

# CLINGMAN-JONES 96<sup>th</sup> FAMILY REUNION

June 30 - July 2, 2017

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Greetings Cousins, close and far, it is time for us Jonesites to get a little ahead of that power curve and start planning to attend our 96<sup>th</sup> annual Reunion. When reading Melinda Cubage's last will concerning her beloved Jones Valley "Cabin Castle," she stated it was her desire that our gathering would be more than a reunion; it would be a homecoming. So, you have a special heritage and roots, right there in Jones Valley. Of course, from time to time, roots need a little care and nourishing – hope to see you all there.

## ~ Reunion Schedule\* ~

Friday, June 30 <sup>th</sup>	6pm	(early arrivals) – <b>Burgers and Dogs</b> from the grill
Saturday, July 1 <sup>st</sup>	8am	<b>Breakfast - Dining Hall</b>
		Get out and around - See who's arrived and who's not yet
	11am	<b>Family Business Meeting</b> - Not to be missed
	Noon	<b>Sandwich Lunch - Dining Hall</b>
		Check into the swimmin' hole or the Caddo River
	1pm	<b>Board of Directors Meeting</b>
	2pm	Annual International Inner Tube Contest - Swimmin' Hole
	6pm	<b>Evening Meal - Dining Hall</b>
	7pm - ?	Music, games, and visiting
Sunday, July 2 <sup>nd</sup>	8am	<b>Breakfast - Dining Hall</b>
	10am	<b>Remembrance &amp; Gospel Sing</b> - Johnny Cameron
	Noon	<b>Sandwich Lunch - Dining Hall</b>
		Cool-off time - back in the swimmin' hole or the Caddo
	6pm	<b>Evening Meal - Dining Hall</b>
		Circulate a bit, get to know some you don't; enjoy it all
	8pm	Fireworks in designated areas - each family responsible for clean-up
Monday, July 3 <sup>rd</sup>	8am	<b>Continental Breakfast</b> (or what passes for that in Caddo Gap) - <b>Dining Hall</b>
		Head for home, or stay and celebrate your country's birthday in Jones Valley - where good memories are made

***\*Remember, except for Family Business and Board of Directors' 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 ~*

Patrick Cameron will once again be managing the kitchen/dining hall operations – THANK YOU, THANK YOU, THANK YOU PATRICK. To make Patrick's job almost possible an accurate head of how many will be eating at each meal is needed. So, please contact you Family Line representative with those numbers for your immediate family – don't forget the little ones, they count too!

Family Line Representatives and contact information. Get those numbers in right away!

<b>Arthur</b>	Karen Atkinson	713-208-2232	katkinson0220@gmail.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>	Russell Chandler	646-832-7894	russellsappliance mart@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 2017 Events & Activities ~*

Your Clingman-Jones Family Reunion is a happening. We don't have an Activities Director running around with a clipboard organizing events and activities. No, that's left up to you. The prime example of how well this can work out is the annual International Inner Tube Contest put on by Johnny Cameron – a great time for participants and spectators/judges alike. In the past there have foot races up the Valley, volleyball games, horseshoe throwing and corn hole games, to name a few.

So, besides enjoying the beauty of Jones Valley, watching the kids in the swimmin' hole, visiting with kinfolk, enjoying making music or listening to it, and eatin', you'll just have to pull together whatever fun things you want to do. Of course there're always the real good standards of checking out Jones Valley mysteries – the Solar House, the lost plane crash site, or the hidden cache on Strawn Mountain set up by Effie Lee's boys. And of course, there's always getting' down to that Caddo River for some leisurely fun!

**Don't miss out cousins. For your kids especially, a Jones Valley Reunion is way beyond cell phone games and will build a lifetime of great memories.**

## *~ Reunion 2016 Recap ~*

**OVERVIEW** – What would sum up Reunion 2016? Well, the weather was great – a tad on the hot side during the day and cooling off nicely at night; the food was good; we had campfires at night and enjoyable music. But the blockbuster for the kids was the bounce-

house set up by the Camerons next to their Lake Lee cabin. The kids went a little nuts alternating between the bounce-house and the swimming hole. I guarantee you, they didn't have any excess energy left after a day of that chaos! When it was bedtime, there were some pretty tired puppies ready for dream time (meaning, they couldn't wait to do it all over again the next day)!



Yes cousins, the 2016 Reunion was the coolest for the kids

- **FAMILY BUSINESS MEETING** – President Spencer Cubage welcomed everyone to the 95<sup>th</sup> edition of the Clingman-Jones Family Reunion, and introduced two first time Reunion attendees, Paul and Velma Palmer of West Monroe, Louisiana and in the Grace line. Paul has recently been researching his line and posting information on the website. Spencer then thanked volunteers, Karen and Robert Atkinson for the great burgers and dogs, and made the attendees aware of upcoming activities. Major meeting topics covered were:

### **Storm Damage and Recovery**

Spencer informed the meeting of the massive flooding that had occurred the previous winter and the recovery work required to put the swimming hole, creek crossing, and Uncle Claude/Cameron cabin side back in order. This overview included the proposal of widening the old dam opening to both slow the velocity and direct the flow to the center of the swimming hole, rather than towards the Cameron side. After discussion, a resolution to pursue that project was unanimously passed.



### Legal Update

Spencer asked Gil Jones to provide an update concerning the lawsuit the Family is now defending. Gil informed the attendees that the lawsuit is still active and moving forward, but with only one litigant – Dawn Anita Plumlee is no longer participating. Other than this change, there was really nothing to report.

### Donations

Spencer asked the attendees to please be generous in their annual donations, because they were much needed this year to meet the costs of the storm recovery and the lawsuit, which were on top of the normal costs of putting on the Reunion and maintaining Jones Valley.

### Jones Valley Stories Collection

Lynn White proposed that a project be initiated that would compile short stories of our Clingman-Jones Family and Jones Valley to be put into a book similar to the wonderful cookbook done by Floss Diffie. Lynn stated she would be happy to take on this project and Family members could send her their stories. There was general consensus that Lynn should proceed with the project. Lynn gave credit for the idea to Robin Aronson after hearing her tell several funny stories a couple of evenings earlier. Proceeds from the sale of the published book would be donated to the Valley, as were proceeds from the cookbook.

### Closing

As with the 1924 Reunion, the first in Jones Valley, the meeting was closed with the singing of the old hymn “God Be With You Till We Meet Again”, led beautifully by Jennifer Lehtinen.


- **BOARD OF MANAGING MEMBERS MEETING** – The Clingman-Jones Family Association Board of Managing Members’ meeting focused on the following major items:

#### Family Business Meeting Input

The Board Members reviewed the ideas brought forward concerning the Family members’ ideas and concerns related to trying to minimize future storm damage by such actions as widening the opening in the old dam. This review led to ancillary items, such as the recommendation of Larry Braswell of removing two posts of the low water dam safety railing to let storm debris move freely over it and downstream. This action, which was deemed not to compromise the structural integrity of the railing was approved.

#### Fundraising

The need for some serious fundraising to meet Family expenses brought up the topic of the lawsuit and the need to address controlling storm impact. Both were discussed in detail. It was concluded a Family-wide, beyond the Reunion, appeal for donations was needed. Two other options considered were: a) setting up an online based donation method to facilitate Family members’ donations via their computers or smart phones rather than by check and b) selective timber cutting. Gil Jones



stated that the Family-wide appeal should wait until the online donation facility was available. And re-forestation was discussed concerning any selective timber cutting.

### **Pine Tree Planting**

Larry Braswell stated that, if authorized, he would plant pine trees to replace where the invasive privet had been removed near the gate entrance to the main cabin area. This would keep the privet from returning. The Board authorized Larry to go ahead with the pine tree planting.

## *~ Family News ~*

### • **Additions to the Family Lines:**

- Mary Line – **Easton Lee Prestidge**, to the joy of parents Cole and Kristina and grandparents Ty and Meg, joined the world and the Family on August 14, 2016.
- Guilford Line – **Audrey Lynette Andrews** came into this world on June 30, 2016 to the joy of parents Blythe and Matt, and grandparents Jennifer and Gil Jones. Audrey is checking this new world out in Spain where dad is assigned to NATO.
- Arthur Line – **Luca and Danella Carucci** blessed parents Eric and Lindsey by arriving into this world and the Family on January 11, 2017.

### • **Celebrations:**

- **Heath Stiles and Autumn Faircloth**, are now engaged to be married January 13, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee. The ring Autumn received was the one his dad, Keith, gave to his mother, Monica – special.
- **Celeste Cameron and Ben Loria** are now engaged to be married May 20, 2017 in Troutdale (near Portland), Oregon. Celeste put Ben to the ultimate test – last year's Reunion.
- **Kathryn Cubage and Ryan O'Neill**, to the joy of family, were married on March 4, 2017 in Central Park, New York City on a very, very cold day. The honeymoon trip, a week's stay on the warm sunny Greek island of Santorini, quickly took care of that weather issue. Welcome to the Family, Ryan!!! See you two at the Reunion.

### • **New Frontiers and Adventures:**

- **Heidi Lewis**, completed a 55 day, 500 mile boating adventure on the historic Erie Canal. The journey went through 66 locks! This was followed by Heidi and Ariel touring National Parks, visiting family in the south and northwest. Lots of experiences to share around Jones Valley campfires for sure!
- **Gil Jones**, of course not satisfied with just cruising around with a man-sized pickup and spacious camper, has upgraded to a state of the art RV motor home, just a little short of touring bus. This of course required attendance at RV motor home college and boot camp. Naturally this was after he'd terrorized the east and the Gulf coasts when he still had his training wheels on.

• **Achievements:**

- **Larry Braswell** was diagnosed with heart blockages, successfully underwent quad-bypass open heart surgery, rehab, and recovery is now progressing well at home.
- **Proy Cameron**, was promoted to staff sergeant (E-6) and received the Army commendation medal with three oak leaf clusters. Proy is now assigned to the Headquarter 1-206<sup>th</sup> field artillery regiment in Russellville, Arkansas as a human resource non commissioned officer. Congratulations, Proy, and thank you for your service.
- **Tylar Prestidge**, double recognition here too. Tylar is graduating high school as salutatorian, notching a 4.27 GPA. In addition, Tylar was named football MVP for his region, also receiving the Burlesworth award for outstanding character, and has signed to play football for Evangel University, Springfield, MO. Way to go Tylar!
- **Hannah Bowman** was recently promoted to assistant administrator for admissions at the Northwest Montessori School, Austin, Texas, a premier Montessori school. Hannah is also involved with the academic program, instructing the children in art.
- **Karl Bowman** celebrated his 36<sup>th</sup> year at Freeman AV and in June will be the company's second most tenured employee. Wow, somebody must like somebody!!!
- **Alison Nichols**, now attending SMU, entered the University's 41<sup>st</sup> annual talent competition last fall and won 1<sup>st</sup> place! How's that for a freshman walk-on. Guess this Georgian plays pretty good in Texas.
- **Susan Ellis**, in May this year, will be retiring from her teaching profession after 20 years of educat'n those little Texans, and 34 overall. To celebrate, Susan and Ken wisely used Spring Break 2017 to visit the beautiful island of Kauai, Hawaii. Of course they made us all jealous by posting great pictures all over Facebook.
- **Ty Pulliam**, has achieved the rank of Eagle Scout. In case you were not aware, only 4% of those in the Scouting program receive this honor. So, rightly so, the Arthur line, led by parents Leslie and Rick are standing proud. Ty is also graduating this year from Burnet High School, Burnet Texas. Way to go Ty!
- **Nathaniel Perry**, making parents John and Liz, as well as the rest of family and Arthur line very proud indeed, will be graduating from Central Catholic High School, San Antonio, Texas. Congrats Nathaniel!
- **Anthony Hall**, will be graduating soon from Del Valle High School, Del Valle, Texas, with parents Dana and Jerry, family, and Arthur line, all justly proud of Anthony. Congrats Anthony!
- **Cathlyn and Patricia Eanes** will graduate from Flomaton (Alabama) High School and both plan to attend Troy State (AL) University. Mike and Lynn White are the proud grandparents.

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

Memorial Day is being observed on May 29<sup>th</sup> this year and our Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 27-28. For Jones Valley this start of summer weekend is when we combine getting our cabins opened up and facilities ready for another Reunion along with having fun in Jones Valley. Hey, if you can't make it – send one of your kin!

Being Memorial Day weekend, you may want to take in Mt. Ida's "Good Ol' Days" arts, crafts, and antique car and motorcycle show May 26<sup>th</sup> and 27<sup>th</sup>. In addition, there's

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. Say "Howdee" to director Emilie Kinney, who knows all about us Joneses (and that's a good thing!). All our eleven founding ancestors are remembered, each with an inscribed brick, on the museum's entrance walk.

### *~ 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
Pea Patch/Gap Mercantile	356-9621	Bean Creek Cabins	260-4365

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

### *~ Legal Corner ~*

Concerning the lawsuit brought by Dawn Anita Plumlee and Priscila Couch against our Clingman-Jones Family Association and Board Members. Events in the suit since our last newsletter include Dawn Anita dropping out as a plaintiff, leaving only Priscilla. And a hearing was held last October where the judge denied Priscilla's Motion for Summary Judgment. The defendants, your Clingman-Jones Family Association and the individual board member defendants have filed their own Motion for Summary Judgment which is aimed at terminating the law suit. Your Legal Team hopes to have a hearing on that in the April/May 2017 timeframe. Sometime after the hearing the Judge will rule on the Motion.

### *~ Remembrance ~*

Reunion 2017, like previous ones, will be a fun time, but there will be moments when we reflect on those no longer with us – the good times and experiences we shared. That unfortunately will be the case with James Cameron.

**Milton James Cameron II – Claude Line** (June 26, 1935 – November 5, 2016)

James, a dedicated family man, loved Jones Valley and all the Family members, and enjoyed every Reunion. James served his country in the U.S. Navy, was an owner of Caddo Builder's Supply, a 32<sup>nd</sup> Degree Mason, and a member of the Kings Highway Christian Church, Shreveport, Louisiana (a spinoff of Central Christian founded by his grandfather, Claude Jones). As a teenager, for a time James lived in the Valley, attended Caddo Gap High School, and chauffeured his grandfather. James was really a good hearted man. I wish I'd known him better.

~ Your Annual Plea ~

You're right. The whole point of the newsletter is to lay a guilt trip on you to contribute to the support of your Jones Valley and Reunion (of course, not really, but we [YOU] do need to step up and do your part and show the love). Now, thanks to Cousin Gil, it is easier than ever. There's no need to remember how to write a check – just whip out that smarty phone or get on the computer, and go to:

*<https://squareup.com/store/clingman-jones-family-association>*

This is a secure website from Square (similar to PayPal) that's used by lots of retailers that use their iPhones to swipe your credit card. On the "Checkout" page, enter your billing information and card details. MM/YY is where you enter the card's expiration date, CVV is for the three digit security code from the back of the card, and the five digit number to the right is for the card's billing zip code. You'll receive an email confirmation of your donation. Don't worry; no credit card info is retained by Square.

Or, you can still just mail in that good ol' check! Either way, with your help, Jones Valley will continue to be maintained and secure for you and yours for the future – a bright one.



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: \_\_\_\_\_

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



**(Send it in today!)**

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

Mike White  
PO Box 1161  
Fairhope, AL 36533-1161

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

~ Thanks So Much For Your Help ~



Yep, we got the water fun, the obligatory family group photo, and the pick'n n grin'n -



just about everything you need for a great family reunion and July 4<sup>th</sup> celebration -  
just add you and your family.



And if you're up for a little hiking adventure, visit the solar house or find the old  
airplane crash site up on Strawn Mountain. Here's a little GPS help:  
(34.40056°N, 93.580982°W (WGS84)).

**Clingman-Jones Family**  
**P.O. Box 14**  
**Caddo Gap, Arkansas 71935**



<http://JonesValley.us>

**Clingman-Jones 96<sup>th</sup> Family Reunion**  
**June 30<sup>th</sup> - July 2, 2017**



**Come on down to Jones Valley - your kinfolks are a'waitin'**