

Clingman-Jones Family Reunion 2014 and Fall Recap

Greetings Cousins,

Hope blessings are running high and concerns low as we enter the holiday season. As usual, there's been much happening since the Reunion 2014 Newsletter went out back in the spring. Therefore, here's a little follow-up to try and keep everybody up to speed with your Clingman-Jones Family and Jones Valley.

Reunion 2014

The 93rd edition of the Clingman-Jones Family Reunion is in the history book, and another good one it was. The good things: Visiting, enjoying the swimming hole and Caddo River, eating some pretty good meals, and renewing our heritage, were all enjoyed. There was excellent attendance from most Family Lines, especially with the Bowman clan returning en force. The weather was exceptional - summer warm during the day (but not Arkansas hot) and cooling off when the sun went down. It all worked our way. As a result of the Memorial Day Get-Together and Fixup, Jones Valley looked great, helped by some nice recent rains and Cousin Larry Braswell getting after the mowing and bush-hogging.

Some Highlights

Poppy and Pansy Ford, and Trudy McGavin. It's always special to welcome back cousins who haven't been able to attend for an extended time, as well as cousins who're first-timers. The 2014 Reunion was highlighted by the return of twins Poppy and Pansy after three decades, joined by Pansy's daughter, Trudy, all of whom live in Idaho. Given Poppy and Pansy's age of 92 years, and Poppy's recent surgery, their attendance was remarkable and a highlight. Thanks, Trudy, for making this happen!



Granddaughters of founding ancestor Fannie, Poppy and Pansy attended many of the early Reunions, driving from New Mexico in the late 20's and early 30's. Talk about strong character and family love, these women have it. Shown above is a picture of them shearing sheep to raise money for the trip. Unfortunately, Pansy got cut off at the left, but left to right is Joe Bob Blocker, Poppy and brother, Howard Ford. The adult in the photo is the rancher that hired them.

One special event of their time at the Reunion was made possible by Gil Jones linking via his iPad Poppy and Pansy, along with Effie Lee Braswell, for a face-to-face chat with Buddy Carnes at his home in North Carolina. That was followed by Gil walking Buddy around the cabins and swimming hole, giving Buddy a look and feel of the Reunion and Jones Valley. Pictures of this first Reunion Internet live chat from Jones Valley are shown on back of this newsletter.

Music and Singing. Plenty going on, a fun time had by the pickers, singers, and listeners. New fire-pits were dug, and the campfires were circled with music and singing, storytelling, with some even approaching believability.

Meals. Some judge a Reunion on the how the meals measure up. Well, if that's your benchmark, then the 2014 Reunion was a pretty big success. For Jeff Cameron's last year of managing the Dining Hall/Kitchen, he secured a new cook, Jackie Wilhite, with experience in catering. Abe Lincoln is said to have stated, "You can't satisfy all the people, all the time" - but Jackie and staff came close; the meals were excellent. I heard many satisfied compliments. And once again this year, Karen and Robert Atkinson hosted our early arrivals on Thursday evening with their outstanding burgers & dogs from the grill.

This N' That. There're always things that catch your eye, or for some reason just turn out to be kind of funny. To give you an idea, here's a smattering of the 2014 Reunion:

- How about little Coen Gervais at his first Reunion swimming hole adventure, with proud mommy, Holly, and daddy, John. Folks, it doesn't get much better than this.



- Or perhaps, Summer Cameron riding herd on her charges, as they try a little fishing, entertaining themselves (imagine that), and finding interesting companions, like a bullfrog to take care of (and Summer made sure they took good care of the little green guy).



- And events which, for good reasons, there are no pictures of record. Such as, why on Saturday evening were there four Cubage men in the Cubage Cabin bathroom, ALL AT THE SAME TIME, with the door closed? Before your imagination takes you somewhere you shouldn't go; that's because that's how many it took to get a tick off Cousin Mike! I guess it was two to hold him down and one to pull. Actually, in spite of having limited surgical quality tools (tweezers), there was a skill escalation that involved Jim White, Chris Ellis, and Jay Lehtinen.
- Finally, it wouldn't be Jones Valley without greetings from the resident wildlife. On my early arrival to open the Cubage Cabin, this guy was trying to open a screen door for me. After I let him know I didn't need his assistance, he disappeared, not to be seen again. That worked for me.



There were many, many more touching, fun, and goofy things going on, but hey, this gives you a little idea - Clingman-Jones Family Reunions are great happenings each year. And of course, I was "off-leash" with Lynn home recovering from a bout with bronchitis.

Fireworks Battle Royal. Your country's July 4th birthday celebration in Jones Valley was at a very high level. Competing camps of Bowman, Cameron, Cubage, and Arthur clans set off round after answering round of displays. Since we didn't have

official judging - just "oohs" and "aahs"- no winning camp was declared. Better than sitting in some parking lot or ball field - Jones Valley won, hands-down.

Reunion 2014 Gospel Sing and Remembrance

Although Johnny Cameron underwent a heart rhythm procedure just before the Reunion, he led the Sunday morning Gospel Sing and Remembrance, upbeat and with gusto. A highlight was Jennifer Lehtinen a cappella singing "God Be With You Until We Meet Again" - enjoyed by everyone, and fitting for the last day of the Reunion. This year the sudden passing of Reed Hill, Arthur line, was remembered, with prayers for his family. Thanks Johnny, for keeping our spiritual roots watered.

Reunion 2014 Family Business Meeting - Summary

With President Spencer Cubage's motorcade unexpectedly caught in traffic in downtown Caddo Gap, and Veep JJ Cameron unavailable at the scheduled meeting time, Treasurer Mike White conducted the Family Business Meeting. He welcomed Family members, especially those attending for the first time, or who had not attended in some time. At the attendees' recommendation, everyone introduced themselves and identified their Family line.

Mike thanked volunteers for their many contributions, not only at the Reunion, but leading up to it at the Memorial Day Get-Together and Fixup. This included getting the grounds in shape, checking out the kitchen, and cleaning the restrooms/showers. In addition, Jeff Cameron's work as dining hall/kitchen manager, and Robert and Karen Atkinson hosting the fine Early Arrival Burgers & Dogs from the grill, was recognized. The following important agenda items were then reviewed.

- **Donations.** In response to a question from an attendee, Mike reminded everyone there are many costs related to the Reunion and Jones Valley maintenance, so their generous donations needed to factor in more than what would be needed just for full meals at a restaurant. Gil Jones cited some costs for the meeting.
- **Daniel Highsmith Lawsuit.** Mike reviewed the Daniel Highsmith lawsuit against the Family and several past and current Board members that was filed September 2013, just a couple of months after last year's Reunion. He noted that Daniel Highsmith, in his lawsuit, alleged the Board had colluded to illegally transfer ownership of the Highsmith Cabin to Larry Braswell. To address the suit, the Family retained an attorney and filed to have the suit dismissed on grounds that the State of Arkansas' statute of limitations for such cases had

been vastly exceeded since the alleged transfer had occurred in 1990. The lawsuit had several scheduled hearing dates that, for one reason or another, were postponed. Finally in April 2014, Daniel Highsmith dropped the suit, asking for a dismissal. Shane Nichols provided Family members with detailed information concerning the resulting legal aspects.

During the discussion of the Daniel Highsmith suit, which included the issue of 'cabin abandonment,' Priscilla Diffie Couch inquired if the By-Laws addressed that important issue. The answer was that that important concern would be brought to the Board to be sure it was adequately addressed.

- **Dining Hall/Kitchen Manager.** Reunion 2014 being Jeff Cameron's last as manager of the Dining Hall/Kitchen operations, attendees were requested to please help identify someone for this important Reunion role. Subsequently, the Board was informed that Patrick Cameron has accepted the position - THANK YOU Patrick! Please help Patrick in any way you can; don't wait to be called, email him at patrickmylescameron@gmail.com.
- **Board of Directors Agenda.** The Board of Directors Meeting agenda was reviewed with meeting attendees and they were urged to provide their Family line representatives with their views on the items or other concerns.

Reunion 2014 Board of Directors Meeting - Summary

Prior to the Board Meeting addressing the agenda items, Family Members Dawn Anita Plumlee, Priscilla Diffie Couch, and Mickey Couch presented to the Board their concerns with respect to the Board changing the legal structure of the Family from a trust to a non-profit corporation, as well as other items relating to the Quitclaim and Release of Liability Waiver forms. The Board listened to the presented concerns and there was a general discussion of various aspects of these issues. The Board thanked Dawn Anita, Priscilla, and Mickey, and assured them that their input would be seriously considered as the Board moved forward.

- **2015 Reunion Dates.** With July 4th 2015 falling on a Saturday, the Board set the Reunion dates as: Thursday - Early Arrival Night - Burgers & Dogs from the grill compliments of Karen and Robert Atkinson, Friday & Saturday - Dining Hall open three meals each day, Sunday - Departure Day, Continental Breakfast. Family Business and Board meetings on Saturday.

- **Daniel Highsmith Lawsuit.** With Daniel Highsmith withdrawing his lawsuit, after considerable discussion, the Board decided that, even though the suit was frivolous from the outset, no further action would be taken on this matter at this time. The Board unanimously thanked Shane Nichols for managing this litigation process to a successful conclusion and for all his work and support.
- **By-Laws Amendment Proposal - Jones Valley Permanent Residency.** Gil Jones submitted a proposed By-Law amendment that would define conditions and guidelines for a Family member to be a Jones Valley permanent resident. A committee was formed to study this proposal and report back to the Board.
- **Clingman-Jones Family - Legal Structure.** The Board designated a committee to evaluate the Family's current legal standing, be it trust or non-profit corporation, or other, and report back to the Board their findings and recommendations to put the Family on the best possible legal foundation going forward. This committee would include assistance from Meg Prestidge, a practicing attorney with expertise in the trust area.

Board of Directors Post Reunion Work

- Through email discussions and teleconference Board meetings in October and November 2014, the Board has been working on the following items:
 - Proposed By-Laws amendment pertaining to Jones Valley permanent residency.
 - Proposed By-Laws amendment pertaining to eviction process.
 - Family legal structure - trust, non-profit corporation, or other.

If you have input on these items, please contact your Family Line rep:

Family Line Representative - Line

Gil Jones - Guilford
 Joe Diffie - Mary
 Karen Atkinson - Arthur
 Ron Bowman - Lee
 Kelly Jobe -Melinda
 Larry Braswell - Fannie
 Chris Chandler - Mattie
 Nelson Cameron - Claude

Contact Info

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Reunion 2014 and Beyond - Donations

As your Treasurer, I am very pleased to report to you that, due to the ongoing generous support from many Family members, and the fact that we haven't had any recent big expenses due to Mother Nature or facilities maintenance to cope with, the Family's finances are in good shape. To those Family members we say **"Thank You."** However, since we never know what's coming around the bend, if you...

- ✓ attended the Reunion, but with all the goings-on, happened to get away without making a donation, or
- ✓ did not attend this year's Reunion, and forgot to put it on your "checks to write" list, or
- ✓ are not able to attend Reunions, but enjoy receiving the newsletters, and want to preserve your heritage and ensure that your ancestors' final resting place is properly cared for, then

... take out that checkbook right now, write one to the "Clingman-Jones Family Trust," and mail it to:

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



With many future unknowns, plus an infinite list of "nice to haves" in the Valley - your participation and financial help is critical. Think of our Valley not only as place set aside by our founding ancestors, but also where the second and third generations have forged their lifelong family bonds. Let's keep that going.

Mailing List, Email List, and Facebook - Contact Info

Let's stay in touch. If you would like to join the Clingman-Jones Family Reunion Facebook page, just email Jeff Cameron at 1jeffcameron@gmail.com. And please keep us up to date with your email and mailing addresses! Remember, if your young'uns are paying taxes, they should be included! Just email changes, additions, deletions to Mike.Lynn7@Verizon.net, or mail them to Mike White, PO Box 1161, Fairhope, AL 36533 - or hey, just call me at 251-279-7738. Thanks! Cousin Mike

Merry Christmas



Internet chatting with Buddy Carnes, Poppy and Pansy, Effie Lee and Gil

**Clingman-Jones Family
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<http://JonesValley.us>