# CLINGMAN-JONES 92<sup>nd</sup> FAMILY REUNION July 5-July 7, 2013 Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Hello Clingman-Jones Family,

O.K., we've been sequestered and gone over the fiscal cliff, and perhaps the Mayans were just a tad off, but, good news cousins, the sky is still up there and your annual Clingman-Jones Family Reunion is still on schedule to be another stellar event. So plan to take a break from life's treadmill routine and daily stress, and plan to attend our special Family tradition. Remember, life's best moments are the ones you share, so come on down to Jones Valley this July 4<sup>th</sup> weekend and share yours with the rest of us. Hope to see you and your clan there. One thing's for sure, it won't be the "same-o-same-o," there's always something new to perk your interest, as well as the familiar comfort of things past. Please note the Reunion Schedule; with July 4<sup>th</sup> falling on a Thursday this year, Thursday will be early arrival night and the two main reunion days will be Friday and Saturday.

## ~ Reunion Schedule\* ~

Thursday, July 4 <sup>th</sup> Friday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	6pm (early arrivals) – Burgers and Dogs from the grill 8am – Breakfast		
• , •	Discover the Clingman-Jones Family Cache		
	Noon – Sandwich Lunch		
	Explore the Valley a little, get your inner tubes out		
	2pm – Annual International Inner Tube Contest		
	6pm – Evening Meal		
	Settle in, reminisce a little, make or listen to music, and do some		
	Family visiting (NO fireworks during music)		
	8pm – Board games in the dining hall		
Saturday, July 6 <sup>th</sup>	8am – Breakfast		
	11am – Family Business Meeting – Always important!		
	Noon – Sandwich Lunch		
	1:00pm - Executive Board Meeting		
	Cool-off time – get in the swimming hole or the Caddo		
	6pm – Evening Meal		
	More music and sitting out enjoying campfires and tall tales		
	9pm to 11pm – Fireworks (in designated areas)		
Sunday, July 7 <sup>th</sup>	8am – Continental Breakfast		
	10am – Gospel Sing & Remembrance in the dining hall		
	Head for home, or stay and enjoy the Valley a little while longer		

<sup>\*</sup>Remember, except for Family Business and Executive Board meetings, there really is no schedule – this is Jones Valley, so just have fun and make it a great Reunion.

#### ~ Reunion Meals - Let's Get Your Clan's Count ~

The two biggies concerning Reunion meals are: 1) having tasty food, and 2) having enough but not too much food. The kitchen managers take care of item 1, but item 2, is where you come in. So what can *you* do? Just contact your Family Rep, and let him or her know how many folks in your group will be eating at the Dining Hall and for which meals. Remember how those little ones empty the refrig at home? Be sure to include them in your count too.

Here is the Family Line Representatives' contact information:

Arthur	Karen Atkinson	281-858-7027, 713-208-2232	katkinson@nscontrols.com
Lee	Ronald Bowman	918-680-2560	
Fannie	Larry Braswell	903-556-7538	braswell_l@yahoo.com
Claude	Nelson Cameron	318-219-3763, 318-518-8613	eganspk@bellsouth.net
Mattie	Chris Chandler	405-840-2928, 405-659-5382	cchandler36@yahoo.com
Mary	Joe Diffie	580-444-2823, 580-465-0405	diffie@mac.com
Melinda	Kelly Jobe	501-758-5361, 501-416-5661	JOBE@adeq.state.ar.us
Guilford	Gil Jones	830-265-4811, 830-798-4583	CaptainJustice@gmail.com

#### ~ Reunion 2013 Events ~

There are four kinds of events at this year's Reunion – and all good (of course you've got to get out of that lawn chair, pull that electronic game out of your hand, and get into one).

First, there is the organized kind, and thanks to Johnny Cameron, we have the Inner Tube Contest. Second, is the spontaneous one, where you and some of your kin just do something, like put up a volleyball net or horseshoe stakes and go to it. Third, is the spontaneous one that occurs every time – we got that one covered too, with our Reunion music jams. Fourth, where there is something waiting for you, already set up, where you can take up the challenge if you choose. Thanks to Randy and Brooklyn Braswell and Bob Geatches, we have one of those too.

• International Inner Tube Contest – This annual fun event will be held once again, under the direction of Johnny Cameron. Last year's event was great fun, especially the tug-o-war. For some great fun, get to the swimming hole around 2pm on Friday – the peanut gallery (judges) needs the entertainment. The only prep needed is to bring your standard tube and water attire, and you're set for some cooling-off fun!

- Clingman-Jones Family Cache In March, Bob Geaches and Brooklyn and Randy Braswell hiked to the summit of Strawn Mountain, on the south side of the Valley, and placed a cache under some large boulders. Here is Randy's description: "I thought it would be a challenge of discovery for Family members that visit and have the desire for a little treasure hunt. We used a Rubbermaid-like tub to seal out the elements and it contains a leather journal to record their name, date, and thoughts. I called it 'Clingman/Jones Family Cache.' I have left a leather map of the directions and location on the Dining Hall wall. We also left some photos, coins, and encourage each Family line to leave something that will be of interest to their own families as well." Great idea Randy; I know there will be quite a few that take up the challenge of discovery during this Reunion.
- Jones Valley Reunion Music Jam To the delight of players and listeners, spontaneous music and singing occurs usually during the evenings each Reunion, and is one of our genuinely fun Family times. There have been guitars, fiddles, accordions, banjos, even a washboard all joining in, and now there is a Diffie cabin piano, probably the first piano in the Valley since the days of the Tabernacle. To capture some of the past favorite songs and for those who would like to share ones they would like to jam to, Robin Aronson has set up a webpage to create a songbook:

http://www.jonesvalleysongs.com.

This is a fine idea and project that Robin has initiated with many benefits, such as making the jam more inviting for newbies to jump in. So please, check out the website – you'll be most impressed with what you see. Thanks Robin, you've definitely moved beyond Arkansas "aim'n to-do." (Robin's email is robin@baronson.org.)

## ~ Family News ~

- Additions to the Family:
  - Mary Jones Diffie: Adalyn (Addy) Grace Morris joined Riley and Sara's family on April 26, 2012, making proud grandparents of Monica and Keith Stiles, and great-grandparents of Joe and Floss Diffie.
  - Mary Jones Diffie: Ezekial (Zeke) Coy Plumlee came into this world on May 12, 2012 to the delight of mom Danielle Plumlee and grandparents Jerry Don and Dawn Anita Plumlee.
  - Mary Jones Diffie: Cooper Elisha Hall was welcomed into Clif and Amy Prestige's family on June 14, 2012 making Grandma Meg and Grandpa Ty quite proud.
  - Claude Jones: On October 20, 2012, Orion Allen and Archer Cameron joined Summer Cameron-Engel and Don Engel's family. Now mommy is *really* busy.
  - Claude Jones: Proy Somkuan joined Uncle Claude's line on September 21, 2012, marrying Jeff Cameron in Exuma, Bahamas oh yeah, some people do know where to tie the knot!
  - Claude Jones: Aiden Cameron chose December 26, 2012 to join his parents Jeff and Proy. Santa may have been a day late, but could not have done better.

#### • Celebrations:

- Melinda Jones Cubage: This June, Mike and Lynn White will be celebrating their 35<sup>th</sup> wedding anniversary – miracles do happen.

#### Achievements:

- Hannah Bowman graduates in May from the University of Texas with a Bachelor's degree in Anthropology and English (creative writing). Hannah will celebrate with a trip to Germany and then will see what Austin has to offer besides university life. All Bowmans are standing proud, especially parents Karl and Jennifer.
- Alison Nichols competed in the American Idol competition at Disney's Hollywood Studios in Orlando. After two days and six rounds, Alison sang Lady Antebellum's "American Honey" to win the competition and the Golden Ticket, which permits her to bypass the TV show's normal mass-audition process. Keep an eye out for Alison on next season's (2014) American Idol. Alison is Shane and Jewel Nichols' daughter, Karen Atkinson's granddaughter, and Dorothy Jones Chandler's great-granddaughter. O.K. Diffie clan, be warned looks like there's entertainment competition on the rise from the Arthur line.
- Johnny Cameron was again selected as Teters' (major regional plumbing distributor) salesman of the month, this time for May 2012. Way to go, Johnny.
- Isaiah Strictland was selected in March 2012 as one of just thirty students from all of the Dallas Metroplex elementary and middle schools, as a Dallas Mavericks Mavs Academic All-Star. This program recognizes students for their academic performance and citizenship. Isaiah's proud mom, Karla, and grandparents, Priscilla Diffie-Couch and Mickey Couch, knew this all along way to go Isaiah!
- Guilford Jones, III on December 31, 2012 retired as District Court Judge, Burnet, Texas, leaving a clean slate at least his desk was as documented on Facebook. Of course lawyers never retire, they shift venues Gil is now doing legal mediation consulting yes that's mediation, not meditation. Or given his other vocation (cycling), perhaps offering Lance Armstrong rehabilitation counseling.

Dawn Anita Plumlee, from talks with Bob Aronson about the need to promote organ donation, has written words and music, "The Gift of Life." This special song was inspired by the memory of her mother singing, "I'm so glad I'm alive." Dawn Anita has donated "The Gift of Life" to Bob's Facebook group as a tool to encourage people to become organ donors, and is free to anyone to enjoy, sing, or share. Bob has written and produced a video featuring the song, available on YouTube. It can be downloaded from www.reverbnation.com/DawnAnitasMusic, or connect on Facebook with group Organ Transplant Initiative, or http://bobsnewheart.wordpress.com for more information concerning Bob's program, or email him directly at: bob@baronson.org. Great efforts Dawn Anita and Bob.

Congratulations to all.... Yes, cousins, again this year, there is still good news out there!

#### ~ Thank You Volunteers ~

Cousins, this is the time we extend our gratitude to those Family members that are able and step forward to make the Clingman-Jones Reunion and Jones Valley an ongoing reality – a one of a kind. Yes, I am sure there are some families that have a sugar daddy that opens the wallet and pays for all the needed maintenance and operational costs of their reunions. However ours is blessed by a long-standing tradition of having Family get in there and do the many things that only caring hands can get done. So, from all of us to you, "Thanks So Much," for your efforts at Memorial Day, during the Reunion, and throughout the year. And a special thanks goes out to Julie and Bill Goodson (Julie is Jennifer Jones' sister) for their help last Memorial Day weekend that included weed whacking the Family Cemetery. Hey, we'll even take help from inlaws of inlaws – my kind of guests.

## ~ Memorial Day Weekend - Getaway & Fix-up/Reunion Prep ~

This year's Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 25-27. Each year Family members enjoy the start of summer in Jones Valley and go after few needed maintenance items to their cabins and camping areas, as well as our grounds, dining hall, and bathroom/shower facilities. Though really not a lot of time per person, this pre-Reunion preparation effort makes a huge difference towards having Jones Valley ready come July  $4^{\rm th}$ .

Being Memorial Day weekend, you may want to take in Mt. Ida's "Good Ole Days" arts, crafts, and antique car and motorcycle show. In addition, Mt. Ida's Heritage House Museum will have its "Heritage Day" with all kinds of demos of how life was in the county during the early days when our ancestors were growing up there.

And there's more, with the Gap Mercantile being reborn and now featuring antiques, health foods, and lotions, you may want to visit Caddo Gap's shopping district. As for testimonials, I did participate last year, and with the exception of giving Joe Diffie a little humor by turning weed-whacking into rocket science, I had a great time. So, like the obnoxious TV car salesman says, "COME ON DOWN!"

# ~ Places to Stay ~

Lodging is limited in the area and tends to book up early for the holiday – get a reservation pronto if you're not staying in the Valley. Use area code 870.

Clavelle Motel (aka Lux)	356 - 2277	Caddo River Ranch Cabins	334-2598
Ouachita Mountain Inn	356-3737	Riverwood Inn	356-4567
Caddo River Motel	356-4117	Hickory Hills Cabins	356-5336
		Bean Creek Cabins	260-4365

Don't Forget the Bug Spray, Water Stuff, Lawn Chairs, Guitars, Etc.!!!

## ~ Legal Corner ~

Since last year's Family Business Meeting, the Board has continued to pursue its goal of obtaining and filing the necessary legal records to properly reflect that the deed to the Valley is held exclusively by the Family Corporation. This ongoing effort constitutes the execution of a plan originally devised by Cousin Buddy Carnes to correct a longstanding error in the Valley's original deed. Following the Reunion, each Family line representative will contact certain members of his or her Family line and ask them to sign documents that will later be formally filed in Montgomery County.

## ~ Remembrance ~

The passing of Family members is a time for pause and reflection on how blessed our lives have been by being touched and molded by loved ones no longer with us on our journey. It is a case of both sadness for their loss and thanksgiving for having known them.

- ♣ Mary Chandler Hewitt passed away last September, at age 101. A longtime staunch supporter of the Reunion and Jones Valley, Mary was the Mattie line representative to your Executive Board for as long as I can remember. With the exception of the last two, Mary attended every Reunion I can remember, participating in Board and Family meetings, visiting, enjoying the meals and Sunday morning Remembrance and Gospel Sings. If our founding ancestors, the eleven brothers and sisters, were the first generation, then Mary was the last of the second generation. She will be missed.
- ♣ Stan Prosen passed away last January, at age 89. Though Stan became a Family member by marrying Wilma Diffie, you would have never guessed it, because his love for the Family and the Valley was so genuine he was a Diffie. Anyone having the good fortune to share his fellowship knew they were in great company. Stan's last of many Reunions was 2011, coming all the way from Minnesota.
- ♣ Marjorie Elizabeth (Couch) Corbin granddaughter of Arthur and Ella Jones, passed away last March, at age 88. Though not able to attend Reunions in recent years, having lived, along with her mother Erin, a good while with her grandparents when growing up, she had many fond memories of Arthur's preaching and evangelist career, as well as Reunions and Jones Valley.

#### ~ Your Annual Plea ~

Your Annual Plea means it is time for you step up to the plate and do the right thing. Cousins, you are doing this not just for yourself, but for your future generations, and those no longer with us. We are certainly blessed with this heritage provided by our ancestors — now it is our time to do our part to be sure it continues, and at the high level and standards they set. For those of you that use electronic bill-pay, and would like to contribute that way, just email me at <a href="mike.lynn7@verizon.net">mike.lynn7@verizon.net</a> and I will send you the Family bank account number. Thank you very much for your continued support — it will be carefully used.

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

Mike White P. O. Box 1161 Fairhope, AL 36533-1161

251-279-7738 Mike.Lynn7@Verizon.net

~ Thanks So Much For Your Help ~