

**Announcing the 2021 Towne Family Association Reunion, Inc.
Celoron/Jamestown, Chautauqua, New York
September 27 – October 1, 2021**

Don Traynor, 2021 TFA Reunion Chairperson



Pack your Vitameatavegamin and get ready to head to Jamestown, New York, the hometown of Cousin Lucille Ball, for the 2021 Towne Family Association Annual Reunion! Lucy's descendant is Joseph Towne.

Jamestown, New York, located in Chautauqua County in the far western corner of New York State, is situated approximately equidistant between Buffalo, New York, Cleveland, Ohio, and Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. The area is world-renowned for its cultural, educational, arts, and entertainment communities, as well as natural beauty. Home to five lakes, Chautauqua County provides a variety of recreational and leisure opportunities in nature or by visiting one of the many lakeside villages in the area during any season of the year, none more beautiful than autumn.

Our host hotel will be the lakeside Chautauqua Harbor Hotel in Celoron, New York, just feet from Lucy's childhood home and adjacent to Lucille Ball Memorial

Park. Special rates and room blocks are being provided to attendees of the 2021 Towne Family Association, Inc. Annual Reunion.

The reunion will kick off on Monday, September 27th with check-in and registration, some time to acclimate, and plans for an informal meet and greet for those arriving that day. Exploration and meals will be on your own or with other attendees in informal groups. The Towne Family Association Annual Board Meeting will be held in the evening.

The area saw significant migration of Towne family members from New England to Central New York and eventually Western New York, including Chautauqua County and nearby Cattaraugus County, both of which were once part of Genesee County prior to the early 1800s and was active territory for the Holland Land Company to conduct business. Many of these Towne Family members were descendants of Edmund Towne and Jacob Towne, sons of William and Joanna (Blessing) Towne.

Tuesday, September 28th, offers our first opportunity for some Towne related field trips and taking in the local sites. As of this publication date the schedule outline is just a suggestion and is subject to change. While our hope is that cousins from all over will join one another in

experiencing these outings with each other, it is certainly up to individual discretion. You may want to visit some of these suggested locations at a different time or not at all, it is up to you. There are plenty of alternatives in the area to entertain you, including enjoying a restful afternoon in an Adirondack chair by Lake Chautauqua with a glass of wine in hand from one of the many local vineyards or during the evening in front of one of three firepits along the lake.

There is a minimum of six cemeteries serving as final resting places for over fifty Towne descendants that can be visited within less than a half hour drive of our host hotel. Several local historians, some of which are also Towne Family cousins, have agreed to support our adventures by providing some historical context as we visit various locations. We will have the opportunity to visit several cemeteries in the Arkwright area of northern Chautauqua County and hear stories related to dozens of ancestors buried there such as Asa Towne (b. 1770), and the proprietor of the infamous Chicken Tavern, Aaron Town (b. 1794) just to name a few. Many of our ancestors are military veterans and we look forward to local historians adding insight related to Towne ancestors from this area, their participation in military engagements, as well as stories of the family they left behind. You won't be the first Towne cousins to participate in reunion activities in Arkwright. An historic picture shows the Town Family Reunion held at the home of Horace Town on August 15, 1906, with over one hundred people in attendance, and one dog.

A short drive down a back road through the heart of the Chautauqua/Cattaraugus Amish Trail will lead us to Leon, New York, where we will find the long-abandoned Leon Hollow Cemetery and Treat Memorial Cemetery. The former hosting so many pioneer settlers and kin that a section of the burying grounds is affectionately known as "Town Hill." Towns with names Salem, Samuel, and Sylvanus will be of special interest to us at this stop. This will also be an opportunity to pick up some incredible Amish goods and delicacies should you desire.

Upon returning to Jamestown you may want to stop at the beautiful and historic Lakeview Cemetery to visit Rufas Pierce Town, Civil War veteran and son of Reuben Town, whom we had previously visited at Leon Hollow. We will learn a bit more about his role with Company B of the 154th NY Volunteers in places like Chancellorsville and Gettysburg. Lastly, follow the hearts on the path and you will have an opportunity to pay your respects to possibly our most famous cousin, Lucille Ball.

After a full day of adventures, you are encouraged to explore some of the wonderful dining options in the area on your own or with cousins you've known or just met. We hope many evenings will culminate with some Towne family fellowship at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel or other designated meeting locations. Meals will be on your own each day with the exception of the Towne Family Association Annual Dinner on Thursday night, September 30.

Speaking of Cousin Lucy, no trip to the area is complete without exploring her life and the legacy she left behind, and the one she encouraged for the future. Wednesday morning, September 29th, will be a fabulous day to get our laugh on as we visit The Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum located in downtown Jamestown, just 2.6 miles away from our host hotel. The legacy of Lucille

Ball has been proudly honored by the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum since 1996. For decades, Lucille Ball and Desi Arnaz played a vital role in television and the big screen. The museum is fortunate to have the privilege of preserving their memory and telling the story of the impact they have had on the world through costumes and memorabilia, awards, photographs of both their personal and TV lives, and much more. Such a great place to proudly learn more about our cousin we share with the world! Then, grab some lunch and prepare yourself to laugh until your ribs hurt all afternoon as you visit The National Comedy Center, an experience that is like no other.

The non-profit National Comedy Center is the United States' official cultural institution, state-of-the-art museum and interactive visitor experience dedicated to presenting the vital story of comedy and preserving its heritage for future generations. USA Today named the National Comedy Center the "Best New Museum in the Country" in 2020, TIME magazine selected it as one of its "World's Greatest Places," Condé Nast Traveler called it "One of the best museums in the country" and People magazine named it one of "100 Reasons to Love America." Visitors from all 50 states and nine countries have given the Comedy Center a rare 5/5 rating on TripAdvisor, ranking among the highest in the attraction and tourism industry. Opened in August 2018 in Jamestown, New York, the National Comedy Center offers an unprecedented visitor experience using state-of-the-art technology, interactivity and personalization to create the first true 21st Century museum environment. Based on the vision of our cousin Lucille Ball for her hometown to become a destination for comedy, the non-profit National Comedy Center showcases comedy's great minds and unique voices in ways that engage, inspire, educate and entertain. Over 50 immersive exhibits within the 37,000-square-foot facility enable visitors to take a laugh-filled journey through comedy history, from early vaudeville to the latest viral memes. Combination tickets are available for both the Lucille Ball Desi Arnaz Museum and The National Comedy Center. Be informed, it is not unusual for people to spend four to six hours at The National Comedy Center alone, so more specific scheduling suggestions will be provided as the 2021 Towne Family Association Annual Reunion takes shape, possibly including suggesting an alternate date or time to visit during the week with groups of cousins or on your own.

Wednesday evening please join us at Town Family Association Annual Meeting for an election of Officers to be followed by a discussion of the Towne DNA Project and Towne genealogy sessions.

Thursday, September 30th, provides an opportunity to explore the area further. One suggestion for the morning will take those interested about seven miles up the lake to Stow, New York. Although quite some time between now and September 2021, The Bemus Point –Stow Ferry, has shown interest in providing an opportunity for Towne Family members to enjoy a recreational roundtrip crossing of Chautauqua Lake at a location known as "then narrows," which as the name would suggest is the most narrow section of the twenty-four mile glacially formed lake and the place a ferry has assisted people in crossing from one side of the lake to the other continuously since 1811. Other than a beautiful way to spend a half hour or so on an autumn afternoon, and a unique experience, why is this Towne related you may ask? The answer is that from 1898-1942

our Towne cousin, Alton Wells Ball played a vital role in the operation of the ferry as he served in many capacities over the decades, most of which as the captain/operator, as did his son Gerald Alton Ball. While on the Bemus Point side we will also have a few minutes to walk up the street a few yards and take some pictures on the sprawling porch of The Hotel Lenhart. Originally built in 1880, a fifty-three room, three story wooden structure is the last remaining hotel on a street once called "Hotel Row" featuring several Victorian style hotels during the Chautauqua Lake steamboat era. Although it will be closed for the season, the photo opportunity on the porch will be exceptional.

After this activity, or instead of, it is suggested that you might enjoy continuing a few more miles up the lake to the Chautauqua Institution. Established in 1874, the institution was the home and provided the impetus for the Chautauqua movement that became popular in the U.S. in the late 19th and early 20th centuries. The Chautauqua Institution Historic District is listed on the National Register of Historic Places and was further designated a National Historic Landmark. Although the summer season will be over you can still enjoy the ambiance of what USA Today has declared "the best small-town cultural scene" in America. With limited vehicle entry and brick paved walking paths meandering through a maze of Victorian cottages and homes, there is no better place to take a walk in the autumn.

If you like your Victorian with a little more intrigue and have an interest in potentially connecting with a Towne ancestor from the past, perhaps you'd like to take a short sixteen-mile drive from the Bemus Point– Stow Ferry to the world's largest spiritualist community in Lily Dale, New York. Explore and experience many opportunities to expand your knowledge and intuition at the Lily Dale Assembly and find a deep sense of peace. Since it was established in 1879, Lily Dale has been the world's largest center for spiritual development and the practice of the Spiritualist religion. Lily Dale Assembly offers seminars, workshops, public clairvoyance and healing services during each 10-week summer season, but even during the off season there are still opportunities to experience the energy inside the gates and get a reading from a registered medium. The Mediums individually set their appointments and fees. Please contact them directly for information if you are thinking about this adventure. As a special treat, the Lily Dale Assembly historian has agreed to open up the Lily Dale Museum for us. His name is Ron Nagy and the stories he will tell are worth the trip alone!

Other amazing area locations you might consider visiting include The Fenton History Center, The Robert H. Jackson Center, The Roger Tory Peterson Institute, The Historic Dunkirk Lighthouse and Military Museum, or any of the dozens of wineries along the Chautauqua Wine Trail.

On Thursday evening the 2021 Towne Family Association Annual Reunion Dinner will take place at the Greek Club in Jamestown where we look forward to a wonderful meal and more great Towne Family fellowship. Programming will be provided by local and national Towne historians as part of our evening. What a wonderful night to cap off a terrific week of Towne Family activities!

Join the Towne Family Association for this fun Reunion!

General Information

For information on any locations or venues discussed in this article please visit <https://www.tourchautauqua.com/> and <https://www.thechautauquaharborhotel.com/>. Also, visit the Towne Family Association website at townefolk.com for reunion information, registration form and a membership form. Towne Cousins on Facebook will have this info and the 1st Quarter 2021 Issue of About Towne.

Transportation

The TFA will not be providing any motor coaches during this reunion. People can carpool with each other if they do not have a vehicle. Sign up sheets will be available at the hotel.

Airports for the Jamestown reunion destination are Cleveland (OH), Erie (PA), Pittsburgh (PA), and Buffalo (NY).

Amtrak does not travel to Jamestown, New York.

Attractions

All tickets and fees to attractions will be paid by each attendee at those venues.

Chautauqua Harbor Hotel

The hotel is located at 10 Dunham Avenue, Celoron, New York 14720. (Jamestown is basically across the street.) It is a nine-acre resort on the shores of Chautauqua Lake. The hotel offers an outdoor pool (weather permitting), an indoor pool, al fresco dining, a large patio with several fire pits, putting green and an outdoor Carousel Bar serving brick oven pizzas and microbrews.

For accommodations, call 716.489.2800 and make your reservation under the Towne Family Association room block no later than August 11, 2021. The rate is \$139 per night plus applicable taxes. The event begins on Monday, September 27 and it ends on the morning of Friday, October 1, 2021. The group's rooms will not be lakeview. The hotel requires you to pay for the first night when you make your reservation and it is refundable when requested more than seven days prior to the date of your stay. Once you check in for your stay, refunds for early departures are not available.

Parking is free. However, no free breakfast. A list of restaurants will be provided in each reunion packet. Free coffee is available each day in the Lobby until 10 a.m.

A hospitality room will be available at the CHH on Monday. On Wednesday and Thursday, the Greek Club is available and they have WIFI.

Niagara Falls

Have time for a side trip to Niagara Falls, New York, after the reunion? Contact TFA member Lewis BATTERY at LewisBattery@yahoo.com. He would be delighted to give people a tour.

Contacts

Dianna Emerson, demersontfa@gmail.com and Don Traynor, donbtraynor@gmail.com

40TH TFA 2021 REUNION REGISTRATION

Hometown of Lucille Ball
Celoron/Jamestown, Chautauqua, New York

Arrival, Monday, Sept. 27 – Departure, Friday, Oct. 1, 2021

2021 Deadlines: Hotel Registration by August 11; Reunion Registration by Aug 20.

<u>REGISTRATION FEES</u>	<u>Number of Attendees</u>	<u>Total Cost</u>
\$40.00 per Member	_____	\$ _____
\$65.00 Per Non-Member*	_____	\$ _____
*Includes One Year \$25 Membership. Include Membership paperwork.		
Number of Children Under 18	_____	No Charge

(A) TOTAL REGISTRATION FEES: \$ _____

DINNER BANQUET on Thursday, September 30th. Price includes an assortment of beverages for everyone. All food allergies or special requests must be included with this Registration.

Total Adults _____ times \$45.00 each = \$ _____

Total Children 10 years & younger _____ times \$30 each = \$ _____

(B) TOTAL DINNER BANQUET FEES: \$ _____

GRAND TOTAL ALL FEES A & B - \$ _____ Due & Payable with this completed form.

Mail form and check payable to TOWNE FAMILY ASSOCIATION, INC to:
Towne Family Association, c/o Catherine Kauffman,
5201 E Mountain View Rd, Paradise Valley, Arizona 85253-1627

Note Descendant(s): Rebecca ___; Edmund ___; Jacob ___; Joseph ___; Mary ___; Sarah ___

I/we do not have a vehicle and would appreciate a ride to various sites. # of people _____

I/we can provide transportation to someone needing a ride. # of seats available _____

Staying at the Chautauqua Harbor Hotel? YES ___ NO ___

NAME/ADDRESS _____

EMAIL/PHONE NUMBER _____

ALL ATTENDEE NAMES _____

Comments: _____
