

Coward Family Newsletter

November 2003

112th Coward Family Reunion Held in Cullowhee

The Coward Family
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The 112th Coward Family Reunion was held in Cullowhee on June 15, 2003. Needless to say, there was plenty of food and fellowship and, though the afternoon was hot, it was a wonderful time to enjoy scenic western North Carolina and get together with friends and loved ones.

Twenty-seven people signed the register, but when we counted up the family members there were 46. Some of you forgot!! We had several first time attendees (Judy Forcier, Elaine Segars, and James Parsons.) These three peo-

ple are siblings and are members of the Leonard Coward family. The following Coward families were represented.

Clara Coward Smith (2)

Dave Coward (8)

Oscar Bowman Coward (1)

Sally Norton (19)

Robert Coward (5)

Benjamin Coward (2)

Peter Coward (3)

Elihu Coward (3)

Leonard Coward (3)

The oldest Coward was Hazel Lewis, a spry 87 years young. The youngest was Julie Coward,

coming in a tad younger at 6 years old.

Judy Forcier came lots of miles (from Indio, CA) to join us for the celebration.

We were sorry that many of you couldn't attend, but the next reunion is scheduled for June 13, 2004 at the same place...the campus park in Cullowhee. This is the second Sunday in June and will not interfere with your Father's Day plans.



Families Get Together!!

The Lewis J. Smith Association annual meeting was held on June 14, 2003 at Ryan's Restaurant in Sylva. Attending were Floyd Griffin; Mary Griffin; Fred and Judie Wendt; A.H. Wilson; Mr. and Mrs. Rick Wilen; Ila Jo Mynatt; Ana Jo

Smith; Judy Parham and her daughter, Elizabeth; Rebecca Nan Smith; Bob and Carol Hughes; Jonathan Hughes; and, of course, Jack and Jo Ann Smith.

The Dave Cowards also got together before the "big" reunion at the

home of Lynn and Jim Riggsbee. It was a rather small group this year with a number absent because of illness. Present were Lynn and Jim Riggsbee, Trudy and Bob Adams, and Bob and Betsea Wilson.

**CELEBRATE
YOUR FAMILY!!**



**Hazel Lewis
Oldest**



**Julie Coward
Youngest**



**First Timer
James Parsons**



**This is Bob Wilson....new
family genealogist.**



**Even though the crowd was
rather small, a good time was
had by all. Ya'll come next
year!**

In Memoriam: Margaret Edna Coward Kearney

Margaret Edna Coward Kearney of Tryon Estates, Columbus, NC died Sunday, March 30, 2003 in Spartanburg Regional Medical Center, Spartanburg, SC.

Edna was born December 6, 1920 in South San Francisco, CA to Louie Franklin Coward and Roselyn Tolberta Scott. She graduated from Napa Union High School in 1938 and attended Stockton Junior College, Stockton, CA for two years where she was a member of Alpha Theta Tau Sorority. In 1942 she was chosen to attend the first class of SPAR Officers at Smith College. After graduation she was assigned to the Navy Intelligence Office in Washington, DC. While in this job she met her future husband, Lt. John Patrick Kearney. They were married June 10, 1943 at Holy Trinity Church in

Georgetown, D.C. They had to be given permission to marry by Frank Know, Secretary of the Navy.

After WWII was over the Kearneys lived in Toledo, Ohio; Greenwich, CT; Bethesda, MD; and then retired to Hilton Head, SC until 1991 when they moved into Tryon Estates in Columbus, NC. Edna made many friends wherever she went. Her lovely smile, her thoughtfulness for others and her wonderful sense of humor endeared her to all.

Edna is survived by her husband of almost 60 years, John P. Kearney; daughters Margaret Dale Burton (Roy) of Proctorville, VT; Margaret Elizabeth Scully (Dennis) of Norwalk, CT; sons Robert Louis Kearney of VT; David Justin Kearney (Lois) of Bantam, CT; sister, Ruth Coward

Cunningham (Jack) of San Antonio, TX; brother Louis F. Coward (Georgia) of Lake Oswego, OR; eleven grandchildren and four great grandchildren. She was predeceased by her son John Peter Scott Kearney and by her sister, Mary Curtis Coward Pfeiffer.

A memorial mass was held April 5, 2003 in St. John the Baptist Catholic Church in Tryon, NC. Memorial masses were also held in San Antonio, TX and Stockton, CA. Burial is in St. Mary's Cemetery in Greenwich, CT.

Our sympathies are extended to Edna's family.



In Memoriam: Blanche Phillips Painter

Blanche Phillips Painter, 94, of Sylva's Locust Creek community died Wednesday, May 7, 2003 at Skyland Care Center after a period of declining health.

Funeral services were held at 3 P. m. Friday, May 9, at Lovedale Baptist Church. The Rev. Mike Farmer officiated. Burial was at Lovedale Cemetery.

A native and lifelong resident of Jackson, CO, she was the oldest member of Lovedale Baptist Church. She was the daughter of the late John and Clara Smith Phillips.

She was preceded in death by her husband, Ed Painter and one son, Lewis Painter.

Surviving are one son, Carl Painter of Sylva; two daughters, Joann P. Stamey of Hayesville and Judy Herron

Of Cleveland, TN; 10 grandchildren; 21 great grandchildren; and 3 great great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to West-Care Hospice, 68 Hospital Road, Sylva NC, 28779 or to Lovedale Baptist Church, 160 Lovedale Church Road, Sylva, NC 28779.

Moody Funeral Home was in charge of arrangements. An online memorial and guest is available at www.pemoody.com

Our sympathies are extended to Blanche's family.



In Memoriam: Lucile Woodard

Lucile Long Woodard, 90, of Bryson City's Ela Community, died Monday, May 19 2003, in a Swain County health care facility.

Funeral services were held at 10:00 a.m. Friday, May 23 at Bryson City United Methodist Church, of which she was a member.

A native of Jackson County, she was the daughter of the late Jonatha and Clara Norton Long and wife of the late Wayne O. Woodard

She was a graduate of Western Carolina Teachers College and a former school teacher, having taught in Jackson and Swain counties. She was co-owner of Ela Campground and Grocery along with her husband.

She was a former member and chapter regent of the Daughters of the American Colonies and a former member of the Swain County Hospital Auxiliary and the VFW Ladies Auxiliary.

She was preceded in death by two sons, Richard J. and Joseph W. Woodard and is survived by her two grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to Bryson City United Methodist Church, P.O. Box 817, Bryson City, NC 28713-0817.

Our sympathies are extended to Lucile's family.



In Memoriam: Guy Phillips

Guy John Phillips, 67, of Winter Haven, FL died August 8, 2003 at Winter Haven Hospital.

Services were held at 6 p.m. Wednesday, August 13 at OttLaughlin Funeral Home in Winter Haven. A private burial service was planned in Sylva at a later date.

A native of Jackson County, NC he had lived in Florida since 1970.

He was a veteran of the U.S. Army and a retired mechanic.

He was the son of the late Carl and Juanita Phillips.

Guy is survived by his wife, Judy Phillips; one son, Guy John Phillips Jr. of Sylva; one daughter, Debbie Short of Asheville, NC; and one granddaughter.

Our sympathies are extended to Guy's family.



In Memoriam: Hazel Rohde

Hazel C. Rohde died of congestive heart failure Tuesday, August 26, 2003 at Winter Haven Hospital. She was 87.

Born in Sylva, NC on February 1, 1916 she moved to Winter Haven in 1943 and married Paul E. Rohde JR. in 1946. Hazel dedicated her time to raising her children and participating in their individual interests.

After raising her children, Hazel too up the game of golf, a hobby that she and her late husband enjoyed together.

Hazel enjoyed gardening and was a member of the Winter Haven Garden Club during the late 1960s and early 1970s.

"She did a lot of gardening around the house and kept everything up. She had little gardens at their home," son Ed Rohde said. "She did a lot for people in the neighborhood there. My father worked for National Food Stores and he would pick up vegetables on his travels. When he would come back, Mother would make up little vegetable packages. If we ever had an abundance, she shared that with the neighbors."

Hazel was a member of Willowbrook Woman's Golf Association and a charter member of Parkland Baptist Church, where she was a former Sunday School teacher.

Hazel was preceded in death by her husband. She is survived by her son, Ed Rohde; by two daughters, Marilyn Buchanan of Melbourne, FL and Linda Maxwell of Kingsport, TN; one brother, Ray Coward of Sylva, NC; eight grandchildren and three great grandchildren.

Memorials may be made to the Humane Society, 555 Sage Road, Winter Haven FL 33881, or the Winter Haven Police K-9 Unit, 125 N. Lake Silver Drive, Winter Haven, FL 33881.

Our sympathies are extended to Hazel's family.



In Memoriam: Peggy Griffin Spoone

Lena Margaret ("Peggy") Griffin Spoone died on September 12, 2002 in a vehicle accident on Sevier Highway in Tennessee. She was returning home for Robbinsville, NC when the accident occurred. Her two dogs were with her and one of them also died in the accident.

Peggy was the widow of Robert Hal Spoone. They are survived by two children, Robert Hal (Bob) Spoone of Oak Ridge, Tennessee, and Melissa Ann

Spoone Daniels of Morristown, Tennessee.

Peggy was born in Jackson County, NC where she spent her early years. Later on, her parents moved to Robbinsville where her father, Floyd S. Griffin, was the school superintendent and her mother, Cassia ("Cassie") Wallace Griffin was a teacher. Cassie was the daughter of Cassius A. Wallace and Lena Smith Wallace. Lena was the daughter of Lewis J. Smith and Clara Smith.

Peggy's brother is Floyd S. Griffin of Robbinsville, NC.

Our sympathies are extended to Peggy's family.



OH WHERE, OH WHERE CAN YOU BE?

The last Coward Family Newsletter to the following people were returned to me as undeliverable. If you can help me get the correct addresses, I will be very grateful.

David and Rhonda Davis,

North Augusta, SC

Thomas G. Cowart, Louisville, TN



Ray Francis Coward, Columbia, SC

Nancy Jane Coward, Walnut Creek, CA

Thanks for helping me keep up with as many people as possible!

GOOD JOB!!!



Thanks to all of you for being so generous in your contributions to the financial health of the newsletter. We collected \$122 at the reunion and many more of you have sent other contributions to me. The newsletter fund is in excellent shape at this time, but please don't forget your family when you have extra cash!

Memorial contributions was made by

Sue Vail in memory of **Glen Buchanan**; and by Linda Underwood in memory of **Dorothy L. Cowart**

Other contributors were Ruth Coward Cunningham, Carolyn E. Wilson, Jo Ann Graves, Barbara Tyson, Hazel Lewis, and David McCann.

Thanks to one and all for all your support!

Tell me about your family. Complete this form and mail it to me at:

**3308 Champaign St.
Charlotte, NC 28210**

or e-mail its equivalent to

jbrlnr@bellsouth.net

Name: _____

Address: _____

Family Branch: _____

Spouse's Name: _____

Children's Names: _____

E-Mail Address: _____

This is what I want you to share about my family:

EDITOR

Lynn Riggsbee
3308 Champaign St.
Charlotte, NC 28210
Phone: 704-554-8765
Email: jbrlnr@bellsouth.net

GENEALOGIST

Bob Wilson
89 Highway 333
Columbiana, AL 35051
Phone: 205-678-8091
Email: BBBAWILSON@aol.com



**CELEBRATE
YOUR
FAMILY!!!**

A number of you have expressed an interest in hearing more news about more branches of the family. Please know that I am committed to providing the extended family with any and all news that you send me. If you want me to include information about your ancestors I will happily do so. If you want me to include information about current generations I will happily do so. However, while I edit the newsletter, I am not the family genealogist and I have very little information about branches of the family other than mine. I am including in this newsletter a page upon which you can provide me with any information about your family that you wish to share. Please, if you wish to see relevant information about YOUR family line included in the newsletter, you must let me know. I am at your service.

Relatively Yours,

Lynn 11/03

Glen Buchanan and her son, Jimmy, both died this year. They were special people, living in special circumstances, and are remembered fondly by all the Dave Coward family. Both of them are buried in the Cullowhee Methodist Church Cemetery in Cullowhee, NC.



✓ Bob Wilson (Dave Coward family) has agreed to begin to take over the ✓
✓ duties of Family Genealogist. He will begin by helping Trudy Adams, ✓
✓ whose health has become more fragile than we wish. He has plans to de- ✓
✓ velop a complete family database and will try to develop (by June) a web ✓
✓ site where we can collect this information on line. Eventually, he wants to ✓
✓ develop a complete, high resolution digital family photo archive. Sounds ✓
✓ good, huh? I will keep you updated in the newsletter about the "how to" ✓
✓ when Bob tells me! ✓

✓ Check the left corner of this page for Bob's e-mail and mailing addresses, ✓
✓ and phone number. ✓