

CLINGMAN-JONES 89TH FAMILY REUNION

July 2 - 4, 2010

Jones Valley • Caddo Gap, Arkansas

Hello Clingman-Jones Family,

To paraphrase "I have been to the mountain," well I have been to the Valley, during the week of April 12th, and can report to you that it is looking very good, with springtime new green and blooms, prepping its natural beauty for our annual Family Reunion. Therefore, what will make the picture complete? You and your family's attendance of course! Start mapping out your plans now to be there and enjoy the family fellowship that our unique reunion provides in our own family valley, with a rich history and bright future.

~ Reunion Schedule* ~

(all meals in the Grace Jones Palmer Dining Hall)

Tues. Wed. Thurs.	Early, early arrivals – Enjoy more and help set up (arrgghh!)
Friday, July 2nd	6pm (early arrivals) – Hamburgers/Hotdogs from the grill
Saturday, July 3rd	8am – Breakfast Stake out your turf, get acquainted or re-acquainted with kinfolk Noon – Sandwich Lunch Enjoy the Valley a little, plan an outing, get your inner tube out 2:30pm – 3rd International Inner Tube Contest – Swimming Hole – Get In On It! 6pm – Evening Meal Kick back, reminisce a little, listen or make music, and do some Family visiting (NO fireworks during music)
Sunday, July 4th	8pm – Board games in the Dining Hall 8am – Breakfast 10am – Gospel Sing and Remembrance 11am – Executive Board Meeting Noon – Sandwich Lunch 1:30pm – Family Business Meeting – Election of Family Board and new President 6pm – Evening Meal More music and sitting out enjoying campfires and reminiscing (something for the young folks to gain some skills in doing)
Monday, July 5th	9pm – 11pm Fireworks (in designated areas) 8am – Continental Breakfast Point that vehicle homeward bound, or perhaps linger and enjoy the Valley a little while longer

* As always (our trademarked disclaimer), **except for meeting times**, this schedule is just a plan, and plans are always subject to change, especially after you add your ideas for making it a special weekend.

~ Reunion 2009 Recap ~

The Clingman-Jones 2009 Reunion went into the books as another fine experience with plenty of good times, fellowship, fun, challenges met, and excitement – planned and unplanned. Let us first start with the challenges.

- Challenges: Over the past year many challenges arose that were met by Family members active in preserving Jones Valley and doing the work needed for our Reunion. Sometimes these challenges required expenditures from our limited reserve funds, as well as personal time, and above their normal high level. The following provides you a summary of our recent above normal expenses:

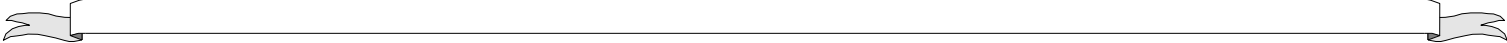
- Storm recovery 2008-09 (low water dam repair, new culvert for creek crossing to Uncle Claude's cabins, swimming hole excessive gravel removal, and tree removal	\$6,048
- Hot water heater for showers replacement	\$364
- Kitchen appliances (3) replaced due to rat damage	\$1,062
- Entrance gate reinstall after water line installation	\$342

Expenses from these challenges hit in June, some actually right at the Reunion, and were met by your Family members making decisions and personally taking action. An example included making a drive on Friday at the start of the Reunion to pick up a stove in Hope (a name which is more irony than we needed), and personally picking up the tab for some items. The result of meeting this challenge was that the Reunion was a great time for the Family, with minimum inconvenience, and Jones Valley is moving forward for the future.

Other significant expenses from last year included investing in a lawn tractor/trailer and a secure storage building – (\$3,669 and \$1,450).

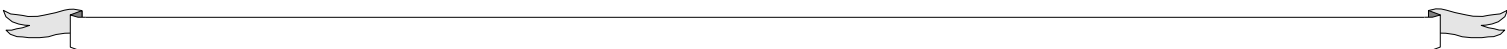
We are very fortunate that some Family members stepped up and made more than their normal generous donations at the Reunion, for which we are all extremely grateful. However, for many I am sure we did not adequately communicate the need. After all the Reunion is a time to get together and have a good time, and confusion is part of the experience. In addition, for those not attending the Reunion, this is new information. So please when you get you get *The Annual Plea*, remember – we need your support to return to a sound financial basis.

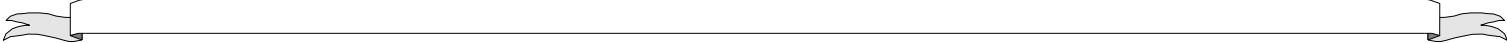
- Excitement: For excitement, it is hard to beat in the middle of the Reunion having a big power utility truck on an emergency call to fix the Valley transformer that was pitching a hissy fit, driving over and crashing through the new Cubage Cabin septic tank. As Cousin Gil so elegantly put it: “Not only do I now have to look at the Cubage's fine new cabin – now I have to smell it!” Do not worry, Cousins; the power company has fixed the septic tank.
- Fun: The Jones Valley *2nd International Inner Tube Olympics* was another fun time in the old swimming hole. Thanks to Johnny Cameron, this event is on its way to being



an annual tradition enjoyed by participants and spectators alike. Unfortunately, none of the very detailed information that was painstakingly recorded concerning specific event winners was available at newsletter press time, but you can rest assured that all participants had a great time, as well as the cheering masses. Be sure to get in on the action at this year's *3rd International Inner Tube Olympics*, which will have new events to go with the old favorites, will be faster paced, and full of surprises.

- Progress: The Cubage Cabin rebuild was completed and open for family use just in time for Reunion 2009. The cabin restoration, a joint project of four lines of Melinda's family, is a rebuild on the same floor plan as the original cabin, with the addition of a wraparound porch with screened area and storage room, along with raising and extending the roof to cover the porch. The plan was to preserve the original log portion; however, the discovery of termites required their replacement. Of the original structure, only the chimney and eating table could be preserved. Although due to the porch, the outside look differs from the original, the inside has retained its identity, especially with family memorabilia. Many Family members enjoyed a tour of the cabin and set their sights on what they might accomplish – here come the Diffies.
- Camping Trailers: In 2009, camping trailers continued to be a popular way of attending the Reunion. Gil and Jennifer Jones, Johnny and Judy Cameron, and the Shane and Jewel Nichols families all used campers to conveniently attend the Reunion. This year Shane and Jewel, from Atlanta, who previously had picked their camper up in Little Rock, came up with a better solution and had one delivered from Hot Springs.
- 2009 Family Business Meeting: President Larry Braswell recognized the significant contribution of personal time and effort of Family members that made possible meals, newsletters, website and mailing list, and activities – and of course, Larry is actively working for the Valley and Reunion year round. Larry reviewed expense items, such as recovering from the storm damage, installing a drainage culvert to improve access to Uncle Claude's cabins and creek water flow, replacing defunct kitchen equipment, and investing in a storage shed and lawnmower. Family members raised several issues, including replacing the defunct dinner bell, a leash rule for dogs, establishing a Facebook page for the Family, the importance of being able to respond to an emergency – Family members with CPR training, and the possibility of re-cycling items such as aluminum cans. At the close of the meeting, President Larry Braswell announced that 2009-2010 would be his last year as President and the 2010 Reunion would have an election of new officers.
- 2009 Executive Board Meeting: The Board was apprised of the high-level expenses incurred over the last year due to storm damage recovery, improving access to Uncle Claude's cabins, kitchen appliance failures brought on by rodent problems, and investment in storage facility and mowing equipment. The Board reviewed the need to cover annual operating expenses from donations, and to identify a way to meet onetime expenses. The Board was updated on Beth Ann Augustine's progress in refurbishing Uncle Isaac's cabin, which had fallen into disrepair.



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- **Donation Appreciation:** Last year, as a first, the Family was able to send to each donor, except for two who were anonymous, a letter expressing the Family's appreciation for their support. This year we are back to expressing this gratitude in the newsletter – **Thank You Clingman-Jones Family Reunion supporters, especially those who are not able to attend, but keep the faith.**

~ Jones Valley This 'n' That ~

Usage – The statement that “Jones Valley is not just for reunion time anymore” keeps building in validity. The best example of this is Cathy and Gary Kornegay's family hosting a 2009 Braswell Thanksgiving event in their cabin, for 21 family members. Also, Gil and Jennifer Jones spent part of their Thanksgiving weekend in Valley.

City Water – Jones Valley having access to city water is now a reality. City water from Glenwood is now available at the Kitchen/Dining Hall, Kornegay Cabin, Cubage Cabin, Diffie Cabin, Braswell Cabin, and Hillbilly, as well as at the camping area and bathroom/showers. The installation from where the city installed the meters to the individual connection occurred in late winter. Larry managed the project, first working with the city, then the contractor to finalize the project. This included several trips to the Valley and bringing in his own tractor for the final cleanup tasks. Thanks Larry, that water tastes mighty good! In addition to improving sanitation, having city water saves us from having to buy bottled water, is more convenient, and environmentally friendly.


Cabin Upgrades – First it was Cathy and Gary Kornegay building a distinctive new cabin at the entrance to the main Valley area, then the Cubage clan rebuilt the Cubage Cabin, and now the Diffies have said enough is enough, and are rebuilding their cabin – not to original design, but at a whole new level. It is understood from the smoke signals that the Bowman tribe is also rumbling about making a significant upgrade to the Hillbilly and Nelson Cameron has plans for finishing off his cabin up the Valley.

~ Thank You Volunteers ~

This is a total volunteer deal, no paid staff, just relatives that have made time and effort available to hold an annual Reunion and care year round for Jones Valley – THANK YOU! There is plenty of room for more, just step up, cousins – it can get better, it is up to you.

~ Memorial Day Weekend – Getaway and Cleanup/Reunion Prep ~

This year's Jones Valley Memorial Day weekend get together will be May 30-31. This is a great time of the year to enjoy the Valley, have fun, and help out a little with other Family members attending to a few needed maintenance items. According to what little buzz I am privy to, there should be quite a few Family members taking part. Among the interesting things to do would be to check out the progress of the new Diffie Cabin construction. Also, the standard good stuff like a round of golf at the Glenwood Country Club (open to the public), hikes/walks, and enjoying the Caddo (fishing/canoeing) quickly



come to mind. Join in; it should be time well spent. Also, I must add that after many years of just doing the Fish Nest and Ron's Bar-b-q, I discovered last post- Reunion what a really good place Little Italy, the Italian restaurant in Glenwood is. Real Italian food, tuned to American tastes – you won't be disappointed. Also, Norman now has the world's smallest eatery to go along with the world's small library – try out Myrtle's Breakfast & More – it is good.

~ Family "Family News" ~

How about:

- Additions to the Family:
Melinda Cubage: Ian Michael Lehtinen to Jennifer and Jay – September 16, 2009
Claude Jones: John Michael Cameron to Milton and Angie – September 18, 2009
Mary Diffie: Ava Elizabeth Morris to Riley and Sara – November 19, 2009
- Coming Attractions:
Claude Jones: Summer and Don Engel, are expecting a September addition – that will make two for the Engels.
- Heath Stiles, Monica Diffie Stiles' son, is graduating from high school and will be attending the University of Tennessee (Knoxville) in the fall – big orange in the future.
- Leslie Andrews, Gil and Jennifer's daughter-in-law, is graduating from veterinary school and will be serving in the Air Force public health. She and her husband Matt, who is in the Air Force's Airborne Warning and Control program, will soon be stationed at Tyndall Air Force Base in Florida. Thank you for serving our country.
- Dawn Anita Plumlee's memoirs, *One More Last Chance*, is now available on Amazon, Barnes & Noble, as well as through her publisher xlibris.com. The book begins from when she ran away to marry Jerry at age 16 to their horseback ride from Oklahoma to Nashville, Tennessee and stepped off her horse onto the stage and performed at Fan Fair! At first look I thought, oh this is kind of interesting. Then I read the description on Amazon – and concluded this is fascinating, real-life adventure and ordered a copy. I hope Dawn Anita will have copies available at the Reunion.
- JJ and Nikki Cameron are filming for the popular reality HGTV show "House Hunters," which documents the "behind the scenes" process homebuyers' experience. We'll let everyone know via the Family email list when JJ and Nikki's episode airs.

Congratulations to all – yes, cousins, there is good news out there.

~ Reunion 2010 Welcome and Registration ~

This Reunion there will be a Welcome and Registration, greeting attendees as they arrive. This will provide a way for us to collect a list of attendees so that we can better get to know each other and share on the website, distribute any last minute info on the Reunion,

update our mailing and email lists, make everyone feel at home and kick off getting the fun going. If you would like to help out in this area, just contact Jim Bowman (jimjune.bowman4@gmail.com) or Gil Jones (CaptainJustice@gmail.com).

~ Reunion 2010 Election of Family Line Representatives and President ~

Due to President Larry Braswell's resignation at the 2009 Reunion, this year we will have an election. Our Trust By-Laws election procedure states that each Family line chooses their Board representative, and subsequently the Board representatives will vote to select a president from their membership, with the runner-up becoming Vice President. The President will select support staff such as secretary and treasurer. Larry will be missed, but of course, he can always run again!

~ What to Bring ~

- Bug spray –chiggers!
- Musical instruments
- Lawn chairs, Cameras
- Board games – challenge!
- Inner tubes (auto/truck)
- Water survival gear
- Photo albums/Pictures, especially of past Reunions
- Those bringing children as guests should have a document authorizing emergency medical care, should it be needed
- And finally, leave that big city suburban stress behind!

~ Places to Stay ~

Because lodging accommodations are limited in the Glenwood/Caddo Gap area and tend to book-up early for the 4th of July holiday, get a reservation pronto if you are not staying in the Valley. Use area code 870. Hickory Hills Cabins is new and near the Narrows, and their reservations are made through the Caddo River Camping and Canoe rental. The Bean Creek Cabins are as close as you can get to Jones Valley without being in it.

Lux	356-3151	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
Glenwood Country Club	800-833-3110	Bean Creek Cabins	356-8946

~ Fireworks ~

The paramount concern with fireworks is safety – children must have adult supervision setting off fireworks. Secondly, do not set off fireworks where the result will trash the creek or swimming hole. Third, the time for fireworks will be on Sunday evening at dusk until 9pm. Fourth, all fireworks trash and debris must be picked up or it will be mailed COD to the Family Line representative.

~ Remembrance ~

Please keep in your hearts and prayers Family members who have recently lost love ones and are still suffering from loss, as well as giving thanks for our ancestors who had a vision and made sacrifices that we might enjoy the blessings we now share in Jones Valley.

~ The Annual Plea ~

After reading the Reunion 2009 Recap – Challenges, I am sure that you recognize that your financial support is needed to both keep our wonderful venture moving forward, and also to build up our reserves for the inevitable challenges that will arise in the future. So, this is your time, especially if you might not be able to attend this year’s Reunion, to take out that checkbook and do what is needed to preserve your heritage for the future and recognize your ancestors’ vision, love, and contribution to you. Every contribution is appreciated, treated with respect, and responsibly managed by your representatives. We will be looking for your ideas, and your financial support.

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

Comments: _____

From: _____

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(Send it in today!)

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

Mike White
6512 Topeka Road
McLean, VA 22101
703-448-9681
Mike.Lynn7@Verizon.net

~ Thanks So Much For Your Help ~