Coward, Jacksonville,
Elda Coward, Norton Rt., Cashiers, NC /FLA
Dale, Bobbie & Tammy Coward, Cashiers, NC
Nell W. Sillmon, Greensboro, NC NC
Jim, Vara, Lisa & Forrester Cox, Asheboro/
Bonnie Norton, Cullowhee, NC
Jack & Kathleen Norton, Balls Church, VA
Michael & Dona Doggion, Partlow, VA
Clarence & Juanita Levi, 2 grandchildren
Asheville, NC
Johnny Levi
Eugene (or Jim?) Hooper, Va.
Terry & Carolina Levi, Candler, NC
Ruth Hooper Fuson, Dawn & Brock, Knoxville
Joe & Donia Coward, Belton, SC /TENN.
Mr. & Mrs. Raymond Glenn, Jr, Charlotte, NC
Ray & John Glenn, Charlotte, NC
Geneva Crook, North Little Rock, ARK.
Lena Edwards, Fredericksburg, VA
Frances Parsons, Lenoir, NC
Melissa Stanley
Lucy Hedden, Webster, NC
Hazel Messer, Asheville, NC
Louise Madison Reed, Webster, NC
Louise Madison Bedford, High Point, NC
Edna B. Cotter, Waynesville, NC
Mr. & Mrs. Hubert Miller, Waynesville, NC
Ray Hooper, Knoxville, Tenn.
Ruby Hooper, Brevard, NC
Pearl Henion, Cashiers, NC
Mrs. Fay Taylor, Canton, NC
Bobby Deyermund, LaPlata, MD
Bobby Fennell, La Plata, MD

We are very sorry Minnie Wilde could not be with us. She had planned to come and was at the home of her daughter Oberia in Bryson City, but did not feel up to coming at that particular time. She is getting along very well and is such a wonderful person. She celebrated her 92nd birthday on June 9. We are glad that her daughter Nell Sillmon was able to come and could tell her about the reunion.

We also missed Davie Sutton being at the reunion. This was the first reunion she had missed in a long, long time. Early in June she wrote: "In August last year I left the old home in Cullowhee which I sold to the University and bought a place near my daughter who lives here in Greensboro - not in the city proper, but in nearby Sedgeville. There comes a time when you must be near some of your children..... My daughter Dorothy Sue, who married Duncan Vail from Pinehurst, and by whom I live will not be here (at reunion time). They are going to Switzerland in June, they and their two children and cannot take me. Anyway, I have deterioration of the spine and that's a long ride for me with my ailing back. I will be thinking of all of you."

"There are very few of the grandchildren left. Woody, Linden, Lee and Claude Henson and Donald Brown have died since last year." -- DAVIE SUTTON
Please let us know about the trip to Switzerland, Dorothy Sue. It sounds just great!
Someone at the reunion told me Cassie Wallace, her daughter Peggy Spooone and her children, went on a trip out west. We hope we will hear about it from them. I think we all should be proud of Joy Forester who recently received her Ph.D. from the University of Tennessee.
My niece Nancy Hughes is engaged to marry Bert Adams on August 23 in Winter Haven, Fla. My nephew Bob Hughes and his wife Carol have recently visited my mother in Franklin, NC. Bob and Carol are looking forward to a new addition to our family.
Joe Coward said that Clark Coward's wife was very, very ill. We were certainly sorry to hear this bad news.
Joe also told us that the thief who broke into Linden Coward's homeplace did not get the Coward Family Clock as it had been removed prior to the break-in. That is good news!
I thought you would enjoy the early Coward land grants.
Enclosed is a form. If you have not filled out one yet, please do so and return it to me. Also if you remember the place and the year where each reunion was held please let me know. I'm trying to compile a list of places they were held.

The Family Scribe,
Jo Ann Smith (Mrs. H.A.)

June 15, 1975

Our branch of the family descends from James Coward who came into North Carolina and settled in Rutherford County. He had a son Jonathan Coward, who was the father of Nathan Coward. The following are Land Grants entered by the Governor of North Carolina and recorded in the Secretary of State's Office in Raleigh, NC. Rutherford County was formed in 1779; Buncombe County was formed from Burke and Rutherford Counties in 1791; and Haywood County was formed from Buncombe County in 1808. Macon Co. was formed from Buncombe, 1828; Jackson was formed from Haywood-Macon, 1851.

LAND GRANTS

No. 2118 Know ye that we have granted unto James Coward seventy acres of land in Rutherford County lying on the South side of Green River Beginning on a Red oak running thence South seventy five west one hundred poles to a white oak, then North fifty west thirty poles to a white oak, thence North twenty East one hundred and fourteen poles to a Stake thence East eighty two poles to a Stake on his old line, thence with his old line South one hundred poles to the Beginning. Entered the 13th of January 1800. To Hold to the said James Coward his Heirs and assigns for ever. Dated the 13th of November 1801.

/s/ B. Williams

/s/ W. A. White, Secretary

No. 2856 Know ye, that we have granted unto James Coward fifty acres of land in Rutherford County, lying on the long Branch of Walnut Creek. Beginning at a Chesnut James Doyles corner, thence with Doyles line North fifty six poles crossing the the Branch to a Post Oak on said line, thence West one hundred and thirty four poles to a Post Oak, thence South thirty West forty two poles to a Black Oak, then South sixty East fifty two poles to a white oak, thence South forty five East thirty poles to a Spanish Oak, thence North seventy one East to the Beginning. Entered 6th January 1812. To hold to the said James Coward his heirs and assigns forever. Dated 24th November 1813.

/s/ William Hawkins

/s/ Wm. Hill Secretary

No. 2775 Know ye that we have Granted unto James Coward Two hundred acres of land in Rutherford County on the South side of Green River Beginning at a white Oak Ben Coward old corner then south thirty three poles to a Black oak thence west forty two poles to a Black Oak thence South fifty two West eighty two poles to a Black Oak thence South eighty West twenty poles to a post oak Dimsdales corner thence West ninety poles to a Stake thence South thirty poles to a Stake thence East one hundred poles to a Stake thence south thirteen East fifty four poles to a stake thence south sixty East fifty eight poles stake thence South seventy West forty poles to a white oak thence North twenty East one hundred and fourteen poles to a red oak thence East eighty two poles to a pine thence North ten East ninety six poles to a Black Oak thence east forty poles to a stake on Miles line thence North eleven poles to a chesnut thence west one hundred and sixty poles to the Beginning Entered 12th January 1810. To Hold to the said James Coward his heirs and assigns for ever. Dated 11th December 1811.

/s/ William Hawkins

/s/ Wm. Hill Secretary

No. 21 Know Ye that we have granted unto Jonathan Coward seventy two acres of land in Haywood County Section No. 9 in District No. 4. it being a part of the lands lately acquired by Treaty from the Cherokee Indians, Beginning at a post Oak on a ridge the fifth corner of No. 8. from the beginning on the side of a Hill and runs East thirty eight poles to a small white Oak on the side of a hill, thence North twenty five East eighty six poles to a white Oak on a Hill side passing the Caney fork at the distance of twenty four Poles, thence North fifty six West one hundred and sixty poles to a black Oak on a Hill side, thence South one hundred and eighteen Poles to a chinqupen corner of No. 8. passing the Caney fork at fifty two Poles, thence South fifty five East seventy poles to the Beginning. To Hold to the said Jonathan Coward his Heirs and assigns forever. Dated the 30th of December 1824.

/s/ H. G. Burton

/s/ Wm. Hill Secretary

No. 59 Know ye that we have granted unto Jonathan Coward one hundred and twenty acres of land in Haywood County Section No. 16 in District No. 4. it begin a part of the lands lately acquired by treaty from the Cherokee Indians. Beginning at a white Oak on a ridge on the North East side of the Caney fork and runs North fifteen East one hundred and fifty four poles to a small Hickory on the side of a mountain, thence South seventy five East one hundred and twenty six poles crossing the Creek at eighty five poles to a large white Oak in a flatt near some Indian Houses thence South fifteen West one hundred and fifty four poles to a large white Oak, thence North seventy five West one hundred and twenty six poles to the Beginning. crossing the Creek at ninety poles Tol Hold to the said Jonathan Coward his heirs and assigns forever. Dated the 9th of February 1827.

/s/ H. G. Burton

/s/ Wm Hill Secretary