

Route 7, Box 383
Raleigh, NC 27609
May 1975

Dear Kinfolk,

Mark your calendar and start making your plans. It's soon going to be time for the 84th Coward Reunion. The third Sunday in June is June 15. The Reunion will be held at Jane and Dot's Cabin in Norton, Jackson County, NC. on that date, or at the "Old House", as Jane and Dot call it.

Excerpts from letters from kinfolk received in the past few months.....

A note from Ruth and Tolvin Coward dated Jan 25, 1975 said, "Mr. and Mrs. Lynn Russell of Bristow, Okla. stopped in Lakeland while on a tour of Fla. and we had a nice visit with them - showed them around our area."

A Dec. 1974 letter from Doris and Allen Coward, Route 1, Box 114-B, South Range, Wi. 54874, said they have moved to the country. "'The Forty' as we affectionately dubbed it from the day of purchase, is forty acres of forest--white birch, balsam, maple, and pine, with a few oak trees thrown in. We cleared a little over an acre for our homestead, had a well drilled, electricity brought in underground, and bought a 14' x 70' mobile home with three bedrooms, two baths, living room, and a roomy kitchen-family room with a laundry area. Next summer we plan to add a large family room and entrancefoyer on the front, with a wood burning stove, and maybe a screened porch on the back." (They are 18 miles southeast of Superior, 1/2 mile from their nearest neighbor, on a dead end road. It just sounds grand, and we know they are really enjoying being there.)

A note dated Jan. 26, 1975 from Gertrude Coward in Belton, SC was received. She said "We were so very sad to learn of so many deaths in the family. We were especially shocked to learn of Woodie's death. We loved her so much. Of course, we are still trying to realize that Linden is gone. Oh, how we miss him!" Gertrude sent us Glenda's new address and said they were missing Glenda and her family. Jim Conley, Glenda's husband, is enjoying his new school and Glenda is teaching adult classes. Gertrude and Glenn's other daughter, Jane Stephens, who is a music teacher, was hospitalized a few months ago with a blood clot. She was back to teaching when Gertrude wrote. Jane's daughter Cindy is married and living in Easley, SC, where she is working in a bank. Jane's other children are Julie, 16, Angie, 12, and Jay, 5. Gertrude's letter ended with a sad note. Someone broke into Linden's old homeplace and stole everything in the house except one bed and a large studio couch. They broke the backdoor down and "took even the old big iron cook stove, a large dining table that was really an antique and so many things that the family treasured." This is most distressing. Did they get the old clock? I do hope the thieves have been caught.

Cousin Emma N. Hooper wrote Feb. 7, 1975: "I will have to report another death in the family. Lee Henson died last Sunday, the 2nd of February, 1975. The funeral service was at the funeral home in Waynesville and (he) was buried at Cullowhee Baptist Cemetary. He was my sister Beulah and Will Henson's oldest son, age 68, and lived at Waynesville." She also wrote that she has another great-grandson, Mathew Clayton Monday, born on the 27th of January 1975. The baby's mother is Lynn (Mrs. Wayne Monday), oldest daughter of Eugene Hooper.

Back to plans for the reunion: Since such a large crowd is usually in attendance, I think it will be helpful - especially to those who have not attended in a long time or who are attending for the first time - to wear a name tag. Let's each prepare our own and pin it on before arriving. It would be helpful to list YOUR NAME, HOMETOWN, & DESCENT; for example:

MRS. H. A. (JO ANN) SMITH
RALEIGH, N. C.

Dau. of NATHAN SMITH
G-Dau. of CLARA COWARD SMITH
G-G-Dau. of NATHAN COWARD

Jimmy Hooper called from Dallas, Texas, and said he and his wife were planning to fly up for the Reunion. His sister, Mildred Hooper Stanley of Jacksonville, Fla., is planning to come also.

I called Jane Coward to double-check the date of the Reunion. She said it is the 15th and that she is expecting the biggest crowd ever. She wants everyone to come early enough to have a good visit.

Jane and Dot flew down to Florida to see Olive Coward Merrill and her husband this past March. Now that they have sold the flower shop, they are finding time to do some of the things they have wanted to do. They are spending right much time up at the "Old House" at Norton, and they are looking forward to seeing all the folks the 15th.

Your cousin, Jo Ann Smith (Mrs. H.A. Smith)