

CLINGMAN-JONES 97th FAMILY REUNION

June 29th - July 1st, 2018

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Greetings Cousins! Time flies doesn't it? It's Clingman-Jones Family Reunion Newsletter time again. Well, I was thinking last year's 'Greeting' was so good, just repeat it this year. But, better thoughts prevailed, and to remind you just what a precious thing we've got going here, I decided to plagiarize from Cousin Doris Carnes' description of our Reunion: "...around the Fourth of July, descendants of the Clingman-Jones clan reunite at this place for relaxation, good food, and friendly embellishments of past events – a place where recollected pranks and memories once again refreshed give testament to the family's endurance down through the years. Difficult times were buffered here as well. Family members moved in and out through cycles of death, sickness, loss of jobs, the Great Depression, and the effects of war. Buddy and his many cousins, aunts and uncles were strengthened here in good times and bad with love, faith and a legacy of rugged determination." When you look around this world in dismay today, remember what's here.

~ Reunion Schedule* ~

Friday, June 29th	6pm	(early arrivals) – Burgers and Dogs from the grill
Saturday, June 30th	8am	Breakfast - Dining Hall Check out who's arrived, and who's on the way
	11am	Family Business Meeting (We all must do penance)
	Noon	Sandwich Lunch - Dining Hall Watch warm-ups for the Inner Tube contest
	1pm	Board of Directors Meeting
	2pm	International Inner Tube Contest - Swimmin' Hole
	6pm	Evening Meal - Dining Hall
	7pm -	Music, games, and visiting – Especially With New Cousins
Sunday, July 1st	8am	Breakfast - Dining Hall
	10am	Remembrance & Gospel Sing - Johnny Cameron
	Noon	Sandwich Lunch - Dining Hall Cool-off time - back in the swimmin' hole or the Caddo
	6pm	Evening Meal - Dining Hall Circulate a bit, get to know some you don't; enjoy it all
	8pm	Fireworks in designated areas - each family responsible for own clean-up
Monday, July 2nd	8am	Continental Breakfast (or what passes for that in Caddo Gap) - Dining Hall 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, PATRICK!** Please contact your Family Line representative **asap** with the number of how many will be eating at each meal – and don't forget the kids, they eat too!

Arthur	Karen Atkinson	713-208-2232	katkinson0220@gmail.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	Russell Chandler	646-832-7894	russellsappliance mart@gmail.com
Mary	Joe Diffie	580-444-2823, 580-465-0405	1diffie1@gmail.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
Grace	Paul Palmer	318- 953-4857	cpg2670@gmail.com

~ Reunion 2017 Recap and Beyond ~

INTRO – You really can't recap the 2017 Reunion without a look at what went on before and there was plenty, believe you me, that preceded last year's Reunion.

PRE-REUNION – The late fall of 2016 and spring of 2017 weather was not kind to Jones Valley. The area received epic rainfalls and experienced wide-spread flooding. Jones Valley was hit very hard. Massive amounts of gravel swept into the swimming hole, with damage making it impossible to reach the Uncle Claude/Cameron Cabins, and the Dining Hall suffered structural damage and ended up with an inch of mud inside. The force of the water actually swept the Founders Monument Stone into the creek!

Your Board of Managing Members, after considerable review, retained the services of a professional water resources management engineer to study the situation and make recommendations toward reducing similar damage in the future. His plan included bolstering banks and utilizing rip-rap in specific locations. The Board assessed the costs involved and hired contractors to implement as much of the plan as feasible and to repair access across the creek. This was made possible by generous Family member donations.

2017 MEMORIAL DAY WEEKEND FIX-UP/GET TOGETHER – After the contractors did their work there was plenty of clean-up/fix-up left to be done: downed trees in the swimming hole and on the grounds, the Dining Hall in shambles and mud-filled, and the Founders Monument Stone in the creek, for starters. The call went out, and JJ Cameron, Ken & Susan Ellis, Spencer & Liz Cubage, Coleman Cubage, Gil Jones, Larry Braswell, Mike White, Johnny and Judy Cameron, Nelson Cameron, Jeff Cameron, Logan Morris, and Riley Morris all responded.

JJ Cameron put his building knowledge to work and took charge of restoring the Dining Hall, making a needed supply list, and directing a great, long, one-day effort. There was a crescendo sound filling Jones Valley coming from circular saws, hammers, Larry's tractor

pulling logs, chain saws, and weed wackers – a beautiful sound indeed, cousins. The day started early and ended late with some paint for the finishing touches. Even the Founders Monument Stone was recovered from the creek and returned to its proper site overlooking the creek. What a Family team to be proud of!



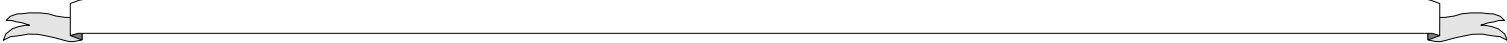
2017 REUNION RECAP – Of course we would have had the Reunion no matter what, but it was certainly made a lot better by the Memorial Day Family team. In summary:

- the food was good (my mother always judged Reunions by the food),
- the International Inner Tube Contest was great fun, even had a canoe event,
- the music was most enjoyable – especially with the washboard jammin’,
- the visiting was outstanding (maybe a story or two was embellished a bit), and
- the weather was just right too.

And to the delight of the little ones, the Cameron Bounce House was back. And maybe a first – we had overnight sleeping in hammocks down by the creek. How did that go? Well, you’ll just have to check with Milton Cameron and son, Perry.

➤ **Family Business Meeting** – President Spencer Cubage welcomed everyone to the 96th edition of the Clingman-Jones Family Reunion, and this included a warm welcome to any first-timers and welcoming back Paul and Velma Palmer. Paul introduced his son Chris and his family from Brandon, Mississippi, attending their first Reunion.

Spencer then thanked volunteers, especially Patrick Cameron for the fine job he was doing managing the dining hall/kitchen operations, and Karen and Robert Atkinson for the great burgers and dogs on Friday night. Spencer then made the attendees aware of upcoming Reunion activities. Major meeting topics covered were:



Storm Damage and Recovery – Spencer informed us of the massive flooding that had occurred in late 2016 and spring 2017, which was described earlier in this newsletter. Options for mitigating future flooding were also discussed.

Legal Update – Spencer asked Meg Prestidge to provide an update concerning the lawsuit from Priscilla Diffie-Couch the Family is now defending. Meg informed the attendees that the lawsuit is still active and moving forward.

Upcoming 100th Reunion Preparations & Planning – Spencer asked Johnny Cameron to provide the meeting with an overview of what might be in store for the Family's historic 100th Reunion. Johnny discussed several ideas that have been proposed for the 100th Reunion, such as: the Reunion being a weeklong event, for maximum participation a no cost event (funds raised in advance), period dress, and new facilities (restrooms and/or dining hall).

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.

Open Family Discussion Time – After the meeting agenda items were covered President Cubage opened the floor for general discussion among Family members. The Family members freely discussed many items ranging from the passing of loved ones and memorials to loved ones, to historical documents that have been discovered, and communications from Family members as far away as France.

- **Board of Managing Members Meeting** – The Clingman-Jones Family Association Board of Managing Members' meeting primarily focused on the following two items:

Flood Recovery and Mitigating Future Storm Damage – The Board Members reviewed the work done recovering from the late 2016 and early 2017 unprecedented rain and storm damage inflicted upon Jones Valley and the surrounding area. The work done by the volunteers in recovery and restoration was recognized and greatly appreciated. Also, Larry Braswell's work with the consulting water management engineer was seen as a significant help.

Cameron New Cabin Request – The Cameron family's request to build a new cabin near the mower shed was reviewed and approved. JJ had previously presented to extensive architectural drawings of the cabin and proposed site. This cabin would provide needed housing for the Camerons' rapidly growing family.

BEYOND THE REUNION – 2017/18 JONES VALLEY HAPPENINGS – Those of us not fortunate enough to drop in at the Valley frequently are not aware of just how many goings on there are. To give you an idea, the following lists some:

- Labor Day Weekend – Lots of Family enjoyed the Valley and surrounding area, such as floating down the Caddo.



- Late Fall – Sorghum Squeez’n, Mt. Ida Museum, brought Family in to check out this unique old time event. Quite a blustery day, but fun anyway. Hot biscuits and sorghum syrup – yummy!
- Thanksgiving in Jones Valley – This year it was celebrated by the Fannie line Braswell and Geatches clans as a remembrance of Effie Lee – very fitting.
- November 2017 was highlighted by the Camerons, under JJ’s direction, laying of the foundation of their new cabin.
- Christmas 2017 – Larry Braswell heard a commotion outside his cabin and, to his delight, it was Summer and Don and family, plus Johnny Cameron serenading him with Christmas carols! It’s been a while since there’s been caroling in the Valley!
- Pine tree planting – Approved by the Board to mitigate the invasive privet. The planting took place in February 2018 thanks to Larry Braswell, his friend Roger, Riley Morris and daughter Ava, and Summer and Don Engel. Now grow, pines!
- March 2018 was started with pecan tree planting (2), starting a new trail by the creek, and an evening of fellowship hosted by Bob and Nancy Geatches with a campfire hotdog cookout.
- The Cameron cabin’s construction continued in March 2018 with major progress on the first floor structural framing being completed. Second floor and roofing is planned for April.
- An Easter weekend celebration kicked off with an egg hunt for the little ones, and activities topped off with a bounce-house. And for sure, lots places to hide eggs!

~ Family News ~

- **Additions to the Family Lines:**
 - Cubage Line – **Ansa Kaci Lehtinen**, bringing joy to mom Jennifer, dad Jay, and brother Ian, came into this world and the Family on April 3, 2018. She weighed in at 7lbs, 13 oz. and was a whopping 20.5 inches! Welcome Ansa.
 - Diffie Line – **Kelela and Lokana Morris**, beautiful girls, blessed dad Logan and mom Brooke by joining this world on January 19, 2018.
 - Diffie Line – **Marcus Hunter Morris**, is expected to join blessed parents Riley and Sara in late May 2018.
- **Celebrations:**
 - **Heath Stiles and Autumn Faircloth** were married January 19, 2018 in Nashville, Tennessee. Welcome to the Family, Autumn!
 - **Celeste Cameron and Ben Loria** were married May 20, 2017 in Troutdale (near Portland), Oregon. This was definitely a blowout Cameron affair. Welcome Ben and Mallory!
- **Acheivements:**
 - **Matt Andrews**, assigned by the USAF to NATO’s Combined Air Operations in Spain, was Master of Ceremonies at the official flag raising to welcome Montenegro as the 29th country to join NATO. Mom Jennifer Jones and Gil are beaming!
 - **Dawn Anita Plumlee** was selected queen in the Ms. Senior Oklahoma Pageant of America on July 29, 2017 – way to go Dawn Anita! Dawn Anita, always on the go, is now busier than ever representing Oklahoma as the state’s queen.

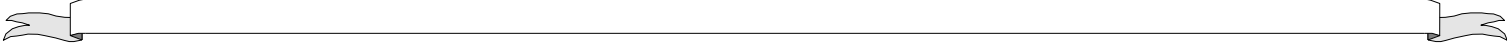
- **Klaudia Cameron** graduated from the Horizons School in Birmingham, Alabama, and is now attending Jefferson County Community College, as well as working at a retirement home as entertainment director. Klaudia – moving forward, doing good.
- **Nick Patrizio** made Kindergarten Honor Role at Washington Primary in the Piqua (Ohio) School System, as well as February Student of the Month. That wins a sign in your front yard and some pretty proud grandparents (Mike and Lynn White).
- **Dawn Anita Plumlee's** new western album "Down on Wildhorse Creek" was chosen the "Pick of the Quarter" in the 2018 winter edition of Western Way by Rick Huff. It's been playing on many stations in the States as well as in the UK, New Zealand, Australia and other countries.
- **Ted Miller** will be graduating from McLean High School, McLean, Virginia on June 8, 2017 and is planning to attend Miami University (Ohio), majoring in lacrosse ☺ – just kidding, Ted.
- **Lucas DeArmond** recently joined the United States Air Force. Lucas met the boot camp challenge and came through with flying colors and is now proudly serving at Holloman Air Force Base near Alamogordo, New Mexico. Mom Priscilla, grandmother Dawn Anita, and the entire Diffie line are all proud.
- **Arwen Cameron** received the Girl Scout Bronze Award, the highest honor a Junior Girl Scout can achieve. The Bronze Award recognized Arwen and her teams' work to establish an annual watershed cleanup project, just one of many community service projects in which she participated. Way to go Arwen, keep doing good!
- **Donna Annette Cameron** graduated from South Louisiana Community College in the spring of 2017. Congratulations Donna!
- **Grace Nichols** will graduate in May with highest honors from The Westminster Schools, Atlanta. She has also received the school's athletic "Blanket Award" for earning more than seven varsity letters during her high school career. Grace will be attending Rice University this fall – that sits well with Dad. Congratulations!
- **Alison Nichols** was recently admitted to SMU's Cox School of Business to study Finance and has joined the Pi Phi sorority. In addition to moving forward academically, Alison is keeping her music headed in the same direction. Her newest single, "Take You Down," has been playing in the rotation on Atlanta's 94.9 FM's local artists show, Backyard Country.
- **Sympathies:**
 - **Casey Lehtinen**, Jay Lehtinen's dear brother, lost his long difficult fight with leukemia on February 4, 2018. Casey's light is still shining through his wife Natasha and children, Corban, Jonah and Brook.

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

Our Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 26th and 27th this year. 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. Remember this weekend in the Valley is a about a "little do, and a lot of play."

~ Places to Stay ~

Lodging is limited in the area and always tends to book up early for the July 4th 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
Home Economics Cottage	223-2724	Mercantile Cottage	356-3909

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

~ Gap Mercantile Is Back ~

The Gap Mercantile in downtown Caddo Gap has been re-opened by Gary and Lynna McWilliams and family, with the goal to preserve a slice of the “old time” way. They do have the prerequisite jams, jellies and antiques, but there are lots of functional items from days gone by that you just won't find at Walmart.

This store is different is because the McWilliams family is different. They're part of a growing movement to “get back to basics” in living, building, and farming, and Gary has been taking this message out to 20,000+ subscribers with his *Farm Hand's Companion* YouTube channel. This talented family also has gospel, as well as classical music sides!

One interesting side bar for us is that Lynna is a Jones family descendant, not of our Dr. Alfred Jones, the father of our founding eleven, but of his brother Willis – small world. The store is open Fridays and Saturdays, so check it out during your Reunion visit.

~ Remembrance ~

Our Reunion is based on the thoughtfulness and love of those no longer with us; it is fitting we pause, and remember that they made possible what we enjoy today in Jones Valley. Over this last year these loved ones passed from this world:

June Bowman - Lee Line (July 25, 1934 - April 17, 2017)

While able and close enough, June attended many a Reunion with her beloved husband Jim. She loved the Family deeply and her ashes reside beside Jim's in the Jones Valley Family Cemetery. Even though in later years she was unable to attend Reunions, she kept up to date with the Family through email. She is survived by her three children, Karen, Travis and Karl.

Pansy Valk - Fannie Line (April 16, 1922 - February 22, 2018)

At the 2014 Clingman-Jones Family Reunion we were blessed with Trudy McGavin bringing her mother, Pansy Valk, and Pansy's twin sister, Poppy Ford, of the Fannie Line. Pansy and Poppy had attended the very early Reunions in 1929 and in the 1930s – very remarkable, especially travelling from New Mexico. Pansy's obituary may be accessed at: <http://www.tributes.com/obituary/read/Pansy-Ford-Valk-105878236>.

Jeannette Scott - Guilford Line (April 24, 1942 - November 15, 2017)

Though not able to attend Reunions in recent years, Jeannette was a strong and faithful supporter of the Reunion and Jones Valley. Strong in her faith, with a vibrant personality, she engaged life in a positive manner, and leaves a strong legacy in her children, Liesl Keeter and Amy Fortenberry.

