

# **Reno/Reneau Review**

## **2009 Index**

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*This issue should have been issue 4*



# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 7, Issue 1, Jan/Apr 2009

## 2009 Reno/Reneau Reunion Staunton, VA Oct 9-11, 2009



The Reunion date is fast approaching! Brenda Rose of the 2009 Reunion Team has set up the venue at the Staunton Holiday Inn Golf and Conference

Center. There is a block of rooms set aside for the Reunion. The group rate is \$99.00 plus tax. Our group rate is valid for booking from 07-Apr-2009 through 09-Sep-2009.

If you wish to extend your stay outside of Oct 9-10, you will need to book a separate reservation on the Web site or contact us directly at Staunton Holiday Inn Golf & Conference Center at 1-540-248-6020.

You may make reservations at the Holiday Inn Website...[holidayinn.com](http://holidayinn.com).

1. Select country, then type in city and state.
2. Click on Find Hotel.
3. The next page will give you a choice of three hotels. Click on the Golf & Conf Ctr, Staunton.
4. On the next screen, key in your arrival and departure dates (info is on the left side of the screen). Then in the Group Code, type in **ren**.
5. On the next screen, select the room type and complete your reservation!

If you prefer, you may make reservations by calling the Holiday Inn Reservation Center: 1-888-HOLIDAY (888-465-4329)

Guest rooms feature free high-speed wireless Internet access, free local telephone calls, 5 HBO channels, pay for view movies, irons & boards, hair dryers, & coffee makers. **Cafe-on-the-Green** invites you dine on a full menu for breakfast, lunch, and dinner. **Mulligan's Pub & Eatery** offers you a chance to unwind. For added relaxation, the hotel features a

indoor/outdoor swimming pool, fitness center & our guests have **golf privileges at the Country Club of Staunton.**

**For RV travelers**, there is a KOA Campground at Verona, VA. Shenandoah Campground is only a few miles from Staunton. It is located off exit 227 on I 81. For more information check the KOA directory, or on-line at <http://www.svkoa.net/> or call 540-248-CAMP, or 800-310-2580. Reservations are now being accepted for 2009.

### More on the Reunion

**DATES:** Friday and Saturday, October 9-10, 2009

**TIMES:** Friday – registration (opens at 5:00 p.m.), visiting, sharing and copying photos and documents, and possible excursions...

Saturday – the meeting room opens at 9:00 a.m. for registration, visiting, and sharing of “stuff.” We have plans for information tables that you may want to browse. Entertainment, our business meeting, the silent auction, the raffle, and a wonderful 3-entrée buffet luncheon will take much of the day. That afternoon and evening there are many local sites that you might enjoy, as well as an on-site restaurant and Mulligan’s bar, with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. For those who have additional vacation plans, leaving on either Saturday evening or Sunday will give you lots of options.

**COSTS:** Luncheon: \$28.00 per person; children 3-12 half price; children 2 and under free.

**Complete the registration form on pages 3 and 4. Send to: Brenda Rose, 512 Locust St. Staunton, VA 24401**

### Thank you!

Many thanks to you for supporting this newsletter: **It is by your contributions that we are able to send the Reno/Reneau Review to so many Reno/Reneau descendants!**

**Did you know that we send out 220 newsletters by mail, and 90 by email? The cost of printing a newsletter—8 to 10 pages—is about \$125.00, and the cost to mail is close to \$100.00 as well! We can only do this through your support!**

## *A Letter from the Past*

The following letter was sent to us by William Norris Reneau, San Antonio, TX. It was found among the papers of his grandfather, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, Broken Bow, NE., and gives us a glimpse into this period in our country's history. William's Reneau lineage: Meredith Thurman Reneau, Isaac Tipton Alexander, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Pharr, Texas, 1/12/16

Mr. I. A. Reneau  
Broken Bow, Neb.

Dear "I.A."

Now don't faint or think this is from a ghost for it is not, but from one that the Mexicans think is very much alive, though I have been reported missing & dead several times in the last two years, but so far have escaped any serious injury.

Have intended a great many times to write you to see how you & the family were but put it off, not writing to any one but the children. Often think of you & the happy past while sitting around a lone camp fire or on a trail, & wondered how every one is getting along, & if they have forgotten the "Rover," the Texas Ranger.

After Juanita married & I had no ties I took a long for my young life & the Mexican trouble started & I accepted a position in the Service & believe I have done some good, at least all those that know me say so. It is a grand life, plenty of exercise & excitement & every one you meet is either your enemy or friend, no half-way. If an enemy, it is good night, if he beats you on the draw & the best shot.

During my service I have been on the Mexican border all the time from the Gulf to the New Mexico line & I have seen some close calls & lots of funn. (that's what we call it)

Am inclosing you a picture of myself & my old bay horse. Hw is my Pal, & companion. With him I can lay down at night & no one can come near without him giving the alarm & put him on a trail & he follows it like a trained dog & a Mexican cant come near him without getting kicked or bit. He has quite a war record, he is the hors that Genl Blanco rode when he captured Rynose & Motamorris three years ago & I got hold of him. There is no end to his durability & speed & so far has only received two slight bullet wonds. He thinks lots of me. It seems he can scent trouble for it is due him that I have been first on the alert many times & didn't get mine.

Things have been in bad shape in this part of the border & is no better now, only just quiet and organizing to come stronger. We soldiers in this work along the border in the brink is a joke. The bandets go all around them in the brush & they cant trail them..

We killed so many for shooting at us across the river that the War Department requested our Governor to keep us away from the river, this came about after 6 of us killed 32 out of 50 for shooting at us across the river at Covasar Crossing. They were on the bank of the river when they shot the first volley into us, (about 300 yards) the last one of them that fell was about 600 yds. They started to running after our first volley when 6 of them went the ways of the wicked, might have got more of them but at 600 yards they got to the brush & we are not allowed to cross the river after them.

Well guess you are tired of that stuff, so will try & change the subject & speak of the country. This is a fine country, equal to California. They can raise any thing, the finest Oranges & Grapefruit I ever ate. This place is in the heart of the Valley & has the best Cannal System. It would be a better country if it weren't for the land Sharks robbing the home seeker's . I have often wished you would get to come down on some of those home seekers excursions & look the country over. It is a very cheap trip. We are eating all kinds of fruit now, right off the trees. Sure would love to see you & talk with you.

I was in Houston about three month ago for a few days to see the children & my Grand-son. (Did you catch the Grand-son?) You ought to see him, he is a hunter & thinks his Gran-Dady is the proper thing.

Juanita did very well, she got a good boy of good family & he & all the family love her. Her mother-in-law is foolish about her & and baby.

If this reaches you & you can find time to write me a few lines I would certainly appreciate it & tell me how Beutell & every body is.

If there is anything you would like to know about this country or any of these land Sharks I can tell you for I know the food ones from the bad.

There is a good many Nebr. people in this valley but non that I have met that know you.

Well, "I.A." will close for this time as I know I have tired you & promis to be more brief next time & write on subjects that will interest you. Also want to write to the children today. Just got in last night & am leaving for a scout in A.M.

With best wishes to yourself & all the family & hoping to hear from you soon I remain,

Your Cozen

TNReneau

(Pharr, Texas, Hidalgo Co. )

The two men were cousins—actually 3<sup>rd</sup> cousin once removed. I T's gg grandfather was Charles Reno, son of John Reno and Elizabeth Thorn Reno. T N's ggg grandfather was William Lewis Reno, son of John Reno and Elizabeth Thorn Reno. (John Reno and William Lewis Reno were brothers.)

**Historical note:** 1916 was the era of Poncho Villa in Mexico. As part of his revolt he wanted to provoke the US into a full scale attack so the Mexican government would fall and he would take power. Villa's forces caused many shooting incidents along the Rio Grande. Texas Rangers guarded the border and did shoot back. The letter clearly refers to border events of the period.

Genealogists Sue Damewood, Powell, TN and Leigh Wimberly, Leesville, LA provide some additional information about the two Reneaus:

Isaac Tipton Alexander (I A) Reneau was born Mar 11, 1859 in Thompkinsville, KY. The 1900 Custer County, NE census shows Isaac A. Reneau, his wife Clarissa, with 2 children, Meredith and Helen, living at home. He homesteaded on the South Loup River near Georgetown NE in 1884. He served four terms as postmaster. I A died Jan 20, 1952.

Thomas Nelson Reneau was born Feb 10 1868 in San Felipe, Austin Co., TX. He married Lillie Anna Bradshaw. The 1910 Harris County, Texas census lists T. N. Reneau, and his children, Juanita and Elmer living at home. T N's Reneau lineage is Thomas S. Reneau, James Butler, John Harris Reno, William Lewis, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

# RENO/RENEAU REUNION REGISTRATION

October 9-11, 2009 Holiday Inn and Conference Center – Staunton, Virginia

Luncheon Reservation for Saturday, October 10, 2009

## Buffet Menu

*Mixed Green Salad with Dressings, Assorted Rolls & Butter  
Grilled Ham Steak, Baked Chicken, Vegetarian Lasagna  
Country Style Green Beans, Whipped Potatoes  
Coffee and Iced Tea Chef's Dessert Assortment*

\$28.00 per person; children ages 3-12 half price; children 2 and under free.

Number of adult meals @ \$28.00 - \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of child meals @ \$14.00 - \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Luncheon Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS, HATS, AND TOTE BAGS

This year we will honor the 1688 arrival in Virginia of Louis and Benjamin Reynaud. The design is by Gary Rose, who gave us the sailing ship logo on previous items. All items this year will be Reno/Reneau Red!!

Cost per item is \$10.00 (plus \$2.00 per item for 3X and 4X)

**Shirts:** Put the number ordered in the blank before the size! \_\_\_YS \_\_\_YM \_\_\_YL \_\_\_YXL

\_\_\_AS \_\_\_AM \_\_\_AL \_\_\_AXL \_\_\_2X \_\_\_3X \_\_\_4X

Number of **Totebags**: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of **Hats** (baseball-style): \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of items ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = **Item Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

## RAFFLE – Several Items being raffled this year = More Chances to WIN!

1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00

Drawing will be at the Business Meeting on October 10, 2009. Do not need to be present to win.

Number of Raffle Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of 6-ticket sets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of spouse attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Names of children attending \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Reno/Reneau lineage on the back → →**

Mail this completed form and one check (made to Reno/Reneau Reunion) to: Brenda Rose 512 Locust St. Staunton, VA 24401

# *My Reno/Reneau Ancestors*

*My Reno/Reneau line of descent, completing as much information as available...  
(Use the left column for Reno/Reneau ancestors and always enter the woman's maiden name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Birthdate

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Father/or Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grandfather/or Grandmother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
3<sup>rd</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
4<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
5<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
6<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
7<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
8<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
9<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

*We Remember....*  
*W.D. "Mutt" Maples*  
*Nov 6, 1916 – Mar 22, 2009*  
*and*  
*Mackie Lee Reneau Maples*  
*Nov 29, 1914 – April 2, 2009*



Mackie Lee Reneau and William Douglas Maples both grew up in Hunt County, TX. They were married in Caddo Mills, TX on Nov. 29, 1935. This special couple passed away eleven days apart. They had been married 73 years.

50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Photo



l-r: Patty Bates Reneau, Eagle Creek, Oregon with Mackie Lee Reneau Maples and Mutt Maples.

Mutt and Mackie Lee attended the Reneau Reunion in



October 2003 in San Antonio, TX. The photo above is a snapshot where Mackie Lee was identifying photos with no names on the back—Mackie Lee knew one of the “unknown photos” right away—it was a baby picture of her! The photo (shown at the left) had been sent to her Uncle Eugene LaRue Reneau in Portland, Oregon.

W.D. “Mutt” Maples, age 92, of Wolfe City, TX died Sunday March 22, 2009 at Smith Nursing Home in Wolfe City after a lengthy illness.

“Mutt” as he was fondly called, was born Nov. 8, 1916 in Clinton, Hunt County, TX to John T. and Ellie Williams Maples. Benton farmed in Floyd, TX, an area not far from where Mutt’s family farmed.

Mutt was in business as a dirt contractor. The couple had three children: Betty Evelyn, Lawrence Douglas, and Bobby Glenn. Lawrence Douglas died in infancy. During these years Mutt was also active as part of the Wolfe City Volunteer Fire Department. He volunteered with the Department for 57 years. Mutt was a member of the West Main Church of Christ.

Mutt is survived by his wife of 73 years, Mackie Lee; one son Bobby Glenn (Linda); one daughter Betty Evelyn Smith; all of Wolfe City; three brothers, Dale of Wolfe City, Ray of Gun Barrell City, and Doyle of Dallas; one sister, Imogene Clayton of Red Oak; grand children, Glenna and Al Kelly, Cindy and Larry Oliver, Kyle and Tara Smith all of Wolfe City; and Robyn and Larry Underwood of Greenville; 15 great-grandchildren; and nine great-great grandchildren. He was preceded in death by his parents, two brothers and two sisters.

Funeral services were at 2 PM Tuesday, March 24, at First Baptist Church with Tim Sparks and Dr. Kevin Mitchell officiating. Grandchildren served as pall bearers, with honorary pall bearers Kevin Sorrow and the members of the Wolfe City Volunteer Fire Departments.

Burial was at Mt. Carmel Cemetery in Wolf City. Owens Funeral Home, Wolfe City, was in charge of arrangements.

Mutt’s Reneau heritage is through his wife, Mackie Lee Reneau Maples: Benton G. Reneau, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Mackie Lee Reneau Maples, 94, of Wolfe City died April 2, 2009, at Smith Nursing Home following a lengthy illness. A funeral service was held at 2:30 p.m. Sunday at First Baptist Church in Wolfe City with Dr. Kevin Mitchell officiating. Burial followed in Mount Carmel Cemetery.

Mackie Lee was born Nov 29, 1914 in Caddo Mills, the oldest child of Benton G. and Willie Amelia Sarrett Reneau. She married William Douglas “Mutt” Maples on Nov. 29, 1935 in Caddo Mills. She owned and operated Maples Washateria in Wolfe City for 42 years. Mackie Lee was a member of First Baptist Church in Wolfe City.

Survivors include one daughter, Betty Evelyn Smith of Wolfe City; a son and daughter-in-law, Bobby Glenn and Linda Maples of Wolfe City; grandchildren Glenna and Al Kelley, Cindy and Larry Oliver and Kyle and Tara Smith, all of Wolfe City, and Robyn and Larry Underwood of Greenville; 15 great-grandchildren; nine great-great-grandchildren; two brothers, B.G. Reneau of Ferris and Bill Reneau of Wolfe City; and one sister, Wilma Graham of Wolfe City. She was preceded in death by her husband in March 2009; one son, Lawrence Douglas Maples; her parents and two brothers, Weldon Reneau and Dwight Reneau.

Owens Funeral Home, Wolfe City, was in charge of arrangements.

*We Remember....*

*Eula Mae Vickery*

*May 10, 1921 – Dec 22, 2008*

Eula Mae Vickery was the oldest of four children who were born to John Floyd Vickery and Elizabeth Pauline Reneau Vickery. She was born in Clinton County, KY. Eula graduated from Clinton County High School in 1939, and then pursued her goal of becoming a teacher. She first taught in the Clinton County Schools, and then continued her teaching career in Alaska, adding enough years to retire from both districts.



Eula Mae showing one of her beautiful wood carvings 2006

Eula Mae spent her last years in Portland, OR. She loved showing her wood carvings, a skill she learned at her grandfather's knee. It was a special time to her when she could share her skills, especially with her grand nieces, Katelyn and Grace.

Eula Mae's Reneau heritage is Elizabeth Pauline Reneau Vickery, Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau, Berry Jordan, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, Lewis Jr. Lewis Sr.

The following tribute, published in the *Peninsula Clarion*, Kenai, AK, shows the great impact this special lady had on everyone she touched:

*Peninsula Clarion*, The (Kenai, AK) - January 8, 2009

Deceased Name: Eula Mae Vickery

Former Kenai Peninsula resident Eula Mae Vickery died Monday, Dec 22, 2008, in Tualatin, Ore. She was 87.

Per her wishes her cremains will be spread over her parents graves in Kentucky.

Ms. Vickery was born May 10, 1921, in Albany, Ky. She taught school there before moving to Alaska. She spent most of her teaching career in the communities of Cordova, Wrangell, Seward and Kenai. She moved to Kenai in 1968 then went to Seward for a short time and before returning to Kenai where she taught for many years at the Kenai Junior High School (now Kenai Middle School).

"Her students affectionately called her Ms. V. She taught many subjects, among them social studies and woodworking. Her love of teaching and students is evidenced by the many individuals who ask about her today (years after retiring and leaving Alaska). She touched the lives of literally hundreds of students, each one a special individual to her. After her retirement from teaching, she continued to live in Kenai for many years until she left to move closer to family," her family said. "Special passions of hers were her wood carving, gardening, halibut fishing, Kentucky cooking, and traveling. A totem pole wood carving that she and her students carved sits at the entrance to the Kenai Airport. She taught many a student (young and

*We Remember....*

*Violet Etoy Telford*

*Mar 17, 1928 – Feb 8, 2009*



VIOLET ETOY TELFORD was born on March 17, 1928 in Bonham, TX, the youngest of twelve children born to Isaac Martin Henson and Lissie May Compton. She joined older siblings: Vernie Lucille, Ethel Mae, James Henry, Clara Bell, Vera Myrtle, John Isaac, Angie Elizabeth, and Clyde Lee. Three of her older siblings, Velma, Frankie, and Edward, passed away prior to

Violet's birth. Violet and grew up on the family farm in Bonham.

Violet married Walter Martin Telford Jr. in 1945. They lived in Hemet, CA for many years. The couple had two children, Roger and Joan. Roger passed away in 1975, and her husband, Walter died in 2001.

Violet's hobbies were reading, working crossword and word search puzzles, and playing games on the computer.

She lived in Hemet for 29 years. At Christmas time, 2007, Violet visited daughter Joan and family in Lancaster, and she made the decision to stay and live there!

Violet passed away February 8, 2009 in Lancaster. She was a long time member of the Valle Vista Baptist Church.

Violet is survived by 2 sisters, Vera Keen of Bonham, Texas and Angie Janeway of Rosamund, CA; daughter, Joan (Paul) Smith of Lancaster; 4 grandchildren, Cherlyn, Chris, Tim and Marcia; 10 great-grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

Visitation was Friday, February 13, from 6:00-8:00pm at Hemet Valley Mortuary, 403 N. San Jacinto St., Hemet, CA with a funeral service on Saturday, February 14 at 11:00am, also at the mortuary. Violet was laid to rest at Riverside National Cemetery with her loving husband, Walter.

Violet's Reneau line is Lissie May Compton, Isabel A. Reneau Compton, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John, Lewis, Lewis.

\*\*\*\*\*

**con't Eula Mae Vickery**

old) how to use the carving tools. From her garden, she would share the bounty with all her friends. In her travels she would return having made lifelong friendships. She will be greatly missed and is also survived by special adopted family members."

Ms. Vickery was preceded in death by grand-nephew Adam Provencal.

She is survived by brothers, Bill and Ed; sister, Eileen Rogers; nieces and nephews, Sandra Provencal, Donna Vickery, Tom Vickery, Paula Vickery McCaleb, David Vickery, Michael Vickery and Diane Vickery; 13 grand-nieces and nephews; and numerous great-grand-nieces and nephews.

## The History of First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)

contributed by **Betty Hadus Reneau**  
con't from previous issue

The Albany First Christian Church, from its founding, has been an Ecumenical and Missionary group of people sent forth to practice and to teach others to practice the Gospel of Jesus Christ—to love God and to love one another. All are welcome to come and worship. It is cooperative within as all decisions are made by the majority of the members, including the calling of a Pastor/Minister. It belongs to the Brotherhood known as the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) participating at the local, regional, and world levels in its Educational, Evangelism, and Outreach programs. It gives to the several special Outreach offerings taken each year. It uses the materials for Church School and other things as the Christian Women's Fellowship, youth camp, and conference. Many youth and adults have attended camps, retreats, District, Regional and General Assemblies. It was most fortunate in 1947 to have one of the two Rural Laboratory Training Schools in the United States to train teachers for leadership in the local Church with Mrs. Mossie Wyker as the Inspirational and Worship Leader. On the local level, the Church supports and participates in the work of the Clinton County Ministerial Association with the programs of the special ecumenical services at Easter and Christmas, helping in the Hospital and Nursing Home Chaplaincy programs and worship services, some ecumenical Vacation Bible Schools, the Nursing Home ministry of giving lotion to the residents at Easter, holding special services for the community such as Maundy Thursday and Christmas Eve Communion, and participating in joint Cantatas. It has served the community as a place where various groups can meet. Music teachers have held their recitals, and previously the Lions Club met two times per month with the Willing Workers fixing and serving meals. Currently, Narcotics Anonymous meets one time per week, and Alcoholics Anonymous meets two times per week. In the 1940s, the youth of the town and country had a place to go for a recreation center—at the Church in the winter and at the Parsonage in warmer weather for tennis and volleyball. The Church gives world wide through the Love Gifts and many kits sent by the Christian Women's Fellowship; participating in the American Cancer Society's Relay for Life. Indeed the Church does reach out to others.

In its long history, there have been many Ministers who have served First Christian Church, some part time and some full time, along with those who have been Interim Pastors/Ministers. The beginning influence and source of encouragement in its early days was one of our Brotherhood founders, Raccoon John Smith. Others were Isaac T. Reneau, Dr. O.T. Ragland, Jonathan H. Young, Rev. Baugh, Bro. W.L.(Billy)Smith, (Grandson of Raccoon John Smith), H.C.Bell, Payton A. Canary, Rev. Sales, Robert Glenn, Kirby Smith, T. Howard Stark, Elbert L. Hanes, J. Ryan Nevius, Charles M. McKay, Gene Reynolds, William Cook, Lawrence and Evelyn Hay, Richard J. McLean, William D. Eises, William S. Latham, John A. Black, William M. Guthrie, Roger Hupp, J. Ryan Nevius and wife Eva ( a second Ministry which was for three years), Bruce Merton, Phillip M. Nevius, Michael Welch, Glenn Clements, Charles and Linda Yarborough, Russell Westbrook, and Richard James.

con't next issue

## *We Remember....* *Pauline Shearer Cole*

Pauline Shearer Cole, 98, of Glasgow died Jan. 17, 2009, in Scottsdale, Ariz. The Monticello native was a retired English and Latin teacher with Glasgow Independent Schools. She was a member of South Green Church of Christ. She was a daughter of the late Addie Napoleon Shearer and Eula Cook Shearer and the wife of the late Charles T. Cole. She was preceded in death by three brothers, Jean Cook Shearer, Joseph Milton Shearer of Monticello and Dr. Ed Shearer of Arkansas.

Funeral was at 11 a.m. Friday at A.F. Crow & Son Funeral Home, with burial in Glasgow Municipal Cemetery. Visitation was at 3 p.m. Thursday at the funeral home.

Survivors include a daughter, Carol Ann Strong and her husband, Joe, of Scottsdale; a son, Dr. J.L. Cole and his wife, Claudette, of Tompkinsville; six grandchildren, Sarah Strong Dunn and her husband, Ted, of San Francisco, Dr. Veronica Cole Harrison and her husband, Johnathan, of Laguna Niguel, Calif., Lorelee Cole Stephens and her husband, Wes, of Tompkinsville, Deanna Cole Meeks and her husband, Chris, of Smiths Grove and Justin Cole and his wife, Rendy, and Erica Cole Billingsley and her husband, Mark, all of Glasgow; 11 great-grandchildren, Victoria and Andrew Harrison, Jordan, Megan, Lindsey and Cole Billingsley, Shelby and Graham Stephens, Tyler and Taylor Meeks and Britton Cole; a brother, James Shearer of Franklin, Tenn.; and a sister, Sybille Shearer Wilson of Pulaski, Tenn.

Pauline's Reneau heritage is through her husband, Charles T. Cole: Sarah Elizabeth Beard, Mary Bayless Reneau Beard, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

### **Seeking Information**

Looking for the names of the parents of Robert Reno who married Mary Ann Hartman. They may have been from Arkansas and may have lived in the Shawnee Mission, Kansas area. If you can help me, contact [suedamewood@frontiernet.net](mailto:suedamewood@frontiernet.net)."

### **2007 Reunion Memories, Fort Worth, TX**



Clyde & Rachel Day Family, TX

Clyde and Rachel celebrated  
their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the Reunion!

We send out Birthday Greeting to Rachel as she celebrates her  
86<sup>th</sup> birthday, April 19<sup>th</sup>!



## Art of the Blacksmith & Smokey Bear Days

May 1-3, 2009

Lincoln County Fairgrounds

Capitan, NM



Terrell Perkins, Capitan, NM, writes to tell us about Smokey Bear Days in Capitan which commemorates finding Smokey Bear after the forest fire. Concurrent with the event, the **Southwest Artist Blacksmith Association** is sponsoring a Juried art exhibition for blacksmiths and metal artists as well as a blacksmiths conference. **The public is welcome** to see demonstrations of traditional blacksmithing skills and the work of modern blacksmiths and metal artists. (Smokey Bear Days in 2008 brought in from 5000 to 7000 people.)

While entry into the art exhibition itself is **ONLY** for metal artists, booths will be available for any **Original, Hand-Made, Quality, American arts and crafts**. We are especially looking for those that represent **Traditional skills**. Weavers, potters, painters, leather workers, quilt makers and glass artists among others will be welcome.

This is a **Living Heritage** show...we will NOT accept foreign made items, mass-produced or cheap quality items. CNC plasma cutouts and the like will NOT be allowed. All work should reflect some skills in a traditional art or craft. We will maintain a quality standard for arts and crafts that are entered.

### Exhibition and Demonstrations

**Saturday, May 2<sup>nd</sup>**. Blacksmithing and farrier demonstrations for the general public will go on beginning about 9:00AM. After the judges have made their decisions, the art exhibition will be open to the general public.

### Live Music

**Saturday evening** a cookout and music / sing-along session will be held in the rear of the facility. (or, in the event of inclement weather, it will be held in the arena ) Those camping out at the site, and anyone wanting to join in, are welcome to bring their lawn chairs and musical instruments to play. Feel free to bring hotdogs and marshmallows to roast over an open fire.

Please contact Terrell Perkins ([terrell\\_perkins@yahoo.com](mailto:terrell_perkins@yahoo.com)) for additional information about the Smokey Bear Days and Southwest Artists Blacksmith Association. Terrell also has a blog: <http://blacksmithscorner.blogspot.com/>.

Terrell's Reno/Reneau heritage is from his mother, Anna Reneau Chandler, daughter of Maynard Loren Reneau from the Francis Marion Reneau line.

## Reno/Reneau Reunion Memories

2003 Reunion San Antonio, TX



l-r Don & Lou Matson, TX; Charles Reneau, KY; Betty Reneau, KY; Bennett Wood, AR; Linda Reneau, TX; Margie Wood, AR

## More Reno/Reneau Reunion Memories

2004 Reunion Austin, TX



Visiting cousins from TX, OK, TN, AR, KY, OR, WA, GA, VA, and more!



Terrell Perkin, NM; Anna Chandler, Jackie Mann, Linda Moore, TX  
2004 Reunion in Austin.

2006 Reunion Burkesville, KY



l-r Florence Reneau, Carolyn Shepler, Ned Reneau, Susan Westfall, WV



Jana & Jim Wojenski, GA



l-r: Sally Reno Eastwood, TX  
Sue Reneau Damewood, TN

2007 Reunion, Fort Worth, TX



l-r: Eric, Matthew Conner, Shinn Soliel, Amber and John Reneau, CA

*Come to Virginia in 2009 and make your Reunion Memories!*



# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 7, Issue 2, May/Jul 2009

## COMING SOON!

### 2009 Reno/Reneau Reunion

Staunton, VA

Oct 9-11, 2009

*Important Notice...*

*from the 2009 Reunion Team*

#### **Deadlines:**

We must receive your order or reservation by the following dates:

Shirts/totes/caps – August 1

Banquet – August 15

Hotel Rooms – September 9

The sooner you get the reservations to us the better we'll feel, as not many people have made the commitment yet. Contact Brenda Rose at (540)885-9618 or e-mail [rosebl@comcast.net](mailto:rosebl@comcast.net) so that we will have an idea of how many to prepare for (seating, favors, activities, etc.). **Even if you can't pay for it all now please let us know if you plan to come.** We hope to see many of our cousins from around the country. Remember, Virginia was the starting point of the Reno/Reneau family in America!

Thanks,

Brenda, Don, and Mary

Your 2009 Reunion Team

**See pages 3 and 4 for Registration forms!  
Send to: Brenda Rose, 512 Locust St.  
Staunton, VA 24401**

You may make reservations by calling the Holiday Inn Reservation Center: 1-888- HOLIDAY (888-465-4329) or the Staunton Holiday Inn Golf & Conference Center directly at 1-540-248-6020. Mention the Reneau Reunion or REN for the Group Rate.

## Info for Campers & RV'ers!

There are three campgrounds near the reunion hotel, each of which has different amenities. The Holiday Inn is located at I-81 Exit 225. Here is the contact information for each one.

Shenandoah Valley Campground – Verona, VA - 5 miles and 10 minutes from the hotel

Formerly a KOA, it is now a Good Sam Park.

Located off of I-81 Exit 227.

(800) 310-2580

[www.campingisfun.com](http://www.campingisfun.com)

Walnut Hills KOA – Staunton, VA – 12 miles and 16 minutes from the hotel

Formerly independent, now a KOA park. Located between I-81 Exits 213 and 217.

(800) 69-WALNUT

[www.walnuthillscampground.com](http://www.walnuthillscampground.com)

Sherando Lake Recreation Area – Lyndhurst, VA – 26 miles and 34 minutes away

Located in the George Washington National Forest. (540)291-2188

[www.recreation.gov](http://www.recreation.gov)

### *More on the Reunion*

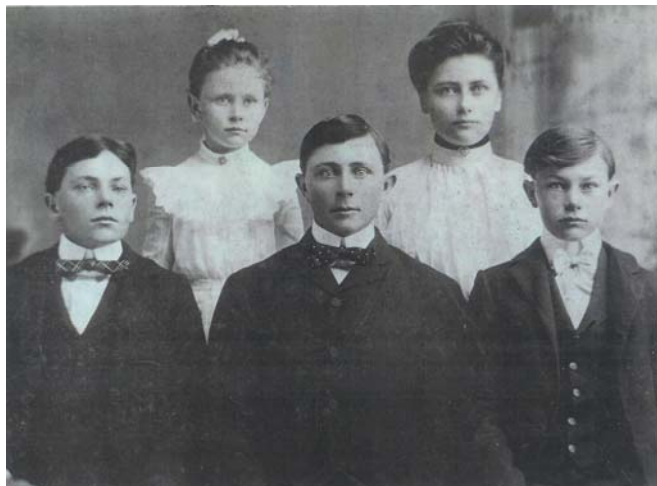
**DATES & Times:** Friday and Saturday, October 9-10, 2009 Friday – registration (opens at 5:00 p.m.), visiting, sharing and copying photos and documents, and possible excursions...

Saturday – the meeting room opens at 9:00 a.m. for registration, visiting, and sharing of “stuff.” We have plans for information tables that you may want to browse. Entertainment, our business meeting, the silent auction, the raffle, and a wonderful 3-entrée buffet luncheon will take much of the day. That afternoon and evening there are many local sites that you might enjoy, as well as an on-site restaurant and Mulligan's bar, with live entertainment on Friday and Saturday nights. For those who have additional vacation plans, leaving on either Saturday evening or Sunday will give you lots of options.

**COSTS:** Luncheon: \$28.00 per person; children 3-12 half price; children 2 and under free.

## Reno Heritage

submitted by Ronnie & Linda Reno,  
Charlotte Hall, MD



Rollin Ray    Mary    Ed    Effie    Guy

This charming portrait of the **children of Granville Giles Reno and his wife, Ellen Louisa Rhoads**, was taken about 1902 in Macoupin Co., IL. Their Reno ancestry is as follows:

Lewis Reno, the immigrant; Lewis Reno, Jr. – Elizabeth Whitlege; Zela Reno-Mary Chinn; Charles Chinn Reno-Lucy Smith Parker; William Smith Reno-Martha Haycraft; Granville Giles Reno-Louisa Ellen Rhoads.

For this article, we'll begin with Zela Reno born April 3, 1757 in Prince William Co., VA who married Mary Chinn (second cousin of George Washington) on August 3, 1775. He served as a Sergeant during the Revolutionary War. His 1833 pension application described his uniform as "a purple hunting shirt marked in the breast with large letters with the words "Liberty or Death" with a Macarone hat and bucktail." In 1786, he served under Captain Benjamin Logan in the campaign against the Shawnee Indians. His final military service would be during the War of 1812 when he was at least 55 years of age.

In 1784, Zela disposed of his property in Prince William Co., VA and removed his family to what is now Bourbon Co., KY taking with him his nephews Lewis, John, and Jesse. There he was baptized in 1790 at the Cooper's Run Baptist Church, but obviously Zela wasn't a bible totin' type Baptist. In 1792 a fellow parishioner accused him of "being at a Logrolling at an unseasonable time, & with drinking to intoxication & swearing, & differing with a Certain Brothiers, & strikeing a Negro." As a result,

he was admonished and suspended from communion.

Zela is believed to have been the father of James Reno who settled in Jackson Co., IN. James Reno's son was Wilkinson Reno, father of the notorious Reno Gang who committed the first train robbery in the U.S. and who were indirectly responsible for the creation of the Royal Canadian Mounted Police.

Zela's son, Charles Chinn Reno (named for his grandfather, Charles Chinn) led a much more sedate life. On April 1, 1804 he married Lucy Smith Parker. He and his family lived first in Bourbon Co, then Hardin Co. and finally in Trimble County, KY where he died in 1857.

William Smith Reno, son of Charles Chinn Reno and Lucy Parker Smith, married Martha Haycraft in Bourbon Co., KY on February 21, 1833. About 1843 the family moved to Macoupin Co., IL where their son, Granville Giles Reno was born on February 3, 1855. Granville and his brother James bought their father's farm, containing 194 acres gradually increasing their holdings to 440 acres. The brothers engaged in cooperative farming until 1892 when they equally divided the property, each taking a portion of the old homestead as a part of their respective share.

Granville Giles Reno married Ellen Louisa Rhoads on December 16, 1877. Their children, seen in the picture were: Effie May, born September 30, 1878; Edward, born February 27, 1881; Rollin Ray, born May 29, 1884; Mary, born September 1893; and Guy, born in 1896.

On January 18, 1905, Rollin Ray "Jack" Reno married Nellie Alatheia Loper. In 1911, Rollin was offered and accepted a job heading up the correspondence unit of the Civil Service Commission in Washington, D.C. The family settled in nearby Prince George's County, Maryland. Their first three children, all born in Macoupin County, were Wendell Giles, born October 24, 1906 (married Marie Tillie Kasulke); Carl Andrew, born November 22, 1907 (married Thelma Orrison); and George Loper, born September 29, 1910 (married Mary Theresa Cissell). Their last child and only daughter, Dorothy Lou Ellen was born June 3, 1914 and is the last of the siblings still living. Dorothy married William Henry Cox, Jr. All had children, grandchildren, and great-grandchildren who now live primarily in Maryland and Virginia--all who are very proud of their Reno heritage.

**RENO/RENEAU REUNION REGISTRATION**

October 9-11, 2009 Holiday Inn and Conference Center – Staunton, Virginia

Luncheon Reservation for Saturday, October 10, 2009

**Buffet Menu**

*Mixed Green Salad with Dressings, Assorted Rolls & Butter  
Grilled Ham Steak, Baked Chicken, Vegetarian Lasagna  
Country Style Green Beans, Whipped Potatoes  
Coffee and Iced Tea Chef's Dessert Assortment*

\$28.00 per person; children ages 3-12 half price; children 2 and under free.

Number of adult meals @ \$28.00 - \_\_\_\_\_ x \$28.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of child meals @ \$14.00 - \_\_\_\_\_ x \$14.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Luncheon Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**COMMEMORATIVE SHIRTS, HATS, AND TOTE BAGS**

This year we will honor the 1688 arrival in Virginia of Louis and Benjamin Reynaud. The design is by Gary Rose, who gave us the sailing ship logo on previous items. All items this year will be Reno/Reneau Red!!

Cost per item is \$10.00 (plus \$2.00 per item for 3X and 4X)

**Shirts:** Put the number ordered in the blank before the size! \_\_\_YS \_\_\_YM \_\_\_YL \_\_\_YXL

\_\_\_AS \_\_\_AM \_\_\_AL \_\_\_AXL \_\_\_2X \_\_\_3X \_\_\_4X

Number of **Totebags**: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of **Hats** (baseball-style): \_\_\_\_\_

Total # of items ordered: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$10.00 = **Item Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

**RAFFLE – Several Items being raffled this year = More Chances to WIN!**

1 ticket for \$1.00 or 6 tickets for \$5.00

Drawing will be at the Business Meeting on October 10, 2009. Do not need to be present to win.

Number of Raffle Tickets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$1.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

Number of 6-ticket sets: \_\_\_\_\_ x \$5.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

**Raffle Total** \_\_\_\_\_

\*\*\*\*\*

Your Name \_\_\_\_\_ Name of spouse attending \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Names of children attending \_\_\_\_\_

City/State/Zip \_\_\_\_\_

Phone or E-mail \_\_\_\_\_ **Your Reno/Reneau lineage on the back → →**

Mail this completed form and one check (made to Reno/Reneau Reunion) to: Brenda Rose 512 Locust St. Staunton, VA 24401

# *My Reno/Reneau Ancestors*

*My Reno/Reneau line of descent, completing as much information as available...  
(Use the left column for Reno/Reneau ancestors and always enter the woman's maiden name)*

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Name

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Birthdate

\_\_\_\_\_  
My Father/or Mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Grandfather/or Grandmother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
2<sup>nd</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
3<sup>rd</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
4<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
5<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/ or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
6<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
7<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
8<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

\_\_\_\_\_  
9<sup>th</sup> Great-grandfather/or mother

\_\_\_\_\_  
Name of his (or her) Spouse

*We Remember ....*  
*Walter Derling Park*  
*Jan 3, 1914 – Feb 8, 2009*



Graveside service for Walter Derling Park, age 95, of Bonham was held at 3 PM Monday, February 9, 2009 in the Willow Wild Cemetery under the direction of Wise Funeral Home. Reverend Adam Barker officiated. Mr. Park passed away on Sunday, February 8, 2009 at the Seven Oaks Nursing and

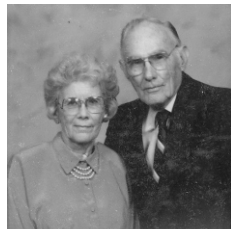
Rehabilitation Center in Bonham.

Walter was born on January 31, 1914 in Gober, TX, the son of Robert Park and Mary Compton Park. He spent his life living in Fannin and Grayson counties and he joined the Calvary Baptist Church at age 19. He retired from the Southwest Pump Company after 35 years of work.

He loved working many years with his sons in Little League and Boy Scouts.

Walter, in 2003, at age 89, contributed an article about his family in the Reneau Book of Memories through the Years. Walter wrote: "I am a grandson of Belle Reneau...My mother, Mary Compton, married Robert Lee Park in 1899 at Franklin, Kentucky. They came to Texas in 1903 and settled in Fannin County. In 1914, I was born. I have four siblings, 2 brothers and 2 sisters. Only my sister Dorothy and myself survive. I am

married to Rosalee Victory, for 70 years on October 21, 2003." Walter went on to say that he wished he could have attended the Reneau Reunion, but due to health was unable to travel. He loved hearing from Reneau cousins.



Walter & Rosalee

Walter leaves his wife, Rosalee, and two sons, Jerry Ray Park and wife Sara of Pottsboro and Dennis Darrell Park of Bonham. Granddaughters, Paige Park Green and husband Cannon of Southlake; Ashley Park Lamont and husband Dr. Jeff Lamont of Dallas and 4 great grand children, Avery and Chase Green and Claudia and Allison Lamont. Sister Dorothy Mae Taylor of Dallas. He was preceded in death by his parents and two brothers, Bill and Sidney Park and one sister, Annie Rogers.

Walter's Reneau ancestry is: Mary Compton Park, Isabel A. Reneau Compton, Jonathan Mulkey, John Reno, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

*We Remember ....*  
*Delia Kathleen Reneau*  
*Oct. 23, 1923 – May 10, 2009*



Delia Kathleen Wade Reneau, of Ferris, Texas, beloved wife of Benton G. Reneau, departed this life on May 10, 2009. Delia was born on October 23, 1923 in Dallas, Texas to Floyd and Clara Wade. Delia had two siblings: Bruce and George.

Delia married Benton G. Reneau on Feb 7, 1948. She and BG spent many years managing motels in Alpine, Temple, and Louisiana. Two sons, Russell and Randall, were born to this marriage. After retiring from the motel business, Delia could be found greeting customers at the Reneau Mobil in Lancaster, Texas.

Delia was a member of New Beginnings Bible Church in Ferris, Texas. Mama DD, as she was known to those close to her, was loved by all. Having been stricken by polio as a small child, Delia never let that condition diminish her joy of life. She was an inspiration to all who knew her.

Delia is survived by her loving husband of 60 years, Benton, son Russell Reneau; son Randall and wife Carolyn; grandchildren, Jennifer, Kathleen (KC), Brad and Kevin; brother, Bruce Wade. The photo of BG and Delia on the right was taken in 2004. The couple enjoyed get-togethers with Reneau cousins throughout the Dallas area.



BG & Delia

The years after Benton and Delia retired were filled with being part of their children and grandchildren's lives, and watching their growth and development.

Funeral service was held at Laurel Land Funeral Home Chapel in Dallas on May 12, 2009 at 2 PM with, Dr. Bobby Adams officiating. Interment was in Laurel Land Memorial Park in Dallas.

Delia's Reneau heritage is through her husband, Benton G. Reneau: Benton G. Reneau, Sr., Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

*Today in History*  
*May 22, 2009*

Ken Claborn, The Villages, FL shares a piece from his local newspaper: On this date in history:

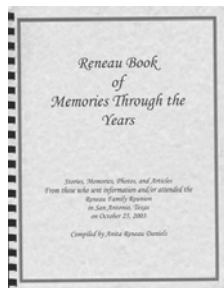
In 1868, a major train robbery took place near Marshfield, Ind., as members of the Reno gang made off with \$96,000 in loot.

Ken writes that he and his wife, Lorraine are doing the "best we can with a few health problems." The couple is planning a trip to Thomasville, GA in August to visit with nieces and nephews, Karen, Yvonne and Dale (Ken's sister Margaret's children).

Ken's Reneau lineage is: Leonard Azel Claborn, Susan Mary Reneau Claborn, John Mulkey Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

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*Reneau Book of Memories Through the Years.*



We have reprinted Reneau Book of Memories Through the Years. The book contains stories, memories, photos and articles from those who sent information and/or attended the Reneau Family Reunion in San Antonio, TX on Oct. 25, 2003. (This Reunion was the beginning of the "National Reno/Reneau Family

Reunions," as there were several branches of Reneau families attending (or sending information). The 251 page soft cover book contains information on Hezekiah, Samuel Russell, William Tipton, Charles Frances, Isaac Tipton, John Pleasant Thurman (Reno), Nathaniel Smith, Jonathan Mulkey, William T, and Berry Jordan, and their descendants.

Reneau Book of Memories

Will be Available at the  
 All Reno/Reneau Reunion  
 for a

Special Reunion Price: \$20.00!

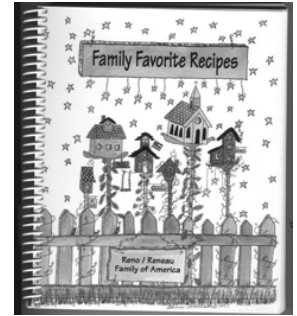
Or you may still purchase a copy of the book, please complete the form below:

**Reneau Book of Memories**  
 \$25.00 per book, including postage  
 Enclose \$25.00 per copy \_\_\_ books @ \$25.00 ea. = \_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check payable to: Anita Daniels, Reno/Reneau Family Acct  
 Anita Reneau Daniels. 17617 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Cir. Vancouver, WA  
 986833

\*\*\*\*\*

**Reno/Reneau Cookbook**  
**A Great Gift!**

We have copies of the Reno/Reneau Cookbook available! A color photo of the Reno/Reneau Family Favorite Recipe Cookbook would really show how colorful and bright this cookbook is! There are 232 pages of delicious recipes from Reno/Reneau descendants across the United States. The deluxe wire binding allows you to easily open the book to lay flat.



Each recipe shows the city and state where the contributor lives, and the relationship to his or her nearest ancestor who has the Reno or Reneau surname.

To order, please use order form below:

**Nationwide Reno/Reneau Cookbook**  
 \$18.00 per book, including postage  
 # \_\_\_\_\_ Books @ \$18.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_  
 Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
 Address \_\_\_\_\_  
 City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
 Check to: Anita Reneau Daniels, Reno/Reneau Family Acct  
 Mail to:  
 Anita Daniels 17617 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Cir Vancouver WA 98683

Nationwide Reno/Reneau Cookbook

Will be Available at the  
 Oct 09 All Reno/Reneau Reunion  
 for a

Special Reunion Price: \$15.00!

\*\*\*\*\*

***Thank you!***

Many thanks to you for supporting this newsletter: It is by your contributions that we are able to send the Reno/Reneau Review to so many Reno/Reneau descendants!

Did you know that we send out 220 newsletters by mail, and 90 by email? The cost of printing a newsletter—8 to 10 pages—is about \$125.00, and the cost to mail is close to \$100.00 as well! We can only do this through your support

Many thanks to the following Reno/Reneau Descendants for the support in recent months: **Benton G. Reneau**, Ferris, TX; **Carroll Reneau**, Irving, TX; **Roger Reneau**, Round Rock, TX; **Curtis and Sally Slayton**, Ashland, KS; **Willie and Cindy Reneau**, Tomball, TX; **Bill Reneau**, Wolfe City, TX; **Frances Kemp**, Henderson, KY.



# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 7, Issue 3, Aug/Oct 2009

## LAST CALL

### 2009 Reno/Reneau Reunion Staunton, VA Oct 9-11, 2009

*Important Notice...*

#### **Deadline extended!:**

We must receive your order or reservation by the following dates:

Shirts/totes/caps – September 1 (deadline extended)

Banquet – September 1 (Contact Brenda directly if you plan to attend! She can update the list.

Hotel Rooms – September 9

The sooner you get the reservations to us the better we'll feel, as not many people have made the commitment yet. Contact Brenda Rose at (540)885-9618 or e-mail [rosebl@comcast.net](mailto:rosebl@comcast.net) so that we will have an idea of how many to prepare for (seating, favors, activities, etc.). We hope to see many of our cousins from around the country. Remember, Virginia was the starting point of the Reno/Reneau family in America!

Brenda, Don, and Mary, Your 2009 Reunion Team

### **Reno/Reneau's Got Talent!**

Bring your musical instrument, your voice, or other talent to the Reunion---We will have a segment for Reno/Reneau Descendants to strut their stuff! Should be a fun time for all!

### **Bring your Memories!**

We will have the Conference Room at the Reunion from 5PM Friday to 5PM Saturday. There will be space to display family history, memorabilia, albums, photos, etc. We will also have printers and copier available to make copies.

### **Silent Auction!**

We are excited to have this fundraiser at the Reunion. Please bring an item for the Silent Auction Table! We already have a selection of fine wines from Reneau Vineyards thanks to Dick Reno in NY. Other items include stationery, books, jewelry. We appreciate anything you can bring to help continue All Reno/Reneau Reunions!

## Mississippi University for Women— to be renamed for Sallie Eola Reneau!

There are still some hoops to jump through before the University name change is approved (through the State Legislature, etc.) but the announcement has been made by the University: *Kristin Mamrack is a staff reporter for The Commercial Dispatch. She reports:*



**Reneau chosen  
as new name  
for MUW  
August 10, 2009**

It's Reneau.

Mississippi University for Women President Dr. Claudia Limbert announced the school's choice for a new name this morning at a faculty/staff convocation. And received a standing ovation from a full-house at Nissan Auditorium. While the announcement ended a months-long process of committee work, it touched off another months-long process that will require the approval of the state Institutions of Higher Learning Board of Trustees and the full Mississippi Legislature....

If approved by the IHL, the name will be submitted for approval to the state Legislature.

MUW officials said Reneau University refers to Sally Reneau, who, in the late 19th century, lobbied the state Legislature for the school to be built.

Limbert this morning called Reneau — who was 18-years-old when she first lobbied the Legislature for the creation of the first state-supported female college in the United States — a “remarkable woman.” .... For complete article: online at

[www.cdispatch.com/news/article.asp?aid=2463](http://www.cdispatch.com/news/article.asp?aid=2463)

See pages 3-8 for a reprint of an article about Sallie Eola Reneau and her family written by Dollye McAlister Elliott for the Reneau Book of Memories.



## We Remember Rachel Elliott Pressly Day



Rachel Elliott Pressly Day, Kerrville, TX, passed away at her home on July 7, 2009. Rachel was born April 19, 1922 in Tampa, Florida to The Rev. Henry E. and Mary (Bradley) Pressly, Presbyterian missionaries to Mexico. The family lived in Valles, Tampico, and Cuernavaca, Mexico. Her education included schools in Mexico, followed by high school in Due West, South Carolina, and then the University of

Texas.

Rachel married Clyde W. Day on October 6, 1943, who was serving in the U.S. Navy in WW II. The couple had four children: Neill, Margaret, Henry and Elizabeth. Rachel was a loving wife and mother, also devoting herself to volunteer work for the church and community. Additionally, she taught school for 20 years as a bilingual Kindergarten teacher of underprivileged children in Houston.

She and Clyde moved to Kerrville in retirement, where she remained active in church, serving as Elder, Stephen Minister, Enabler for Presbyterian Women of the Hill Country Cluster of Mission Presbytery, Chair of Annuities and Relief for the Synod of the Sun. She tutored children after school, visited shut-ins, was a volunteer of the Heart of the Hills Hospice, and called every member of her church on their birthdays.

Rachel Day is survived by her husband of 65 years, Clyde W. Day of Kerrville; her children Neill W. Day of Kerrville, Margaret R. Day of Tehuacana, Henry P. Day and wife Vicki of Scottsdale, Arizona, and Elizabeth B. Day of Austin. Her grandchildren include Rebecca Day, Lawrence Koenig and wife Kerri, May Koenig, Jennifer Day and husband James Cameron, Geoffrey Day, Rachel Holan, and Samuel Holan.

A memorial service was held to celebrate her life on Monday, July 13, at 2:00 P.M. at the First Presbyterian Church of Kerrville. Memorials may be sent to the Mary B. and Henry E. Pressly Scholarship Fund at the Austin Presbyterian Seminary, to the Peterson Hospice, or to the charity of choice.

Rachel's Reneau heritage came through her husband Clyde Wickliffe Day. His Reneau lineage is Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.



Clyde and Rachel Day and family

The couple celebrated their 64<sup>th</sup> Wedding Anniversary at the All Reno/Reneau Family Reunion in Fort Worth, TX, in October 2007. It was a very special occasion, with all their children present for the celebration!

Joseph Benham, Kerrville journalist, described Rachel's "life as both long and well-lived. So, 'Well done, good and faithful servant.' You blessed us by being among us." We all miss her.

## We Remember Carroll Elizabeth Kemp Reneau



Carroll Kemp Reneau, 73, a resident of Irving, Texas, passed away on Monday, July 13, 2009, at Baylor Medical Center at Irving after a short illness.

Carroll was born April 24, 1936, in Sophia, West Virginia, the daughter of the late Wyatt and Ruby Kemp of Charleston, W.Va. Carroll graduated from DuPont High School in 1954.

Carroll married Ellis Leon Reneau. Ellis was one of nine children, born Feb 5, 1930 in Anthony, Harper County, KS to Samuel Craig Reneau and Velma Louise Nelson Reneau. Ellis died July 25, 1992 at age 62 in Wakita, Grant County, OK.

Carroll continued to put family first and enjoyed large family get-togethers with her extended Reneau family. She enjoyed working at the computer and kept in touch with many Kemp and Reneau cousins by email.

Carroll is survived by her two sons, Dale L. Reneau of Dallas, Texas, and Roger R. Reneau and wife Cindy of Round Rock, Texas and their children, Sam, Harley and Sarah; and sister, Mrs. Helen K. Wilson of Charleston. She was preceded in death her brother Harold Kemp of Charleston, WV.

Carroll was a member of the Plymouth Park Baptist Church of Irving and United Daughter's of the Confederacy Chapter in Irving, Texas.

A memorial service was held at 10:00 a.m., Thursday, July 16, 2009 at Plymouth Park Baptist Church. Donnelly's Colonial Funeral Home in Irving was in charge of arrangements.

Carroll's Reneau heritage came through her husband, Ellis Leon Reneau. His Reneau lineage was Samuel Craig Reneau, John Michael Eagleton, Samuel Russell, William



Michael, John Reno, John David, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Carroll, son Roger, wife Cindy and children Sarah, Harley and Samuel attended the All Reno/Reneau Family Reunion in Fort Worth, TX, Oct 2007.

Carroll also has special visiting time with John David Reno descendants

Sue Reneau Damewood, Bonnie Reneau Cox, and Elaine Reneau Snow pictured with Carroll at right.



We will all miss Carroll's warm friendship, love and dedication to family.

**Nathaniel Smith Reneau  
William Edward Reneau  
Sarah "Sallie" Eola Reneau  
by Dollye McAlister Elliott**

**A FACTUAL ACCOUNT OF A VERY  
REMARKABLE, TRAGIC RENEAU FAMILY**

When Anita asked me to write an article on this family, I had a choice to make: whether to write it as a story, easy to read and digest, or one based on documentary evidence and fact; I have chosen the latter.

The father of this family was Nathaniel Smith Reneau,<sup>1</sup> born July 10, 1814, in Cumberland County, Kentucky, the fifth son and fifth of 10 children of John and Elizabeth (Thurman) Reneau. According to Nathaniel, he left home at the age of 13, about 1827, probably to go to school, as he appears to have been an educated man, as were others of John Reneau's children.

The next record we have of Nathaniel, or Nat, is on December 28, 1835, when he married Eliza Darwin Rawlings in Somerville, Tennessee. Eliza had been born in Edgecombe County, North Carolina, but later had been living in Grenada, Mississippi, where she had many kin. Nat and Eliza had two children: Sarah (Sallie) Eola Reneau, born at Somerville, 1 August, 1836, and William Edward Reneau, born December 23, 1842, after the family had moved to Grenada, Mississippi. Eliza may have died in childbirth; in any event, soon after her son was born.

When the Mexican War began, Nat went to Memphis Tennessee, and on June 9, 1846, joined the 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Tennessee Cavalry, Capt. Sneed's Company, as a Private to fight in the war. He was discharged on April 10, 1847, at Vera Cruz, Mexico, on a Surgeon's Certificate, his disability originating from disease contracted in the line of duty in Mexico (probably malaria). On June 2, 1847, Brigadier General Gideon Pillow signed a statement concerning Nat's Mexican War service, so Nat could be paid money due him. The Document states, in part: "Said N.S. Reneau ... is thirty years of age,<sup>2</sup> five feet eight inches high, fair complexion, blue eyes, dark hair, and by occupation a merchant."

In the 1850 Census of Mississippi, William Reneau, age 11, is shown living in Panola City (Batesville), Panola County, Mississippi, in the home of A.D. Patton, Sardis, his uncle (probably the husband of Eliza's sister).

On January 7, 1854, Nat, in a gracious reply to a letter from a Reneau female cousin whom he had not previously known, tells about his family; that he lived in Memphis for 16 years, mentions a miniature he had just received from his "little daughter", Sallie Eola, and remarked on her likeness to her "12 years lamented mother" (1842); that Sallie is a pupil at Franklin Female College at Holly

Springs, Mississippi, and will graduate "first of July next", a little over 14 years of age; that his "little son" is a pupil at Chalmers College, in his 13<sup>th</sup> year of age, "but will continue in college". Nat writes that Sallie is one of the most devout Episcopalians [Methodist] he has ever known" and as good a Whig", which, he states, fully accords with his own religious and political sentiments.<sup>4</sup>

When Sallie Eola Reneau graduated, she began a campaign to establish a state-supported institution for higher education of women in Mississippi, "equal in every respect to that which has been provided at the University of Mississippi for Men." Her petition had the endorsement of Governor McRae and was introduced in the Mississippi Legislature in January, 1856, as "An Act establishing a State Female College to be located in Yalabusha County". The Bill was approved February 20, 1856. However, no appropriation was made for the school.

In the winter of 1857, Sallie visited U.S. President Buchanan and presented him with a copy of her petition for a bill in the U.S. Congress to endow the Mississippi College with 500,000 acres of unsold public lands in Mississippi. Sallie read the petition to President Buchanan, who complimented Sallie and gave her "great encouragement". Congress did not act on the Bill, but it remained on the Congressional Calendar.

A Chancery Court Record, Coffeeville, Yalabusha County, Miss., shows that on August 17, 1857, N.S. Reneau was in general merchandise business in Grenada, Mississippi, with E.C. Penn. The entry also mentions N.S. Reneau's son, Edward.<sup>5</sup>

In 1862, the Civil War had begun, and Nathaniel S. Reneau was captured, apparently in New York City, by Union troops and interned as a prisoner of war in Fort Lafayette, New York City Harbor. He was not there long and was released on his Parole, his word that he would not bear arms against the Union. Upon his release, Nat went immediately to Tennessee and

<sup>1</sup> Cumberland County was later split and the part the Reneaus lived in became Clinton County.

<sup>2</sup> He would be 33 in July, 1847.

<sup>3</sup> The copy of the letter is discolored on one margin and part of the margin is damaged so that the first words or two of line are indecipherable.

<sup>4</sup> From the letter, it appears his correspondent was the daughter or descendant of Lewis Reneau of East Tennessee. Nat had accidentally met him in the Tennessee Senate at Nashville some years before.

<sup>5</sup> General Docket, Chancery Court 1872-1890 GWD, Coffeeville, Yalabusha County, Miss., Book 2, p. 352.

became a volunteer aide to Brigadier General R. W. Richardson, Commander of West Tennessee Forces, CSA. Nat kept his word: he did not bear arms.

Before March, 1864, young William Edward, age 21, had also joined the Confederate Army, first, as 2d Lieutenant with Co., I, 17<sup>th</sup> Tennessee Cavalry.<sup>6</sup> By March 5, 1864, he was a Captain and assistant-inspector-general on the Staff of General Richardson, stationed at Yazoo City, Mississippi.<sup>7</sup>

General Richardson wrote a letter, dated March 6, 1864, to Col. Coates, commanding the Union Forces at Yazoo City, regarding Confederate dead and casualties captured by Union troops. The General states: "Capt. W. E. Reneau, assistant inspector-general on my Staff, with escort of men and ambulance train, will bear this communication under flag of truce." (Col. Coates refused to release the Confederate casualties.)<sup>8</sup>

General Richardson wrote his report, March 7, 1864, of the battle with the Union troops on the Yazoo River. In the report, he states: "I cannot close this report without mentioning in terms of commendations the promptness to carry my orders and the gallant bearing throughout the day of Capt. W. E. Reneau, assistant inspector-general on my staff."

The General seems a busy letter-writer as, on April 23, 1864, he wrote a long, involved letter addressed to "His Excellency the President of the Confederate States" [Jefferson Davis], concerning the General's commission. In the letter, he refers to "N.S. Reneau, volunteer aide on my staff".

A unit in the West Tennessee Brigade was named the Reneau Company, for whom, I do not know; it may be that N.S. Reneau had recruited the men.

We do not know exactly what happened to William Edward Reneau. It appears he died in or soon after the War, whether from disease or wounds we do not know. The legend is that he was killed in action at the Battle of Chickamauga in East Tennessee, September 1863, but we see that he was still alive and very active in the Spring of 1864 in West Tennessee. I think the confusion arose from a letter Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau wrote May 18, 1924, to some kinsmen, in which he states that Nat's son "Thomas" was killed in action in the Battle of Chickamauga, while his, I.T.A.'s brother Thomas was fighting on the Union side. There may well have been a Thomas Reneau killed at Chickamauga, but Nat's son was named William Edward and we know he was living after that battle, but this version of Thomas Reneau spread in the Reneau families. William Edward Reneau died unmarried.

In any event, I find no more references to William Edward after the Civil War.

I do not find records of this family from 1864 to 1872. Obviously, the War had torn up their lives, as it had so

very many other people's. Nat would have had the grief of burying his only son, perhaps by the side of his wife in Batesville? Then he would have begun to repair his financial situation. As for Sallie, she resumed her mission to establish a state-supported college for women in Mississippi. Her activities for this over the years had brought the question to the people of Mississippi and resulted in the founding of the Mississippi State College for Women, which became a prestigious college in the South up to at least the time of World War II, to my knowledge. In addition to the usual college courses, the college had the reputation of also inculcating in the students the values of traditional Southern womanhood.

Sallie's reputation was established as an educator. A group of civic-minded citizens of Germantown, Tenn., near Memphis, wrote and asked her to come live at Germantown for a time and help them establish and organize a school there. Sallie went to Germantown, where she lived in the home of Postmaster and Mrs. Miller. The school was planned, organized, pupils enrolled, and Sallie returned to her home in Mississippi in July, 1878.

In 1878 the terrible Yellow Fever Epidemic broke out and swept across the South like wildfire. Germantown was one of the early areas struck. When Sallie heard about this, she went back immediately to Germantown, July 1878, to do whatever she could to help organize relief and to help with the victims. She also wrote news articles about the ravages of the epidemic, published in Tennessee and Mississippi newspapers, in an effort to obtain volunteers and aid for the stricken communities.

I have a copy of the last letter Sallie wrote to her father, dated September 28, 1878. It is in Sallie's handwriting (she was apparently left-handed). Excerpts here can show something of the great tragedy of the epidemic in only one small town, but this was repeated in thousands of towns and cities of the South.

"September 28, 1878. My dear Father, I sent you a postal card yesterday and six papers today, and I do not know that I could say more in a letter than I have said in the card and papers. ... I am very anxious to see frost<sup>9</sup> and be rid of all this dreadful excitement.

<sup>6</sup> *Tennesseans in the Civil War*, published by the State of Tennessee, listing units, Confederate and Union soldiers from Tennessee.

<sup>7</sup> See Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

<sup>8</sup> *The War of the Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I, volume XXXII, Part 1 – Reports, p. 329 and p. 285.

<sup>9</sup> Not known at the time, but yellow fever virus was carried by the anopheles mosquito.

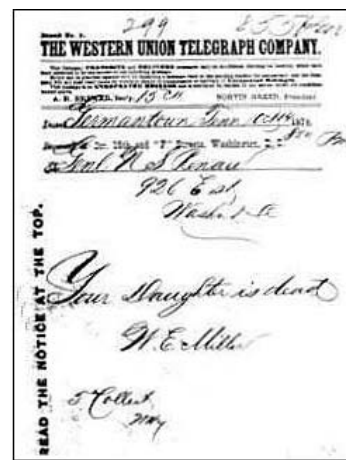
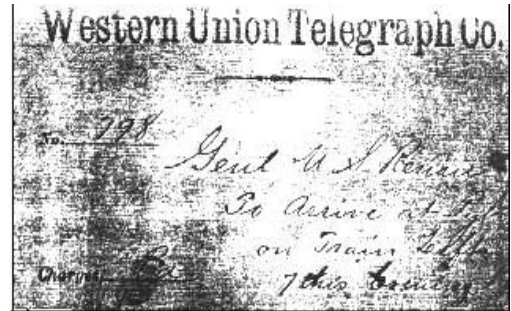
I am tired, I'm so tired of it. It has been two long months of continual fear and excitement, which is as much as human nerves can stand. If it had begun a month earlier, I don't believe there would now be a living man, woman or child in the whole section. There have been at least ten thousand deaths from this disease ... and it has scattered gloom and distress all over the land. ... Mrs. Bucter is gone; Mrs. Kent is gone, and I fear her husband will soon follow her. ... Two more of my good friends, Dr. McKay and Mrs. Gorman, will go soon; they are all three very, very sick. Mr. Edmonson is also sick. ... I have never felt so entirely helpless as now. Who is there to look to but God? God help us! And send us frost. ... There are now six sick ones in Mr. Hurt's house and he is reported to be dying. There are five sick at Mr. Gorman's and his wife reported dying; he buried his little daughter two days ago. Six at Dr. McKay's, and he can scarcely live. ... I am low spirited, distressed. After all, I had rather be here than at Batesville, I had rather die here. I am glad that I came. I will write again as soon as I can. Write. God bless you! Good night. Your affectionate child, S.E. Reneau

An article from an Ohio newspaper, probably Cincinnati, reads:

#### AN INCIDENT OF THE YELLOW FEVER

"The Pittsburg Evening Chronicle contains a very affecting episode relating to the Southern plague, which affects in the deepest degree a parent now in this city. But we will allow the Chronicle to tell the tale in its own language: 'On the arrival of the 8:11 train from Washington at the Union Depot in Pittsburg on the morning of the 15<sup>th</sup> instant, one of the Western Union Telegraph messengers stood in the doorway of the dining-room, holding in his hand an envelope addressed to General N.S. Reneau. The telegram was claimed by the anxious hand of a venerable looking gentleman in the shady paths of life, whose grief on learning of the death of his daughter, the only remaining member of his family, by yellow fever, at Germantown, Tenn., early this morning, can be better imagined that described. Miss Sallie Eola Reneau, niece of Rev. Dr. Reneau of Clinton Co., Ky., and of A.D. Patton, Tampa County, Miss., and cousin of Hon. Allen C. Thurman of Ohio, was making her temporary home at Germantown, as volunteer nurse and as historian of the ravages of the disease for the State of Mississippi as her published accounts and reports of the ravages of the disease and feeling comments on the death of friends now before us testify. She was a leading spirit in the organization and management of all relief and charitable movements of the place where she had voluntarily determined to do her best for those who suffered around her. The General, while on business in Washington City, received word of her illness through the postmaster at Germantown and was hastening to her side

when confronted with the announcement of her death. He telegraphed to have her remains tenderly laid away, and her effects taken care of until his arrival, which, now that there is nothing for him to go for, will not be until the fever has abated. The home of General Reneau is at Batesville, Miss.'"



A copy of the telegram delivered to Nathaniel Smith Reneau

There are two notices of Sallie's death, one in a Mississippi paper, no date, and one apparently from Commercial Appeal, Memphis, again no date.

The Mississippi paper: "The many friends of Miss Sallie Eola Reneau, of Mississippi, will be shocked to hear of her untimely death from the plague on the 14<sup>th</sup> instant, at Germantown, Tenn., where she has been temporarily residing. She was the daughter of General N.S. Reneau, of Batesville, Miss., fell in the meridian of life, and enjoyed for many years a great reputation in the South as one of its finest writers. She had devoted her life to the education of her sex, rich and poor, having been a distinguished scholar and educator.

"The Legislature of the State of Mississippi paid the highest tribute to her character and qualities by giving her name to the Reneau Female University of Mississippi, declaring her to be the first president of the same, and that State will always be proud of her, not only for her devotion to her sex in contributing her life to the elevation of women, but

also to her great self-denial and her Christian character displayed by remaining in the plague districts to aid and comfort the sick and dying.

“Of Miss Reneau, said Mississippi’s Senator Alcorn: ‘The State of Mississippi’s great educator, Christian, scholar, and artist, to the power of whose pen I, with due deference, bow.’

“The State of Mississippi, at the earliest session of her Legislature, should erect over her remains some monumental record worth of this great scholar and of the State of which she was proud to have been a daughter.”

From the Tennessee newspaper: “Gen. N.S. Reneau, of Batesville, Miss., is well-known in Washington in connection with Mexican affairs. He had large international interests there and for some months past has enjoyed close relations with the president and the Mexican Minister, in regard to diplomatic relations with that country. Most recently, the General has been notable for efforts for the relief of the unfortunate people of the South, but more especially for those of Mississippi. Every few days Gen. Reneau would exhibit a letter from his daughter, Miss Sallie Eola Reneau. He would use her eloquent and touching descriptions of the trouble that was around her, as his excuse for most urgent appeals for help; and now his fair correspondent and daughter herself is dead. There are no words by which we can express our regret for the loss of this gifted and useful young girl, or our sorrow over the affliction which has befallen our friend.” [Sallie Eola Reneau was 42 at the time of her death.]

Nat had been interested since the Mexican War in building railroads in Mexico and in Mexican silver. He had become friends with the President of Mexico, to whom he had presented his railroad plan. But Mexico, after the Mexican War, needed roads more than railroads, and there was no money to back railroads. Nat had formed a Syndicate in Washington, getting capitalists to invest in building Mexican railroads. The Mexican President had apparently given Nathaniel Smith Reneau the courtesy title of “General”, which would help in Washington with his work. There are two partial pages of a newspaper, possibly *The Monitor*, copies of which I have, dated May 23, 1880. Articles in the newspaper are on Panama, Costa Rica, England, the Mexican Minister to the U.S., Mexico, an anecdote about Mark Twain trying to establish a newspaper in Mendocino County, California. It also contains a long article headed “The Railroad Question – Another”, and reads: “*The Monitor* of the 18<sup>th</sup> inst. contains a communication from Gen. N.S. Reneau, the representative of a syndicate of the leading capitalists and railroad men in the United States, in which he proposes in the name of his associates a project for

railroad construction in Mexico.” Some of the associates mentioned are Jay Gould and Russel Sage of New York “of world-wide fame as millionaires”, Thos. A. Scott of Philadelphia, Railroad King; Jno. O. Brown, Governor of Tennessee, who inaugurated and completed the railroad system in Tennessee; Stanley Mathews, U.S. Senator from Ohio; and others.

A J. C. Guzman of Oaxaca, Mexico, wrote to Nathaniel in St. Louis on January 12, 1887, reporting on gold and silver mines Nat had asked him to check on, which he will try to secure for Nat “for your return”. Two Mexican Generals [whose names I cannot decipher] and Guzman’s wife “send you their compliments”.

Nathaniel, in low spirits after the death of his family, went to Europe and traveled in Spain and elsewhere. I cannot find dates for this trip, so it may be that Sr. Guzman was not referring just to Nat’s return to Mexico, but to America.

A frequent letter-writer was John (W. or M.) Butler of the Treasurer’s Office, Mission of Methodist Episcopal Church in Mexico City.<sup>10</sup> He wrote on August 5, 1888, telling Nat bad news about how much money he would have to put up, \$800,000 to \$250,000 [sic] on property in Guanajuato. Mr. Butler remarks on “when you return in September, trust you had a pleasant trip home”

On January 2, 1889 [mis-dated 1888], this same John Butler wrote a letter to Berry Jordan Reneau, telling him of Nathaniel’s death on December 5, 1888, from pneumonia, in Mexico City, and that Butler had immediately notified “Rev. Doctor Reneau”,<sup>11</sup> also “our mutual friend Mr. Miller of St. Louis”, and the American Consul in Mexico City. The letter tells that Nathaniel had come to Mexico City in December and, while waiting to arrange some business with the Mexican Government, contracted a severe cold that turned into pneumonia. Butler says he had to leave the city and, when he returned, Nathaniel was in the hospital. Butler arrived at the hospital about 5 minutes before Nathaniel died. N.S. Reneau was laid to rest in the American Cemetery, Mexico City, and Butler suggests a gravemarker be put at his grave. Butler’s letter also tells us that for some two years Nathaniel had been interested in securing a concession for gold mines in the State of Oaxaca, which he had under bond, to expire February 1, 1889, “if none of his friends come

<sup>10</sup> Letters from Butler are typewritten, but some letters are damaged and some letters are confusing; for example: the u’s look like v’s, while the v’s also look like u’s, etc.

<sup>11</sup> The telegram had been returned to Mr. Butler; Isaac Tipton Reneau had died.

down before then”; otherwise, the property would be lost, together with several hundred dollars invested in it; that Nathaniel’s last trip was to secure concessions in Guanajuato, which had now been granted. “Your brother represented a Syndicate in Chicago, of which Samuel Chandler ... is President” and that Chandler is expected in Mexico soon.



The tombstone of Nathaniel Reneau reads:

GENERAL  
N.S. RENEAU  
BORN  
July 10, 1814  
DIED  
Dec 5 1888

As to Nat’s possessions, Butler writes that he has in his safe (at the Mission) \$100 American cash, and \$200 in checks sent by Mr. Chandler, which were sold at 36.25% [exchange rate], a gold watch and chain that had belonged to Sallie and returned to Nathaniel after her death, \$20 in American gold, and \$7 in Mexican silver, “all these, except expense for sickness and burial, still in my safe at the mission”. Butler says he paid out for Nathaniel’s hotel bill, physician, and burial, telegrams to U.S. \$125.69 Mexican money, “leaving a trifle over \$200 American money” still in Butler’s hands, “which Mr. Chandler may consider his”. He also has Nathaniel’s small valise, which contains one or two changes of clothing and “quite a number” of papers. The letter suggests the gravemarker may be paid for out of the money in Butler’s hands. Mrs. M. E. Stillings<sup>12</sup> wrote a letter to John Butler on July 18, 1889. I do not have a copy of her letter, but, on July 26, 1889, Butler replied to her letter, addressed to her at Sparta, White County, Tennessee, acknowledging her letter to him of July 18. Butler enclosed in his letter to her a copy of the letter he had written to Berry Reneau on January 2, 1889. Butler explains to Mrs. Stillings that Nathaniel’s property could not be released to any one of the family without written authorization from “all the heirs” to release the property to one of them; that, if this if not done, he will have to turn the property over to the American Consul in Mexico, who will send it to Washington, where the family will have to claim it and pay a commission. Butler strongly

suggests the family send an authorization to Mexico City, where the only expense would be mailing charges to whomever the heirs designated the property be sent. Butler goes on to say that Nathaniel’s mining interests “fell through” because the time to exercise them expired. His letter enclosed a picture of Nathaniel’s gravemarker, which Butler had chosen and had erected at Nathaniel’s grave. He says he has sent several copies of the photograph to “Barry” and can send more if others want them, which can be charged against the effects that are still in his hands. Butler writes that Berry seems angry and insists Butler send everything to him but that he cannot without the signed authorization from all the heirs.

Mrs. M. E. Stillings received this letter and, at the bottom of the copy of Butler’s letter to Berry Jordan Reneau, Mrs. Stillings wrote a letter to her brother I.T.A. Reneau, dated May 3, 1992(?). The copy I have of her handwritten letter is faint, difficult to read, but appears to be about some of the family should try to obtain Nathaniel’s property.

I have a copy of a letter from Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, son of Rev. Isaac Tipton Reneau, dated May 18, 1924, to three Reneau kin who were planning to go to Washington to visit Nat’s grave (mistakenly thinking the grave was in the “National Cemetery in Washington City”) and see if they could recover Nat’s belongings. I.T.A. Reneau writes to Mrs. Mary C. Moss Bonham Texas, Joseph Reneau, “address unknown” [Bowling Green, Ky., son of Millard Fillmore Reneau], and Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Roland of Hobart, Oklahoma, [Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland, granddaughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau] urging them not to waste their money going to Washington. That he had gone to Mexico about 16 years before [circa 1908], visited Nathaniel’s grave and inserted a note in a “crevice” in the slab covering” the grave. I.T.A. Reneau writes that he had gone to one of the mine sites about 250 miles southwest of Mexico City, as far as cars could go, then by foot. So his advice to these kinsmen is not to waste their money going to Washington, D.C., and to stop payment to any attorney or other person to investigate, “for it is money thrown away”.

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The story of the Nathaniel Smith Reneau family is a tragic one, but it is also the story of great achievement through the efforts of one woman, Sallie Eola Reneau, to establish the Mississippi State College for Women, now the Mississippi University for Women, the oldest state- supported college for women in the United States today.

<sup>12</sup> Margaret Eunice Stillings, daughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau, niece of Berry Jordan Reneau, Nathaniel Smith Reneau, and other children of John and Elizabeth (Thurman) Reneau.

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In 1929, in honor of Sallie Eola Reneau, (photo on left) the State of Mississippi built Reneau Hall on the campus of Mississippi State College for Women. The building has been renovated to bring it up-to-date for modern usage; the four-story building underwent a \$2.7 million renovation in 1998. A formal re-Dedication Ceremony was held there April 17, 1999, the

Hall built “in honor of Miss Sallie Reneau, pioneer advocate of state-supported higher education for women in Mississippi”. The Program tells us that “Reneau [Hall] was built during a 10-year construction program initiated in 1920 when the Legislature appropriated a grand total of \$1,545,000.”

In 1986, Reneau Hall was designated a Mississippi Landmark and listed on the National Register of Historic Places.



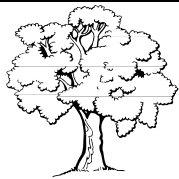
RENEAU HALL

Mississippi University for Women

Copies of documents relating to General Nathaniel Smith Reneau, Sallie Eola Reneau, and Capt. William Edward Reneau in Dollye Elliott’s possession:

- Company Muster Rolls of 1<sup>st</sup> Regiment Tennessee Volunteers (Mexican War) for June 15 to October 31, show N.S. Reneau joined June 9, 1846, at Memphis.
- Company Muster Roll of Capt. Sneed’s Co., 1 Regiment Tennessee Cavalry (Mexican War), March and April 1847, showing discharge of Nathaniel S. Reneau on Surgeon’s Certificate April 10, 1847.
- Copies of statements, etc., relating to N.S. Reneau’s application for Mexican War payment due him, including statement of General Gideon Pillow, CSA.
- Handwritten letter of N.W. Reneau dated January 7, 1854, to an unnamed Reneau cousin he had not previously known, telling about his family, leaving home at 13, etc.
- Copy of title page and Pages 328-329 and 382-385 of *The War of Rebellion: A Compilation of the Official Records of the Union and Confederate Armies*, Series I – Vol. XXXII, Part 1 – Reports (Washington: Government Printing Office, 1891), re Captain W.E. Reneau.
- Letter of General R.V. Richardson to His Excellency the President of the Confederate States, dated April 23, 1864, in which he names N.S. Reneau as a volunteer aide on his Staff.

- Handwritten (last) letter of Sallie Eola Reneau to her father, dated September 28, 1878, from Germantown, Tenn., telling of the tragedies of the Great 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic as it was in Germantown, Tennessee.
- Copies of excerpts from a newspaper. The name of the paper is missing, but the copy bears the date of July 23, 1880, No. 48, and has a long article about N.W. Reneau and his syndicate to build railroads in Mexico.
- Handwritten short letter in Spanish to N.S. Reneau, December 6, 1885? (not clear), from Mier Y. Teran of Oazaca, Mexico, with English handwritten translation by unknown translator (N.S. Reneau?) attached. It is mainly a short social letter.
- Typed letter to General N.S. Reneau in St. Louis, MO, from J.C. Guzman, Oaxaca, Mexico, dated February 12, 1887, in response to Nat’s letter. Subject is silver and gold mines in Mexico. Guzman’s wife and two Mexican Generals (whose names I cannot decipher) send their compliments to the General.
- Typed letter of John M. (W?) Butler, Treasurer’s Office, Methodist Episcopal Mission, Mexico City, dated August 25, 1888, to “My Dear Friend” [N.S. Reneau], acknowledging receipt of his telegram, re mines, property, costs, etc.
- Letter to Berry Jordan Reneau [“Barry”], Albany, Kentucky, from John Butler, dated January 2, 1888 [sic; 1889], telling him of death of his brother Nathaniel Smith Reneau on December 5, 1888, in Mexico City, of his telegram to I.T. Reneau, N.S. Reneau’s last illness, death, burial, his possessions left with Butler, suggesting erection of gravemarker, of steps necessary for family to recover Nat’s possessions from Mexico.
- On bottom of copy of this letter is a handwritten letter from Mrs. M. E. Stillings to her brother I.A. Reneau, dated May 3, ?1892, apparently about claiming Nathaniel’s possessions, but the copy is rather faint and I am unable to read the handwriting.
- Letter of John Butler, dated July 26, 1889, to Mrs. M. E. Stillings, Sparta, White County, Tennessee, in response to her letter to Butler. In his response, he sends her a copy of his letter to Berry Reneau, dated January 2, 1889, (above) and writes, again that property of Nathaniel cannot be sent to any one member of the Reneau family without the written consent of all the heirs; recommends this as, otherwise, the assets will have to be deposited with the American Consul in Mexico City and be sent to Washington, etc.
- Letter of Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, Broken Bow, Nebraska, dated May 18, 1924 to Mrs. Mary C. Moss, Bonham, Texas, Joseph Reneau, [Bowling Green, Ky.], and Mr. and Mrs. W.W. Roland, Hobart, Oklahoma, urging them to save their money and not go to Washington, D.C., as planned to visit Nat’s grave and try to recover his property there, that I.T.A., himself, had gone to Mexico 16 years before, visited Nathaniel’s grave and looked into his assets and mining property there.
- Original of program to Dedication of Reneau Hall at the University of Mississippi for Women on April 17, 1999, with some history of the Hall and it’s erection in honor of Miss Sallie Eola Reneau, 1929.



# Reno/Reneau Review

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## 5<sup>th</sup> All Reno/Reneau Reunion

What a wonderful time Reunion Attendees had! It was especially nice to see “old” cousins, and to meet many “new” ones! Thank you to Brenda and Gary Rose, Staunton, VA; Don and Mary Reno, South Riding, VA; Nancy Reno Seiler, Frederick, MD; Charlie and Linda Reneau, Russell, KY for hosting such a memorable event. Even with the economy there were about 90 attendees! While we don’t have the final figures in for the Silent Auction and Reunion expenses, we know that it was a successful event! We want to especially thank those who were unable to attend and still sent items for the Auction and Raffle: Among this group are several professionals who shared their products and artworks with us: **Dick Reno** of Chateau LaFayette Reneau Wines, Hector, NY for the many bottles of award winning wines ([www.clrwine.com](http://www.clrwine.com)); **Jamie Reno**, Singer and Songwriter and Guitarist, of Southern California, for his CD ([www.jamierenoreno.com](http://www.jamierenoreno.com)); **Jim and Pat Reno**, Mayville, NY, noted Pottery Artists for the beautiful pottery-ware ([www.renopottery.com](http://www.renopottery.com)); **Jill Reno**, Houston, TX, noted Jewelry Designer of exquisite jewelry and jewelry to the stars! ([www.jillrenocollection.com](http://www.jillrenocollection.com)); and **Ronnie Reno**, of Hendersonville, TN, popular Bluegrass Musician for CD’s and DVD’s ([www.ronniereeno.com](http://www.ronniereeno.com)). If your name and/or website is not listed, please let me know. We have so many talented Reno/Reneaus, I am thinking it would be a great series for the *Reno/Reneau Review*!

We will continue to focus on the Staunton Reunion in future issues...if you have photos to share, please send or email and I will include them.

At the business meeting it was decided to plan our next Reunion to be near the **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Memorial in June 2011** to coincide with the Reenactment of the Little Bighorn Battle. It will be exciting to have the reunion during the summer when more children and younger families will be able to attend. This is a perfect vacation spot with so much history within reach—such as Devils Tower National Monument in WY and Mt Rushmore in South Dakota...and many other areas of interest! Charlie and Linda Reneau, Russell, KY; Gene Reneau, Amarillo, TX; Charlie and Anita Daniels, Vancouver, WA are among those who will be hosting the event! If you would like to help, please contact the *Review*.

## General Jesse Lee Reno

by Anita Reneau Daniels

Since we drove from Vancouver, WA to Staunton, VA to attend the Reno/Reneau Reunion, we had the opportunity to stop along the way to visit various National Monuments, Parks, and other historic sites. On our list was to visit Gettysburg and other Civil War Sites. Being a Reno descendant, I was especially interested in going to South Mountain, MD to visit the area where Jesse Lee Reno, General in the Union Army was killed at the Battle of South Mountain in September 1862. This involved going on some of the back roads – We did find Reno Monument Rd, however, we didn’t find the Monument. The next best thing was, after we returned to Vancouver, I wrote to the Boonsboro Historical Society to learn more about the monument. George Messner answered my email and was kind enough to send photos and directions to the Monument, should we get back east again, or to share with others looking for the Monument. George Messner wrote: “...Indeed there is a monument in honor of him. The monument site is in Washington County only a few feet from the Frederick County line. From the town of Middletown, Main Street going North turns into the Old National Pike (Maryland Alternate Rt #40) toward Boonsboro. About 3-4 miles as you approach South Mountain you would turn left or west onto Fox Gap Road. Proceed until a stop sign comes to Reno Monument Road. Then turn right or North & proceed until you approach Lambs Knoll Road on the left. The Monument & other Civil Markers are located here.”



Mr Messner also sent along a photo of the Monument, which we are sharing here.

See related article about Jesse Lee Reno on page 2, as well as an article about his son, Jesse Wilford Reno on page 7.



JESSE LEE RENO  
by  
William F. McConnell  
presented at:  
Middletown, MD  
Redication of Reno Monument  
16 Sep 1989

At the outset, I would like to thank all of you who were involved in conceiving and carrying out the planning for this weekend to honor a true American hero – Jesse Lee Reno. I want to especially thank you for inviting me to be a part of these ceremonies. Truly, it is a sentimental time for me. I think any historian who tries to become the biographer of someone sooner or later, if he is doing his job, begins to feel a close affinity to that person. In the several years that I have been researching the life of this great man, I think I have learned to know something of his character. Certainly, I have developed a deep admiration for him.

Also, I have come to feel that, in so many ways, he has been overlooked by history – for whatever reasons I don't know. Perhaps it was because he was killed so early in the war and did not get the publicity that a lot of other Civil War leaders got. Maybe because it was because his death was overshadowed by the momentous events of three days later at Antietam. In any case, little other than brief biographical sketches have been written about him in succeeding years. Oh, it is true that at the close of the Civil War he had a few places named after him, but then he quickly faded into the misty past. In my area, in a somewhat haphazard manner, central pacific officials, including Leland Stanford, patriotically gave names of Civil War heroes to Railroad mileage posts across the desert. One of those posts grew into the city I'm proud to call home: Reno, Nevada.

So, who was the real Jesse Reno? He was born on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1823, in what was then Wheeling, Virginia – now, of course, Wheeling, West Virginia. Jesse was a fifth generation American-born Reno. His ancestor, Lewis Reynaud came from France to America via London in the year 1700 and settled in Prince William County, Virginia. Virtually all written accounts I have seen state that the family name was originally “Renault”: spelled like the automobile firm.

However, thanks to the genealogy research of Mr. Roger Reno, here with us this weekend, there seems no doubt that the name was Reynaud, R E Y N A U D. Jesse was one of seven children born to Lewis Thomas Reno and Rebecca Quinby.

Around 1832, when Jesse was 9 years old, his family moved to Franklin in the western part of Pennsylvania, where his father was the proprietor of a hotel. Jesse lived in Franklin until he was nineteen and received a good education while growing up there. He was described then as having a “handsome countenance, medium stature and being brave in action”.

In 1842, Jesse received an appointment to West Point, entering the Military Academy on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. His classmates were to become an illustrious group. They included George Pickett, of Gettysburg fame, and George McClellan, future commander of the Union Army and contender for the presidency against Lincoln's second term. There were a number of others who would achieve fame, most especially there was his good friend and fellow Western Virginian, Thomas Jonathan Jackson, whose fame would come later under the name of “Stonewall Jackson”. Tom Jackson and Jesse Reno's paths were destined to cross several times before they each died during the Civil War. Also, While at the Academy, Jesse would develop a close and lasting friendship with a lower classman named Ambrose Burnside. As a Cadet, Jesse was an excellent student and was described by one who knew him as: rather playful in disposition – he loved his jokes, his studies and his classmates”.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1846, Jesse Lee Reno graduated from West Point, 8<sup>th</sup> in his class of 59 men. Almost immediately after graduation and commissioning, Lt. Reno was sent off to fight in the war with Mexico. There, he would be twice promoted for “gallant and meritorious service”. During this period, he served as an artillery officer commanding a battery of howitzers. Reno served in just about all of the actions in Mexico, starting with the siege of Vera Cruz and the Battle of Cerro Gordo. It was at Cerro Gordo that he received his first battlefield promotion to Brevet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. He was to go on and participate in the fighting at Contreras, Churnabusco and Chapultepec, where he was again brevetted – this time to the rank of Captain. He also received a

*We Remember....*

***Alyce Jane DeWeese-Reneau***  
***Sep 7, 1931 –Jun 15, 2009***



Wilbur Eugene Jr., and  
Alyce Jane DeWeese  
Reneau

We send our love and prayers to the family of Alyce Jane DeWeese Reneau age 77 of Abilene, who passed away Monday, June 15, 2009 at Sears Mesa Springs Nursing Home in Abilene, TX.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 29 at Hawley Church of Christ.

Alyce DeWeese was born September 7, 1931 in Bonham, Texas to the late Burt Lee and Nora Gunn DeWeese. She was raised in Denison and graduated in 1949 from Denison High School. She attended Abilene Christian College the school years of 49--50.

On October 21, 1950 she married Wilbur Eugene Reneau, Jr in San Angelo. Mr. Reneau was employed by Core Laboratories and worked in the mid-west part of the United States for several years. They lived in Farmington, NM for several years and then to Casper, Wyoming during his employment with Core Lab. . In 1965 when her husband decided to enter the ministry, they moved back to Farmington, NM. Alyce assumed her role as a minister's wife in Farmington, then in El Paso and then in Carlsbad, NM. They retired and moved to Hawley in 2001.

Wilbur Eugene "Gene" Reneau passed away on December 12, 2006. Alyce continued to live in the family home until her health prevented her from doing so. She was also preceded in death by her granddaughter Melissa Lee Stricklin and 14 sisters and brothers of the Durbin and DeWeese families.

Alyce is survived by two daughters Lee Ann and husband Matt Stricklin of Hawley, Texas, Jean Marie and husband Tom Stover of Lone Tree, CO, son Tipton and wife Stephanie Reneau and their two daughters Morgan Rachel and Ashton Leigh Reneau of Fort Collins, CO.; sister-in-law Marie Reneau Knight (husband, Darrell) and sister-in-law Dorothy DeWeese; and numerous nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews.

Alyce's Reneau heritage was through her husband, Gene: Wilbur Eugene Reneau Sr., Tipton Moore, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

*We Remember....*

***Selma Marie Dahl Reneau***  
***Nov 8, 1917 –Jun 27, 2009***



Windell and Selma Reneau  
1948

Our condolences are sent to the family of Selma Marie Dahl Reneau, who passed away Saturday, June 27, 2009 in Amarillo, TX. She had been a resident of Seville Estate Assisted Living Center. Services were held June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Faith Lutheran Church in

Spearman with the Rev. Charles Meyer, pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran

Church in Amarillo, officiating. Burial was in Hansford County Cemetery by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of Spearman. Selma was born on Nov 8, 1917 in the Oslo, TX community near Gruver, to John O. Dahl and Jensine K. Rasmussen Dahl. John and Jensine were immigrants from Norway and Denmark, respectively. Selma was baptized and confirmed at Oslo Lutheran Church. Services at that time were conducted in the Norwegian language. Selma attended public schools in Oslo and Gruver, then attended college at Clifton Junior College in Clifton and Amarillo Business College in Amarillo. During World War II, she worked at Hansford County ASCS office, and later was a carrier for the Amarillo Globe-News. Selma served as Hansford County treasurer for 12 years, retiring in 1978. Selma was also a charter member of Faith Lutheran Church in Spearman and served many positions on the church council over the years.

Selma married James Windell Reneau on Oct 12, 1948 in Spearman, TX at the Church of Christ. The couple had four children, Willie Preston, Windell Eugene "Gene", Linda Marie and John Raymond. James Windell Reneau passed away on Aug 1, 1965 in Spearman. Selma's Reneau heritage through her husband is: James Windell Reneau, James Garfield, John Mulkey, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Selma is survived by her three sons and daughter: Willie and wife Cindy their son Kenneth Windell of Tomball, TX; Gene his daughter Kristina Marie of Amarillo TX; John and wife Becca their son Ian Thomas and daughter Riley Jordan of Wichita Falls; Linda and husband Mike Short of White Deer, TX their two children James Michael and wife Brandi their son James Windell of Amarillo, TX; and daughter Jensine Kristine Short Baker and husband Cory Baker of Ft Worth, TX. She is also survived by three sisters, Ingeborg Sogn of Guymon, OK; Betsy Ward of Gruver, TX and Doris Schibler of El Dorado, AR.

*We Remember....*

**Randall Marvin Campbell**

**June 13, 1927 – June 22, 2009**

We send our condolences to the family of Marvin Emmett Campbell, who passed away June 22, 2009 in Brecksville, OH. Marvin was born in Ft. Smith Arkansas on June 13, 1927 to Marvin Emmett Campbell and Margaret Lillian Gallaher. Randall was the oldest in the family, with four additional siblings completing the family: Richard, John, Margaret and Cindy.

Randall joined the Merchant Marines near the end of WWII and made one trip with his father who had a Chief Engineer License and sailed all through the war.



On Sept 2, 1950 Randall married the love of his life, Florence. About a week later, on Sept 10, 1950, Randall was drafted into the Army. He served two years in the Korean War.

Randall, in the Reneau Book of Memories, shared that he grew up in Machine Shops

and at about age 26 he went to night school. He wrote, "Next thing I knew I spend the next 40 years in the Fluid Power Industry: Salesman, Sales Manager, and then VP of Sales." Randall retired at age 66, and noted he loved to play golf, mow the grass and go to casinos.

Randall is survived by his wife Florence "Tunney," daughter Allison J. Meinhold (Andrew) and Scott R. Campbell (Kimberly); grandchildren Stacy Girves, Rebecca Campbell and



Randall Campbell Family  
Scott, Randall, Florence, Allison

Jonathan and Benjamin Meinhold; great grandson Gus Girves; siblings Richard Campbell, John Campbell, Susan Cunningham. He was preceded in death by his sister, Cindy Greene.

A memorial service was held at Brecksville United Methodist Church on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. Rev. Karen Oehl officiating. The family suggests memorials to Seasons of Life Hospice, 9511 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, 44130.

Randall Marvin Campbell's Reneau heritage is: Marvin Emmett Campbell, Laura Alice Reneau Campbell, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

*We Remember....*

**Wayne Arnold Moad**

**Oct 14, 1934 – Sep 14, 2009**



We reach out in love to the family of Wayne Arnold Moad, who passed away Sept 14, 2009 in Odessa, TX after a long battle with diabetes. He went to be with the Lord at 4:45AM.

Wayne was born Oct. 24, 1934, in Clinton, OK to Fred and Lena Moad. He graduated from Clinton High School and was married in Cordell, OK on May 31, 1958, to his lifelong love, Koleta L. Bauman, daughter of William Wayne H. Bauman and Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman. Wayne attended college at Southwestern Oklahoma State where he received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Industrial Arts. He served his country in the Army, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant before receiving an Honorable Discharge. He attended Texas A&M where he received a certification for Vocational Industrial Education and Sul Ross State University where he received a Masters of Education, Mid-Management as well as certification in Supervision and Superintendency.

Wayne and Koleta moved to Odessa in 1959, where he later began his teaching career at Crockett Jr. High, teaching math. In 1967, he moved to Permian High School where he taught math for four years before finishing his 30-year career as the Industrial Cooperative Training Coordinator. Wayne's lifelong passion was to educate and inspire young people, especially the youth at his church and his students. His hobbies included photography, clock making, Permian Football, Jackalopes Hockey and travel. Wayne proudly worked alongside his son as a Police Volunteer from 1993 to 2007. He worked in church his entire life. He was a Sunday school superintendent for many years and served in the youth group of his church for most of his life. He served as a trustee and deacon of the church at Temple Baptist Church and most recently was a charter member of Life-Change Baptist Church, which he attended until his passing.



The photo on the left, taken about 1973, shows Wayne, Koleta, and their children, Chuck and Traci.

Wayne Arnold Moad is survived by his bride of 51 years, Koleta Moad of Odessa; son, Chuck Moad and his wife Angie of Odessa; daughter, Traci and

her husband Major Jason Miller, M.D. (USAF) of San Antonio; grandchildren, Jennifer White and her husband

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*We Remember....*

**Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood**

**Apr 24, 1938 – Oct 3, 2009**

Our dear friend, and one of the original Reno/Reneau Family Reunion attendees, Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood, 71, of North Little Rock, died Saturday, October 3, 2009. Our love and prayers are with his family.



Bennett was born on Sunday, April 24, 1938 in Washington D.C. and was a resident of North Little Rock for 29 years. Bennett was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh and Elberta Wood and a brother, Raleigh Edward Wood. He is survived by his devoted wife Margie of 49 years, son Clark and his wife Michelle of Sherwood, son Jon and his wife Lisa of North Canton, OH and daughter Carol (Percy) and her husband Bob of Texarkana, TX and by his 9 grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Meagan and Bennett Allen Wood, Avery, Merin, Jonathan Jacob, and Claire Wood and Morgan, Jay Bennett and Lillie Kate Percy. Mr. Wood is also survived his beloved nieces and nephews Raleigh, Joe, Andy and Marcus Wood and their mother Opal Wood, all of MS, along with Linda Branum of Sullivan, MO, Janice Trice of North Little Rock, Paul Bolls of Columbia, MO, Lisa Arterbury of El Paso, TX and Robin Vaughn of Los Cruces, NM.



Bennett & Margie  
2003 Reunion  
San Antonio, TX

Bennett's Reneau ancestry came through the maternal side of his family: Cynthia Elberta Bennett Wood, Lula Belle Stillings Bennett, Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reneau, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Mr. Wood had many talents, was intelligent, smart, musical, artistic and athletic however, he was most talented at being a loving, generous, involved and fun husband, father, "Popsie" and "Uncle Bennett". He was a graduate of Harding University, where he met his wife, played on the first intercollegiate basketball team in 1957. He remained active at Harding, serving on the President's Council for many years. He had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh, even when self directed. When his children were young, he coached youth football and baseball. He had such innovative ideas, along with an ability to make team sports fun and an affinity for motivating young boys that they begged to be on one of his teams. He teamed with Clark and Jon to play in Father/Son tennis tournaments, once winning the Arkansas Father/Son Championship.

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*We Remember....*

**Lorenzo Dow Day, Jr.**

**Feb 16, 1913 – Oct 12, 2009**

We have received news that Lorenzo Dow Day, well known "cousin" at our Reno/Reneau Reunions passed away Oct 12, 2009 at Highland Springs Retirement Community



Lorenzo Day  
2004 Reunion  
Austin TX

in Dallas, TX. Services were held on Oct 15, 2009 at Cooper-Sorrells Chapel in Bonham, TX. Terry Maze officiated the service. Interment followed at Forest Grove Cemetery.

Lorenzo's Reneau lineage starts with his mother: Mary Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles

Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Lorenzo Day was born on February 16, 1913 to Lorenzo Dow Day, Sr "L.D." and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day near Floyd, Hunt County, Texas. He was educated at the Floyd School, Wesley College in Greenville, Texas and The University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, June 1935. He married May Bell Lehman in 1933, now deceased. Two children were born to that union, son William Howard Day, now deceased, and daughter Mary Ellen (Day) Walker of Lewisville. He is survived by beloved wife Mattie of Dallas.

He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946 and was discharged as a Lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Naval Reserve. His entire professional life with the exception of one year teaching at Southern Methodist University and the time spent in the Military Service was spent in the design, fabrication and erection of structural steel.



He was a life long member of the Methodist Church, a member of the Lions Club, Texas and National Societies of Professional Engineers, Welding Society, Masonic Order, Scottish Rite, Hella Temple Shrine, Legion of Honor, Top of Dallas Shrine Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and a life member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association. He retired in 1975 as Chief Engineer for General Steel Company of Fort Worth, Texas. He spent his years of retirement in Telephone, TX and Dallas, TX.

Lorenzo is also survived by his brother Clyde W. Day of Kerrville, TX, Three grandchildren-- Valerie Walker Ralston of Carrollton, Daniel Day of Austin, and Diane Day Henke of San Antonio, 4 great grandchildren-Nora and Thomas Day of Austin, and Krystal and Mariah Henke of San Antonio, and step-daughter, Marcy Crites of Dallas.

In Lieu of flowers please send donations to: St. Michael's Hospice, 10214 Inwood Rd. Dallas, TX 75229, or charity of your choice.

***We Remember....***  
***Stanley Ewing Reneau***  
***Jun 3, 1918 – Dec 7, 2009***



We extend our sympathy to the family of Stanley Reneau, who passed away on Dec 7, 2009 at his home in Glasgow, KY. Stanley was born in Barren County, the son of the late Isaac Smith Reneau and Neva Moore Reneau.

Stanley's Reneau ancestry is: Isaac Smith Reneau; Joseph Wickliff, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. He and many of his family attended the All Reno/Reneau Reunion in 2006 at Dale Hollow State Park near Burkesville, KY. A high point of the reunion was meeting the Glasgow branch of Reneaus.



2006 All Reno/Reneau Reunion

Stanley on the left is joined by l-r: grandson Jason, sons Fred and Larry; grandson Toby holding great-grandsons Alec and Isaac.

Stanley was a lifelong farmer. He met and married Edna Irene Bailey in Glasgow, KY. There were three sons born to the couple: Fred, Billy and Larry. Edna Reneau passed away on Feb 3, 2002. Stanley and Edna were members of the Columbia Avenue Church of Christ.

Stanley is survived by two sons: Larry Reneau and wife Debbie and Fred Reneau and wife Debbie, all of Glasgow; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Reneau Cardwell, Robin Reneau, Chase Reneau, Dusty Reneau, Jason Reneau, Jonathan Reneau and Julie Reneau Miller; and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Edna, he was preceded in death by son, Billy Reneau; grandson, Toby Reneau; three brothers, Lawrence, Lance and Garlan Reneau; and three sisters, Margaret Alexander, Arnettie McGuire and Eldean Kingrey.

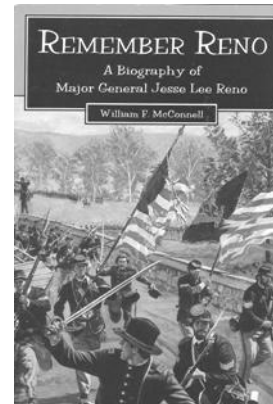
Funeral services were 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, at A.F. Crow & Son Funeral Home with burial in Happy Valley Memorial Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of memorial contributions to Columbia Avenue Church of Christ Memorial Fund, PO Box 1793, Glasgow KY 42142.

***We Remember....***  
***William McConnell***  
***Jan 4, 1021 – Dec 1, 2009***

Historian, author, and retired military officer, William (Bill) McConnell passed away Dec 1, 2009 in Reno, NV after battling cancer for more than 25 years.

Bill used his 30-year experience as a military intelligence officer to bring



to life the exploits of Civil War hero, General Jesse Lee Reno in the book, Remember Reno. As there is no "blood lineage" to the Reno/Reneau family, Bill was proclaimed an "Honorary Reno/Reneau" and was presented with an "Adoption Certificate" to the Reno/Reneau family in America. The event took place during a Reno City Council Meeting on July 12,

2006, noting the city of Reno, NV was named for General Jesse Lee Reno. Bill's book was also cited as an inspiration for the erection of a statue of General Reno in Powning Park in 2006.

On Sept 16, 1989, Bill was a guest speaker at the Redication of the Jesse Lee Reno Monument at Fox's Gap at South Mountain, MD. We thank Bill's family for sharing his speech with us to be reprinted in the RenoReneau Review. (See page 2)

Bill and his wife, Louise, retired to Reno in April 1976 following Bill's 34 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Bill met his wife of 65 years, then Louise Teagarden, at a USO dance during World War II. They had two children together, Carley Ann McConnell and Timothy Scott McConnell, an airline pilot and retired Lt. Col. in the Air Force Reserve. Bill was also a proud grandfather of James Christopher Smith, Jennifer Louise Haak, William Paul Smith, Jenny McConnell Frederick and Christopher Scott McConnell and great-grandfather of Christopher Daniel Haak, Chyenne Mary Haak, Hailey Marie Haak, and Emily Louise Smith.

Funeral services were held at Walton's Sierra Chapel (Walton's Funeral Home), 875 W. Second Street on Monday the 7th of December at 3 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to Veterans Guest House at 880 Locust St., Reno, NV 89502 or [www.veteransguesthouseuse.org](http://www.veteransguesthouseuse.org).

## Jesse Wilford Reno—Inventor



Jesse Wilford Reno was born on Aug 4, 1861 to Jesse Lee Reno and Mary Bradley Beanes Cross Reno at Ft Leavenworth, KS. He joined two older brothers. Two other siblings had died in early childhood. Jesse Wilford received a degree of mining engineer from Lehigh University in 1883, and became noted in his career as an inventor. Jesse

married Marie Xenia Hagenah on January 15, 1901. The couple had no children. Jesse died Jan 2, 1947.

Let's fast forward to today to Akron, OH and The Inventors National Hall of Fame. This organization honors the women and men responsible for the great technological advances that make human, social and economic progress possible. One of those attending the Awards Program was Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood (a Reno/Reneau descendant). Looking at the Inductee list, he found that Jesse Wilford Reno was inducted posthumously in 2007. There were no descendants attending to receive the Award, so it remains at the Inventors Hall of Fame. More information about the Inventors Hall of Fame may be found at their Website: [www.invent.org](http://www.invent.org). Jesse's contribution to the invention of the "Endless Conveyor or Elevator is described."

The following is from Remember Reno: A Biography of Major General Jesse Lee Reno: "The youngest of Jesse Reno's children, Jesse Wilford, may have achieved the most fame of all. Born in 1861, he became a prominent engineer and inventor. In 1891 he perfected a plan for the construction of subways in New York City. Later he was to be known as "the man who saved New York City from the elevated." Jesse Wilford also had the distinction of being the first man to build an electric railroad in the South. He went on to invent other things, but in our present day society, we should likely honor him for inventing our energy saving device, the "inclined elevator" or escalator." It would be fitting to find a Reno/Reneau descendant who would be able to collect the Award...and since Jesse had no children, closest descendants would come from the lines of his siblings. If you would like more information about this, please contact the *RenoReneau Review*!

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**Charles Wayne Moad** cont from page 4  
Jimmy of Midland, Michael Moad of Odessa, Cheryl Moad of Midland, Jude Miller of San Antonio; great-grandchildren, Haylee Phillips and Hayden White of Midland; sister, Joy Agan and her husband Earl of Clinton, Okla.; brother, Harold Moad and his wife Sharon of Hobart, Okla.; cousins, Diane Rose and her husband Jimmy and Rowena Porter of Odessa.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and his older brother, Fred Jr.

Services were held on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, at 2 p.m. at Life-Change Baptist Church located at 10th and Texas in Odessa. A graveside service followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens at 6801 E. Business 20 in Odessa. The family requests memorial donations in lieu of flowers to Hospice House of Odessa.

Charles Wayne Moad's link to Reneau heritage is through his wife, Koleta LeeJeanne Bauman Maod: Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Reno, Jr., Lewis Reno, Sr.

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### **Bennett Wood** cont from page 5

He never failed to stand up for what was right, no matter the circumstances or repercussions, which served him well in his career with the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division. In retirement, he enjoyed golfing, painting and giving away much of his work to family, friends and charity auctions. He paintings were well sought after at the Reno/Reneau Family Reunion auctions which he donated to help raise funds for future events. Bennett also spent his time writing and performing volunteer work at North Little Rock Baptist Hospital and Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, where he served as an Elder. He was also a minister and presided over the weddings of many family and friends. He was a Godly man.

Visitation was held at Roller Chenal Funeral Home, Little Rock, AR from 6-8 P.M. on Monday, October 5, 2009. Funeral Services and a Celebration of Bennett Wood's life was held at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, with interment at Pinecrest Memorial Park, Alexander, Arkansas.

For those who would like to contribute a memorial, the family requests that donations be made to the J.F. Bennett Wood Endowment, c/o Steve Lake, Harding University 915 E. Market Ave. Searcy, AR 72143.

### **Thank you!**

Many thanks to you for supporting this newsletter: It is by your contributions that we are able to send the Reno/Reneau Review to so many Reno/Reneau descendants!

Did you know that we send out 225 newsletters by mail, and 109 by email? The cost of printing a newsletter—8 to 10 pages—is about \$125.00, and the cost to mail is close to \$100.00 as well! We can only do this through your support!

We send special thanks to all those who made contributions at the Reno/Reneau Reunion in Staunton, VA to the Newsletter expense Many thanks to all who help make this possible!

## Jesse Lee Reno

Cont from page 2

wound at Chapultepec, but I have been unable to find any reference to the nature or severity of that wound.

At the close of the war, Reno reverted to his regular rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and, on Sept. 13, 1848, was assigned to special duty at Erie, PA. I suspect that this special duty was in the form of recuperative leave with his family, some of whom had moved to Erie from Franklin that year.

In January of the following year, 1849, Lt. Reno returned to West Point – this time as Professor of Mathematics. He served in that capacity until the summer of that year, when he became secretary of a board which was to prepare a manual for heavy artillery. Reno was instrumental in preparing the new artillery manual and that occupied his time until October of 1850. Then, he was made Assistant to the Ordinance Board located at Washington Arsenal in the District of Columbia. It is likely that it was during this two-year tour of duty in the nation's capitol that Jesse met his future wife – Mary Cross.

In May of 1853, Jesse was ordered to survey a military road from the mouth of the Big Sioux River to Mendota, Minn. On today's map this would be from Sioux Falls, SD to Minneapolis. These surveying duties took until mid-September and, for the most part went smoothly and were not particularly noteworthy. I was amused by the fact that Lt. Reno took advantage of his position and named some of the lakes in that wilderness. One he called: Lake Mary, and another he named: Lake Cross – both after his future bride. Two other lakes were called Lake Belle and Lake Emily. I don't know the bases for these names and hope maybe someone here this weekend may be able to help me out. It could be that they were named for Jesse's two sisters, who I know only by their married names.

Not too long after his return back east, Jesse Mary Cross were married on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1853. He as 30 and she was 25.

At this point, I'd like to take a little time to talk about his wife's family, because some of them were certainly illustrious in their own right. I learned a couple of stories about them that I feel are worth relating to you now:

Mary Reno's grandfather was a well known Maryland physician named: William Bradley Beanes. During the second war with England, in

1814, through a series of unique circumstances, the old doctor was taken prisoner and held on one of the British ships. A young neighbor and relative by marriage, by the name of Francis Scott Key, sought to get the Doctor released. But, he too was taken and held prisoner. The two Americans were subsequently transferred to another ship as the British began their bombardment of Fort McHenry. As the cannonading continued during the night, old Doctor Beanes, whose eyesight was failing kept asking: "Is the Flag yet there – does she still wave?" Not long before dawn the firing ended and our Americans feared that the fort had surrendered. But as you know, at daybreak, Frances Scott Key saw that our flag still waved above the ramparts. In joy, and before they were release, Francis Scott Key jotted down The Star Spangled Banner, which had been inspired by the questioning of Doctor Beanes. Later, upon publication, Key dedicated it to Dr. Beanes.

The second story deals with Jesse Reno's father-in-law – Colonel Truman Cross, a nationally renown soldier of the Mexican War. He was, in fact, the first officer killed in that conflict, though his death did not result from actual military combat. He was killed by a Mexican bandit just outside the American encampment. His murder is especially significant to westerners like myself, because it so greatly incensed settlers in the Southwestern and California Territories that it became an important influence in causing them to break away from Mexico and to seek admission to the Union.

Well, back to Jesse, himself. In mid-1854, he was assigned to be the Assistant Ordnance Officer at the Frankford Arsenal in Pennsylvania. He was t this post for three years. Likely it was one of the more pleasant and extended assignments they would have during their brief marriage.

From July, 1857 until June of 1859, Jesse was again stationed in the west as part of the large U.S. Army sent to Utah under Albert Sidney Johnston. Reno was in charge of ordnance for the so-called Utah Expedition, or the peace-keeping force sent by the government to keep down what they feared would be a Mormon revolt. Actually there was no revolt, but the Army stayed in Utah for two years and Reno stayed with them.

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