

THE COWARD FAMILY NEWSLETTER

MAY, 1987

Adams
Darlington Street
Birmingham, AL 35226

Please send
address changes

COWARD FAMILY REUNION - SUNDAY, JUNE 21, FATHER'S DAY

The 96th COWARD FAMILY REUNION will be held on Father's Day, Sunday, June 21, 1987, at "The Old House" in the Norton Community near Cashiers, NC. ALL COWARDS ARE WELCOME. Pack your lunch and come to visit with your kin. Follow the signs from Highways 107 & 64.

Be sure to wear your yellow COWARD button which Marilane Nichols gave to Nathan Coward descendants.

When you arrive, please register, entering your name and complete address, including zip code. Also please put on a name tag with your name and your Coward family connection.

Will EACH BRANCH of the family please appoint a SPOKESMAN to COUNT the number in their branch and report when called upon.

If you have family news, such as births, weddings, etc., please bring these items to me in writing for enclosure in the next Newsletter. Please include FULL NAMES and PARENTS as well as date and place of all births.

IN MEMORIAM -- DAVIE COWARD SUTTON

Davie Coward Sutton, the beloved mother, grandmother, and aunt of the Dave Coward family died December 20, 1986, at age 92. She was the last surviving child of Dave Coward & Lou Norton, and she will be greatly missed by her family and also by her nieces and nephews.

Davie had fallen a few times and had suffered a hairline hip fracture. She underwent surgery for repair of the fracture on Thursday, December 18, and did quite well. About 11:15 p.m. on Saturday, December 20, she suffered massive heart failure and died within a very short time.



A TRIBUTE TO DAVIE SUTTON
by Joanne Sutton Graves

As a child, Mother was very tomboyish. She loved the outdoors and was always happiest when performing chores that took her out of the house. She had been blessed with boundless energy and an indomitable spirit, which was fortunate, for she was called upon to shoulder many burdens during her lifetime. Much to her credit, she never shirked her responsibilities or gave way to self-pity; instead, she arose to greet each new day with vigor and enthusiasm. She possessed considerable self-confidence, which, coupled with a strong religious faith, helped her to weather many storms.

Shortly after entering first grade, Mother decided that school was not her cup of tea, and she persuaded her parents to allow her to postpone the inevitable for two or three years, being tutored in the meantime by her older sisters. It was during her growing-up years that she developed a love for classical literature, particularly poetry. She was able to recall, without error, the familiar lines of all her favorite poets until the day she died.

Eventually, Mother graduated from what was then known as Cullowhee Normal School, a two-year institution of higher learning. It wasn't until the late '30s or early '40s that she returned to college to complete her last two years of college, graduating cum laude. Although she began her teaching career in eastern North Carolina, she soon returned to her native mountains and taught in the Jackson County public schools until her retirement at age 65.

She and Daddy lived for a few years after their marriage in Dillsboro (a township in upper Jackson County), but eventually moved to the home place in Cullowhee. Somehow, Mother managed to combine teaching and caring for a husband, young children, and her aging parents. This was in addition to the myriad household and farming chores that required her attention! Upon reflection, I often marvel at my mother's amazing endurance and stamina.

She was a pillar of strength to both her own family and to certain nieces and nephews who were in need of her guidance and assistance. Always a faithful church-goer, she continued to contribute financially to the Cullowhee Methodist Church until her death.

After Daddy's death, Mother remained in Cullowhee for one year, and then, in 1974, she sold her home to the University and moved to Greensboro. She bought a small house in close proximity to Sue and family, where she lived until two years ago. She spent the last two years of her life with Edna Earle in West Jefferson, N.C.

During the last few years of her life, she lost both her sight and her hearing, which caused her considerable distress, for that meant giving up her favorite pastimes of reading, watching TV, and working crossword puzzles. However, she still maintained her sense of humor, as well as a determination to endure as long as possible.

Sylva Herald and
Ruralite, Sylva, NC
25 Dec 1986

Davie C. Sutton

Davie Coward Sutton, 92, of West Jefferson, formerly of Cullowhee, died Saturday, December 20, in West Jefferson. Funeral services were held at 11 a.m. Tuesday in the chapel of Moody Funeral Home.

The Rev. Carroll Lindsey officiated. Burial was in Brown Cemetery.

A native of Jackson county, she had lived in West Jefferson for two years. She was the wife of the late W. Earl Sutton and the daughter of the late Jonathan David and Lou Norton Coward. She taught in the public schools of Jackson county.

Surviving are four daughters, Edna Earl Sutton of West Jefferson, Ruth Cowley of Williamsburg, Va., Dorothy Sue Vail of Jefferson and Joanne Graves of Lancaster, S.C.; seven grandchildren and three great-grandchildren.

(Continued to page 2)

CLARA COWARD SMITH FAMILY NEWS

NATHAN SMITH FAMILYJo Ann Smith Family

Jo Ann Smith, originator and editor of the Coward Family Newsletter for over 12 years, has turned her energies to the establishment of HISTORY HOUSE, 206 Caswell Bldg., Koger Executive Center, P.O. Box 30093, Raleigh, NC. HISTORY HOUSE carries many books and aids for conducting historical or genealogical research. Jo Ann will be glad to assist any one starting genealogical research. For a listing of books or other information, contact Jo Ann at the address above.

Neil Smith Family:

Neil's son-in-law, Bill Smith, and his wife, Laura, are new owners of McDonald's in Canton as of 1 Oct 1986. Bill is on the premises from early morning on, while Laura does the paper work and looks after their 3 children. Bill is a native of Athens, Ga., but grew up in Florida. He returned to Athens to attend college and was employed by Coca-Cola USA prior to joining the McDonald firm. Laura also grew up in Florida, but has relatives in western North Carolina. Bill and Laura purchased a home and settled in Skyland. Bill has a franchise with McDonald's and says that McDonald's receives 20,000 to 40,000 inquiries a year for the 100 franchises available throughout the world. To get a franchise requires an apprenticeship program of up to 3 years, attending all the management training McDonald's offers, spending at least 1,000 hours working in stores and attending Hamburger University for a 2-week intensive training session. Congratulations, Bill and Laura, and many wishes for success in your new careers!

OSCAR BOMAN COWARD FAMILY NEWS

DIXIE COWARD ENGLISH FAMILY

Dixie Coward English is the only living grandchild of Nathan Coward. She was 86 on Sept. 9, 1986.

Carolyn English Wilson, & her husband, John, of Wallingford, CT, attended their first Coward reunion in 1986, along with their son, Jeffrey of Hoboken, NJ, and their daughter, Donna Grant of Melrose, CT, her husband Albert, and children Nissa and Phoebe.

ROGERS ZACHARY COWARD FAMILY

Joseph & Tammy Coward Harrold and daughter Amanda have moved from Maine to Oklahoma City.

NEW BOOKS

ROGERS/SKELTON ALLIED FAMILIES, Helen Rogers Skelton, Box 340, Burkeville, TX 75932. Cost is \$39.95. If 2 copies are purchased, other books are \$25. This book concerns ROBERT ROGERS, FRANCES RUSSELL and some of their descendants.

THE NICHOLSON AND RELATED FAMILIES, Wm. C. Whitten, Jr., 101 Cherokee Rd., Clemson, SC 29631. Cost is \$13. This book is about WILLIAM NICHOLSON and his descendants. WILLIAM NICHOLSON was the ancestor of LOU NORTON & WILL NORTON, who married DAVE COWARD & SALLIE COWARD respectively.

DAVE COWARD SUTTON (Continued from page 1)

Her greatest pleasure, in her declining years, lay in her close relationship to her children, her grandchildren, and her nieces and nephews. How eagerly she looked forward to their visits, and their cards and letters. She never lost interest in all the events that shaped their lives, and would sit and recall bits of conversation and scraps of news for days on end. Mother never tired of telling and retelling the humorous little anecdotes and tales stored away in her memory over the years. Her family will miss her warmth, her spontaneous laughter, and her comforting presence for many years to come.

DAVE COWARD FAMILY NEWS

FANNIE COWARD BUCHANAN'S DESCENDANTS

Glen and Jimmy Buchanan have both moved to the Richland Rest Home #3, 412 Killian St., Waynesville, NC, 28786.

Ben David Frady is living in Raspberry Dorn, Black Mountain Center, Old Highway 70, Black Mountain, NC 28711.

Edna Cotter is at Canton Nursing Home, North Main St., Canton, NC 28716.

They will all appreciate receiving cards.

LAURA BELL COWARD DAVIS DESCENDANTSDorothy Davis Bell's family:

Laura Morris has joined the work force at Price Waterhouse in Atlanta.

Miriam and Chuck Foster, of Spokane, WA, and their children, Donna & Turner, spent Thanksgiving with Miriam's family at Buckhead, GA.

Donna Foster is working as a chemist at Union Carbide in New Orleans.

Turner Foster is attending college at Louisiana State University at Baton Rouge.

Pam Lohr is enjoying being an exchange student at ICU in Tokyo, Japan, during her junior year at Wesleyan College, Macon, GA.

Elizabeth Lohr is a freshman at Georgia Tech in Atlanta.

Dorothy has four other grandchildren attending North Georgia College at Dahlonega.

Virginia Davis family (Mrs. Kennon):

Virginia retired Oct. 11, 1986, and enjoyed a trip New England and Nova Scotia.

Kennon Howell is employed at Georgia Craft and is living at home with his mother, Gail.

Leigh Howell graduated from the University of Georgia in 1985 and has a dance school in Madison, GA.

Susan and Jack Johnston's son, Daniel, has joined the U.S. Navy, and their daughter, Suzanne, is attending Georgia Southern College at Statesboro. Jack and Susan are now living in Orlando, FL, where Jack is head of the U.S. Naval nuclear power school.

DAVE COWARD SUTTON'S DESCENDANTSSue Sutton Vail family:

David Vail is in the U.S. Army.

Laura Vail spent 6 weeks last summer in Paris and Germany attending summer school.

MARRIAGES

Thomas Hardwick Bell and Leigh Anne Alliston were married in Madison Co., GA, in 1986. The bride is the daughter of Rueben Reid and Gwen Alliston. The groom is the son of Charles and Margaret Bell of Buckhead, GA and the grandson of Dorothy Davis Bell.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE FAMILY

Charles & Margaret Bell have 2 new grandchildren, and the great-grandmother is Dorothy Davis Bell.

- 1) Sarah Beth Beasley, b. 12 Nov 1986, daughter of Susan Bell & Rodney Wayne Beasley, Jr. Rodney is the son of Rodney, Sr. and Shelby Beasley.
- 2) Allison Leigh Bell, b. 18 Dec 1986, daughter of Thomas & Leigh Anne Bell (see "Marriages" above).

DID YOU FORGET SOMETHING?

If your family news does not appear on this page, it is because it was not sent to me. Please send me news of your family for other COWARD family members to read about.

Trudy

DAVE COWARD HOME PLACE

JAMES COWARD, JR.

DAVE COWARD-LOU NORTON home, said to be the oldest use in Jackson Co., NC (built 1883) has been sold by Western Carolina University to N.C.G.A.T., an organization for teacher education. They plan to build 2 residential buildings and will tear down the DAVE COWARD home.

Sylvia Herald and Thursday, August 21, 1986
Ruralite, Sylva, NC

Homeplace Built In 1883 Has Historic Ties With Western

(Editor's Note: Rachel Coward Wilson of 2121 Farwood Drive, Nashville, Tenn. 37216, granddaughter of Dave and Lou Coward, wrote the following article, hoping some readers may present ideas or resources which would result in the preserving of an historic house at Cullowhee, a part of Western Carolina University's heritage.)

There she sits — off to the right of N.C. Highway 107 in Cullowhee. She is still graced by sheltering trees, but shows the inevitable effects of age and neglect. Her tin roof is rusting, her paint is peeling, her chimney is crumbling away. Built in 1883, and said by some to be the oldest home in Jackson county, the Cullowhee homeplace of three generations of Cowards is slated for possible demolition in the not too distant future.

Dave and Lou Norton Coward, descendants of two pioneer Jackson county families, came to this white frame homestead in about 1884, bringing their three young children. They were still saddened by the death of their infant daughter, Sally Jane, four years earlier. This was an all too common occurrence in families of that time.

About five years and two more children later, Dave, along with eight other men of this valley among the hills, determined to establish better educational opportunities for their children, as well as other young people of the mountain area. To this end, they hired a young Virginia aristocrat, Robert Lee Madison, and pledged to him their moral and financial support for the new institute, which was to be called "Cullowhee High School." Two of Dave's brothers-in-law, Lewis J. Smith, husband of his sister Clara, and Will Norton, brother of Dave's wife Lou, were also part of the nine.

The school grew, along with Dave and Lou's family, and the comfortable farmhouse stretched its breadth to take in boarding students from the surrounding mountain areas. One of these was young Edgar Stillwell, from Webster, who later married Dave and Lou's daughter Gertie. Another boarder was slender, scholarly Ernest Bird, from Whittier, whose brother Roy married the youngest Coward daughter, Edna. Both of these young men went on to play prominent parts in the development of Western Carolina University. Another daughter, Annie Coward, was at one time on the college faculty, and Dave and Lou's only son, William Nathan, was the college bursar, from 1904 to 1928.

Time passed. Davie, the next to youngest daughter, stayed at the home to care for her parents, married and raised her own four daughters there. These girls, as well as numerous others of Dave and Lou's children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren, attended the college at Cullowhee over the total span of its existence. In 1977, Davie found it necessary to move closer to her children, and sold the home place to Western Carolina University.

There are neither white hat heroes nor black hat villains in this story. Dave and Lou Coward were no different from all the other pioneer mountain families who saw and acted upon their vision of the future. Western Carolina University is no different from any other organization in which there isn't enough money for everything, and priorities must be set.

Nonetheless, it is sad to contemplate that this broad porched country home, whose one hundred year history has been so long and closely intertwined with that of the college, may soon exist only in photographs and in the memories of those who benefitted by her being there!

FROM LOIS COWART KEMPER (Continued from 1st column)

COWART, Rev. B.D. (Benjamin)	14 Oct 1807	16 Nov 1882
Cathy	11 Feb 1811	3 Oct 1881
A. W.	23 Aug 1924	-----
Inf. son M/M A.W. COWART	1942	1942
COWART, Mary Amy	18 May 1853	18 May 1942
Jessie Webb	19 Nov 1882	7 Apr 1957
Katherine Elizabeth	2 Oct 1877	24 Jan 1964
Addie M.	2 Jan 1887	24 Jan 1964
NICHOLSON, Dessie COWART	29 Mar 1888	30 Sep 1955
Henry	-----	12 Dec 1955
COWART, Emma B.	20 Jan 1874	26 Jan 1962
John J.	20 May 1869	17 Aug 1949
CHAMPION, Nettie COWART	28 Jul 1881	4 Apr 1936
Columbus	25 Nov 1881	4 Apr 1936
COWART, Louisa	1871	1960

James COWARD, JR. was the 3rd son of James COWARD of Rutherford Co., NC. He was b. ca. 1785 NC & on 8 Nov 1812 m. Mary WORLEY. James' younger sister, Rebecca COWARD, m. 13 Jun 1821 Obadiah WORLEY. Mary & Obadiah were likely related, possibly brother and sister.

By 1830 James COWARD, Jr. and the WORLEY families had moved to Habersham Co., GA, where James COWARD is in the census with a male and female 80-90 living with him, probably Mary's parents. Also in this census were 3 WORLEY, 3 WEAVER, and 7 CHASTAIN families.

James COWARD was still in Habersham Co. in 1835 when he was appointed as an attorney to collect Sally FREEMAN DEAN'S part of the estate of John FREEMAN, SR., of Pickens Co., SC. (Wooley, A collection of Upper South Carolina Genealogical & Family Records, V. 1).

As shown below in records obtained by Lois COWART KEMPER, a descendant of James, Jr., the COWARDS & WORLEYS obtained land in Cherokee Co., GA, and were there by 1840 when they appeared in the census. Cherokee Co. was later subdivided, and they were in Gilmer Co. and then Pickens Co., GA, apparently without moving.

Rebecca COWARD WORLEY and her children also moved to Cherokee Co., GA, along with her brother. Her husband, Obadiah, apparently died before the Georgia land lotteries of 1832.

Some of Peter COWARD'S children were also in Cherokee Co., GA, and he left Rutherford Co., NC, and moved to Cherokee Co., GA, in the mid-1830's.

The names of the children of James COWARD, JR., are not wholly known. From the census records he had 3 sons and 6 daughters. From the U. S. census records it appears likely that two of his sons were William, b. ca. 1815 NC (wife Abigail, b. ca. 1825 SC) and either Harvey, b. ca. 1822, NC (wife Letta, b. ca. 1826 NC) or Wilson R., b. ca. 1822 (m. 2 Jan 1844 Cherokee Co., GA, Mary [Polly] BAILEY). Two of his daughters were Mary, b. ca. 1826 NC, and Zillah, b. ca. 1829 NC. A 3rd possible daughter is Nancy J., b. 1814/15.

Rebecca COWARD WORLEY'S children included John and Silas, maybe a daughter, Rebecca.

FROM LOIS COWART KEMPER

Smith's Cherokee Land Lottery, Georgia, 1832

Three year residence required:

JAMES COWARD granted 150 a.

SILAS WORLEY - McClure's Rabun,

Dist. 23, Sec 2, Cherokee-Cass Co.

SILAS WORLEY - Jones-Habersham, Plot #138.

Dist. 26, Sec. 2, Gilmer-Murray Co.

In 1827 lottery OBADIAH WORLEY drew land

in Coweta Co.

Kinsey, Herbert B., Habersham Co., GA, Genealogical Records

Residents of county entitled to draw in 1832 gold land lotteries:

OBADIAH WORLEY'S orphans, Jones Dist., 1 draw

JOHN WORLEY, minor, Jones District, 1 draw

SILAS WORLEY, minor, Fields District, 1 draw

(Apparently REBECCA COWARD WORLEY'S husband,

OBADIAH, died before 1832.)

COWARTS BURIED IN LONG SWAMP

CEMETERY, PICKENS, GA

(An older resident of the area stated that James COWARD, Jr., was buried in this cemetery, but did not have marker.)

	Born	Died
COWART, Charles M.	18 Aug 1885	28 Apr 1914
Louis	1871	1960
Sarah J.	12 Jul 1839	8 Aug 1862
Above between		
GOODE, Andrew and	11 Mar 1833	17 Jul 1862
COFFEY, Wm. R.	27 May 1829	25 Sep 1906

(Continued to 1st column)

FROM JO ANNE SMITH

BULLETIN of the Genealogical Society of Old Tryon Co., Aug, 1986 - List of the scrolls taken from the Rutherford County Poll Book for the year 1835. Among the voters were:

Ben. COWARD	Allin RODGERS
Stephen COWARD	Nathaniel RODGERS
	Harris RODGERS

Dobbs Co., NC - marriage license purchased by JAMES COWARD. Ref: Treasurers & Comptrollers Papers: County Settlements; Box 38, NC Archives.

Granville Co., NC - 1750 list of Taxables. On Jn. Brantley's list: BENJAMIN COWARD. Ref: NC Archives Stack File:(C)R 044.701.23.

U.S. Census, 1860, Fannin Co., GA., #844 District P.O. Stock Hill. Enumerated 25 Jul 1860 by Thomas R. Trammell.

Dw. Fam	Age	Occ	b.
695 695	CHASTAIN, Jason C.	42 Farmer	2000/3600 NC
	Mary	42 Hs Kp	NC
	Elizabeth	18 Hs Kp Att.sch.	GA
	Sarah	16 Hs Kp Att.sch.	GA
	Mertha	12 Att.sch.	GA
	Mary	10 Att.sch.	GA
	Alace	8 Att.sch.	GA
(male)	Junius	6	GA
(female)	Steletha	3	GA
	Victoria	4/12	GA

Note: MARY (POLLY) COWARD CHASTAIN was wife of JASON COWARD CHASTAIN, s.o. NANCY COWARD & JOHN CHASTAIN, who m. ca. 1817. NANCY was d.o. JONATHAN COWARD, SR.

Magazine of Virginia Genealogy, V.24, #4, Nov 1986, "Virginia Land Paten Book 17," abstracted by W. L. Hopkins.

p. 69 - JAMES COWARD, 250 a., Orange Co., N. side of Northanna (p.98), 5 Jun 1736

Note: This is probably the JAMES COWARD, whose descendants fought in the Rev.War, and some of whom changed their name to COMHERD.

An early COWARD I have never found before:

Gwathmey, John H., Twelve Virginia Counties, Geneal.Publ.Co., Baltimore, 1979, "Goochland County" p. 222 - original of the commission to the first justices, dated 1728, and signed by Gov. William Gooch. Among those named is ALLEN COWARD.

ERRORS

It is impossible for me to publish information and genealogical data without making some mistakes. Please inform me of any errors you find in content, because it is very important for genealogical material to be accurate. We don't want to perpetuate misinformation.

Please ignore obvious typos.

Trudy

QUERIES

Ethel BEYER, 681 W. 19th Av, Eugene, OR 97402

I am searching for the name of the COWART who m. Susan Priscilla DANIELS around 1850. In the Miller County Liberal (local newspaper of Colquitt, GA) is the death notice of his daughter, Sarah, who was the sister of my grandfather, Needham. It gives their parents as the late MATTIE COWART and Priscilla DANIELS COWART ELLIS. Mattie must be a nickname?? [?for Matthew? ta] Miller Co., GA 1860 census reads like this:

ELLIS, Edward	age 50 from NC
Susan	26
COWART, Sarah	6 death notice in paper
Lawson	4 also nickname, real name Samuel
Needham	2 ny grandfather

Can someone help Ethel? Perhaps Judge Joe COWART, Jr.? [In the 1850 census of Tatnall Co., GA, is a Reuben COWARD, age 32, farmer, no family. Also in Tatnall Co. in 1850 were James & John COWARD with families, ages 36 & 27, possible brothers of Reuben. The name "Needham" seems to be in the COWARTS that came through SC from NC & VA. ta]

Charlotte McDONALD, POB 129, Suwannee, FL 32692, needs the parents of her Stephen COWARD, b. 1785, who was in Monroe Co, AL 1830 census, with 1 M 15-20, 4 M 10-15 and 4 females, 1 5-10, 1 10-15, 1 15-20, & 1 40-50. Stephen was m. ca. 1809 to Margaret ?POUNCEY (or ?WOODS), b. 1787 GA. Their children were: Nathan, b. 1810 GA; Young Louis, b. 1813 GA; John W., b. 3 Jan 1817 AL; George Jefferson, b. 1819 AL; Greene P., b. 1809-1819 by censuses GA; James Alexander, b. 1826 AL; Stephen B., b. 14 Feb 1822 or 1828; and Mastin W. (Matt), b. 1833 AL.

Dorothy Louise COWART, 434 Gallaher View Rd, Cedar Springs Apts., #44, needs parents of William Samuel COWART (Will, W.S.), b. 2/1877 ?GA, d. 7 May 1940. He m. 1900, Cherokee Co., GA, 1) Alma Rosalee _____ JONES & on 9/1918 in Floyd Co., GA, m. 2) Sarah (Sallie) DOWDA.

[Dorothy, the Soundex for 1880 census in GA should be checked. From Lois KEMPER 1870 census, Pickens Co, GA, Isham COWART had son, Samuel age 17. ta]

Sue (Wilma S.) MILLS, 4009 Woodlawn Pike, Knoxville, TN 37920, needs parents of James L.W. ROGERS, b. 1837 TN, m. Elizabeth _____, b. 1838 TN. All children b. Anderson Co., TN: Olive A. 1861, Joseph M. 1865, David C. 1867, Sara C. 1869, Sintha E. (Emily) 1870, Betsy 1873.

THANKS FOR THE HELP! I have received much information from several people, and I will gradually get it on my computer and publish it in future issues. Keep family information coming.