

THE COWARD FAMILY

NEWSLETTER

June 1976

Dear Kinfolks,

IT'S REUNION TIME! MARK YOUR CALENDAR, AND BEGIN MAKING YOUR PLANS:

85TH COWARD REUNION	Date: Sunday, June 20, 1976 (3rd Sunday in June)	85TH COWARD REUNION
	Place: Norton, N.C. at the Ol' House (Jane and Dot's cabin)	

I called Jane Coward the other evening, and she said to tell you that she is looking for a big crowd, and she wants everybody to come. Also she asked for suggestions concerning the maintaining of the Coward Family Cemetery, on Caney Fork Creek, for future years. After I talked with Jane, at her suggestion, I called Conrad Hooper, Cousin Woody's son who lives here in Raleigh. He said that he and Gordon Hooper had done a lot of cleaning at the cemetery, cutting down trees and cleaning up, and he would like to see a fence put around it. Let's be thinking of a way to provide continued care for this family cemetery.

On May 18 I was in Charlotte and stopped by to see our cousin, Minnie Norton Wilde. She has been moved to Wesley Nursing Home, next door to the Methodist Home, and she has nice accommodations. Her sight is failing, but she is doing so well. I marvel at her ability to get around --- she does better than I do! A wonderful conversationalist, she is a delight to visit! I arrived in mid-morning and stayed through lunch. She is having her 93rd birthday on June 9th. She said she probably won't get to the reunion but wants me to express her best wishes to all of you. If any of you are in Charlotte, please stop by to see her. She was telling me about her time as a student at the school at Cullowhee and recited many poems she learned at that time. (Her address: Wesley Nursing Home, Shamrock Drive, Charlotte, NC 28205)

How many of you subscribe to the HISTORIC WEBSTER, a newsletter of the Webster Historical Society, Inc. ? If you do not you should, because many issues have articles relating to our family and have real value toward our family history. Annie Louise Madison Reed wrote an interesting article for the Winter, 1976, issue, entitled: OSCAR BOMAN COWARD. In the last issue there was an article which had been written by my Aunt Nannie Smith McGuire, EARLY HISTORY OF CULLOWHEE SCHOOLS AND CHURCHES; Aunt Nannie had written this in 1957 and it should interest all of you. Her daughter Clara McGuire Wendt also has an article in the same issue entitled NANNIE SMITH MCGUIRE. Every issue has some member of our family mentioned --- this is because our family members were so much a part of their community, helping establish the school at Cullowhee and supporting the churches, etc. Members of the family were legislators, sheriff, and holders of other public offices.

Speaking of public service, Elda Coward sent me a clipping sometime ago about Sylva attorney Roger Lee Dillard, Jr. being appointed to the State Banking Commission. His mother is the former Mary Jane Coward, and he is a member of the law firm of Coward, Coward, Jones and Dillard.

Wilma Hooper sent me a clipping from the Atlanta Journal, entitled WRITE UP YOUR REUNION. Cosponsored by the Univ. of Alabama Center for the Study of Southern Folklife, the project is "an informal voluntary survey of southern families planning family reunions during the Bicentennial," according to a spokesman for the Smithsonian Institution. We are sending them a copy of this letter to let them know that our Coward Reunion has been meeting each year since 1892. (Isn't that great?)

After losing their first baby, Bob and Carol Hughes are now parents of Jonathan Thomas Hughes, born prematurely in April, weighing slightly over 2 pounds. Jonathan is gaining and now weighs more than 3 pounds. As you know, Jonathan is a family name: Jonathan Coward (b. 1774, d. 1853) was our forbear.

Jake and Dianne Hyatt are the parents of a daughter, Samantha, born in early October 1975. She is the great-granddaughter of Minnie Wilde and a darling little girl. (I saw her picture when I was in Charlotte.) Cousin Minnie says, "She is my first and only namesake. I was named after Mother's sister, Aunt Samantha Coward. I remember very little about her since she died when I was a small child." (Samantha is Cousin Minnie's middle name.) Oberia Wilde Hyatt is the grandmother of Samantha. When I was talking with Jane, she recalled the night Oberia was born. She said Uncle Will Norton was sheriff at that time (1904), and she and Emma Norton, both age 7, got permission to go to Minnie's house to spend the night. Next morning when they awoke they learned that there was a new baby in the house, and this made quite an impression on those two little girls. (To help some of the younger members of the family; William C. (Uncle Will) Norton married Sallie Jane Coward. Minnie and Emma are their daughters. Minnie married Jake Wilde, and Emma married John E. Hooper.)

June 1976

Because a part of my mailing list has been misplaced, some of you did not get the January 1976 Newsletter and will not get this one. I regret this very much! Those of you who do receive one, please notify others of the Reunion, and I will have extra copies (for those who like to keep the newsletters) available at the Reunion. I cannot find the addresses for these, to name a few, Mrs. Lynn Russell, Mrs. Walter Lippard, Mrs. Sibley Graham, Mrs. C. S. McKnight, Jr., Ray Francis Coward, Roy L. Coward, Mrs. Bill Lewis, Robert Earl Coward, Luther E. Norton, Mrs. Keith Mynatt. PLEASE HELP ME OUT WITH THESE. If you will send addresses of any who are not getting newsletter, I will mail them one. I DO NEED YOUR HELP WITH THIS. It is hard to keep up with all the addresses and address changes, and I know I am missing some of the family addresses.

Clara McGuire Wendt had a family get-together at her home in Georgia. Her sister Elise McGuire Meeks of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla., and her sister Florence McGuire Thompson of Hayesville, NC., were both there. Her son Fred lives close by, and his family was there for the Easter gathering. Also Richard, Nan, and Will Rideout of Raleigh, NC; Marvin & Johanna Winzenread & children of California; Bill Meeks of Ft. Lauderdale, Fla. and family attended.

I don't know if I put this item in a previous newsletter: My sister Nell's daughter Nancy Lee Hughes was married in Winter Haven, Fla. to Bert K. Adams, Jr. of Atlanta, Ga. on August 23, 1975. Nancy and Bert are recent graduates of the University of Georgia.

My youngest son Douglas will be graduating from high school this year. There must be others in the family who have high school and college graduates.....I'm counting on you to keep me posted.

My sister Frances' youngest child, her daughter Julia Kidwell, was married in Raleigh, NC, to Daryl Rouse on March 6, and they are making their home in Raleigh.

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION:

A "Claude Cowart" served in Arkansas House of Representatives (1937-1939) from Baxter County, Arkansas.

Three Coward brothers (Orville and Kent Coward's kin) were:

- 1- Elbert Coward, who was the father of Alden E. Coward, now deceased, who lived in Murphy, NC
- 2- Ed Coward lived in Newport News, Va.
- 3- _____ Coward was barber in Sylva.

Orville and Kent, can you tell me how they fit into the family? I picked up this information sometime ago when I was in Murphy, NC.

CORRECTION: Jan. 1976 NL: It was the son not the husband of Hazel Coward Rohde who was elected city commissioner in Winter Haven, Fla.

MACON COUNTY, NC, MARRIAGE REGISTER, 1831 - 1876 (C.R. 061.602.1)
H. Coward married Maranda R. Wilk, dau. of George & Rebecca Wikle, about 1869
Nathan Coward married Jane Rogers - February 17, 1844.

N.C. ARCHIVES & HISTORY DEPARTMENT:

JOHN WILD's original will on file in Archives - it was written 14 Oct. 186 and was filed in Macon Co., NC; mentions wife: Margaret; sons: P. C., B. G., Alexander, & Joseph Wild; daughters: Adaline Fouts, Matilda Talent, Elizabeth Wild, Sophronia Byrd, and Mary Dean. (Maybe Cousin Minnie Wild can tell us who this was).

The family scribe,

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