



# The James Jones Family Association

## 2025 Newsletter

## Issue #172



Dear Cousins,

It is with great excitement and gratitude that I can't wait to see you all at the 172nd Annual James Jones Family Reunion! For nearly two centuries, our family has gathered to honor our rich history, celebrate our present, and build a strong future for the generations to come. This year is no different—we continue the traditions that have kept the Jones family strong and united.

As we come together, let's take a moment to reflect on the journey that brought us here. Our ancestors laid the foundation for a legacy built on love, togetherness, and faith. Today, we stand on their shoulders, carrying forward the values that have shaped our family for 172 years.

We have an incredible reunion planned, filled with fun activities, delicious food, and, most importantly, time to reconnect with one another. Whether you are a long-time attendee or joining us for the first time, you are a cherished part of this family, and we are so happy to have you here.

Let's make the most of this special occasion—share stories, embrace our elders, uplift our youth, and celebrate the unbreakable bond that makes us who we are. May this 172nd James Jones Family Reunion be filled with laughter, love, and lasting memories!

With love and gratitude, Marion Castaldini Armatís, President

### 172nd Reunion — July 4, 2025

**Where:** Plymouth Township Park, Shelter 1  
46640 W Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI  
(map page 3)

**When:** Eating at 12 pm (but come early enough to  
get your food setup)

**What:** Pot-Luck, bring a dish to pass  
Bring your own plates, cups, napkins,  
utensils and drinks (no alcohol)  
Electric outlets available  
Kids activities

**Adjacent to shelter:** Walking Paths  
Baseball diamonds (farther away) –  
bring your gloves, balls and bats  
Kids Playscape

**Bring:** Pictures, memorabilia, and recipes from past  
James Jones reunions

**Hosts:** Kim and Donnie Castaldini



2024 Reunion

### 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 115 email addresses in our contacts list, and 131 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](mailto:Secretary@TJJFA.org) and join the Facebook group. The [www.TJJFA.org](http://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 171st Reunion, July 4, 2024

The 171st reunion of the James Jones Family Association was hosted by Kim and Donnie Castaldini at the Plymouth Township Park in Plymouth, Michigan. A prayer was said before the scrumptious potluck lunch.

President Marion Castaldini started the meeting with the Pledge of Allegiance at 1:35pm. 49 Cousins were in attendance (per picture) from the following branches:

|   |    |  |
|---|----|--|
| Charles   | 2  |  |
| David   | 1  |  |
| John Franklin                                       | 3  |  |
| Robert  | 42 |  |
| Elizabeth Ann, Roxa, Mary Ann, Celestia, Celia, Ida | 0  |  |

Furthest cousin: David Kennedy 72 miles

Oldest cousin: Peggy Wright, 86 years young

Youngest cousin: Michael Bankhead, 3 months

### Treasurer's Report:

|                             |               |
|-----------------------------|---------------|
| Balance July 4, 2023        | <b>817.82</b> |
| TJJFA.org Domain expense    | -36.16        |
| 2023 Reunion add'l expenses | -98.32        |
| Beginning balance           | <b>683.34</b> |
| Gifts (donated)             | —             |
| Hosting (donated)           | —             |
| Pass the Hat                | +207.00       |
| Pavilion rental, 2024       | -150.00       |
| Pavilion rental, 2025       | -150.00       |
| New Balance July 4, 2024    | <b>590.34</b> |

### Old Business:

- ◆ In regards to locating the video, Jeanine Beck will reach out to Jim Gibson's son, James, and Dave Warner's daughters in Arizona, Margi and Andi. Jeanine will email Ken Kanaby with any updates.

### New Business:

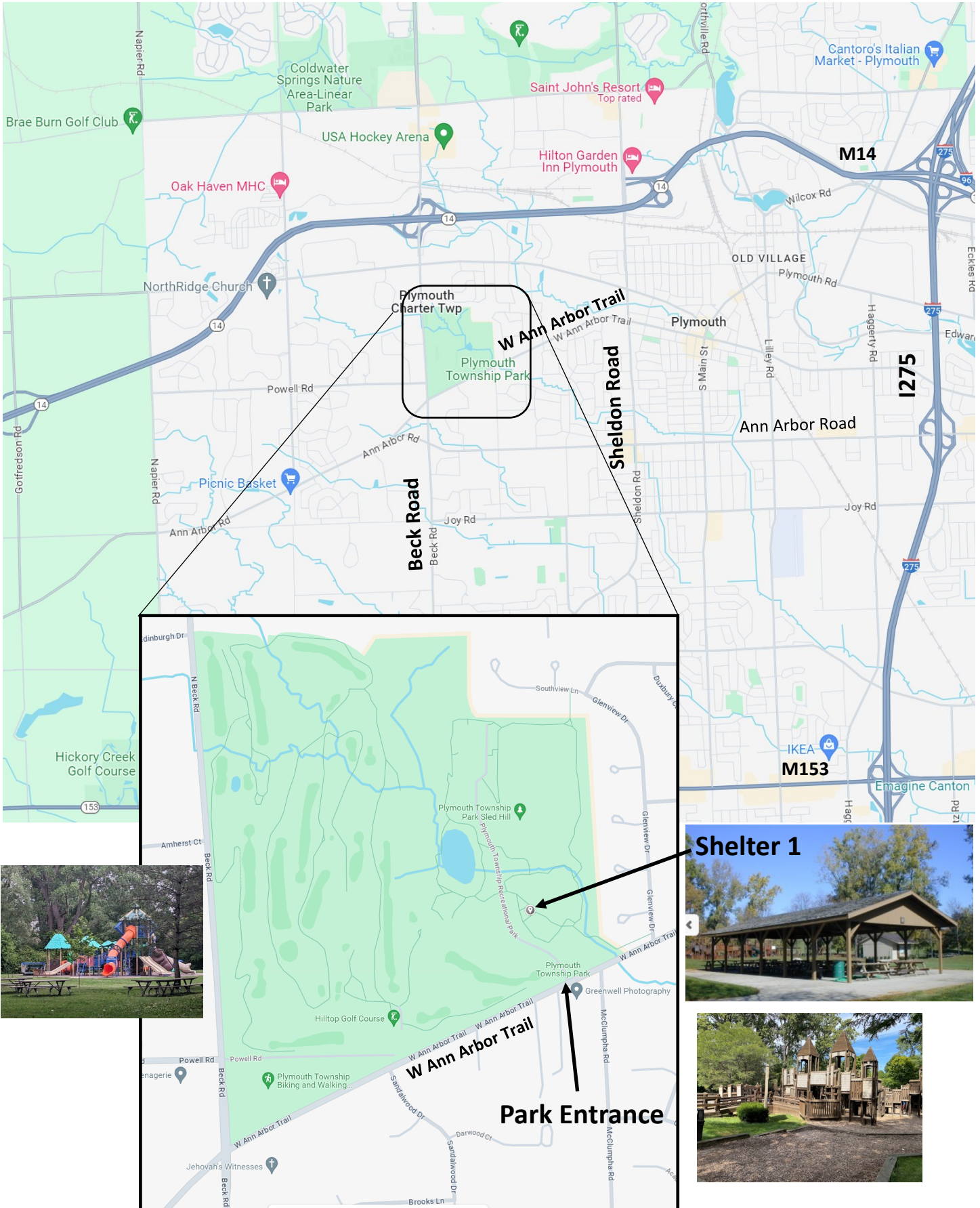
- ◆ A genealogy committee was formed for help with keeping up with the Jones branches of the family. The committee members are: Ken Kanaby—Overall, Nancy Lagalski—John Franklin Branch, Sarah Nolan—Mary Ann Branch, Marion Castaldini—Roberts Branch  
If you can help with your branch, please do. Especially for the other branches not listed here.
- ◆ It was brought up that to help with locating cousins, searching Google, Facebook and Obituary's are good places to start.
- ◆ Help is also needed for the Website. Eden Ericsson will do Tech help. Eden.Ericsson@gmail.com
- ◆ Pass The Hat was shared.
- ◆ Keith Kennedy shared an interest in having T-shirts for the 175th reunion.
- ◆ Marion Castaldini brought up making a new wheel book and to research the cost to do so.
- ◆ Ken Kanaby reported that since 3 months ago, the tree has added 38 individuals and 9 families. A special Thank You to Joel Morgan from California and Barbara Jones Morgan from Georgia for their help in the Charles branch family.
- ◆ The Facebook group added 7 members since March (129) and 5 emails (112) were also added. We are missing the entire Celestia Louisa branch. Any help with this branch would be greatly appreciated.
- ◆ The election of officers was held. Nomination of the existing officers was seconded with unanimous vote for President—Marion Castaldini, Treasurer—Jeanine Beck, and Secretary—Dianne Kanaby
- ◆ Meeting was adjourned at 1:55 pm, with the family photo following.

Dianne Kanaby, Secretary

## 2024-2025 Association Officers and Contacts:

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

**Plymouth Township Park**  
**46640 W Ann Arbor Trail, Plymouth, MI**





## More Adventures in Locating Cousins

Pursuant to our goal to find cousins and improve our contacts list and Facebook group membership, Ken and I continue our search for "lost" cousins on the Internet. When found, we reach out to them with email or Facebook messages to establish contact. Some of our attempts have resulted in significant additions to the family tree where the branches were not "growing". Check out the tree to see how it has branched out!

This coming June, 2025, will find us traveling to North Carolina to meet up with Grace Nolan Wilkins (ID:973), great great granddaughter of Mary Ann Jones. She has a lot of information, picture albums, etc., of many Jones branches; the albums were handed down to her from her grandmother, passed down from Mary Ann herself! We're hoping to get some high-res scans/photos of the collection so we can add them to the photo gallery. Many of these (low res) photos are already online in the gallery's Descendants album and the "July 19, 2013" Facebook album that Grace created. Grace is just as excited as we are, to share our family history!!!

Grace has been doing a bit of research on the various Joneses that moved to the South (AL, GA, TN) and Washington state to expand/relocate(?) the Brownlee lumbering business; apparently, many Mary Ann, Celestia, Ida and some Charles descendants were involved! We're hoping that Grace can summarize her findings (no pressure, Grace) for the 2026 newsletter.

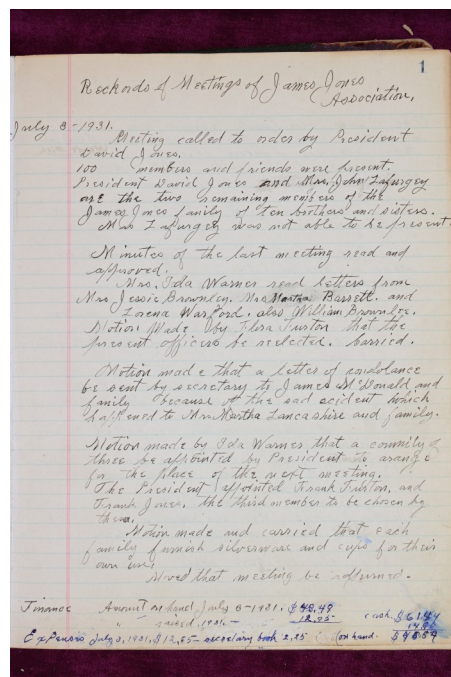
## "If I Could Bring Back Time...If I Could Find A Way..."

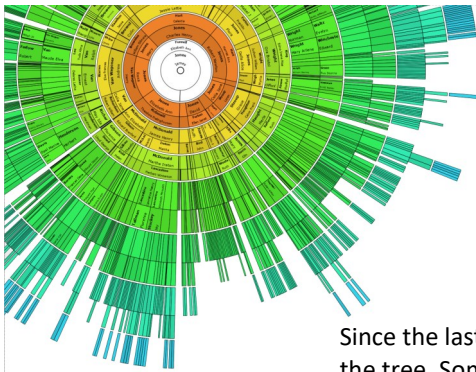
At the 170th reunion, Nancy Lagalski (a previous secretary of JJFA) handed Ken a box of memorabilia that contained meeting minutes back to 1931 at which David was president, James McDonald vice president, and Judson Wright the secretary-treasurer. For the digital record, and your ultimate amusement, we have taken photos of all those minutes. You can read them all at the Google drive folder [JJFA Minutes & Letters \(1931-2001\)](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M69HhQ5DeJaqp_WkaHKUm5r_b7Zi1V3B?usp=drive_link) (drive.google.com/drive/folders/1M69HhQ5DeJaqp\_WkaHKUm5r\_b7Zi1V3B?usp=drive\_link) within the shared [Newsletters](#) folder.

## Homework

Everyone should check your immediate branch and make sure your family is up-to-date. Also check to see if your 1st cousin's branches are complete. If not, it probably means we have lost contact with them; we would appreciate if you could make them aware of their James Jones heritage and encourage them to join the FB group and/or send us an email for the contacts list.

Dianne Kanaby, Secretary  
secretary@tjffa.org





# Family Tree Update

The on-line "Family Tree" currently resides at the [www.tjjfa.org/webtrees](http://www.tjjfa.org/webtrees) website page using the **Webtrees** web application. Since genealogy data is generally considered private, a login is required to view the tree. A generic "cousin" login is available for simple tree viewing; the password for the "cousin" login is the same as communicated earlier, but, if you forgot it, send an email request to [webtrees@tjjfa.org](mailto:webtrees@tjjfa.org) to get access and some navigation tips.

## March 19, 2025 Statistics

|                    |       |
|--------------------|-------|
| <b>Individuals</b> | 2,628 |
| <b>Males</b>       | 1,357 |
|                    | 51.6% |
| <b>Females</b>     | 1,269 |
|                    | 48.3% |
| <b>Surnames</b>    | 790   |
| <b>Families</b>    | 949   |

Since the last newsletter report we have added 54 individuals, 17 families and 14 new surnames to the tree. Some of the updates are from cousin updates, and the others from Internet discovery and obituaries. Unfortunately, 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!

Cousins are encouraged to help with tree updates as their families grow and change. We continue to accept birth, marriage, divorce, and death information by email to the Webtrees administrator ([webtrees@tjjfa.org](mailto:webtrees@tjjfa.org)) with a copy to the Secretary ([secretary@tjjfa.org](mailto:secretary@tjjfa.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 are needed.

Due to the many (apparent) voids in the tree, there is still room for improvement! 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@tjjfa.org](mailto:webtrees@tjjfa.org) if you'd like to help.

In the **Celestia Louisa** branch John Jay LeFurgey's (Celestia's adopted son) death certificate clearly has the capital **F** so those LeFurgeys were corrected in the tree. The **John Franklin** branch Lefurgeys were left with the lowercase **f** based on Harry James' draft card signature. After a bit of research I have not been able to find the relationship between the LeFurgeys in the two branches. Any cousins in the **John Franklin** or **Celestia Louisa** branch have any insight on the relationship and name difference?

Trying to keep the tree growing is contingent on having as many Jones contacts as possible. We need to make sure that the younger generations are joining our Facebook group, and providing their email addresses, so we can keep them aware of their Jones heritage.

In the last newsletter we highlighted the three Frank W Wright kids (Judson, Claude and Myrtia) that married into the Jones family at the third generation of Joneses. If any cousins have interesting, Jones-related facts or stories to share with the group we'd be happy to publish them in a future newsletter...just email us a writeup.

Ken Kanaby, Webtrees Administrator, [webtrees@tjjfa.org](mailto:webtrees@tjjfa.org)

## Largest families

|  |             |
|--|-------------|
| Ernest Van Wagoner + Delores Letha Bower           | 11 children |
| James Jones + Elizabeth Ann Funnell                | 10 children |
| Charles Henry Jones + Celestia Hart                | 10 children |
| Andrew Van Wagoner + Elva Frances Warren           | 9 children  |
| Joseph Patrick Nolan + Florence Harriet Brownlee   | 8 children  |
| Merle Calvin Haughton + Ruth Safford               | 8 children  |
| Clarence Van Wagner + Willah Jo Lare               | 8 children  |
| Joseph Brownlee Nolan + Mary Faith Chamberlin      | 8 children  |
| Herbert Robert Eschenburg + Ruth Bernadine Meldrum | 8 children  |
| Robert William Richardson + Celia Jane Van Wagoner | 7 children  |

## Vital Records – March 1, 2024 to March 19, 2025\*

| Marriages:                                    | Date:             | Location:          | Branch:                                      |
|---|-------------------|--------------------|--|
| Marion Elizabeth Castaldini and Jared Armatis | March 7, 2025     |                    | Robert Newton                                |
| Births:                                       | Date:             | Location:          | Parents:                                     |
| Michael James Bankhead                        | April 9, 2024     | Mt Clemens, MI     | Sarah Margaret (Kennedy) & Jonathan Bankhead |
| Amelia Rose Caraballo                         | April 24, 2024    |                    | Victoria Lynn (Wilson) & Jobi Caraballo III  |
| Deaths:                                       | Date:             | Location:          | Spouse:                                      |
| Adrian Peter Wizes                            | November 2, 2024  | Hendersonville, NC | John Snell                                   |
| Julie Marie Haughton                          | February 28, 2025 | Tehachapi, CA      |  |
| Branch:                                       | Branch:           | Branch:            | Branch:                                      |
|   | Robert Newton     | Charles Henry      | Celia Jane                                   |
|   | David Frederick   |                    |  |

\* 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.