



The James Jones Family Association

2026 Newsletter

Issue #173



Dear Cousins,

I am so incredibly honored to welcome everyone to our 173rd family reunion! Looking back at how far we've come, I'm just blown away by the strength and love that's kept this family going for nearly two centuries. As your president, I feel so lucky to be part of this group, and I'm constantly grateful for the roots our ancestors planted and the way all of you keep those traditions alive today.

I am always so glad that we get together on the Fourth of July. There's honestly no better way to celebrate our history than with a holiday potluck, memorabilia, and the sound of everyone laughing together. I can't wait to see all the kids playing, the elders sharing stories, and the whole crew catching up while eating great food. It's going to be a celebration to remember.

So, let's get ready for a day of good food and even better company. I hope everyone takes a moment to meet a new cousin or sit down with a relative they haven't seen in a while. I'm counting down the days until July, and I can't wait to see all your faces there as we celebrate the Jones family tradition!

With so much love, Marion Armatis

173rd Reunion -- Saturday, July 4, 2026

- Where:** Civic Center Park (see map page 3)
40700 Romeo Plank, Clinton Twp, MI
- When:** Eating at 12PM, but come early enough to get your food setup and visit with the cousins
- What:** Pot-luck, bring a dish to pass, your own plates, cups, napkins, utensils and drinks.
- Adjacent to Pavilion:** shaded area for walking, baseball field, new playscape, sand volleyball, pickle ball and basketball courts
- Bring:** Pictures, memorabilia, recipes
- Hosts:** Jennifer Thompson Sochocki and Jeanine Thompson Beck (David branch)



Keeping Up with the Joneses

We use the website, email and Facebook for communications so it is important that cousins keep us up-to-date with their preferred email address. We currently have 140 email addresses in our contacts list, and 132 Facebook group members. We need to rely on these "in-touch" cousins to encourage their "out-of-touch" cousins to email their contact information to us at Secretary@TJJFA.org and join the Facebook group. The www.TJJFA.org website (still under development) has links to the [Webtrees](#) family tree, a [Photo Gallery](#), and our private Facebook group "[James Jones Family Association](#)".

Meeting Minutes of the 172nd Reunion, July 4, 2025

The 172nd reunion of the James Jones Family Association was hosted by Kim and Donnie Castaldini at the Plymouth Township Park in Plymouth, Michigan. It was a warm and humid 85 degrees day with a little rain at times. A prayer was said before the delicious potluck lunch.

President Marion Armatis started the meeting at 1:20pm with the pledge of Allegiance. 27 Cousins were in attendance from the following branches: Robert 24

John Franklin 3

Elizabeth Ann, Roxa, Mary Ann, Charles, Celestia, Celia, David, Ida 0

Treasurer's Report:

Treasurer, Jeanine Beck was absent. A report will be provided at the next reunion.

Old Business:

Marion Armatis will look into T-Shirts for the 175th reunion

Ken Kanaby shared information about 80+ photos from Grace Nolan Wilkins that will be posted in the Photo Gallery. He also mentioned that we need photos for the Celestia and John Franklin branch. Business cards are available with passwords to view the gallery.

As of July 4, 2025, there were 8+ added FaceBook members for a total of 131 on FaceBook, and 6+ email additions for a total of 118. The tree has added 59 individuals and 37 families. The marriages, births and deaths reported at the reunion had been previously reported in the 2025 newsletter.

New Business:

Youngest:	Michael Bankhead	1yr 3 months
Oldest:	Peggy Wright	87 years young
Farthest:	Keith and Carolyn Kennedy	72 miles

Pass the Hat was shared

The elections of officers for the following year were held. Nominations of the existing officers was seconded with unanimous vote for President- Marion Armatis, Treasurer- Jeanine Beck, and Secretary- Dianne Kanaby.

Hosts for the 2026 James Jones Reunion are Jennifer Sochocki and Jeanine Beck.

Meeting was adjourned at 1:44pm and Reunion Photo was taken.

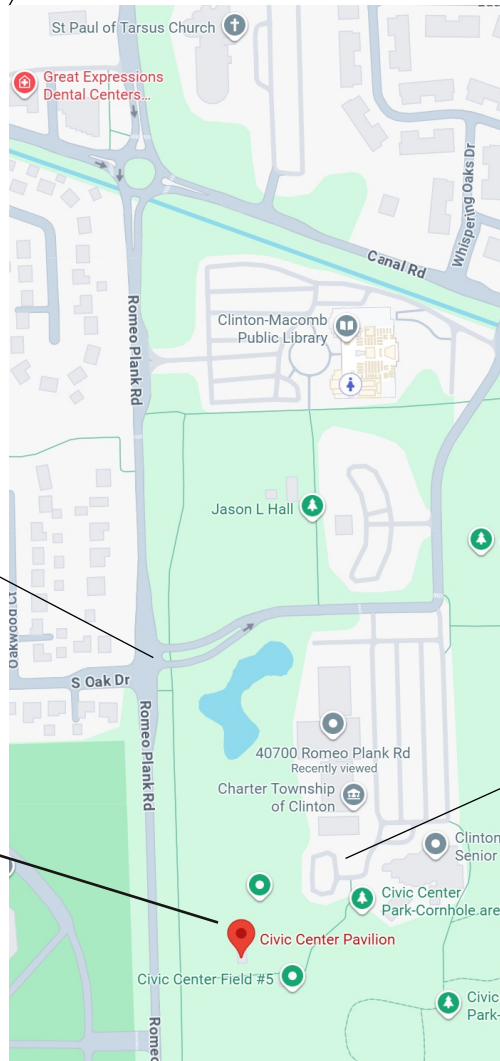
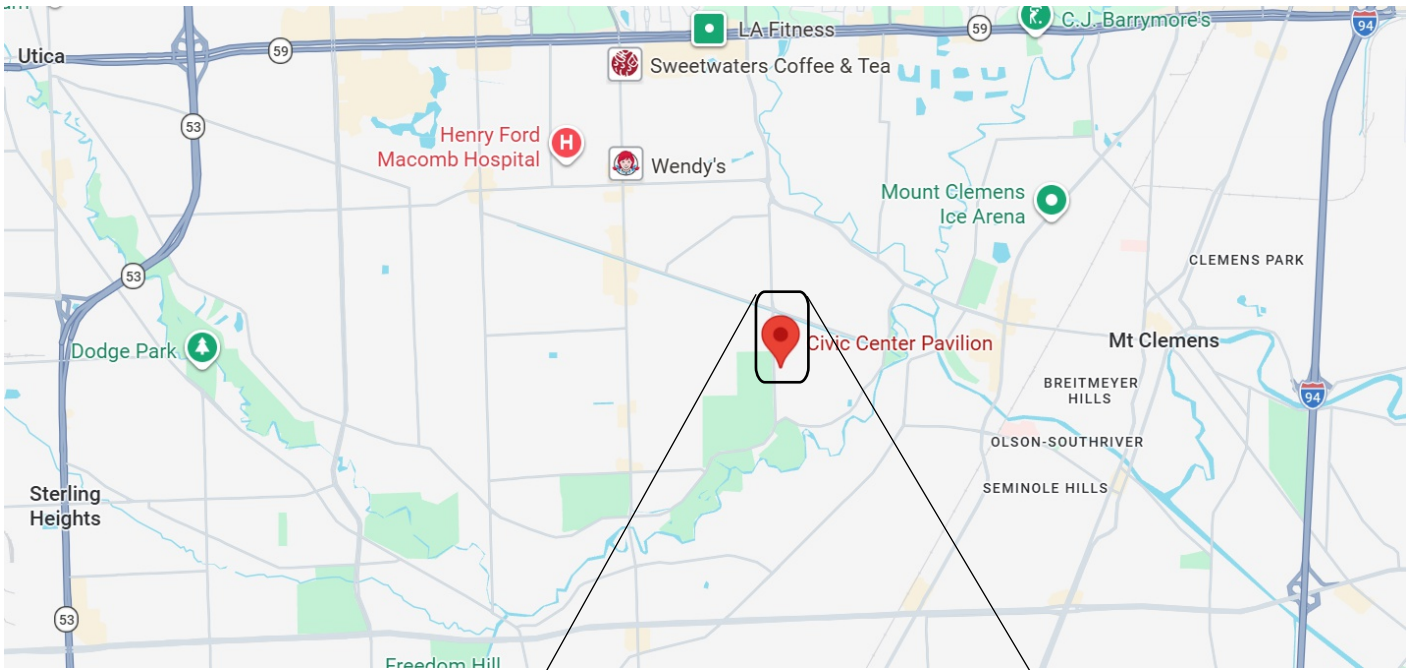
Dianne Kanaby, Secretary

2025-2026 Association Officers and Contacts:

President:	Marion Armatis	(734) 664-5211	President@TJJFA.org	Branch
Treasurer:	Jeanine Beck	(586) 588-1184	Treasurer@TJJFA.org	Robert
Secretary:	Dianne Kanaby	(586) 651-3788	Secretary@TJJFA.org	David
Google Email:	James.Jones.Family.Assoc@gmail.com			
Genealogy:	Webtrees@TJJFA.org (send updates on births, deaths, marriages, etc.)			
Private Facebook Group:	"James Jones Family Association" (Admins: Donnie Castaldini, Ken Kanaby)			
Website:	Ken Kanaby Info@TJJFA.org (Inquire about family tree, private gallery, and documents access)			

Civic Center Park

40700 Romeo Plank, Clinton Twp, MI



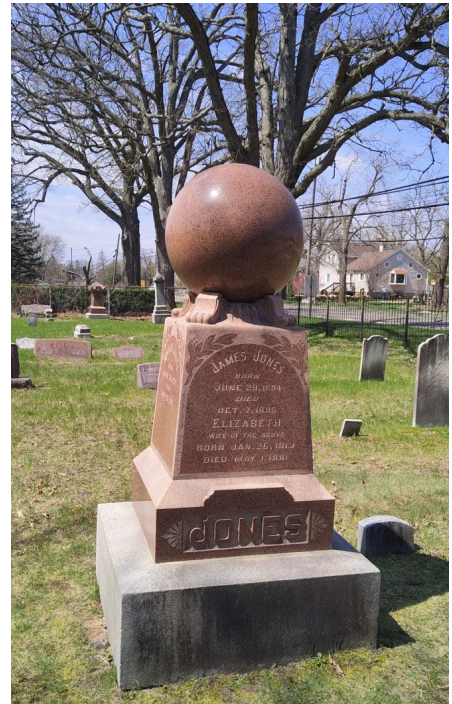
Parking Entrance

Pavilion

Parking Area

A Monumental Moment

Has anyone noticed that the granite sphere on top of the James Jones monument in the Meade Cemetery was missing? It was moved many years ago due to vandalism. We had the sphere remounted and professionally secured by Lincoln Granite. Many thanks to the Robert cousins for helping to "get the ball rolling" on this project. The cost of the restoration was \$750. After using early donations (Robert and David cousins), most all of our current treasury funds, and some temporary personal credit, it is estimated that we still need an additional \$600 in donations to clear the credit and restore our treasury account to the minimum level (to avoid the bank fees.) If you would like to help out with a donation, please send an email to Treasurer@TJJFA.org and we can respond with some donation options.



April 22, 2026

Tree-mendous Travels

In last year's newsletter (2025), it was mentioned that Ken Kanaby and I (Dianne) were going to visit Grace Nolan Wilkins in North Carolina. We did indeed go and what a visit it was! It was such a joy to meet Grace and her daughters. We spent a Friday afternoon/evening and all day Saturday, pouring through hundreds of photos and scanning as many as we could (you can view them online in the gallery's password protected "Descendants" album). Looking at Mary Ann's album, and others, we learned about the Mary Ann Jones branch of the James Jones Family. Many of the Mary Ann branch, including the Brownlees, Celestia branch, Ida branch, and even some Charles branch, moved to the south (AL, GA, TN) and Washington State to expand/relocate the Brownlee lumbering business. No wonder it's been difficult to find some of these branches!

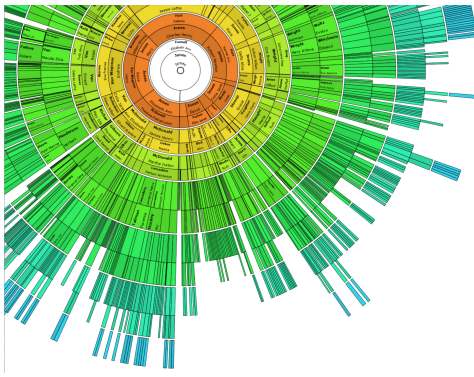
Grace and her daughters were very gracious in welcoming us into their home and even feeding us, as they shared the family history with us.



Thank you so much, Grace.

Just Sayin'...

Remember to keep your family up-to-date on all marriages, births and deaths. The saying "if you see something, say something" applies here. If you see something missing or wrong in your branch of the James Jones family tree or photo gallery, please say something!



Family Tree Update

Since the last newsletter report we have added 86 individuals, 52 families and 40 new surnames to the family tree. Some of the updates are from cousin updates, and the others from Internet discovery and obituaries. Internet and obituary discovery is time consuming and often lacks the detail we would like in the tree (full names, event dates and locations)...so we much prefer the detail and accuracy that only the cousins can provide! We continue to accept birth, marriage, divorce, and death information by email to the Webtrees admin (webtrees@tjffa.org) with a copy to the Secretary

March 12, 2026 Statistics

Individuals	2,714	
Males	1,412	52.0%
Females	1,300	47.9%
Surnames	830	
Families	1,001	

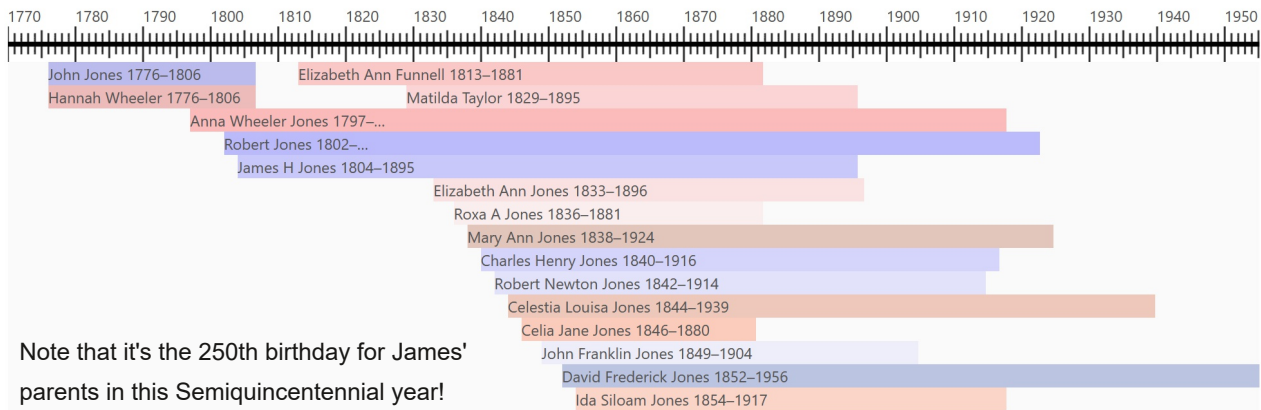
(secretary@tjffa.org); be sure to include full names, event dates and locations to make the tree entries complete. If you send an email request for information, we can reply with some helpful descendant reports/charts from the tree (starting from, say, a grandparent) to show you where additions and updates may be needed.

The on-line family can be accessed at www.tjffa.org/webtrees using a generic, "cousin" login for read-only viewing; the login/password is communicated by email, and, if you forgot it, just send an email request to webtrees@tjffa.org to get access.

Family Trees grow unbelievably fast since each new child creates a new branch. We currently have 10 children in the 9th generation and, in just a few years, they will be creating the 10th generation. Who knows how long we'll be able to manage this tree and keep it growing! Additionally, there are many individuals, marriages, and children still missing in the current tree. To grow the tree, we must also add descendants to our contacts list. We have correlated our contacts list with the tree database to show which branches are missing contacts, then we search the Internet and Facebook for them. Many Facebook IDs have been identified as Jones descendants but, unfortunately, only a couple have responded to all the Facebook messages that have been sent out. Those that do respond are extremely happy that we have reached out to them so they can know more about their Jones heritage. I'm currently in contact with a "forgotten" Charles branch which, apparently, has some male descendants that will carry on the original Jones surname...I think this is a big deal, as we only knew one such individual before.

Maybe some of you would like to help research and fill in these branches. We currently only have three "Branch Genealogists" identified to assist with the John Franklin, Mary Ann, and Robert Newton branches...so it would be nice to get someone to volunteer for the other branches. Please email webtrees@tjffa.org if you'd like to help out.

Ken Kanaby, webtrees@tjffa.org



Note that it's the 250th birthday for James' parents in this Semiquincentennial year!

Vital Records – March 20, 2025 to March 12, 2026*

Marriages:	Date:	Location:	Branch:	
Allie Marie Beck and Matthew Salvatore Leone	April 11, 2026	Port Huron, MI	David	
Births:	Date:	Location:	Parents:	Branch:
None reported				
Deaths:	Date:	Location:	Spouse:	Branch:
Sally Grace Furton	June 24, 2025	Howell, MI	Louis Klei	Robert Newton
Joyce Nancy Haughton	July 28, 2025	Winnepeg, MB	William Lewco	Celia Jane
Athena Marie Wizes	July 29, 2025	Summerville, SC	Marcus Simendinger	Charles Henry

* Reports are based on an event's date as entered in the family tree. If no date is recorded the records will not show on these reports.