

CLINGMAN-JONES 86TH FAMILY REUNION

July 4 - 6, 2008

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Dear Cousins,

Once again that time of year is upon us, when we have come out of our winter hibernation, managed to get through the ups and downs of springtime, and now must start mapping out this year's summer "must do's" – which of course, for us members of the Clingman-Jones Family, means our Reunion at Jones Valley, Arkansas! With the calendar cooperating and July 4th falling on a Friday this year, hopefully you can include us in your summer plans. Consider this newsletter your "engraved invitation" to make the trip and keep the faith of our ancestors alive and well and, of course, have a real good time reconnecting with close kin – and some not so close.

◆ **Reunion Schedule** ◆ * (all meals [in bold] in the Grace Jones Palmer Dining Hall)

Friday, July 4th	Early Arrivals – Hotdogs on the <i>new grill!</i> (though the Dining Hall will be available for do-it-yourselfers)
Saturday, July 5th	8am – Country Breakfast Followed by time to poke around the Valley, meet and greet Noon – Sandwich Lunch Solve world problems, get after the volleyball/horseshoes, catch up with the kinfolk, jump in the ole swimming hole 6pm – Evening Meal Followed by the Family Business Meeting (be there), then music and Family visiting (NO fireworks during music)
Sunday, July 6th	8pm – Board Games in the Dining Hall 8am – Country Breakfast 11am – Remembrance and Gospel Sing Noon – Home-cooked Meal 1:30pm – Executive Board Meeting More opportunities to enjoy Jones Valley and kinfolk 6pm – Evening Meal More music and sitting out enjoying campfires and reminiscing (something for young folks to gain some skills in doing)
Monday, July 7th	8am – Continental Breakfast (maybe a little more)

*As always (our trademarked disclaimer), **except for meeting times**, this schedule is just a plan, and plans are always subject to change, especially after you add your ideas for making it a special weekend.

◆ Jones Valley – Spring Weather Status ◆

Although no tornadoes directly hit the Valley, like the rest of Arkansas, almost everything else seemed to. High winds and torrential rains swept through the area, but thankfully the Valley weathered the storms pretty well. All the cabins appear not to have suffered any damage; however the water coming off the mountains swept down trees and other debris into the swimming hole, including beaver dam debris. (Yes, the beavers may be back (#@%^!+)). If only we could convince these critters to find themselves another place to call home! I guess we could call 1-800-PETA and request an intervention.) Although the spring storms did not cause any direct damage, the area, including Jones Valley, was hit pretty hard, so cleaning up the swimming hole and other areas will be more extensive this year.

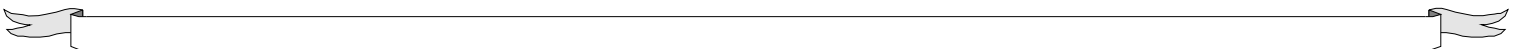
◆ Jones Valley Nature News ◆

Good steps are being taken to preserve and build on our Jones Valley natural resources. In mid-February this year, Kelly Jobe and Larry Braswell met in the Valley with State of Arkansas Forestry Department representatives to receive their professional assistance under the Stewardship Program to develop a Timber Management Plan for the Family's Jones Valley resources. This is a no cost/obligation service provided by the state to assist private landowners responsibly manage their timber assets. The state permits the landowner (us, in this case) to designate goals to prioritize retaining the natural environment. The information from the state will permit the Family to then formalize its own plan. Hopefully this all can be accomplished within a year.

In addition to the Stewardship Program, the Family is now enrolled in the Arkansas Fish and Game Commission's *Acres for Wildlife* program which has provided seed to promote vegetation to support wildlife such as songbirds, turkey, quail and deer, just to name a few. Thanks to Milton Cameron, Sr., the seed was picked up and distributed. Also, the program will provide signage to advise that hunting is by permission only and are designated as *Acres for Wildlife*. In addition, the program can provide a wildlife habitat assessment and/or plan by a state biologist. This program, like the Stewardship Program is a free service from the State of Arkansas to promote landowners' help in wildlife conservation.

◆ Thank You Volunteers ◆

The Family offers its gratitude and sincere thanks to the Family members who take care of so many necessary tasks, as well as ones that just make the Reunion more enjoyable and special for us. Last year for example, Cathy Kornegay and her sons, Chad and Hayden, cleaned up the Dining Hall, and Donna LeBlanc made sure the restrooms and showers were ready. Nice touches, such as the "Welcome" banner and Family Cemetery flags were handled by Larry and Paula Braswell. And if Larry wasn't fighting the beavers, he was making sure that Jones Valley was ready for the Reunion with the grass cut, the swimming hole cleaned and the camping areas set up. Thanks again to Karen Atkinson for her work in being sure that we all had fine meals, as well as to all the other Family members that pitched in. Thanks a million, folks!



Thanks to Gil Jones (yes, we still do have a “Jones” with us – thank goodness for that), the Family’s Internet website at <http://JonesValley.us> and email list are successful. Of course, like most things in life, every now and then a glitch or two occurs, but we are moving forward. So, take a look at the website, post a message (blog), load some pictures, or send out some news to the Family via the email list.

◆ The Family Expands ◆

We are pleased to let everyone know that on May 3rd, J.J. Cameron and Nikki King tied the knot. According to our reliable sources, the event was a stellar affair at the bride’s family home in Tullos, Louisiana, attended by a small group (maybe 300) of well wishers. Congratulations J.J. and Nikki! We’ll certainly enjoy hearing more at the Reunion!

◆ Reunion 2008 Fun n’ Games ◆

At last year’s Family Business Meeting, there were comments that it would be ‘nice’ if we had some ‘activities’ in addition to the neat swimming hole, fine eating, and great fellowship that we all take for granted. So, this year there is going to be (don’t take this as a promise): volleyball, horseshoes, and board games. And of course it doesn’t have to be limited to these – bring it on! The volleyball effort will be led by the Cameron clan, the board games will be in the Dining Hall on at least Saturday evening starting at 8pm, and the horseshoes will be (most likely) behind the Diffie Cabin. So, if you or your kids like board games – bring-em, if volleyball is something you like – join in, and if horseshoes are your thing – limber up your arm. And most importantly, if you have something good going on, ask a cousin to join in – especially if you don’t know them.

◆ What to Bring ◆

- Bug spray
- Lawn chairs
- Camera
- Old photos for scanning
- Water survival gear
- Those bringing children as guests should have a document authorizing medical care while responsible for the child
- And finally, leave that big city suburban stress behind!

◆ Places to Stay ◆

Unfortunately the Caddo Gap B&B is no longer available; however Veronika’s Cabins (www.veronikas.net) located at the Narrows is now in operation. In previous years the Rivers Edge B&B operated at this location. Also, the Glenwood Country Club (www.glenwoodcountryclub.com) offers rooms in their lodge at prices comparable to the Riverwood Inn. Use area code 870.

Lux	356-3151	Caddo River Ranch Cabins	334-2598
Ouachita Mtn Inn	356-3737	Riverwood Inn	356-4567
Caddo River Motel	356-3688	Veronika’s Cabins	356-4864
Glenwood Country Club	800-833-3110		

◆ Side Trips ◆

A Reunion trip can always take in some of the fun things unique to the Jones Valley area, such as floating on the river, going after crystals, or marveling at urban renewal Caddo Gap-style. However, a popular item not previously highlighted, is that you won't be far from some real golf experiences. The Glenwood Country Club, open to the public, is a first-rate course, and they advertise a reasonable price. In addition, just outside of Norman (2.5 miles) is Paradise South (870-334-2607) which offers a more basic golf experience at a modest price. So many things to do, so little time – some things don't change.

◆ Traditions ◆

Many traditions become an integral part of our experience, and as such become an important part of our lives. Our Family tradition of the Annual Reunion of course is something unique that we share every year. Eating in the Dining Hall, watching the kids play in the swimming hole, and sharing our lives with our kinfolk, all help to make our Reunion so special. Over the past years we have been fortunate that Johnny Cameron has led a Remembrance and Gospel sing in the Dining Hall on the Sunday morning of the Reunion weekend. Our founders were very devout Christians – in fact two were ministers – and there once was a formal meeting-place in the Valley – the Tabernacle, as well as Christian summer camps. So, I am sure that our founders appreciate that their grounding in faith is being respected and carried forward.



Johnny Cameron Leading Gospel Sing – Reunion 2007



◆Fireworks ◆

Locations for fireworks are ONLY:

In the field behind the Cubage House, above Uncle Claude’s Cabins, and up near the Hillbilly Cabin (Bowmans are known to be hard of hearing anyway). No fireworks: by the creek, during music, or after 11pm. This is a “you do it, you’re responsible” deal – ALL debris must be picked up afterward. And above all, STAY SAFE.

◆ The Annual Plea ◆

First and foremost, thank you, our Family members, for your generous donations over the last and previous years. As you know this is strictly a volunteer endeavor based on our ancestors’ vision of Family unity and love. Donations are made for many reasons and all our Family members extend their sincerest “thanks” to everyone for their help.

Ah yes, it is time for that soulful and insightful call to all Clingman-Jones Family members to dig deep and contribute to keeping our beautiful Valley and special Reunion not only viable, but moving forward. We have made a lot of progress over the years, which can be boiled down to maintaining what our ancestors put in place and building for our future generations. So, for that help, please give yourself a well deserved pat on the back. But of course this is a new year with fresh challenges and of course, on-going bills. Whatever amount you can contribute will be put to good use and greatly appreciated.

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Yes, I can help support the Valley. Enclosed is my contribution, a check for \$ _____.
(made out to Clingman-Jones Family)

Comments: _____

From: _____

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(Send it in today!)

All checks and change of mailing or email addresses should be sent to Mike White, our Secretary/Treasurer:

Mike White
6512 Topeka Road
McLean, VA 22101

