

June 1972

Hi Kinfolks!

On 11 June 1972, the descendants of NATHAN COWARD gathered at Jane and Dot's cabin at Norton, N. C., for a family reunion. This was the 81st family reunion and the 154th anniversary of the birth of Nathan Coward. A large crowd was in attendance, but there were many who could not attend this year - I being one who would have liked very much to have been there. It is always a happy occasion because this family has always had strong bonds of love.

NATHAN COWARD was born 12 June 1818, the son of Jonathan Coward and Martha Hudson Coward. He had several brothers/sisters: James, Betsy, Nancy, Jonathan, Jenny, Elihu, Polly, Hudson, Benjamin, and Mattie*. Nathan Coward was married twice. His first marriage was to Jane Rogers, daughter of David Rogers and Mary (Polly) Berry Rogers. His second wife was Sophia Hedden. By his first marriage, he had ten children: 1-Minerva Emeline Coward, 2-Clara Almira Coward, Tolvin Berry Coward, 4-Jonathan David Coward, 5-Martha Samantha Coward, 6-Mary Alice Coward, 7-Oscar Boman Coward, 8-John Hamilton Coward, 9-Sallie Jane Coward, 10-Robert Rogers Coward. Four children were born to Nathan Coward and wife Sophia: 1-John Homer Coward, 2-Frances Emeline Coward, 3-Benjamin Frank Coward, 4-Jane Hedden Coward.

It was decided at the reunion this year that future reunions would be held on the third Sunday in June, rather than the second Sunday. This should make it easier for those families who have children in school to attend.

It was decided at the reunion that an appropriate headstone be placed at the gravesite of Nathan Coward and Jane Rogers Coward, where their remains lie in the Coward Cemetary in the Caney Fork Creek Section of Jackson County, N. C. Jane Coward, the youngest child of Nathan Coward, has selected a stone, the cost of which is \$586. As of the present time, contributions of \$245.00 have been received. If you have not contributed, will you do so? Make your checks payable to the "Nathan Coward Memorial Fund". Several people have donated \$25. If you feel you cannot donate that much, perhaps you can send \$5 or \$10. Even a small contribution of \$1 or \$2 would help. Checks should be mailed to Miss Jane Coward, Sylva, N. C. 28779 or to Mrs. Woodie Hooper, Cullowhee, N. C. 28723. Let's all contribute and be a part of this memorial. Let's have this headstone in place before the next reunion!!!!!!

There have been two weddings in the family recently. (There may be others of which I have not heard.) John Lewis Wallace married Inez Hooper Arrington on 12 May 1972. (These two are cousins, both being great-grandchildren of Nathan Coward.) This is a second marriage for each, and a very happy one as I observed when they spent the weekend with me when they came to Raleigh for the wedding of Rebecca Hooper to John Albert Michaels on 24 June 1972. Rebecca (Becky) is the dau. of Mr. and Mrs. Conrad Hooper. Conrad is superintendent of Raleigh City Schools, and I can tell you he has a demanding job, which he handles very, very well. His mother Woodie Zachary Hooper was also here for the wedding. She is a granddaughter of Nathan Coward, as most of you know.

I am still working on the family history, which is taking me longer than I had planned to get it in book form, but - if the good Lord is willing - I will get it completed sometime in the future. In the meantime, it occurred to me that a family newsletter might be nice to carry current news about members of the family as well as interesting facts about our forebears. How does this appeal to you? Postage would be the main expense. Other than that, all I would need would be a little paper and a few stencils. Of course, I would need to know family news, and I'd count on you to supply this. I can supply the historical data as I keep accumulating a great deal of this. Let me know how many are interested, and I will see if it can be worked out.

*Children of Jonathan Coward furnished to me by Joe A. Cowart, Jr., 829 Indian River Drive, Cocoa, Fla. 32922, who like me is working on the Coward(Cowart) family history.

Your kin,

Jo Ann Smith
Mrs. H. A. Smith
Rt. 7, Box 383
Raleigh, N.C. 27609