Dear Cousins,

Your Reunion Committee is looking forward to seeing you all together next weekend. We are hoping for decent weather, but there is chance of high temperatures or rain. Check the forecast and be prepared with appropriate clothing.

If you have family items you would like to share, please alert Mike Crittenden so we can plan appropriate display space.

The Saturday afternoon guided hike up Lynch is fully subscribed.

Here is the revised Reunion Schedule of Events:

Friday Evening Check-in and BBQ:

5:30-7:30: Check in and get your t-shirt and nametag at the Sautee Nacoochee Cultural Center's Community Hall. BBQ supper will be furnished and served by local BBQ wizard Glen Dorsey. Beverages will be self-serve. Menu is Glen's slow-smoked chopped pork, bun, sauce, slaw, and beans, with peach cobbler for dessert. We will NOT be providing for takeout. Stick around to meet and mingle.

Saturday Morning Check-In and Programs:

8:30-9:15: Check-in resumes in the Community Hall. We will have juice, coffee, and banana bread available, but if you want a full breakfast there are several good spots in Helen, Cleveland, and Clarkesville. See below.

9:30-10:30: Business Meeting in the Center Theater, located in the school building. The agenda includes recognition of deaths since the 2017 reunion, discussion of the feasibility of future in-person reunions, ways to involve younger family members, and whether family genealogists/historians would be willing to collaborate on a robust and secure family website. Bring your ideas.

10:45-12:00: Presentations, in the Center Theater. Mike Crittenden will condense the history that forms the background of the Williamses' migration to Georgia, including the creation of the Unicoi Trail, the Cherokee Cessions of 1817 and 1819, surveys of the ceded lands, and the Georgia Land Lottery. Barbara Williams will consider the question of why the Williamses came here and how they were able to obtain the best lots in Nacoochee Valley. Questions and discussion will follow, ending at noon.

Saturday Afternoon Activities: We recommend the Folk Pottery Museum of North Georgia and the history museum founded by Dr. Tom Lumsden, both of which are on the Cultural Center campus. Shop the twin galleries for creations by area artists and writers. Across the Sautee Valley, there will be an open house at Sautee Manor, the George Williams summer home, from 1:30 to 3:30. Turn onto Lynch Mountain Road behind the Old Sautee Store. Manor Drive (private) will take you up to the house. Follow the signs. The Old Sautee Store itself, previously owned by E.P. Williams descendants, is also still worth a visit. Further afield, on Duncan Bridge Road, Priscilla Wilson and Janice Lymburner have agreed to open their popular "Gourd Place," usually accessible by appointment only, from 2 to 4 pm. See https://gourdplace.com.

Saturday Evening Supper:

6:30-8:00: For this one you need to arrive on time. Gather at the Community Hall for a meal Chef Monda Dodge has titled "Elegant Summer Evening Buffet." Plan to be seated for the invocation by 6:50. You will then be invited by table to visit the buffet and receive your plates (Chicken Marbella, Basmati Rice with Spring Peas, Haricots Verts with Garnish of Julienned Carrots, and a fluff of mixed green salad with Champagne vinaigrette). Beverages and focaccia bread will be served at your table, as will a dessert of Key lime bars with fresh cream and berries.

Saturday Night Merriment:

8:00-9:30: Wear your dancing shoes to supper or stash them in your car, because after your meal you can shed those calories in the Historic Gym. Ginny King and Jennie Inglis will get you going, no prior experience required. If you're feeling shy, see how much fun folks are having at https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=24X7zCskUSU. If you're still feeling shy, you'll want to encourage the braver souls from the sidelines. During the breaks, producer Ginny King will present her troupe, "Visions of the Oasis," who will subsequently reappear as the "10 Gallon Gals."

Sunday Morning Brunch. Arrive between 8:30 and 10:00. You will serve yourselves from the buffet. Share a table with a cousin you haven't yet spoken with.

After Brunch

Consider attending one of our local churches:

Nacoochee Presbyterian, across the street. Leave your car where it is and walk. Service begins at 10:00.

Nacoochee United Methodist Contemporary Worship at 9:00; Traditional Worship at 11:00

Episcopal Church of the Resurrection Holy Eucharist Rite II at 8:15 (no music) and 10:30

Crescent Hill Baptist Church, on GA Hwy 17 on the way to Helen. We have not located current service times. The church is apparently always open. See this article for an uplifting bit of its history.

Grace Calvary Episcopal in Clarkesville offers a single summer service at 10 a.m..

Open for Breakfast or Brunch on Saturday and Sunday, if you are an early riser or didn't register for brunch:

Huddle House, Main St Helen. Open 24/7

Hofer's Bakery & Café, N Main Street, Helen, on right before Betty's on the left. Opens 8 am.

Village Crepe Haus, Main St., Helen. Opens 9 am.

Dottie's Kitchen S Main St., Helen. Open 8-noon.

Cowboys & Angels, Helen, Chattahoochee Strasse. Opens 11 am.

Sautee Trail Café, 3933 GA-17 on the way to Clarkesville. Open 7 am-7:30 pm Saturday, 8-3 on Sunday,

Sweet Breads, in Demorest at 579 Georgia St, across from the PO. Open 10-2 on Sundays for lunch or brunch.