

# CLINGMAN-JONES 94<sup>th</sup> FAMILY REUNION

July 3 - July 5, 2015

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Hey Cousins! Just when you all thought you were safe out there, in comes your annual Clingman-Jones Family Reunion newsletter. So, let's get it together and make that decision to head on down to Jones Valley, Caddo Gap, Arkansas for another fine family get together. Every year it is both unique and comfortingly familiar, but always very special. Please note the Reunion Schedule; with July 4<sup>th</sup> falling on a Saturday this year, like last year, Thursday will be early arrival night and the two main Reunion days will be Friday and Saturday.

## ~ Reunion Schedule\* ~

Thursday, July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	6pm	(early arrivals) – <b>Burgers and Dogs</b> from the grill
Friday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am	<b>Breakfast</b>
		Get out and about – Checkout whose arrived, whose not yet
	Noon	<b>Sandwich Lunch</b>
		Get your inner tubes out – get in the Swimming Hole or the Caddo River
	2pm	Annual International Inner Tube Contest – Swimmin' Hole
	6pm	<b>Evening Meal</b>
	7pm -	Music, games, and visiting
Saturday, July 4 <sup>th</sup>	8am	<b>Breakfast</b>
	11am	<b>Family Business Meeting</b> – You are needed here, Cuz!
	Noon	<b>Sandwich Lunch</b>
<i>Celebrate Your Country's Birthday</i>	1:00pm	<b>Executive Board Meeting</b>
		Cool-off time – get back in the swimmin' hole or the Caddo
	6pm	<b>Evening Meal</b>
		Settle back after a good meal and enjoy downtown JV
	8pm	Fireworks in designated areas – each family responsible for clean-up.
Sunday, July 5 <sup>th</sup>	8am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b>
	10am	<b>Gospel Sing &amp; Remembrance</b> in the dining hall
		Head for home, or stay and enjoy the Valley a little while longer

*\*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 ~*

Two biggies concerning Reunion meals are always: 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 up to you. So what can *you* do? Just contact your Family Line 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 fridge at home? Be sure to include them in your count too.

Here are the Family Line Representatives and their contact information:

<b>Arthur</b>	Karen Atkinson	281-858-7027, 713-208-2232	katkinson@nscontrols.com
<b>Lee</b>	Ronald Bowman	918-680-2560	
<b>Fannie</b>	Larry Braswell	903-556-7538	braswell_l@yahoo.com
<b>Claude</b>	Nelson Cameron	318-219-3763, 318-518-8613	eganspk@bellsouth.net
<b>Mattie</b>	Chris Chandler	405-840-2928, 405-659-5382	brokenbow36@gmail.com
<b>Mary</b>	Joe Diffie	580-444-2823, 580-465-0405	1diffie1@gmail.com
<b>Melinda</b>	Kelly Jobe	501-758-5361, 501-416-5661	JOBE@adeq.state.ar.us
<b>Guilford</b>	Gil Jones	830-265-4811, 830-798-4583	CaptainJustice@gmail.com

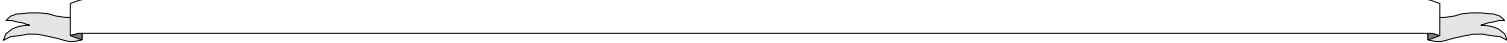
## *~ Reunion 2014 Events & Activities ~*

I know... for a lot of us, eating IS an event, but hey! we got much more than that. Just remember you're in charge, so take the lead and get out there and do it.

- ❖ Annual International Inner Tube Contest, with Johnny Cameron as Ring Master – always a fun event for both participants and spectators (judges).
- ❖ Exploring for the hidden cache on Strong Mountain. (Location currently only known to Effie Lee's clan, but a map and clues will be available in the dining hall).
- ❖ And just whatever adventure you can conjure up, like hiking up the Valley and checking out the Solar House, or searching the mountain for the lost plane crash!!!

## *~ Jones Valley Go'in's On ~*

- **Uncle Isaac's Cabin Update** – There have certainly been a lot changes in Jones Valley since our founding ancestors bought the property and started to build and make this land our Reunion grounds and heritage site. Several years back Cousins Spencer and Liz Cubage asked the Board for permission to take over the long abandoned Uncle Isaac's Cabin (aka grandson Jim Williams' Cabin) for restoration. This was made possible by Beth Augustine, who previously had the Board's



permission do so, but had been unable to move forward, and by Uncle Isaac's descendents in Maidee Bouchery's line, both releasing claim to the structure.

Following the Board's approval, Spencer and Liz made progress in the basic areas of clearing the site and basic preparations. Now as most know, this cabin is situated just up a bit from the Hillbilly on the road leading up the Valley. With no care for probably 50+ years, Mother Nature had been staking her claim – it was really a tribute to the original builders that it had lasted so long. When Uncle Isaac built the cabin, the old dam was functioning and the lake was still there, so the porch off the back had a splendid view; it's still pretty good.

Well, of course restoring the cabin to current livable standards would need things like electricity and water so this winter, with Board approval for the project, trenching was accomplished and now a buried conduit for power and the city water has been run to Uncle Isaac's Cabin. When discussing this with Cousin Buddy Carnes, who has fond memories of Uncle Isaac and the cabin, he remarked "In my youth I couldn't have imagined a phone in Jones Valley, much less electricity and city water at Uncle Isaac's cabin." Well, times move forward, and some changes really are good.

- **Privet Project** –We currently have a project underway to start getting rid of some of the very invasive privet (brush) in our Valley. The sun-loving privet unfortunately got established when the area leading in from the highway was cleared, but not attended to. When the bulldozer was used for the trenching work to bring electricity and water to Uncle Isaac's cabin, the Board approved using it with an attachment that would pull out the privet in a small area (quarter of an acre) and then plant native saplings to replace the privet. The hope is that, the saplings planted in the area cleared of privet, they will eventually provide enough shade to keep the privet from returning.

Larry Braswell and Kelly Jobe are working on this project. We all love the Valley's natural beauty, and want to preserve it and your participation can help make this happen. Larry's and Kelly's contact information is listed in the Reunion Meal Count section. Please get in touch to see how you can help.

- **Zip-line** – Recently Johnny Cameron posted to the Family email list a suggestion that the Family consider installing a commercial quality zip-line in the Valley. If you're not familiar with what constitutes a zip-line, you might want to go to: <http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/zip-line>. Johnny also provided the following link to a website that sells the type he had in mind: <http://www.backyardziplines.com>. Johnny's email post elicited a variety of feedback, some reflecting an experience not too far back with a 'home-made' one that was run over the Swimming Hole and was removed after an accident that could have been serious, but fortunately was not. Zip-lines can be great fun, so there will be some serious review here, I'm sure.



## ~ Family News ~

- **Additions to the Family Lines:**

- Mary Jones Diffie: Makai Riley Morris came into this world on July 18, 2014, to the delight of proud parents Logan Morris and Brooke James... and Grandma Monica Stiles.
- Guilford Jones: Big news from Gil and Jennifer Jones. Her son, Matt Andrews, and Blythe Boyette were married in Panama City, Florida on February 28, 2015. Congrats, Matt & Blythe, and welcome, Blythe.
- Fannie Jones Highsmith: Last April 18<sup>th</sup> Cathy and Gary Kornegay's son, Hayden, and Lindsey Renee Ramin were married. The outdoor western-themed ceremony and reception were capped off by awesome fireworks. The celebration continued with a great Alaskan cruise honeymoon trip. Welcome, Lindsey.
- Mary Jones Diffie: Last fall Priscilla Diffie-Couch's granddaughter, Karlee Strickland, married Brian DeShazer in a beautiful lakeside ceremony. They've now settled down in North Carolina where Brian manages a blood plasma center and Karlee is working toward becoming a clinical psychologist. Welcome, Brian.
- Melinda Jones Cubage: Last October 28th Ken and Susan Ellis' son Chris and Jessica LeFevre were married in a civil ceremony in Fort Worth, Texas prior to Jessica, who is on active duty in the Air Force, leaving on a one year tour of duty in Korea. In October of this year, in Kauai, Hawaii, they'll be more formally joined in matrimony, with family and friends enjoying a destination wedding on their one-year anniversary, after which Jessica will fly back to Korea to finish her tour of duty. Jessica, thank you for your service, and welcome to the Family. (Guess last year's Reunion experience didn't scare her off ☺.)

- **Achievements:**

- Matt Andrews, Captain USAF, has been selected for promotion to major, making Gil and mom, Jennifer Jones, proud. Congratulations, Matt, on moving on up, and a big "Thanks" for your service to our country.
- Randy Braswell, retired from the Union Pacific railroad after 35 years of service as a locomotive engineer. Although wife, Brooklyn, is still working, rumor has it that sometime in the not too distant future they may be relocating from Seattle to Arkansas... perhaps Hot Springs. In the meantime, they're remodeling a recently acquired home and will be restoring a newly acquired 1976 Airstream vintage 26-foot camping trailer and exploring the Pacific Northwest. They have lots of projects, lots of plans – retirement is not looking like a rocking chair!
- Michael Strickland graduated last May from the University of Texas with a degree in mechanical engineering, and subsequently landed a coveted position with Exxon. Grandparents Priscilla Diffie-Couch and Mickie Couch are extremely proud, and rightly so. Michael's first assignment has been a California off-shore drilling project, and he's in training for one in Alaska (it gets down to 60 below there – brrr!)
- Dawn Anita Plumlee released a touching new video "Go Rest High On That Mountain" as a tribute to her father J. D. Diffie. You can enjoy it here: [www.youtube.com/watch?v=noDMJuqwtde&feature=youtu.be](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=noDMJuqwtde&feature=youtu.be).

- Heidi Lewis co-edited and helped publish “Hitchhiking the World: 50 Adventures” authored by Kevin McNally and available on Amazon. Kevin has some pretty wild tales; I’ve heard of swimming with dolphins, but elephants; that’s getting out there. Now, if we can just get Heidi to thumb a ride down to Jones Valley.
  - Donna Cameron, coupled with relocating to Lafayette, Louisiana (the heart of Cajun Country), has been successfully working toward a degree in business while working full time. It now looks like there will be a nursing career in her future. Whichever way it turns out, it will be a successful one, because Donna Annette has it together.
  - Klaudia Cameron graduates from high school in Huntsville, Alabama this May. All the Family, especially the Cameron clan, are so proud. That’s the way, Klaudia; keep after those horizons.
  - JJ Cameron was the recipient of the Austin Chapter of the American Institute of Architecture’s Emerging Professional Award for 2014, a professional achievement award recognizing new architects for their outstanding professional and leadership accomplishments. Way to go JJ; outstanding work and getting recognized to boot!
  - JJ Cameron was invited and participated in the Xterra Triathlon Off-Road Championships in Ogden, Utah. Frankly, I had to get a little up to speed here – I thought “Xterra” was a Nissan SUV, but actually this Xterra is a race that starts as a 1500km swim, transitions into 28km mountain bike race up 2700 feet of elevation, and finishes with a 10km trail run! JJ exceeded his goals, with great support from his family. Yea, JJ; you da man!
- **New Frontiers:** Maybe you remember the Remington shaver TV ad back in 1988 by Victor Kiam, “I liked the shaver so much, I bought the company.” Well, that tack was taken by our own Melinda Miller, who last fall took ownership of a craft soap business, and rebranded it Oak Lane Soapworks. Melinda is now enrolled in Entrepreneurship 101, but don’t worry – she’s fast learner and fully engaged. You, like us, should check this out at: <http://www.oaklanesoap.com>. (And yes, this is a brazen plug for my niece, but the soap is Great!)
  - **Achievements (dubious):** Of course I had to invent a new category to hold Cousin Gil’s latest honor. Last fall while enjoying the Valley, Gil shared with the Clingman-Jones Family Reunion Facebook group his poetic observations of the Valley’s nature and natural beauty. As Winnie the Pooh might say, here’s a smattering:

The morning broke with the pitter and occasional patter of drops on the camper roof from accumulated mist. It’s a wannabe rain in perhaps 70° air. The chorus of frogs and katydids has given way to the symphony of birds enjoying the cool, moist morning. A light fog hangs over the Valley as viewed to the East over the mirror that is the swimming hole, only occasionally pock-marked with an errant drop of moisture. It’s a lazy morning but there is work to be done and I’m betting I won’t melt out there.

As a result of the many (well, maybe one or two) accolades, President Spencer Cubage, caught up in the moment, proclaimed the following: “Gil, with the power vested in me as President of Jones Valley, I now pronounce you... ‘Poet Laureate of Jones Valley’!!!”

Congratulations to all.... Yes, cousins, again this year, there is still good news and lots of success stories out there, we're just scratching the surface here!

### *~ Thank You Volunteers ~*

Volunteers – you know those people who step up when called upon, or just see a need and get the job done – they're what make good things happen. And we're blessed to have some pretty fine ones in the Clingman-Jones Family, including the many in-laws who've pitched in and made a huge difference. When going back through our Family records, I recognize over the years how generous our Family members have been with their time and support of the Reunion and Jones Valley – many thanks to all, past and present.

While we're on this topic, I'd like to give a special thanks from all of us to Karen and Robert Atkinson for hosting the Early Arrivals Burgers N' Dogs. I'm not exactly sure how long they've been doing it now, but it sure is a great way to start the Reunion. Also, I don't know how they came up with the idea, but it was probably something they thought of doing for their own clan, then just decided to share the love. Folks, it doesn't get much better than this! Thanks, Karen and Robert! And I know... recently some others have been pitching-in to help out and they appreciate it; so do we all.

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

This year's Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 23-25. This an informal gathering, when Family members come to the Valley and get both their own cabins ready for the year and the facilities and grounds ready for our July 4<sup>th</sup> Reunion. It makes a big difference at Reunion time, when we can just mainly enjoy being together. You don't need to RSVP here – just show up cuzzin; believe me, it's a good time.

Being Memorial Day weekend, you may want to take in Mt. Ida's "Good Ole Days" arts, crafts, and antique car and motorcycle show. Also, it's always a good idea to stop by Mt. Ida's Heritage House Museum to see how life was in the county back in the early days when our ancestors were growing up there. They're always updating the exhibits and the early farming equipment is quite interesting. You'll find a friendly greeting from Emilie Kinney, Director and her helpful staff – tell 'em Cousin Mike sent you ☺.

### *~ Places to Stay ~*

Lodging is limited in the area and always tends to book up early for the July 4<sup>th</sup> 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
Mary's Place	356-4679	Bean Creek Cabins	260-4365

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

~ Legal Corner ~

**Family Legal Structure:** Your Executive Board is working to determine the best legal structure for the Family to use, be it Trust, Non-Profit Corporation, or other entity.

~ Remembrance ~

One of the reflections that can come up at the Reunion is of Family members that have passed from this world. Sometimes they are just thought about, as one thinks back on how they enjoyed past Reunions and Jones Valley. The Family Cemetery is the final resting place for many. Lives are gifts, and in remembrance of those no longer with us, we can give thanks, remember what is truly important, and live accordingly.

~ Your Annual Plea ~

Time for you to do your part (and yes, I always include myself in this). Thank you very much for your continued support – it will be carefully used.



Yes, I can help support the Reunion and Jones Valley. Enclosed is my contribution, a check for \$ \_\_\_\_\_. (Make payable to Clingman-Jones Family Trust)

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

From: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_



(Send it in today!)

All checks and changes of address or emails should be sent to our Secretary/Treasurer:

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251-279-7738  
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~ Thanks So Much For Your Help ~