

*Reneau Book
of
Memories Through the
Years*

*Stories, Memories, Photos, and Articles
From those who sent information and/or attended the
Reneau Family Reunion
in San Antonio, Texas
on October 25, 2003*

Compiled by Anita Reneau Daniels

*This book is a Compilation of
Reneau
Stories, Articles, and Memories
and is
Dedicated To All Reneaus
Past-Present-Future*

The Story Tellers:

We are the chosen. My feeling is that in each family there is one who seems called to find the ancestors, to put flesh on their bones and make them live again, to tell the family story and to feel that somehow they know and approve. To me, doing genealogy is not a cold gathering of facts but, instead, breathing life into all who have gone before. We are the story tellers of the tribe. All tribes have one. We have been called as it were by our genes. Those who have gone before cry out to us: "Tell our story". So, we do.

In finding them, we somehow find ourselves. How many graves have I stood before now and cried? I have lost count. How many times have I told the ancestors, "You have a wonderful family; you would be proud of us"? How many times have I walked up to a grave and felt somehow there was love there for me? I cannot say.

It goes beyond just documenting facts. It goes to who am I and why I do the things I do. It goes to seeing a cemetery about to be lost forever to weeds and indifference and saying I can't let this happen. The bones here are bones of my bone and flesh of my flesh. It goes to doing something about it. It goes to pride in what our ancestors were able to accomplish, how they contributed to what we are today. It goes to respecting their hardships and losses, their never giving in or giving up, their resoluteness to go on and build a life for their family. It goes to a deep pride that they fought to make and keep us a Nation. It goes to a deep and immense understanding that they were doing it for us; that we might be born who we are; that we might remember them. So we do.

With love and caring and scribing each fact of their existence, we do this because we are them and they are us. So, as a scribe called, I tell the story of my family. It is up to that one called in the next generation to answer the call and take their place in the long line of family storytellers.

That, is why I do my family genealogy, and that is what calls those young and old to step up and put flesh on the bones. (Unknown Author)

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Introduction of our Earliest Reneau/Reno Ancestors

(Taken from "Genealogy of the Reno/Reneau Family in America, 1600-1920")

Submitted by Sue Reneau Damewood

The origin of the Reno and Reneau families in America can be traced to religious events in their home country of France following the Revocation of the Edict of Nantes in 1685. This Edict of Nantes, signed by Henry IV in April 1598, had allowed the French Protestants or Huguenots some religious freedoms, including free exercise of their religion in 20 specified towns of France. The Revocation of the Edict of Nantes by Louis XIV in October 1685 began anew persecution of the Huguenots, and hundreds of thousands of Huguenots fled France to other countries. It was forbidden, under threat of death or imprisonment as a galley slave, for the Huguenots to leave France unless they first converted to Catholicism, so most who escaped took only what they could carry. Many went to England where they took out Letters of Denization which permitted them to remain and to hold land in England or its colonies. Large numbers of Huguenots migrated to British North America, especially to the Carolinas, Virginia, Pennsylvania, and New York. Most of the Reno family in America can be traced to Louis Reynaud, a Huguenot from the former province of Angoumois, corresponding today to the department of Charente near the Bordeaux region in western France. According to research by Sherman Reno, Louis Reynaud was a general in the military service of the Duc de Crequy, who became the Governor of Paris. On the basis of geography, philology and heraldry, Sherman speculated that Louis Reynaud came from the small town of Bourdeaux on the Roubion River in southeastern France. However, the only written evidence for the origin of our Reynaud ancestors in France comes from the September 8, 1687, bounty award to "Louis Reynaud of Angoumois".

Two of Louis Reynaud's sons, Louis and Benjamin, arrived in Stafford County, Virginia, by early October 1688. This is documented by records in the Stafford County, Virginia, Record Book, pages 94-95, containing sworn statements from Nicholas Hayward, Notary Public, dated October 2nd and 3rd, 1688, certifying that he had seen "Letters Pattents of Denigracoon" from King James II for two of

Louis Reynaud's sons: Lewis Reynaud and his family, and Benjamin Reynaud and his family. On the same page of Stafford County records Lewis and Benjamin record the brands that they will use for their livestock. A bounty award to Nicholas Hayward two years earlier, in September 1686 when they were still in London, mentions both Lewis and Benjamin Reynaud and their families, further suggesting that the two brothers came together to Virginia in 1688.

Many of the Huguenots who came to the Northern Neck of Virginia did so under a business venture by Nicholas Hayward, who made speculative investments in the English colonies from Virginia to Hudson Bay. Nicholas' brother Samuel Hayward was the Clerk of Stafford County, Virginia, and Hayward, George Brent, Robert Bristow and Richard Foote, four English businessmen, had secured a 30,000 acre proprietorship between Cedar Run and Broad Run in the Northern Neck of Virginia from Lord Culpeper that was originally intended as a colony for Huguenot and Catholic refugees from England. Businessmen sought out French expatriates in London who had land holdings in the colonies of Virginia and Carolina who offered promises and provisions to entice the Huguenots to settle there (including Letters of Denization, and bounty payments to the settlers). Thus, Nicholas Haywood and his partners recruited Louis and Benjamin Reynaud and their families to settle on these proprietary lands in the Northern Neck of Virginia, but the four businessmen were not able to convince enough Huguenot families to settle on their lands to make the venture successful. The area near the proposed settlement of "Brenton" continued to be sparsely settled for another 20-30 years. The greatest influx of Huguenots to Virginia occurred later, in 1700, when four ships brought French Huguenots to Manakin Town in Virginia. Among the names arriving at that colony was Lewis and Benjamin's other brother, Pierre: "Pierre Reynaud, landed at the James River on September 20, 1700, from the ship 'Peter & Anthony', Danial Pearrey, Capt." This was the second of three ships carrying Huguenots to Manakin Town in 1700. The Peter & Anthony carried 170 passengers and took 13 weeks to cross the Atlantic. It is known that Pierre Reynaud returned to Europe where he eventually died, and he probably made more than one trip to Virginia. [Note: Sherman Reno and William L. Reno were unaware of the records in Stafford County dated October 2, 1688, and incorrectly

show the original immigrant forefather of the Reno family in America as Lewis Reno, the son of Pierre Reynaud. This Lewis' uncle, Louis Reynaud, is now known to be the actual forefather.]

The study of the Reno family, from their origins in Virginia in 1688 to the current situation where Louis Reynaud's descendants can be found in almost every state in the country, is a lesson in American history. The first Renos settled in and around Stafford County, Virginia, parts of which became Prince William County, where Lewis Reno and his sons were tobacco farmers. About 1772, Lewis' son, John Reno, his wife Susannah Thorne, and most of his 12 children moved west and then up the Shenandoah Valley to the newly opened wilderness area near what is now Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania and settled on Chartier's Creek. Both Virginia and Pennsylvania claimed this land until 1784, and the Renos claimed land there on Virginia certificates, but later a federal commission determined that Pennsylvania's claim was valid. Ten years earlier, King George III had made the Proclamation of 1763 that reserved all lands west of the crest of the Allegheny and Appalachian mountains for the Indians, and the settlement on Chartier's Creek was one of the most western settlements of the growing country. In the 1750s, the Indians had sided with the French against the British and the colonialists in the French and Indian War because the French had convinced the Indians that the British colonials would take their land, whereas the French meant only to trade with the Indians. During the period of 1750 through 1800 the Ohio River valley which included all of the territory west of Chartier's Creek including what is now West Virginia, Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, Illinois became known as "that dark and bloody land" where attacks by Indians and taking of scalps by both Indians and whites became a daily occurrence. The area round Pittsburgh and over to Wheeling was the main departure point for the huge numbers of settlers pouring into the Ohio River Valley, and many of the Renos who settled in Kentucky, Ohio, Indiana, and Illinois went down the Ohio River on boats after following the overland road to Fort Pitt and Wheeling. Other sons of John Reno, including Charles Reno, John David Reno, and Thomas Reneau, went south to Tennessee and Alabama in the late 1700s, and some of their descendants later returned north to settle in Indiana and Ohio when those territories opened up in the early 1800s. Lewis Reno (born

1740 in Prince William County, grandson of Lewis Reno the Huguenot) moved with the Kincheloes and other neighbors from Virginia to settle on patent land in Western Kentucky where they founded the town of Lewisberg. This Lewis' younger brother, Zeley Reno, fought in the Revolutionary War at Yorktown and moved in 1784 to the wilderness of what is now Harrison County, Kentucky, at a time when few whites lived there and Indian raids were commonplace. In the late 1700s and early 1800s, the Renos moved around by boat, horse, and oxcart. Even as late as 1840, the railroad only went as far west as Missouri, and the wagon trains of the Oregon Trail started there around 1843. The transcontinental railroad that opened up the country did not occur until after the Civil War.

Our Reno ancestors were involved in all of the major western migrations of American settlers, and were among the pioneers that settled the territories of Ohio, Indiana, Missouri, Kansas, Indian Territory (now Oklahoma), Nebraska and Colorado. Renos were among the pioneers of Oregon, Washington, and California, and can be found in the early records of Arizona, Idaho, Montana, and even Alaska and Hawaii.

Numerous spelling variations of the Reno name have appeared in records during the past 300 years in America, such as Reno, Reneau, Reynaud, Renno, Rennoe, Renoe, Rhyno, and others. Many of the records, such as census records, were spelled phonetically and the records themselves cannot be relied upon. However, various documents signed by Renos appear with various spellings over the years, and the variations Reno and Reneau are common to this day. The Huguenot immigrants, having fled France for a British Colony, anglicized the spelling of Reynaud to Reno, at a time when they were British subjects and the French were the enemies of the British. Lewis Reno wrote his name Reno when he signed a deed in 1711, and deeds from the North Neck Grant books and early Prince William County records have original signatures by Lewis Reno, Jr., Thomas Reno, Zeley Reno, and others with the spelling Reno. The majority of Reno/Reneaus today can be traced to John Reno and Susannah Thorn. In his 1806 will, John spelled his last name and the names of his sons as Reno, and most of the land records also spell his name Reno. Their son Thomas changed the spelling of his name to Reneau when he moved to the French Broad

River country of Tennessee, and in several lines of the family, children of a Reneau spelled their name Reno. In July 1900, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau of Nebraska wrote a letter to his cousin Clara Eola Reneau Beutrell, stating that he has located John and Susannah's family Bible, and in his own writing he listed John and Susannah's children and birth years. In this letter, he spelled their name as John and Susannah Reneau, but the evidence indicates that John Reno spelled his name Reno, the same as his father, and it was John's son Thomas who changed the spelling that was carried on in the Tennessee line. A few other Renos who moved to the South also changed the spelling from Reno to Reneau, and within the same family some children used the spelling Reno and other spelled their surname Reneau.

Perhaps the most famous member of the Reno family was Jesse Lee Reno, who was a general in the Union Army during the Civil War. The city of Reno, Nevada; Reno County, Kansas; and several streets and small towns are named for him. His son, Jesse Wilford Reno, was an accomplished engineer who invented the escalator. In 1896, according to the "Guinness Book of World Records," the "inclined elevator" invented by Jesse Reno was ridden on by more than 75,000 people when it debuted for two weeks at Coney Island in New York.

Another famous Reno was Marcus A. Reno, a Brigadier General in the Civil War who later served as Major in the 7th Calvary under the command of George Custer. Custer's widow tried to brand General Terry, Captain Benteen, and Major Reno as having done less than their duty in order to explain Custer's defeat. A Court of Inquiry into his actions during the Battle of the Little Bighorn on June 25, 1876, exonerated him of any blame, but he was dismissed from the Army in 1880 on a general charge of misconduct related to advances he made on another officer's wife. In 1967 his court martial was reopened and the original verdict of guilty was reversed, and he was restored to his full rank and honors. His body was reinterred in the Little Big Horn National Cemetery.

Another Reno of note was John Christmas Reno, who settled at the Falls of St. Anthony on the upper Mississippi River and was largely responsible for founding and developing what is now the cities of Minneapolis/St. Paul.

The Reno name was also made famous by the Reno Gang, a notorious band of train and bank robbers in Indiana just after the Civil War, who probably descended from Revolutionary War veteran Zeley Reno. The Reno Gang committed the world's first train robbery as well as a series of robberies and other crimes, and three of the brothers were eventually hung by vigilantes, causing a serious strain in relations between the United States and Great Britain because Frank Reno had been extradited from Canada to be tried.

Former Attorney General Janet Reno, in case anyone is wondering, is not part of this family. According to an interview with her in Time Magazine, her father picked the name Reno off a map of Nevada because their Danish surname of Rasmussen was too often misspelled.

The amount of detail available on the genealogy of the Reno/Reneau family is due in part to attempts by the Reno family in the late 1800s and early 1900s to prove that they descended from Philip Francois Renault and were therefore entitled to lands transferred to him by the West Indian Company, which was granted certain lands by King Louis XIV of France in 1714. In April 1887, certain Reno family members, including Marshall H. Reno, held a meeting for the purpose of forming a family corporation and hiring lawyers to pursue land claims. For more than 30 years, the family tried to prove that they descended from Philip Renault, and that the lands that he had acquired in Missouri, Illinois, and elsewhere prior to the Louisiana Purchase rightfully belonged to Philip's heirs. A letter from J. M. Reno in 1887 instructed family members to "Begin with the oldest known member of your family, state his name, when he was born, and where he was born, and if living, his address...so that a correct family tree may be set up, giving as perfect a genealogy as possible..." The resulting information was published as Marshall H. Reno's "Reno Family Tree". A letter from Faust and Wilson, Attorneys at Law, dated March 7, 1915, to Marshall Reno summarized the genealogy and legal research that confirmed that Marshall and the other Renos were not related to Philip Francois Renault, and that French courts had previously established that his true heirs lived in Belgium and France. The only Renos that made any money from the land claim attempt were those that sold their shares in the family corporation early. It has since been

proven that the true forefather of the Reno family is Louis Reynaud of Angoumois, but the incorrect information that we are descended from Philip Renault is still repeated by people unfamiliar with the true story.

Louis Reynaud of Angoumois married Frances D'Hamel de Douvrin about 1630 in France. They had at least 3 children: Pierre, Louis, and Benjamin. Their son, Louis married Anne de la Croix and they had 4 children: Francois Reynaud, Lewis Reno, Marie Reynaud, and Sarah Reynaud. Son Lewis Reno was born in western France and died in Prince William County, Virginia. His wife is unknown at this time.

John Reno and Susanna Thorne and their Children

Submitted by Sue Reneau Damewood

John Reno was the son of Lewis Reno who was born between 1666-1678 in the province of Angoumois in Western France and died January 1755 in Prince William County, Virginia. His mother's name is unknown at this time.

John Reno, who spelled his own name and his children's names as Reno, in his will, was born on April 13, 1715, on the Patent of 1710 obtained by Lewis Reno from Clermont Chevalle, at the confluence of the Occoquin River with Broad Run in Prince William County, Virginia. He was living there in 1749 when Fauquier County was formed out of Prince William County. There are records of him living in Frederick County in 1758 and 1760. On March 5, 1764, he and wife Susannah "of Frederick County" sold land in Prince William County to William French, except ½ acre for the graveyard described as land left him by his father Lewis Reno. The witnesses to this land sale were Lewis, Francis, Elizabeth, and Laurence Reno. Also in 1764, John and Susannah purchased 293 acres on Patterson Creek from Christian and Elizabeth Long. In 1764 he also transferred 600 acres on Patterson Creek, Hampshire County, Virginia (formerly part of Frederick County) with other transfers listed in 1769, 1770, and 1771. John Reno and his wife appear in land records of Hampshire County in 1761, 1762, 1764, 1765, 1769, 1770, and 1771.

About 1773 after the death of Susannah he apparently moved with all of his children except George and Thomas, who remained in Hampshire County, to Chartier's Creek valley in Washington County, Pennsylvania (later became Allegheny County). In December 1777 he renounced allegiance to Great Britain and to the Commonwealth of Virginia while in Henry County, Virginia. After he sold his land in western Pennsylvania in 1782, he went to Carter County, Tennessee, and apparently lived with, or near, his son Charles near Elizabethton (then Washington County, North Carolina) where he died about 1808. John and his family were among the first settlers of Sinking Creek in Carter County, Tennessee. Prior to 1776, due to strained relations between the Americans and the British, the British provided the Indians with arms, ammunition and merchandise and in return the Indians harassed the frontier settlements. The Indians were constantly burning, pillaging, and massacring pioneers near the Watauga Settlement where the Renos first lived.

John and Susannah had 12 children: William Lewis, Benjamin, Margaret who died as an infant, Sarah, John David, Mary Susannah, George W., Charles, Lewis, Francis, Thomas, and Margaret.

REV. WILLIAM LEWIS RENO. He was born Feb. 9, 1738-39 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died in Sevier County, Tennessee. He married Catherine Butler on May 27, 1760 in Winchester, Frederick County, Virginia. She was born in 1742 in Virginia and died in Elizabethton, Carter County, Tennessee.

The history of Yohoganis County, Virginia, states that on August 28, 1778, William Reno, a minister of the gospel, came to court and gave the required oaths of loyalty to and support of the colonies in the Revolutionary War. Four years later (August 3, 1782), William sold his land (436 acres on Robinson's Run), about the time his father and brother Benjamin sold theirs. He was in Shenandoah County, Virginia, in 1783, and then went to Washington County, Tennessee (formerly Burke County, Morgan District, North Carolina) which later became Carter County, Tennessee, where he was actively engaged as a traveling minister. He is listed as one of the members of Sinking Creek Church and as one of the elders at the Big Pigeon Baptist Church when it was organized in 1787.

Tradition says that William was at the Massacre of Pigeon River in 1798 and saved many settlers but on his way home he was slain by Indians in Sevier County, Tennessee.

William Lewis and Catherine had at least 8 children: Margaret, Mary "Dorothy", William Thomas "Hatter Bill", John Harris, Susannah, Jane, Samuel, and Lewis.

BENJAMIN RENO. He was born February 3, 1739/40 in Prince William County, Virginia, and died between May and July 1783 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He married Jane Bell on November 22, 1766, in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

He was a Private in the Revolutionary War, in Capt. Joseph Cessna's Company, Second Battalion, Pennsylvania Militia. On page 397 of History of Allegheny County, it says Benjamin came to the county about 1765 and settled on Chartier's Creek opposite what is now called Bower's Hill. He bought 400 acres on the right bank of Chartier's Creek in Washington County on a Virginia certificate in 1769.

Benjamin and Jane had 10 children: William, Louis H., Charles, Susannah, Sarah, Amanda, Robert, Francis, Zachariah, and Benjamin.

SARAH RENO. She was born June 15, 1744, in Prince William County, Virginia, and died December 11, 1820 in Tennessee. She married William Rogers on January 8, 1766, in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. They had at least 4 children: John, William, Agnes, and Sarah.

JOHN DAVID RENO. He was born April 16, 1746, in Prince William County, Virginia, and died in 1839 in Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama. He married Elizabeth Debolt on October 17, 1769, in Hampshire County, Virginia.

In 1761, John Cheshire, Lewis Reno, and John Reno, Jr. acknowledged that they were indebted to Sovereign Lord King George III in Prince William County, Virginia. On December 31, 1777 (during the Revolution) John renounced his allegiance to George II, King of Great Britain, and swore allegiance to the Commonwealth of Virginia as a freed and independent state. (Those who failed to do so

suffered forfeiture of their property to the state.) In about 1786, after he and Elizabeth had 9 children, he moved south through North Carolina and then west, probably along the French Broad River, to Jefferson County, Tennessee where in 1792 he was listed as Justice of the Peace. He was living near Dandridge in Jefferson County in 1798. He was in court in Blount County, Tennessee, in August and November 1799. Apparently he got in debt to a John Green for \$190.90 in Jefferson County. His property (200 acres) was sold at auction on October 25, 1800, to John Green for \$136.

John, his sons Aaron, Francis and Lewis, moved down the Tennessee River to Alabama (according to Sherman Reno). Francis went on south to central Alabama while Aaron and Lewis and their father settled at Somerville, Morgan County, Alabama.

John and Elizabeth had 9 children: George, John, Mary, Elizabeth, Benjamin Franklin "Frank", Aaron, Hezekiah, Hardin "Hardy", and Lewis.

MARY SUSANNAH RENO. She was born November 6, 1748 in Prince William County, Virginia. She married John Calvin on January 6, 1765, in Hampshire County, Virginia. They had at least 4 children: Benjamin, John, Elizabeth, and Susannah.

GEORGE W. RENO. He was born September 1, 1751, in Prince William County, Virginia, and died April 7, 1834, in Switzerland County, Indiana. He married Margaret "Peggy" Dugan about 1778 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania.

George moved from Prince City, Virginia, to Chartier's Creek near Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, to North Carolina for 6 years, to Kentucky in 1793 where he lived for 3 years, then to Ohio for 20 years, and last lived in Indiana for 19 years in Dearborn County, and finally in Switzerland County for 18 months.

He served in the Pennsylvania Rangers during the Revolutionary War 1776-1779, 2 months each year. He said in the Probate Book record that he was stationed in 1776 at Catfish Camp (now Washington, PA), and in 1777 was drafted at Chartiers Creek near Pittsburg. He also served in Captain Turner's Company in Jefferson County, Tennessee.

He and Margaret had 11 children: William D., Elijah Duggan, Pressley George, Benjamin, George W. Jr, Martin, Mary, Margaret, Hester, Susan, and Lavinia.

CHARLES RENO. He was born March 14, 1754 in Fauquier County, Virginia and died August 4, 1828, in Clinton County, Kentucky. He married Alice Elizabeth Tipton on August 8, 1771, in Frederick County, Virginia.

Charles Reno was in Washington County, North Carolina/Tennessee from 1788 through 1795.

Records show that he was a Pvt, First Class, Capt. Charles Reed's 2nd Company, 4th Battalion, Washington County (PA) Militia in the Revolutionary War. He may have received land in Washington County, Pennsylvania, for his service in the Revolutionary War. He was apparently a land speculator. There were many recorded deeds granted to and from him in Carter County, Tennessee, and in Washington County, Tennessee. It is thought that he moved to the Muddy Creek area of Jefferson County, Tennessee, and that Elizabeth died there. [That fact has not been proven.]

When Charles' eldest son John moved to Albany, Kentucky (near the Tennessee-Kentucky line), it appears he went with him, died there, and was buried there.

Charles and Alice Elizabeth had 13 children: John, Sarah, William who died as a young child, Francis, William Tipton, Jonathan, James, Rebecca, Benjamin, Mary, Joseph, Elizabeth "Betsy", and Lavinia.

LEWIS RENO. He was born January 30, 1756, in Frederick County, Virginia, and died July 6, 1782, in Sanduskytown, Ohio, when he was killed by Wyandotte Indians during an expedition in Ohio while serving under Col. William Crawford. He married Margaret Evans on March 29, 1778 in Pennsylvania. The estate settlement in Washington County, North Carolina lists only a daughter Mary who chose Charles Reno as her guardian at her father's death, but it is believed he had a son Lewis who may have died young.

REV. FRANCIS RENO. He was born February 7, 1757 in Frederick County, Virginia, and died August 12, 1836, in Rochester, Pennsylvania. He married Lydia Saviers on June 15, 1784 in Allegheny County, Pennsylvania. He and his brother Thomas attended the McMillan Latin School. He was ordained to the ministry in Christ Church in Philadelphia on October 28, 1792, by Bishop William White. Rev. Francis Reno conducted the first religious services by regular appointment in Sewickley Valley. He was an Episcopal minister at the church at Woodville, Chartiers Chapel, from 1792 to 1811. He was often referred to as the first Protestant minister west of the Alleghenies. In 1799 he set out with his wife and children and all their household goods in an ox cart and blazed a trail to a spot near present-day Rochester, Pennsylvania. They were the first recorded settlers at Rochester. They had 11 children: John, Elizabeth, Charles Saviers, Lewis, William, Nancy, Eliza Jane, Thomas Thornton, Francis J., Susannah, and Jesse.

THOMAS RENEAU. He was born April 4, 1760, in Frederick County, Virginia, and died after February 4, 1842, in Blue River Township, Harrison County, Indiana. He married Jane Ramsey before 1782 in Prince William County, Virginia.

He said in his Revolutionary War pension file that he served in the Revolutionary War near Pittsburg in 1778, then spent 4 years in Virginia, then lived 40 years in Tennessee, and had lived in Indiana 5 years (as of 1833). About 1828 Thomas moved from Jefferson County, Tennessee, to New Albany (Floyd County), Indiana and then to Blue River Township in Harrison County, Indiana.

He and Jane had 7 children: Narcissa "Cessie", Lewis, Meredith C., Celia, John Fleming, Jesse, and Aaron.

MARGARET RENO. She was born September 21, 1762, in Frederick County, Virginia, and died October 16, 1850, in McDonough County, Illinois. She married James Vance on January 28, 1782. They had 13 children: Mary "Polly", Elizabeth, Nancy Agnes, Sarah, Sarah II, Lewis Reno, John Alma, Agnes Penquite, William, Margaret, William Reno, Martha Ramsey, and James.

"Old" John Reno's Will
 Submitted by Dollye McAlister Elliott

THE WILL OF JOHN RENO OF CARTER COUNTY, TENNESSEE
 Carter County, Tenn., Original Wills, File No. 2

"State of Tennessee Carter County -

"In the name of God amane -

"I, JOHN RENO being weake in body but of perfect mind and memory Blessed God, and Calling to mind the mortality of the body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to die - doe make Constitute and ordain this to be my last Will and Testament - in maner and form following - that is to say after all Just debts being paid at the discretion of My Executors

"I first will and bequeth unto my beloved son William Reno twenty five cents - to my Beloved son Benjimon Reno I also Will and Bequeth twenty-five Cents - to my Beloved Daughter Sarah Rodgers I also Will and bequeth twenty five Cents - to my son John Reno I Will and bequeth twenty five Cents - to my Beloved Daughter Mary Calvin twenty five Cents - to my Beloved son George Reno twenty five Cents - to my Beloved son Lewis Reno twenty five Cents - to my beloved son Francis Reno twenty five Cents - to my beloved son Thomas Reno twenty five Cents - to my Beloved Daughter Margrit Vance twenty five cents - and to my Beloved son CHARLES RENO I will and Bequeth all and Every thing belonging to me of Every kind, or Spauous [?] of property whatsoever of any kind Belonging to me &c. and doe make Constitute and appoint the aforesaid CHARLES RENO sole Executor to the Same in Witness whereof I have this fouteenth day of June in the Year one thousand Eight hundred and Six and in the presents of those witnesses Acknowledged this to be my Last Will and Testament together with My hand and Seal Annexed to the Same -

"JOHN RENO (seal) X

"Attest:
 "John Dunlap
 "William Lacey
 "Samuel Tipton [() Jurat()]"

"STATE OF TENNESSEE: CERTIFICATION!
 COUNTY OF CARTER:

"I, Frank Percy, County Court Clerk of Carter County, Tennessee, do hereby certify that the foregoing is a true and perfect copy of the original instrument filed in my Office in Elizabethton, Tennessee, in the Original Wills, File No. 2.

"Frank Percy, County Court
 Clerk, Elizabethton, Tenn."

**Lewis Reynaud, Nicholas Hayward,
and King James II's Bounty**
By Dollye McAlister Elliott

After the Revocation by King Louis XIV of the Edict of Nantes, declaring open season on the Huguenots, 1685, it was unlawful for Huguenots to leave France. Penalties for attempting to leave were severe. In spite of this, it is estimated that 300,000 managed to flee the country. They had to flee during the night with only what they had on their backs and could carry in their hands. If they sold their real estate, it would have alerted the French authorities, ever vigilant, that they were planning on leaving. Many of these crossed the turbulent English Channel at night in small, open boats. The Reneaus were almost certainly among those, as their home was in the region of Angoumois, near the city of Angouleme in southwestern France.

Accordingly, the Huguenots arriving in England were destitute. A hospice had been set up in London by a Dr. Reneau (not ours) to assist the arriving refugees. Also, the English government, in the name of King James II, had set a Bounty Fund to aid the Huguenot refugees.

After my article on the Reneaus appeared in the Summer of 1972 issue of *The Colonial Genealogist*, Sherman Reno of Denver and I concentrated on finding out exactly who our emigrant Reneau ancestors were and where, in France, they came from. Sherman and I wrote, over several years, to Mrs. Joyce Wheatley, FLA, Research Assistant at the Huguenot Society of London, trying to find this information. Mrs. Wheatley sent many pages of references of Reneaus, as there were several Reneaus in London after the Revocation, but none of the references "fit" our line.

After several years with no luck, we received from Mrs. Wheatley a photocopy of a page from King James II's Bounty Papers listing the names of our emigrant ancestor, Lewis "Reynaud", his wife Anne, and children: Lewis (Jr.), Francis, Mary, and Sara, of Angoumois, going to Virginia. The name of Nicholas Hayward, Notary, was mentioned in connection with the "Reynaud" family. ("Notary" in that era is not the same as our Notary Public.) The discovery of this page of King James II's Bounty Papers was purely by accident: Mrs. Wheatley informed us that she was down in the basement of the Society Library and was looking through a pile of unindexed, unpublished documents when the name "Lewis Reynaud", going to Virginia

caught her eye. The page was in the volume for September – November, 1687 (dated September 8th, 1687).

Excited as I was to receive the copy of the Bounty Paper page, the name Nicholas Hayward was stuck somewhere in my memory. I immediately checked the book *Landmarks of Old Prince William* (County, Virginia) by Fairfax Harrison and sure enough, there was the story of Nicholas Hayward and the Huguenot emigration to Prince William County, VA. Hayward was a Notary on the Virginia Walk of the London Exchange, and he and two acquaintances acquired something like 3,000 acres of land in Prince William County. They entered into a partnership to settle the land with Huguenot refugees. Posters were displayed in the London taverns where the refugees gathered, offering them a chance to acquire 10 acres in the newly established town of Brent Town in Virginia and 100 acres of land outside town for a farm to support themselves. The land could be bought outright or by a kind of lease-buy arrangement.

Lewis "Reynaud" accepted the offer. Apparently with Nicholas Hayward's help, the Reneau family, in March 1688, had received Denization in London from the British government. Denization gave the person the right to dwell in England and its Colonies. Lewis and his family received Bounty from the King¹, allowing them to go to Virginia.²

In October, 1688, Lewis Reno went into the Prince William County Court and swore he was naturalized. The English Parliament had changed denizations to naturalizations, and this enabled Lewis Reno to apply for and receive various land patents in Virginia.

A final bit of interesting information on the page from the Bounty Papers was that it tends to verify that Lewis Reneau, did, in fact, have a brother, Benjamin, who came to America with him. This Benjamin settled in Currituck Precinct of North Carolina and a record of the will of "Benjamin Reynaud" is found in J. Bryan Grimes' *Abstracts of North Carolina Wills*. The original is missing, but the will was dated April 8, 1712; son and executor: Moses. Witnesses: Joseph Walter, Rosmus Hersleff, Daniel Rice. Recorded in Book 1712-1722, page 24.

¹ Ironically, King James II, who authorized aid to the Huguenot refugees, was a "closet" Catholic, and, because of that, he was deposed as the King of England.

² See next page.

The Huguenot Society of London

(FOUNDED 1885)

HON. TREASURER:
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HONORARY SECRETARY and GENERAL EDITOR:
Mrs IRENE SCOULOUDI, M.Sc.(Econ.), F.S.A., F.R.HIST.S.

February 8th. 1977

Dear Mrs. Elliott,

Thank-you for your letter with the enclosed photocopy. You are correct in assuming that the Bounty Papers are in the Society's own Library. They could always be seen there by appointment with the staff of the Rare Books Reading Room, where our collection is housed... using the Malet Place entrance to University College.

The Papers are in large manuscript volumes, normally one or two to each year. Within the volumes there is usually a division by class! They use such divisions as "those of a lesser sort". So in each volume there are about three sequences to go through. Of course they are not in any kind of alphabetical order, but they are normally fairly easy to read. They go on well into the 18th. century, though I have never had occasion to study the later ones. They commence in 1686, I think.

I might mention that I think I was very lucky indeed to find the Reynaud family references - one might easily spend ages searching through without such a success.

Yours sincerely,

Joyce Whatley
Research assistant

From: King James II of England's Bounty Papers
in Huguenot Society of London Library, unpublished

To Severall y^t Intended for y^t West
Indies

To Peter Lejret Minister, his wife, two Children & two men to goe to New Jersey	50
To Peter Lejade Ploughman, his wife & 2 Children	3
To Lewis Reynaud of Angoumois, his wife & eight Children for tools & other necessaries things to goe to virginia	8
To Nicholas Hayward Notary for y ^t Passage to virginia of Lewis Reynaud, Anne his wife, Francis, Lewis, Mary & Sara Reynaud their Children & Benjamin Reynaud [⊗] Mary his wife, Marianne & Cecillie their Children & John de la Chaumette	33
To y ^t same Nicholas Hayward for y ^t Passage to virginia of Michel Maury, Matquis Cabines Peter Ribotteace & John Meirac	12
To Lewis Reynaud & his family for supply	2

—£ 108—

⊗ A Benjamin Reynaud's will is in
North Carolina ca. 1700, probably brother of Leu
Dura
Volume September - November, 1687, the Royal Bounty Papers
(dated September 8th, 1687)

-103-

WHAT'S IN A NAME? Reneau, Reno
by Dollye McAlister Elliott

People not acquainted with the many variations of Colonists names in the 17th and 18th centuries are inclined to feel that the different spellings actually refer to different families. Not so. Researchers on their family lines will find the family name spelled in different ways, often phonetically. These names were usually written by a court official; if a person could write and sign his name, that was usually the correct spelling.

People in the 17th and 18th centuries, here and in Britain, were not overly concerned about spelling anything. It was not until Samuel Johnson published his Dictionary in the 18th century that even educated people spelled the same word the same way. One can find, as I have, English legal documents where the same word is spelled several different ways in the same document. Renaud, Reynaud, Renault, etc., are common names in France and considered branches of the same families. Also, it is very possible that the clerk in the English government office recording Lewis Reynaud's Denization did not ask Lewis how to spell his name, but spelled it as the clerk pleased.

When the Reneaus and other French Huguenots arrived in the English colony of Virginia, the colonists spelled their names as they sounded to English ears. Most of the English colonists would have had trouble with the spelling "Reneau" or "Reyanud" and anglicized the spelling and name to Reno – pronounced REN-NO', as it can be found spelled Renno and Rennoe in the contemporary county records.

There had become something of a stigma in England on being a Huguenot, as the refugees flooded into London, so Huguenots tended to anglicize their names to assimilate into the populace.

Since Reno, Nevada, was named for Union General Jesse Lee Reno, who was fatally wounded in the Civil War, the pronunciation of Reno popularly became pronounced RE'-no. (The name of my brother Reneau, whom we called REN'-o, was mispronounced by friends and acquaintances alike as REE'-no, and occasionally Bruno!)

A rule of thumb in the spellings "Reneau" and "Reno" appears to be that those of the family who stayed in the environs of Tennessee and Kentucky and those who went farther South changed the spelling from Reno (?back) to

Reneau about the time of the American Revolution and the popularity of the Marquis de la Fayette; those of the same family who went North and West retained the Reno spelling.

Speaking of Names

By Anita Reneau Daniels

You will notice in this book that a person's name from the past may be spelled differently in different article. For example, Mary Gibson Wood Reneau is also shown as Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. Some branches of Reneaus say Gibson, and others use Gipson. Another name that is spelled differently is Joseph Wickliffe Reneau's wife, Nancy Arimetha Smith Reneau. In some sections the Arimetha is spelled Arimathea. Sources from the past have used both spellings. The name "Reneau" has had many spellings, and it was usually spelled as the transcriber thought he or she heard the name...Reno, Renno, Renow, Rennow, Rineau, Reneau, etc. etc.!

In compiling the articles and memories I decided to not take issue with name spellings. So, the spelling of names may sometimes differ, but it is the same person! So, I suggest we look at the person and not the spelling.

Our Reneau family is not unique in this situation. I found twelve different spellings and/or names on documents and letters used for my Danish grandmother Maryann Sorensen Bang Christensen!

Moor Green

Information provided by Dollye McAlister Elliott and Leigh Reneau Wimberly



Moor Green

This site has been written about before. Genealogist and author Dollye McAlister Elliott mentions Moor Green in her article, “The Reneau-Reno Family of Virginia, Tennessee, and Kentucky,” in Vol. IV, Number 4, of *The Colonial Genealogist*.

Genealogist Leigh Reneau Wimberly has recently been researching this area, finding copies of the Works Progress Administration of Virginia Historical Inventory paperwork, listed as “More Green,” (sic) on the Library of Virginia website: www.lva.lib.va.us.

Moor Green sits on 10 acres which is part of the original 968 acres that was patented in 1711 by Clemont Chevaelle and “Louis Renoe.” Lewis Reno, French Huguenot, is our ancestor who was granted Denization in England in 1688. “Denization” meant permission to settle in England. After denization was granted to Lewis Reynaud and family, Parliament changed Denization to Naturalizations. Lewis went into Court in Virginia in October, 1688, and swore he was Naturalized. If he had not been Naturalized, he could not have patented land in Virginia. The Renos/Rennoes went directly from England to Old Prince William Co., VA, taking advantage of Nicholas Hayward’s offer to lease/buy land there.

Now, about the house: Moor Green is listed as an “elegant five bay, three story federal residence built in the late 18th century.” It is listed both on the National Historic Register and the Virginia Historic Register. The original foundation dates 1711. It appears here could be the original home site of Louis Reno and family! It is wonderful that history is being preserved here, and that our ancestors were part of it!



Moor Green
National Register of Historic Places



Moor Green
Virginia Historic Landmark



Moor Green
Prince William County Historical Commission



Side view of Moor Green

WORKS PROGRESS ADMINISTRATION OF VIRGINIA
HISTORICAL INVENTORY

104

COUNTY: Prince William

CLASS: Home

--- "MORE GREEN" ---

This write-up is a part of the Virginia W. P. A. Historical Inventory Project, sponsored by the Virginia Conservation Commission under the direction of its Division of History. Credit to both the Commission and W. P. A. is requested for publication, in whole or in part. Unless otherwise stated, this information has not been checked for accuracy by the sponsor.

Research made by
Susan Rogers Morton,
Haymarket, Virginia.

February 27, 1937

1. SUBJECT:

"More Green".

2. LOCATION:

3 miles north of Brentsville, Virginia, on Route #214.
North side of road.

3. DATE:

Unknown.

4. OWNERS:

Clement Chevaelle and Louis Renos, grant in 1711.
William and Mary Bronough 1793.
Howison Hooe.
James Hooe.
Jane Hooe, who married Redmond Foster.
Mrs. J. B. Fletcher, present owner.

5. DESCRIPTION:

The old road passed in front of the house. This was the original road from Dumfries to Bristow, called the "Carolina Road", but this road has been gone for many years, and all that can be seen of it are a few ridges, and in what is now a cultivated field are the abutments of a former bridge. As the house was built to face the old road, the very lovely fan-shaped transom over the front door, now looks across the fields, and the kitchen entrance faces the present approach. While the house is badly in need of repairs, it is still beautiful. The lovely brick cornices are in good condition. There are a few fine old trees left, but most of them succumbed to the drought several years ago. No outbuildings are left except the smokehouse, as a few years ago the numerous cabins on the place were all torn away. The winding stairway is the most striking feature of the interior, and the mantel in the drawing room is beautifully carved, but like all the wood work it has been covered with paint in the most glaring colors. The old kitchen is distinguished by huge cupboards that might have held food for an army. There are three steps which lead from the kitchen to the dining room, and it may have been added after the main part of the house was built. The house is located so far from the highway that it does not seem to be well known. It is a splendid piece of architectural success, and well worth a visit.

6. HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE:

This land was patented in 1711 by Clement Chevaelle and Louis Renos. In 1793 it came into the hands of Howison Hooe. He belonged to the numerous Hooe family that had

-2-

settled at Occoquan, and operated the Ferry there for a number of years. The place was willed to James Hooe by his father, Howison Hooe, in 1841, and is described as a tract of land at the forks of Broad Run and Kettle Run, being a part of the old Bristow tract. It was bequeathed to Jane Hooe by her brother James Hooe, and she left it to her husband, Redmond Foster. Both the Hooes and the Fosters were large slave owners. With Brentsville, the county seat, only three miles away, the place must have been the scene of much festivity and hospitality, although the place now seems but an echo of the past.

7. ART:

8. SOURCES OF INFORMATION:

Informants: Mrs. Seymore, Brentsville, Virginia,
Mrs. Proffett, Manassas, Virginia,
Mrs. Fletcher, Manassas, Virginia.

Prince William County Court Records.

Survey Report
Moor Green
1937
Page 2



Back View of Moor Green

MoorGreen during the Civil War
 Submitted by Charles Daniels

This Union Army map depicts a portion of the early maneuvers that were the prelude to the Second Battle of Manassas that began August 29, 1862.

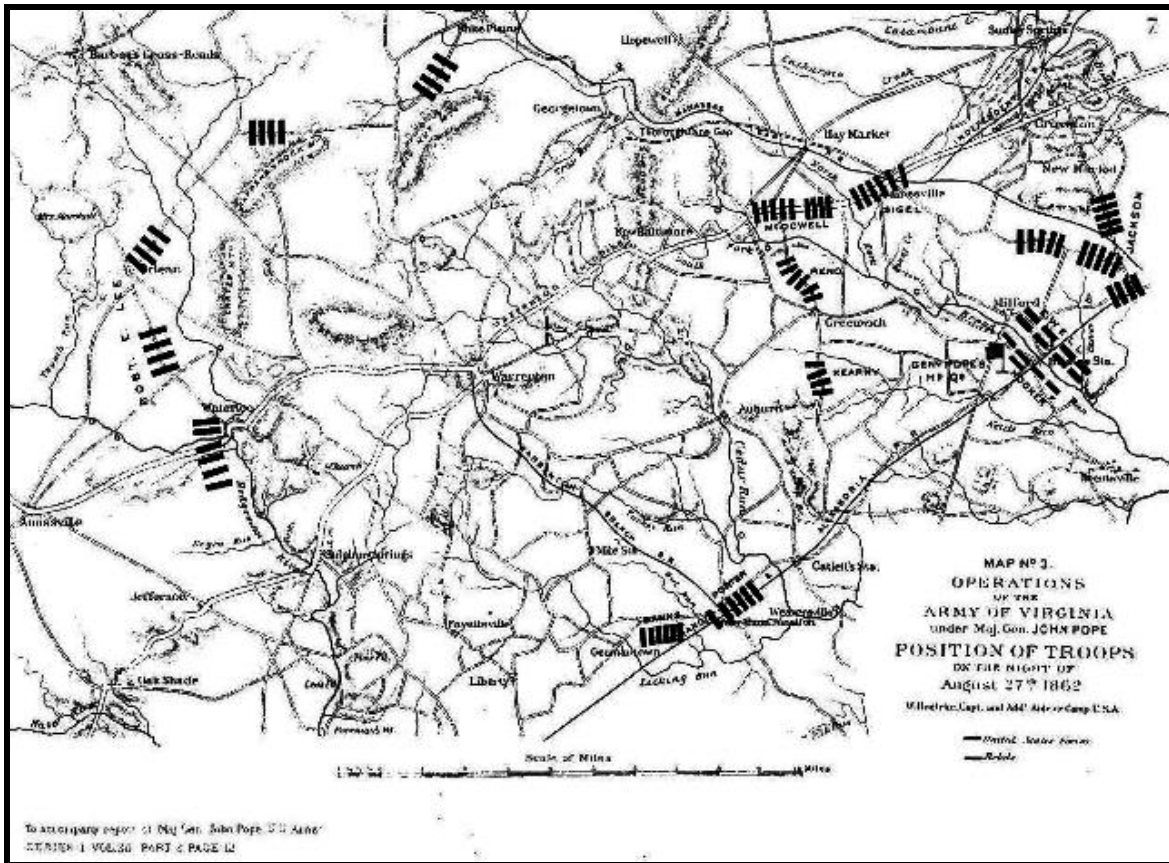
The force of Confederate General Stonewall Jackson is at Manassas at the right edge of the map including that of General Richard Ewell shown at Bristoe Station. Ewell was fighting a delaying action against Union forces under General Joe Hooker.

“Moor Green”, the Renoe estate, is the black dot just above the last letter in the name Hooker. Some of the action quite likely was on the Renoe land. The Civil War grave sites on the property

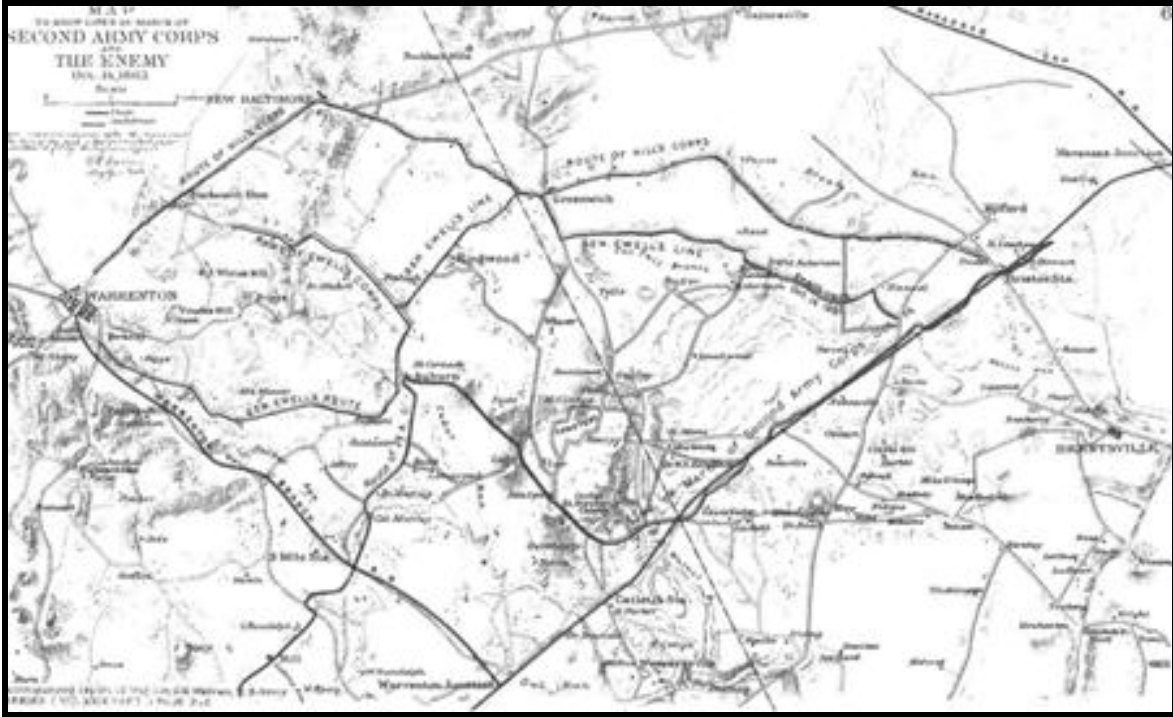
may be of soldiers killed there or who later died of wounds received in the battle of August 20 – September 1, 1862.

Back to the map. The overall Union commander at Second Manassas was Major General John Pope. It was his staff who produced this map. The Union formations are labeled with the name of the general in command. The Confederates, minus Stonewall Jackson, are at the left side of the map with General Lee. He marches north to White Plains, then turns southeast through Thoroughfare Gap to join Jackson east of Gainesville late on August 29.

The Union forces shown are attempting to locate and converge on Jackson. The Second Battle of Manassas actually was fought at Groveton in the upper right hand corner of the map.



Map from the Official Military Atlas of the Civil War
 Copyright 2003 Barnes and Noble Publishing
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Map from the Official Military Atlas of the Civil War
 Copyright 2003 Barnes and Noble Publishing
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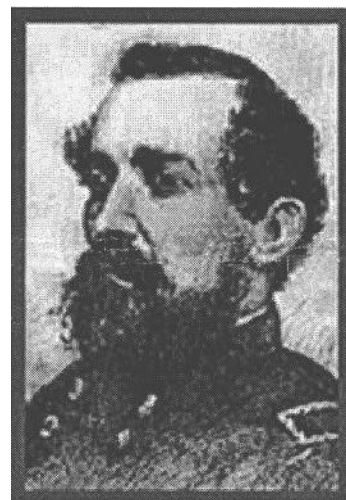
The map above shows the lines and march of Union and Confederate troops on October 14, 1862. Moor Green is shown as “Rennoe” northwest of Brentsville.

General Jesse Reno
Information provided by Julienne Reneau
Rodriquez and Charles Daniels

Jesse Lee Reno was born June 20, 1823, in Wheeling, Virginia (now West Virginia). He graduated from West Point in 1846. After graduation, he served in the Mexican War. He returned to West Point and became an assistant professor.

Jesse Reno was already in the army when the Civil War broke out in 1861. He was promoted to Major General in 1862. He was at the Second Battle of Manassas, as shown on the map of 1862. Even though the Union Army lost the battle, Reno’s force performed well, delaying the Confederate advance long enough for many other Union troops to withdraw to safety. Following this battle Robert E. Lee took his army into Maryland, aiming ultimately for Pennsylvania. General Reno’s command was part of the Union Army that came from Washington D.C. in pursuit of Lee. Lee used

South Mountain as a buffer, blocking the gaps and passes of the mountain to slow or delay the Union Army pursuit. Fierce fighting was at South Mountain, Maryland, where Union troops fought to gain passage through gaps and passes in the mountains. General Reno was killed September 14, 1862, at Fox Gap, South Mountain Maryland.



General Jesse Reno

Religion – An Important Part of the Reneau Heritage.

Submitted by Brenda Payne Rose

When brothers Louis and Benjamin Reynaud arrived with their families in Virginia in 1688, they had letters of Denization granted by the king of England. With these letters they were able to purchase land and begin a new life, one that included religious freedom. Their descendants were adventurous, not fearing to move into new regions of the country, establishing new towns and new settlements. They also helped establish new churches as they moved about, for religion seems to have been an important part of the lives of many of our Reno/Reneau ancestors. Many of them cared deeply about their religion, appreciated their religious freedom, and lived their lives in pursuit of God.

One early example of their faith includes the attendance of Louis and Anne at the baptism of Anne Flahaut at Canterbury (England) in 1695. We do not know exactly when they returned to England but it is clear that religious events remained a part of their lives. A beautiful testimony to personal faith is given by Benjamin Reynaud in his will, written in his own hand (spelling is as copied by Steven Fancy): “In the name of God Amen, the eighth day of Aprill in the year of our Lord 1712. I Benjamin Reynaud of Coritoke precinct in North Carolina, I therefore calling to mind the mortality of my body and knowing that it is appointed for all men once to dye, Doe make and ordaine this my last will and testament, that is to say principally first of all I give and recommend my soul into the hand of God that gave it, hoping through the merits death and passion of my saviour Jesus Christ to have his free pardon and forgiveness of all my sins and to inherit everlasting life-giving body I commit to the earth nothing doubting his act of general resurrection. I shall receive of same again by almighty power of God and such mortality state wherewith it hath pleased God to bless me in this life...” (Fancy & Damewood, 2003, p. 8).

Lewis Reno (he used the English spelling), son of the Louis Reynaud who returned to England, lived and died in Stafford (later Prince William) Co., VA. Some of Lewis’ sons were active members of local churches. His son Lewis was a Church Warden for the Dettingen Parish of the Church of England in Prince William Co., VA. from 1769-1774, when he died. “Church

Wardens, or vestrymen, had both religious and civic duties in the church parishes, which governed most of the local affairs in Virginia prior to the Revolutionary War. The vestry conducted the business of the church, built new churches, and looked after the poor. They were responsible for the building and repair of local roads, and they checked land boundaries and kept parish registers containing the names and ages of all births, deaths, and marriages” (Fancy & Damewood, 2003, p. 11). Lewis’ younger brother Francis was also a vestryman of Dettingen Parish, as well as a member of the County Court.

Lewis, Sr.’s youngest son, John Reno, moved around more than his brothers. He was born in Prince William Co., VA, but lived in Frederick Co, VA with his wife Susannah and their children; moved to Pennsylvania with most of his children after Susannah’s death; then in about 1785, with nine of his children, moved to Washington Co., NC (later Carter Co., TN). They had a home near the Sycamore Shoales of the Watauga River (where a TN State Park is today). The family joined the Sinking Creek Church, which is located just a few miles from the Sycamore Shoales area. Members listed in the early church registers include John Reno, William and Catherine Reno, Charles Reno, Samuel Tipton, and Elizabeth Tipton. William and Charles were sons of John. William, called “the old Baptist minister,” began preaching when the family was in Pennsylvania.



Sinking Creek Baptist Church
Carter County, Tennessee

He later preached in Virginia, then moved with his family to Tennessee. At the Sinking Creek Church, William served as a “clerk in behalf of the church” in 1785. In 1787 he was one of the elders at the organizing of Big Pigeon Baptist Church in Cocke Co., TN. He preached at meetings together with Jonathan Mulkey, a famous minister of that time, in 1785 and 1786.

Charles Reno married Elizabeth Tipton, but apparently not the Elizabeth Tipton at the Sinking Creek Church, as he was already married before going there. But then where is his wife? Did she not join the church? Or did she keep her maiden name (almost unheard of at that time)? Charles became a school teacher at the Hughes School, in the Sinking Creek area. It is very possible that classes were held at the Sinking Creek Church, as it was the usual practice in that time for the church building to serve as the local schoolhouse. "At one time, [Charles] was "defellowshipped" by the church for 'arguing and leaving the church in a rude and angry manner,' but apparently he was later restored in good standing" (Fancy & Damewood, 2003, p. 25). It appears that even though he wasn't perfect, Charles still thought that church and religion were important. After all, Jesus said that he "came not to call the righteous but sinners to repentance."



Sinking Creek Baptist Church
Carter County, Tennessee

Two sons of John Reno who stayed in Pennsylvania were Benjamin and Francis. Benjamin and his wife joined the Peter's Creek Baptist Church, established in 1773 in what is now Allegheny Co., PA. Francis was educated in a log cabin classroom at the McWilliams Latin School in Washington Co., PA, then was ordained as a priest in the Protestant Episcopal church of the United States on October 28, 1792 by Bishop William White in Philadelphia. "In 1799 he set out with his wife and six children...to a spot near present-day Rochester PA where they built a house. The Reno family were the first recorded settlers at Rochester. He was the first Episcopal minister west of the mountains, and preached in log cabins, barns, and groves all over the county" (Fancy & Damewood, 2003, p. 26-27).

Now I want to take a short detour into the church lives of some families that would soon join into the Reneau clan.



Sign on the side of the Sinking Creek Baptist Church



Sinking Creek Baptist Church
Old and New Buildings

In 1780-81, Daniel Bayless (b. 1716 in NJ) moved from Loudoun Co., VA to Washington Co., NC (now TN). Several of his sons, including Samuel, Reuben, and Hezekiah, traveled there with him. They settled on land in Washington Co, NC (now TN). In 1783, the Cherokee Creek Baptist Church was established there in Washington Co., about five miles from Jonesborough. Daniel was the pastor of the church from [?] until his death in 1800. His son John, who may have moved to the area after his father and brothers, followed in the pastorate, serving until 1823. (O'Connell, p. 4-5) Since that time many Bayless family members have faithfully served the Cherokee Baptist Church. Daniel and many of his descendants are buried in the church graveyard. Reuben and his wife Margaret, who are buried there, had a daughter Mary, who joined the church in January 1802. That same day a young man named Thomas Wood also joined the church.

Thomas Wood was the son of Samuel Wood and Sarah Reives. He was born in 1779 in Loudoun Co., VA, then moved with his family to Washington Co, NC/TN. He married Mary Bayless and they continued as members of the Cherokee Creek Baptist Church until after the birth of their first son in January 1803.



Cherokee Baptist Church
Washington County, Tennessee
2004

Then, with a letter of dismission from Cherokee Creek, they journeyed to Cumberland Co., Kentucky to live near Thomas' brothers. "Thomas and Mary joined the Clear Fork Baptist Church by letter in February 1804. He began at once to take an active part. He filled in as church clerk when his brother William was in Frankfort serving in the state legislature. Thomas was appointed deacon in July 1811 and was often among the delegates from the church to attend the Stockton Valley Baptist Association meetings" (Wood, Wood, & Buck, 2002, p. 128-129). Thomas and Mary remained active members of the Clear Fork Baptist Church for many years, and raised their children there. One of their daughters, born in 1816, was named Mary Gibson Wood. She soon became a member of the Reneau family in Cumberland Co., KY.

Charles Reneau's oldest son, John, moved from TN to Cumberland (now Clinton) Co., KY in 1799. Once settled in Stockton's Valley, John Reneau married Elizabeth "Betsey" Thurman in 1804.

Elizabeth's was the daughter of Thomas Thurman. Currently, we do not have conclusive evidence of who her mother was. John and Betsey Reneau were Baptists, and probably attended the Clear Fork Baptist church, where the Woods family was already active. It is possible that John and Betsey also attended the

Wolf River Baptist Church just over the state line in Overton Co., TN.



Clear Fork Baptist Church
Cumberland County, Kentucky
(later Clinton County, Kentucky)
Established 1822



Clear Fork Baptist Church
2003

John and Betsey's oldest child, Isaac Tipton Reneau, became one of the most influential ministers of the Cumberland Mountain region of KY and TN. He was born in 1805 and was raised in the Baptist faith. He was always a seeker, wanting both a good education and a closer relationship with God. "He had earnestly sought religion for eleven years [since the age of fifteen, when he heard "Raccoon" John Smith preach at the Clear Fork Church]; and he had been an earnest, prayerful seeker so long without having an 'experience of grace' as it was called then, that he was beginning to despair and to doubt the Christian religion" (Boles, p. 116). But in 1831, after hearing another series of sermons by John Smith, Isaac Tipton Reneau was baptized by his teacher, Dr. W. D. Jourdan in Ashburnes Creek in Overton (now Clay) Co., TN. This was the time when the Christian Church/Disciples of Christ were just getting started, and many Baptists were leaving their churches to follow the new religion that believed

in “no creeds but the Bible alone—When the Scriptures speak, we speak; when the scriptures are silent, we are silent.” Some Baptist churches voted on the new ideas, accepted them, and became “Reformed Baptists.” Other churches split over the doctrines. Isaac, who had worked as a teacher and was studying medicine, kept up with the news from home. In 1834 a new church was formed, The Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli. Paoli was a small community about one mile southwest of the Clear Fork Meeting House. It was organized December 21, 1834, and was composed of sixteen members, with Isaac Tipton Reneau being one of the charter members.

Excerpt from the Church Record Book:

“The church met at Paoli 3rd May and after a short discussion, it was unanimously agreed that elders should preside in every church. The church then proceeded to choose its officers. Brother O. I. Ragland, and I. T. Reneau were chosen as elders, and L. H. Talbott deacon. . .

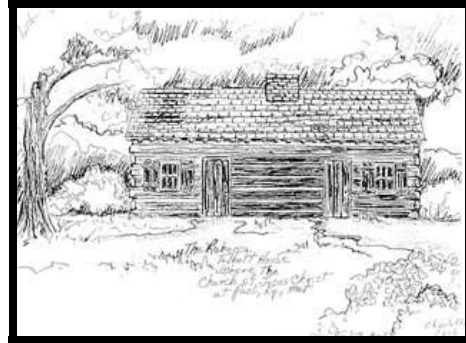
The church met at Rebecca Talbott’s on the 5th day February 1836 in order to make the following regulations (viz) 1st time and place of meeting, it was determined that the church should meet in Rebecca Talbott’s on the first day of every week at 12 O’clock until spring. Second. Order of seating—it was agreed that the elders should take their station behind the table, the males in front of them and the females on the left hand and order of worship commencing. It was agreed that worship should commence by singing and prayer. . .”

By January 1835, five more people had joined the small congregation, and on May 10, 1835 the church chose O. L. Ragland and I. T. Reneau to serve as elders. The elders presided at the Lord’s Table (communion) and often preached. On August 26, 1836 Isaac T. Reneau preached in the morning, and that evening married Mary Gibson Wood. Mary was still a member of the Clear Fork Baptist Church, but in November after their marriage she placed membership with the Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli.

In September, soon after their marriage, the church had given Isaac a letter of recommendation to any Church of Christ. (McLean, 2001, 14-15).

He felt called to preach so rather than practice medicine, he began preaching and establishing churches in the Cumberland area. For part of his life he was paid by the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society to evangelize in his home county and surrounding areas. But even in the years when the Society could not pay him, he continued his circuit-riding, preaching and

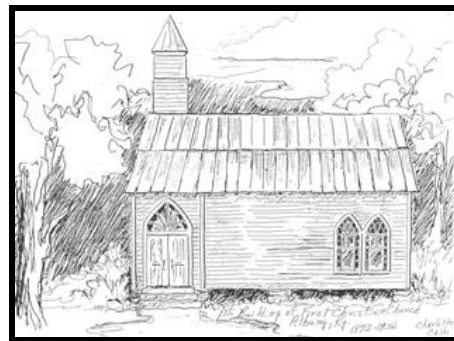
visiting churches and families throughout the area.



The Rebecca Talbott House
where the Church of Jesus Christ
at Paoli, Kentucky, met.

Artwork by Charlotte Cash in 1994
In celebration of 160th Anniversary
of the Congregation

He “became one of the more noted preachers, especially in Tennessee and Kentucky counties of Cumberland, Clinton, Adair, and Russell. He organized churches in Paoli, Albany, Rock House, and Irish Bottom, spending 52 years in the ministry” (Wood et al, 2002, p. 147).



1st Building of First Christian Church
Albany, KY 1873-1926

Artwork by Charlotte Cash, 1994
In celebration of 160th Anniversary
of the Congregation

We also know that he preached for churches at Tompkinsville, Liberty, and Gamaliel. A number of church record books have notes of visits by Isaac T. Reneau. He generally kept a log of where and when he preached and where he stayed. Also, there are many letters, written by him to his family, which have been preserved. There is abundant documentation available for anyone who wants to see just how extensive his work was. Since the days when Isaac T. Reneau first preached for the reformers, variously called the Stone-Campbellites, the Restoration

Movement, or simply Christians, the movement has divided into three distinct groups: the Churches of Christ (non-instrumental, independent congregations); Independent Christian Churches/Churches of Christ (use musical instruments in worship, but don't believe in mission societies or governing bodies above the local church); and Disciples of Christ (considered the most liberal of the three, has a governing board and meetings). What is sad in many ways is that the different churches which Isaac founded and preached at have chosen to go all three different paths, so that his spiritual children often have no fellowship with each other.

Our earliest knowledge of the Reynaud family finds them to be faithful, searching believers in God. Our Huguenot ancestors were willing to leave their country and possessions, to risk their lives, for their beliefs. The Reneau/Reno family in America has had many members who were faithful Christians, active in their churches, and who served as ministers of the gospel. Members of the family continually married into other families of active, faithful Christians. Many Reneau/Reno descendants today are ministers, or are simply faithful church workers wherever they live. In my own family there have been many ministers and preachers, as is true in numerous other lines.

Here is my story:

Isaac Tipton Reneau's daughter, Margaret, married Elbert Stillings, a minister in the Methodist Episcopal Church. Their daughter Lula married William Frank Bennett and they attended the Church of Christ in Tullahoma, TN. Their daughter Martha Eunice married Raible M. Greene, who had been a school teacher and a minister in the Church of Christ. Raible, my grandfather, began working for the federal government in Washington, DC during the Depression, and he kept that job until he retired in 1970. But even though he didn't preach for a living, Granddaddy remained active in churches where he lived. He led prayers and songs, read scripture and occasionally preached. He helped found several new congregations as the Churches of Christ spread throughout the northern Virginia area. Raible and Eunice were members at the 14th St. (DC) Church of Christ, then moved their membership to Arlington (VA) Church of Christ when that church began.

They helped form the Falls Church (VA) Church of Christ and were listed as charter members of the congregation. That is the church where I was raised.



Falls Church, Virginia Church of Christ
2004

In 1974, I married Gary Rose, who has been a minister for several congregations of the Church of Christ and the Christian Church. For the past five years we have attended Trinity Episcopal Church in Staunton, VA. Gary and our three oldest children have all worked as announcers for the local Christian radio station. Our daughter, Sarah, served on the praise and worship team at her church, Staunton Grace Covenant, for several years. Our eldest son, David, is in seminary at Emmanuel School of Religion (affiliated with the Independent Christian Church) studying to be a preacher. He is currently serving as the director of youth ministry at Munsey Memorial United Methodist Church in Johnson City, TN. He is in the same area where his ancestors worked and worshiped at both Sinking Creek Baptist Church and Cherokee Creek Baptist Church. Just as our Reneau ancestors have been a religious, church-going, God-seeking people, so many of their descendants follow that path today. I know our family tries to follow whatever path God leads us to, no matter how strange or difficult that may be. Our Huguenot ancestors left France and came to America for religious freedom, and it is a blessing that we are still able to enjoy that privilege today.

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**The Albany Christian Church
One Hundred Years and More
Submitted by Betty Hadus Reneau
Article originally published in "Front Rank,"
1955**

"Andrew Jackson had just been elected to his second term as the President of the United States when the Albany Christian Church was founded.



First Christian Church
(Disciples of Christ)
Albany, KY
Established December 21, 1834
Present Building built in 1927

The Albany Christian Church [members of the Church of Christ at Paoli—the new name of the church took place later.] was organized on December 21, 1834, with sixteen members. On May 3, 1835, O. T. Ragland and Isaac T. Reneau were elected elders with F. W. Talbott as deacon. The first pastor of the church was Elder John Smith ("Raccoon" John Smith) who very ably ministered to the needs of this church and surrounding communities.

The church met on February 5, 1836 and adopted the following regulations.

1. To meet on the first day of the week at the home of Rebecca Talbott at noon.
2. The Elders should take their place behind the table and the men should sit directly in front of them, and the women to the left.
3. Worship to begin by singing hymns led by F. W. Talbott.

Isaac T. Reneau was ordained an evangelist May 5, 1844. He preached for many years in Clinton,

Cumberland, Monroe, Russell, and Adair counties. He was responsible for organizing many churches through his close associations with Alexander Campbell, Barton W. Stones, "Raccoon" John Smith, and other pioneer preachers.

The congregation continued to meet in homes of the members until a building was erected in 1874, which was on the same lot of the present building.. [The congregation moved into Albany, which had become the capital of Clinton County, newly formed from parts of Cumberland and Wayne Counties. It was at this time the church became known as Albany First Christian Church.] This building burned on March 2, 1826.

The congregation met at the county courthouse during the construction of the present building.

After the church burned a building committee was appointed composed of Plato Hancock, J. E. Morgan, W. A. Dicken, Dr. E. W. Smith and C. P. Huff. This committee, with the cooperation of all members, set to work to build the present brick structure with a spacious sanctuary and full basement which was later made into four church school rooms, a kitchen, and a large dining room. There are also two classrooms back of the sanctuary.

The Brick for the church was made and burned on the farm of J. O. Cole, an elder, and hauled to the site with horse-drawn wagons.

Mr. Jesse Ewing did a great deal of the work which brought about the completion of the church.

W. L. Smith grandson of "Raccoon" John Smith, was pastor during this period.

At present, two have gone from this church into professional Christian work.

Oren N. Reneau is a minister and great-grandson of Isaac T. Reneau. He was pastor at the Christian Church in Louisa, Kentucky, for three years following his graduation from The College of the Bible, Lexington, Kentucky. Mr. Reneau is now chaplain of the West Virginia State Industrial School for Boys.

Mrs. Robert Glenn, wife of Robert Glenn, pastor of a church in Valhermoso Springs, Alabama, is engaged in Christian Education work.

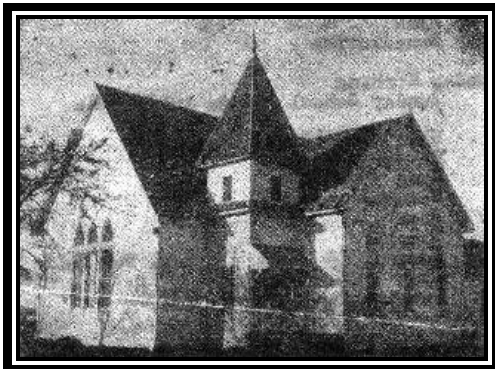
Other pastors since W. L. Smith have been: Robert Glenn, Kirby Smith, T. Howard Stark, E. L. Hanes, and J. Ryan Nevus. During the ministry of Mr. Nevus a new baptistery was built. Also the first Rural Laboratory Training School was held here. The present minister is Bill Cook."



First Christian Church (Disciples of Christ)
Albany, KY
Established December 21, 1834

**Clark Memorial Methodist Church
Bonham, Texas
Submitted by Dorothy Park Taylor**

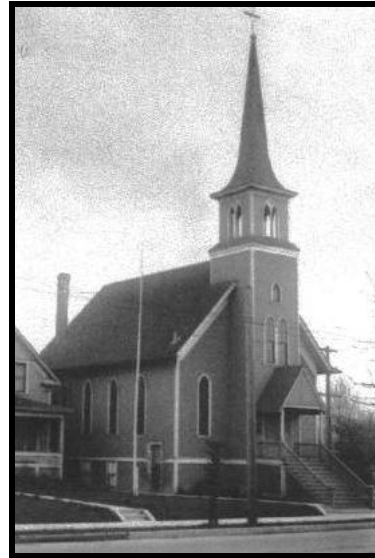
This church was built in 1895. The picture was taken on the 50th anniversary and a reunion was held. Four of the children of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau came to Bonham, Texas from Albany, Kentucky about this time and most of them worshipped here. They were Mary Catherine Reneau Moss, Eunice Leeann Reneau Atnip, Isabelle A Reneau Compton, and Joseph Granville Reneau. When Mary Catherine Reneau Moss passed away in 1936, I remember attending her funeral service there. My Mother, Mary Melvina Reneau Compton, took me to this church as an infant and I was enrolled in the Cradle Department. It was at this church that I met my husband, Kenneth G. Taylor. We were both baptized in our early teens and remained members until we moved from Bonham to Sherman after World War II. The church is closed now after merging with another Methodist Church. It holds many memories for the Reneau family.



Clark Memorial Methodist Church
Established in 1895
Bonham, Texas

**Bethany Lutheran Church
Danish-Americans and More
Submitted by Anita Daniels**

The Danish Lutheran Church in Portland was established in 1901, with the members of the congregation meeting in a rented Methodist Church. When the first structure was built, the congregation named it “Bethany” after an altar picture depicting Jesus in Bethany.



First building
Bethany Danish Lutheran Church
Portland, Oregon
Union and Morris Streets
1903-1947

Ingeborg Nielsen MacHaffie, in her book, Danish in Portland, Past and Present, chronicles the growth of the church:

“Two churches were subsequently built in the course of the next fifty years, the first of them under the leadership of Pastor Gudmund Grill, who arrived in Portland in November, 1903 to succeed Pastor Christian Hansen. Under his direction and initiative, and the determination of a few dedicated members, a new Bethany church was erected at Union and Morris Streets, where a Kienow’s Super Market now stands. It was a small grayish structure, but the tall steeple could be seen for miles, one of few spires in the Albina Township where many of the Danish people lived. Dedicated on August 27, 1905, the year of the Lewis and Clark Exposition, the church was crowded with many visitors as well as its own members.”

As the membership grew, especially that of the Sunday School, it was time to consider another

structure. A building fund was started and an add was placed in the paper to sell the existing structure. It immediately sold, and a large lot was found on North Thirty-Seventh Avenue that was suitable for the new church building. The new sanctuary for Bethany Lutheran Church was completed in 1947 and dedicated August 1, 1948.

Services were conducted in the Danish language until 1930, when English was substituted. However, there is still the traditional Danish Christmas Eve Service held each year on the evening of December 23, called in Danish "little Christmas Eve." At this service a typical Danish Christmas service is conducted, with the singing of Danish Christmas hymns. The Christmas tree is decorated with Danish handmade ornaments, and a sermon is given in the Danish language. It is quite a highlight fest of the Christmas season and attracts Danish-Americans from all over the area.

It was during 1919-20 that my Danish ancestors came to Portland and joined the church:

My great-grandparents on my mother's side of the family, Christian Thorvald Christensen and his wife, Jane Sorensen Bang Christensen, were Danish immigrants, coming to America in the late 1800's. They came to Oregon in 1919 and became members of Bethany Lutheran Church.

My grandparents, Hans Froberg Hansen and Minnie Christensen Hansen, moved to Portland in 1920 and joined the church. Grandpa Froberg was treasurer for the church for 48 years. He was also a member of the choir.



Bethany Lutheran Church
(Formerly Bethany Danish Lutheran Church)
Portland, Oregon
Current structure built 1947

My grandmother and great-grandmother were active in Ladies' Aid and Bible Study. My mother, Phern Anna Hansen, and her siblings were baptized and confirmed and married here.

When my father, Marion James Reneau, married Phern Anna Hansen, he joined this church. My brother, Gerald, and I grew up attending this church. When I was married to Charles Daniels of Fairfax, Virginia, we were also married here by Pastor C. S. Kloth.

Pastor Kloth served the Bethany congregation from 1928 until 1970. Membership increased from 195 in 1948 to 750 in 1961, becoming active in the neighborhood and an integral part of a city during its time of growth.

Today, although we belong to a different Lutheran Church in Vancouver, Washington, we attend Bethany on occasion to renew friendships and come back to our roots.. We have many fond memories of this church and the congregation.

**First United Methodist Church
Fort Smith, Arkansas**

Submitted by Anita Daniels



First United Methodist Church
Fort Smith, AR

This is the church where Mada Campbell Robertson and husband, Pat, attended, while living in Fort Smith. Even after 21 years in Dallas, TX, the family still received the Church Bulletin. Mada and Pat's daughter Erma was married there, and the children were baptized there.



First United Methodist Church
Fort Smith, AR
June 13, 2004

On a recent trip through Arkansas, Al and Dorothy Mote took this photo of the First United Methodist Church.

HEZEKIAH RENEAU

Submitted by Sue Reneau Damewood

Hezekiah Reneau was the son of John and Elizabeth (Debolt) Reneau and the grandson of John and Susannah (Thorne) Reno. He was born 1782 in Bower Hill (Washington County), Pennsylvania. He married Ruth Brimer on March 11, 1813, at Dandridge, Jefferson County, Tennessee. Hezekiah was drafted into the War of 1812 at Muddy Creek Muster Ground in Jefferson County. He and Ruth lived near Muddy Creek while in Jefferson County. Hezekiah died April 19, 1850, in Hamilton County, Tennessee of typhoid fever and is buried there. Ruth applied for the bounty land "to which she may be entitled" on March 11, 1851, in Hamilton County. On April 1, 1871, she applied for her widow's Declaration for Pension in Jefferson County. She purchased property in Jefferson County in 1872. It is not known where she died and is buried, but is assumed Jefferson County since she was living with her daughter there in 1873. Her will is dated May 3, 1873. Hezekiah and Ruth had 9 children: Preston, William, Margaret, Elizabeth B., Sarah "Sallie", James H., Thomas S., Martha Jane, and a son who probably died very young.

James H. Reneau was born in 1823. He died November 7, 1882, in Jefferson County. Many of his descendants are still in the area today. He served in the Civil War, being a Pvt in Co. D, 9th Regt., Tennessee Cavalry. He was married twice. He married (1) Mary Moseley on December 1, 1845, in Jefferson County. They had 8 children: David P., Margaret E., William H., George W., Thomas Jack, John W., James P., and Mary A. After her death, he married Mary A. Baker on May 21, 1879 in Jefferson County. She was born in 1847 and died in 1921. They had 2 children: Samuel Harris born July 19, 1880, and Catherine "Katie" born after her father's death.

Samuel "Sam" Harris Reneau married Mary Alice Odom on July 13, 1901, in Jefferson County and they lived there for many years. Mary Alice was born January 20, 1882, in Sevier County. They raised their children in the Dandridge area and then moved to Hamblen County (Morristown) where they lived until their deaths. Sam died December 27, 1930, and Mary Alice died August 24, 1963. Their children were: George Harris, John Clyde, Charles Lee, Ollie Belle, and Rosa Mae.



l-r: George Reneau, Mary Baker Reneau McCarter (second wife of James H. Reneau), Sam Harris Reneau, Lee Reneau, Mary Alice Odom Reneau, John Reneau.

Standing behind Sam Harris Reneau is his stepson, Sammie Gibson Reneau, who was killed in WWI.



Mary Alice Odom Reneau with her sons,
l-r: George, Lee, and John

George Harris Reneau was born October 14, 1904 in Jefferson County. He married Eula Noe on April 17, 1940 in Grainger County, Tennessee. George died February 3, 1984 and Eula died May 26, 1992 in Morristown, Hamblen County, TN. They had 4 children: Charles Edward, Georgia Ann, Betty Jo who died in 1985, and John Harris.

Charles Lee Reneau was born December 15, 1910, in Jefferson County and died December 25, 1976, in Hamblen County. He married Betty Goins but they later divorced. They did not have any children.

Ollie Belle Reneau was born February 6, 1916, in Jefferson County. She married Harley Clark Noe (brother of Eula Noe) on September 10, 1930, in Hamblen County. Clark was born May 18, 1907 and died April 19, 1976, in Hamblen County. They have one son: George Walter "G.W."

Rosa Mae Reneau was born March 9, 1921, in Jefferson County.

Ollie and Rosa are both in the same nursing home in Morristown, Hamblen County, Tennessee.

John C. Reneau was born October 24, 1907 in Jefferson County. He married Betty Jeanette "Janie" Murphy on June 23, 1934, in Hamblen County, TN. In 1937 they moved to Knoxville, Tennessee where they lived until their deaths. Janie died October 14, 1981, and John died November 17, 2000. They had 1 daughter: Mary Sue.



Sue Reneau Damewood
and John Reneau

Mary Sue Reneau was born in Hamblen County, TN in 1935. She married Bill Edward Damewood in 1965 in Knoxville, Tennessee. Sue retired from Oak Ridge National Laboratory in Oak Ridge, Tennessee, after 40 years as a technical secretary. They have one son, David Lynn, who lives in the Knoxville area. Sue has been doing genealogical research on the Reneau/Reno family for over 30 years and is the co-author of the book "Genealogy of the Reno/Reneau Family in America, 1600-1920." Sue and Bill live in Powell, Tennessee, which is a community outside of Knoxville.

SAMUEL RUSSELL RENEAU
Submitted by Sue Reneau Damewood

Samuel Russell Reneau was the son of Michael and Priscella (Denton) Reneau, the grandson of John and Narcissa Reno, and the great-grandson of John Reno and Elizabeth

Debolt. Samuel Russell was born December 20, 1846, in Jefferson County, Tennessee, and died November 28, 1919, at Gibbon, Oklahoma. He married Barbra Ann Burchfiel on February 16, 1868 in Jefferson County. She was born March 24, 1853 in Monroe County, Tennessee, and died March 30, 1929 in Gibbon, Oklahoma. Both are buried in the family cemetery at Gibbon, Oklahoma. They had 13 children: Martha Jane, William Jake, Louvena J., Julia Callie, George Thomas S., John Eagleton, Priscilla, Betty, Margaret, James C., Frances, Nell, and Jesse R.

The family made plans to move west when the opening of the Cherokee Strip in Oklahoma for settlement was announced. Several friends and relatives from the Dandridge area had already moved west and established homes in the Spring Township near Anthony, KS. In early 1892, the oldest son, Jake, was sent ahead to Anthony where he rented a farm south of town. He planted a wheat crop for the 1893 harvest. As soon as the rest of the family could harvest the Tennessee crops and make necessary arrangements, Sam and Barbra with 8 children came by train in late Autumn to join Jake. The two oldest daughters were married and remained in the Jefferson County area, one had married Samuel R. Moore in 1887 and the other had married Albert H. Moore in 1891. Two other daughters died before school age and are buried near Dandridge.

On September 16, 1893, Sam rode a gray mule in a race from a point about 2-1/2 miles east of Cameron, KS, south four miles where he drove his stake at a point one-fourth mile east of where the Gibbon elevator is now located. When a sod house had been built, the family moved to it from the Kansas home. They farmed their homestead and rented some of it to a widow. There were many hardships in their early days there. Many times the children gathered fuel from the prairie to burn or picked up coal along the railroad tracks. As the town of Gibbon began to develop, Sam hauled supplies by wagon from Anthony to the stores until the railroad came. The Reneaus were devout Christians who helped establish a Union Sunday School and Church in the sod schoolhouse. Later a frame building was built in Gibbon by the Methodist church. Barbra was a midwife and delivered many babies in the community before doctor services were available.

Many members of that family still live in the Gibbon and Wakita, Oklahoma, area.

[I wrote this article for the Jefferson County Historical Society to use in their book “Jefferson County, Tennessee, Families and History 1792-1996” which was published in 1996.]



Samuel Russell Reneau Family
 Back l-r: Frances, Margaret, Tom, Nell, Cassie
 with Ray and Jim.
 Front l-r: Samuel, Jess, Barbara
 Lee on floor
 Photo probably taken late 1903 on the home
 place.

William Tipton Reneau
Leigh Reneau Wimberly:
Reneau Connections in East Texas
1850 – 1950
Submitted by Leigh Reneau Wimberly

I'm Leigh Reneau and my ancestral line comes from Charles Reno and Elizabeth Tipton through their son, William Tipton, who was born in Pennsylvania about 1776. He never made it to East Texas, but his son, Charles Francis Reneau, did, and the family history for that branch began in 1850.

I came into the ancestral search in 2002 after attending a Family Reunion of the Thomas Tillman Reneau descendants in Conroe, Texas. One of the goodies each family member received was a brief family narrative put together by one of the cousins. My cousin, Vicki, is of a later generation than I and so she had not had the benefit of personally knowing ancestors of her grandparents' era. Our Family "Tree" was much smaller than it would have been and I went in search of those missing "Branches." Even I wound up being surprised at how many I found.

My search really began in earnest after I spoke with Steve Fancy and Sue Damewood. They had associated William Tipton with the greater family through his name and the names of some

of his children, but the exact connection had not been made.



Leigh Reneau Wimberly

We were, as a result, orphans in search of a family parent. Information on this family as recorded in the Reno/Reneau history was fragmentary at best and shadow identities had even created "twins", persons with similar names and repetitive, erroneous family relationships. The William Bailey Reneau listed in publications prior to the recent 2004 printing was a shadow identity who did not exist. Nancy Bailey, his wife, also did not exist. William Tipton Reneau married Ginny Scroggin in 1807 in Oglethorpe County, Georgia. Richard Bailey was the Justice of the Peace who married them and Nancy Hay Bailey was his wife. I have no explanation as to the closeness of the two couples, whether they were related or just extremely close friends, but Ginny Scroggin named her first daughter (who either died at birth or shortly thereafter) for Nancy Bailey. A later child, a son, was named for William Tipton and Bailey was added as his middle name. So there is a William Bailey Reneau, but he is of a later generation. This is a prime example of family data and research data straightening out mixed information.

William Tipton and Ginny Scroggin had thirteen children, most named for the other children of Charles Reno and Elizabeth, or for Ginny Scroggin's brother, Barton Scroggin, and Humphrey Scroggin, her grandfather. The children would settle in Georgia, Alabama and even into Texas. William Tipton left his descendants a legacy of a different sort, a veritable "Time Capsule" – A letter written in 1850 from Notasulga, Macon County, Alabama, in which he listed the children and where they were living, even some information as to the

types of work they were doing. His letter was to Charles Francis, his son, who was living in Texas at that time. Charles Francis' older brother was named John "Johnny" Tipton Reneau.

Charles Francis and his children would be the East Texas Reneau citizens, and Charles was the father of sixteen (not by the same wife. A family observation was that some of the Reneau men were absolute "hell on women and horses".) My great grandfather, George William Reneau, was from the marriage of Charles Francis Reneau and Mary "Polly" Newburn, who had six children and died in 1871. The third wife was Susie Bricker, who was only seventeen years old when she married 59 year old Charles Francis. They had the second, later family of ten children. The later generations are equally fascinating, but will wait for response to this introduction. The various searches, the back and forth sharing of family data, conversations with other Reneau connections all over the USA, all have been interesting, informative and encouraging. Family members who want to discuss how's and whys and historical details are invited to call me (337) 238-0392. I'll call back as I have anytime free long distance.

Maynard Loren "Jack" Reneau
Submitted by Terrell Perkins

November, 2003
 Our branch of Reneaus are primarily the children of Maynard Loren 'Jack' Reneau and Vera Taylor Reneau. They had five children, four daughters and a son.
 One daughter, Shirley Reneau Larson is now deceased leaving behind one son and one daughter.
 Ann Reneau Chandler and her husband Toby live in Austin where she owns Reneau Properties, a company owning and managing several apartment complexes. She has one son and two daughters.
 Joyce Reneau Pugh lives in the Galveston area where her husband Orval retired from Shell Oil Company and is now a Baptist minister. She is also retired from the apartment management business and has two daughters and one son.
 Jackie Reneau Mann and her husband Wayne live in the Austin area and own and operate several convenience stores in Central Texas. They have two sons.
 Joe Reneau is a retired medical doctor and one time team physician of the University of Texas

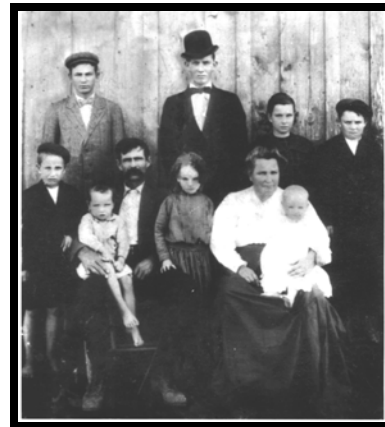
football team, the Texas Longhorns. He and his wife Dena also live in the Austin area. He has one daughter.

Ann and Jackie were the only two to attend the Reneau reunion in San Antonio in October of 2003. Also attending was Terrell Perkins, Ann's son; the family genealogist and the author of this article.



Family of Maynard Loren 'Jack' Reneau and Vera Francis Taylor Reneau
 L-R: Jackie Reneau Mann, Joyce Reneau Pugh, Maynard Loren 'Jack' Reneau, Joe Reneau, Ann Reneau Chandler, Shirley Reneau Larson
 circa 1974

Maynard Loren 'Jack' Reneau was one of twelve children born to David Allen Reneau and his wife Anna Lee Roberts Reneau. Many of their descendants live in the Central Texas area around Austin, Waco and Marlin.



David Allen Reneau - Anna Roberts Reneau Family
 Back l-r: Virgil Caruso, William Howard, Ruthie Ladean, Horace Greely
 Front l-r: Ralph Augustus, M.B., David Allen Reneau, Mattie Lee, Anna Roberts Reneau, Jeannie Camillia
 circa 1910

Though three different genealogists have worked on this branch of the Reneau line, all of them hit

the proverbial 'brick wall' with David Allen Reneau's father: Francis Marion Reneau. Francis Marion was married to Elvira Lawrence and lived in the Bastrop Texas area. He is said to have left his family and various sources would indicate that happened about 1879. Elvira Reneau is found in the 1880 census (misspelled as: Elvina) with her nine children.



Children of Dave and Anna Reneau
May 28, 1972

l-r: M.B., Jeannie Camillia, Raymond Gaylord, Horace Greely, William Howard, Ruthie Ladean, Mattie Lee, Virgil Caruso, Maynard Loren 'Jack' Reneau.

With the aid of Anita Daniels, one of the sponsors of the San Antonio reunion, we may have connected Francis Marion Reneau with the larger Reneau family tree. One Francis M. Reneau was found living in Alabama in the 1880 census with his brother. He was 38 at the time. This would have been near our Francis' birthplace and he would have been the right age. If this connection proves to be correct our lineage would then be traced back to William Bailey Reneau, his father William Tipton Reneau, and his father Charles Reno. Most of the attendees of the Reneau reunion will recognize that ancestor as the grandfather of Isaac Tipton Reneau from whom they are descended.



2003 Reneau Reunion
l-r: Terrell Perkins and Anita Reneau Daniels
reviewing Reneau ancestry



Ann Reneau Chandler and Terrell Perkins
enjoying a relaxing moment after the
2003 Reneau Reunion PotLuck

The plan is now for the 2004 Reneau Reunion to be held in Austin, Texas on October 16th from 10 AM to 4 PM at a 57 acre private park. The 2004 Reunion Planners are Ann Reneau Chandler, Jackie Reneau Mann, Terrell Perkins (all Francis Marion Reneau descendants), and Linda Moore, (Isaac Tipton Reneau descendant).

A Silent Auction will be held, and Reneaus have been asked to bring Reneau Memorabilia. Reneaus will feast on a catered Texas Style Bar-be-cue, complete with all the trimmings. It should be a fun event.

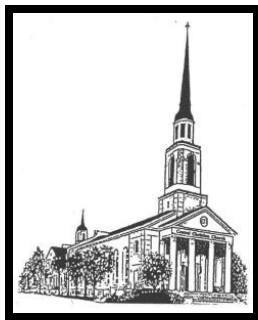
We hope to see more descendants from Francis Marion Reneau line, as well as other Reneau lines. We decided to make this a "Nationwide Event," and we are sure that there will be many cousins that get acquainted!



Standing l-r: Jackie Reneau Mann, Ann Reneau
Chandler, and Linda Reneau Moore
Sitting in front: Terrell Perkins

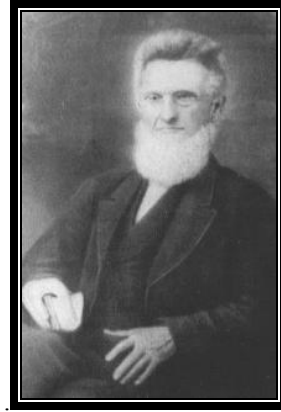
Isaac Tipton Reneau 1805-1885
Submitted by Dorothy Reneau Mote

(Written by Dorothy Reneau Mote, this biography of Isaac Tipton Reneau's life was read as an introduction of Reverend Betty Hadus Reneau by Dr. Douglas Deuel, Senior Minister, at the Sunday worship service in the Central Christian Church, Disciples of Christ, San Antonio, Texas, October 26, 2003. Betty was in San Antonio attending the "2003 Reneau Reunion." Also attending worship, representing the Reneau family, was Anita Reneau Daniels, great-great-granddaughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau.)



Central Christian Church
Disciples of Christ
720 N. Main
San Antonio, TX

Isaac Tipton Reneau was born in 1805 in Cumberland County in the mountains of Kentucky. Early in life he had a thirst for knowledge. With perseverance and few schools, he pursued his studies until he was qualified to teach school. He began his teaching career in 1830 at Clear Fork, Kentucky. He wanted more knowledge and made application to study under Dr. Jourdan in Overton County in Tennessee. Dr Jourdan was not only a successful physician but a preacher of the gospel. Campbellism was making strides throughout the state. John "Raccoon" Smith was teaching and preaching this doctrine. After hearing Smith, Reneau was baptized on June 12, 1831 by W. D. Jourdan at Ashburnes Creek, in Overton County Tennessee. Reneau began to practice medicine. A young Baptist preacher, John Calvin Smith, was influenced by reforming ideas and was fast becoming a "reformed" Baptist preacher. Through his and others efforts the Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli was organized in December of 1834. It was composed of 16 members with Isaac T. Reneau one of the two Elders chosen.. The congregation first met at the home of Rebecca Talbott. She was an aunt of Isaac, and daughter of Charles Reno.



Isaac Tipton Reneau
circa: 1850

On August 26, 1838, Isaac Reneau married Mary Gipson Wood, his life companion. In September of 1838 Reneau got a letter of Recommendation to any Church of Christ. Mary Gipson moved her membership to the Church at Paoli from the Clear Fork Baptist Church on November 18, 1838. Her sisters, Margaret B. and Mariba Wood were received by faith and immersion on the same day.

Isaac Tipton was ordained on May 5, 1844 as an Evangelist. He was now on his path that would lead others to the Lord. He continued to teach to earn a living for his growing family but these places of teaching soon became meeting places for worship. Reneau held several discourses throughout Kentucky, and the one in Tompkinsville was published in pamphlet form and circulated.

In July of 1858 the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society Board of Directors wrote to him and asked him to become an Evangelist. By this time Isaac and Mary Reneau had seven children but he could actually be paid to do the work that he loved and had been called to do.

He rode to different towns in Clinton and the surrounding counties on horseback, as a Circuit Rider, doing the work for the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society. He lodged with church members when close enough and camped when he could not. This continued throughout his life. A very hard life God had chosen for Isaac Tipton Reneau. Many Churches in Kentucky and Tennessee owe their beginnings to Isaac T. Reneau.

During the Civil War 1861-1865 he had to stay closer to home to protect the family from raiders such as "Champ" Ferguson, notorious for raiding both Northern and Southern families. At this time he moved back to Clinton County, buying his sisters-in-laws' portion of the Wood farm. One of his sons, Thomas Wood Reneau, fought in the war on the Union side. The grandfather of Betty Reneau,

Reuben James Shannon Reneau, was born the year the Civil War started. Isaac Tipton Reneau's life was a rewarding, hard and trying one.

At the end of the Civil War he was able to devote more time to his ministry and continued until his death in 1885.

Betty Reneau and Oren Neathery (Ned) Reneau, great grandchildren of Isaac Tipton Reneau followed in Isaac Tipton's footsteps. Betty and her brother Ned both graduated from Lexington Theological Seminary and are ordained ministers. Another great-granddaughter who entered the ministry was Mary Hulda Allen, granddaughter of Mary Bayless Reneau Beard.



Lexington Theological Seminary,
Betty Hadus Reneau Graduation
l-r: Ned and Betty with parents, Hadus
and Isaac Oren Reneau
June 6, 1958

They, as well as many others in the Reneau family, have followed in their Great Grandfather's footsteps, leading others to the Lord and preaching His word. Betty has devoted her life to teaching, preaching and preserving the information of Isaac Tipton Reneau and others of the Reneau Family History. The family donated the papers of Isaac Tipton Reneau to the Boswell Library a part of the Lexington Theological Seminary, Lexington, KY, for future generations to study. The Paoli Church of Christ eventually evolved into The First Christian Church of Albany Kentucky where Betty is a very active working member. The church is presently undergoing a complete renovation, and welcoming a new Minister on May 23, 2004, whose Installation was held on August 22, 2004, and an Open House and Dedication of its facilities at a later date. It will be 170 years old on December 24, 2004.

Margaret Eunice Reneau and her Descendants **Submitted by Brenda Payne Rose**

In about 1972 my grandmother, Martha Eunice Bennett Greene, wrote a family history as she had it passed down to her. Here is what she wrote about her grandmother, (my great-great-grandmother) Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings:

“One of his (Isaac Tipton's) children was Margaret Eunice, a very brilliant and talented woman – she attended Belmont College at Hopkinsville, KY. Enos Cambell, a brother of Alexander, was president of the college. He was drafted in the Civil War, and Eunice (our grandmother) took his place. She taught for years – and one Sunday P.M. she was home when a handsome young man rode up on horseback and asked her father if he could get lodging for the night... Eunice and Elbert got acquainted and a romance was born and blossomed and they got married. She was a member of the Church of Christ and he belonged to the Northern Methodist Church (the Methodists are one now). When they lived in Tullahoma, (TN), G'ma and 3 girls attended the Christian Church on the corner of Grundy and Jackson and G'pa preached across the street at the Methodist.”

Elbert Stillings was from Tennessee, and was both a doctor and a preacher.

Eunice and Elbert had four children, of whom Lula was the oldest. She was born on Oct. 14, 1869 in Tennessee.

My great-grandmother, Lula Belle Stillings lived in Kentucky much of her childhood, for her brother and two sisters were all born in that state. A letter from Margaret Eunice to her family on Feb 19, 1877 has this about the children: “Our children are learning very finely. Lula will recite the last lesson in subtraction in a few minutes. Linda is spelling and Margaret about knows her letters. They all know the figures.” Obviously Eunice was teaching the children herself – definitely homeschooling! In 1880 the family was living in Tompkinsville, Monroe Co., KY. Elbert was farming and Margaret was home with the children. Several letters from the girls to their Grandmother Mary Reneau have been preserved. Here is one from Lula when the family was living in Livingston, TN. The date was March 8, 1886, and Lula was 16 years old:

Dear Grandma,

I will write as the others have all written lately. We girls are going to school. I am studying diction, English, Philosophy, Arithmetic, and write

compositions in History. There are two teachers, Roy Boone and Miss Lulu Rust. I like (unclear) hers very well. Tell Alice, Susie, Lizzie Beard and Mariba to write to us. I am sorry that Willie is as bad as he is. Tell Uncle Shan to give our love to Aunt Alice and bring her down next summer. Write soon to:

Your Grand daughter Lula

After Elbert's death on May 5, 1898, Margaret Eunice went to live with her daughter, Pattie and her husband, William Pirtle. Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings died in her 78th year on June 14, 1917. She is buried in the Evergreen Cemetery in Bladensburg, MD. I visited the grave site with my mother and three children in 1987.

Lula Belle Stillings married William Frank Bennett on Dec 22, 1895. They went to live in Moore Co., TN, where they stayed until 1927, when they moved to Tullahoma. I have been to Tullahoma and seen where the old home place was – right in town, not in the country.



August 2003

Maplewood Cemetery, Tullahoma, TN
 Brenda Lynne Payne Rose and children: L-R: Joshua Daniel, James Isaac, Martha Anne, and John Timothy
 at the tombstone of
 Lula Belle Stillings Bennett and William Frank Bennett

Frank and Lula had 9 children of whom Martha Eunice (named for her two grandmothers) was the third. She was born March 18, 1900. She was always called Eunice, just as her grandmother had been. I have also seen the old one-room school house where my grandmother went to school. The Turkey Creek School was torn down during the 1990s. It had been located behind the Turkey Creek United Methodist Church, about four miles from the present Tullahoma city limits.



Lula Belle Stillings Bennett with her nephew and eight (surviving) children:

l-r: L.D. Hix, Allen Creed, John Franklin, Irene, Twins Lula Elaine and Beulah Jane, Cynthia Elberta, Martha Eunice, and Thomas William (T.W.)
 circa 1910



Bennett children in 1929

l-r: Creed, Beulah, Lula, John, Eunice or John's wife, and Elberta

Eunice became a teacher after finishing high school. She may have taught in Sparta, Spencer, or White Co. It is also possible that she taught in Macon, Georgia (according to her daughter, my aunt Maxine Greene Turner). Unfortunately, Grandma was teaching during the Great Depression and she lost her job. In the 1930 census she was living at a ladies' boarding house in Chattanooga, TN and was employed as a hairdresser. She later moved to Washington, D.C., where there was better work. One evening she had a date with Raleigh Wood, who asked her to bring her sister Elberta as a blind date for his roommate, Raible Greene of Pennsylvania. They had a double date, but switched partners at some point. Raleigh Wood later married Elberta Bennett. Eunice began dating Raible, who was also an unemployed school teacher as well as a preacher. He, too, had lost his job teaching because of the Depression. Both of them told how the teaching jobs were given to family and friends of the superintendents, so others were out of luck. My Grandma, Martha Eunice married Raible Greene on May 13, 1934. They bought land in Dunn Loring, Fairfax Co., VA, where Granddaddy built

their house.



Wedding Photo
Martha Eunice Bennett and
Raible Max Greene
May 13, 1934

The house burned down in the mid-1980s while my cousin was living there, and the land was sold in January, 2001. My aunt, Harriet Maxine Greene, born August 10, 1935 and my mother, Margie Kathleen Greene, born on March 5, 1937, were both born at the home place. As a child, I spent much time at my grandparent's home and remember the old outhouse, the well, and when indoor plumbing was first installed (in my mother's old bedroom) in 1963. Granddaddy worked for the federal government until he retired in about 1970, and Grandma stayed at home. They went to the 14th St. Church of Christ in Washington, D. C.; later to the Arlington Church of Christ, where my mother and aunt were raised; then my grandparents were charter members of the Falls Church, Church of Christ. I first attended church there at the old building on West Broad St., and can remember when the present building was erected on Leesburg Pike, between Seven Corners and Bailey's Crossroads.

My mother Kathi Greene did not graduate from high school, but dropped out in tenth grade.



Margie Kathleen "Kathi" Greene
Age 8, 3rd grade photo

She married Ross Elwood Payne, of Arlington, VA, on July 10, 1954, and I was born on June 22, 1955. Their only other child is my sister, Laurie Beth Payne

Potter, born May 19, 1960. Laurie has three children, two of whom live at home with her and our father. They reside in Stafford Co., Virginia, in the Aquia District, not far from the area where Lewis Reynaud first bought land in America.

My father, whose birthday is December 9, 1931 (the same day as Isaac T. Reneau, 126 years later), had also dropped out of high school in the tenth grade and had then gone into the Air Force where he was a radio operator. My father has never been much of a reader, but rather is wonderful with his hands, having worked some in carpentry, but primarily as an auto and truck mechanic. My mother, on the other hand, was extremely well-read, and knowledgeable about many subjects. She enjoyed reading, but even more loved puzzles and games of logic, either with words or with numbers. She got her GED when she was about 40 years old, then took some English classes at the community college. She was a member of Toastmasters for a number of years and enjoyed writing and giving speeches at their meetings.



Brenda Payne (age 17) with parents,
Kathi and Ross Payne

As both of my parents, and all of my aunts and uncles were high school dropouts, it was a very "big deal" when I graduated and then went to college. I graduated from Yorktown High School in Arlington, VA in 1973, and then began Abilene Christian College (later University) that fall. I graduated from ACU in August, 1979 with a BS ED – another teacher in the family. I had married Gary Rose (from Richmond, California) on August 9, 1974, after he graduated from Abilene with a BA in biblical studies. A teacher married to a preacher- that seems to be a recurrent theme in my family!

Gary and I have lived in California (1974-75), Texas (1975-1988), South Carolina (1988-89), and Virginia (1989-present). We have seven children: David Jonathan, born September 20, 1978; Sarah Elizabeth, born October 6, 1980 (married to Joshua Kent Painter of Waynesboro, VA on Dec. 16, 2000); Martha Anne, born August 23, 1982; John Timothy, born July 15, 1990; James Isaac, born April 10, 1992;

Joshua Daniel, born May 31, 1994; and Joel Jesse, born May 24, 1998, died July 25, 1998. The first three children were all born at Hendrick's Medical Center, Abilene, Taylor Co., TX. The next three were born in Stonewall Jackson Hospital, Lexington, VA. And Joel was born, lived, and died at the University of Virginia Medical Center in Charlottesville, VA. He was our special child, born five weeks early, who had Downs Syndrome. He lived only two months, but in that time touched not only our lives but the lives of many others. His heart had stopped just before his birth, but he was revived by the doctors. He was alert and cheerful, but unfortunately suffered liver damage and died from liver failure after nine weeks. He is buried in Thornrose Cemetery in Staunton, VA, where we now live. His brothers often walk to the cemetery and take him flowers or just go to visit.

Our oldest child, David, married Amy Rebecca Hundley of Charlottesville, VA on July 31, 1999. Their first child, Jonathan Caleb Noble Rose, was born Feb 25, 2003 in Johnson City, TN. They live in Elizabethton, TN, near Sycamore Shoales State Park. John Reno lived near the "Sickamore Shoales" in 1786 when his home was used for an election "to choose members to represent Washington County in the General Assembly of North Carolina." Ten years later, when the town of Elizabethton was formed, Charles Reneau (grandfather of Isaac Tipton Reneau) paid \$10.00 to purchase Lot 25. The town was laid out on land owned by Samuel Tipton, whose wife Susannah was Charles' cousin. The Reneau family began life in America in Virginia, and then moved through Tennessee to Kentucky. The last Reneau in our family, Margaret Eunice, reversed the path and took the family back to Tennessee, then her granddaughter, Martha Eunice Bennett, brought us back to Virginia. It has been a long and exciting journey, with many adventures along the way.



Gary and Brenda Rose with children at Albany Christian Church, Albany, KY (Originally, the Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli)
 l-r: Gary Rose, John Timothy, Brenda Payne Rose, Joshua Daniel, and James Isaac.
 August 2003

It was especially fun to see my cousin, Bennett Wood at the Reunion in San Antonio. His mother, Cynthia Elberta Bennett Wood was a sister of my grandmother, Martha Eunice Bennett Greene



Cousins: Bennett Wood and Brenda Rose
 Reneau Reunion
 October 25, 2003



The Rose Family
 l-r frnt: John, Sarah (Rose) Painter, James, Amy (Hundley) Rose, holding Jonathan, Joshua.
 l-r bk: Josh Painter, Martha, David, Brenda, Gary

Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood
Ancestors and Descendants
Submitted by Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood

The Great Great Grand Mother of Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood was Mary Gibson Wood, the daughter of Thomas Wood. Mary Gibson Wood married Isaac Tipton Reneau August 22, 1837 in Stockton Valley, Kentucky. From that union, Margaret Eunice Reneau was born in Clinton, Kentucky. Margaret was married to Dr. Elbert Stillings. From that union Luola Belle Stillings was born. Luola married William Frank Bennett on December 22, 1895. In August 7, 1907 Cynthia Elberta Bennett was born. Cynthia was my mother. She married Raleigh Edward Sr. in Franklin, Tennessee. From that union, Raleigh Edward Wood, Jr. was born in 1937, in Opalika, Alabama. I was born April 24, 1938 in Washington D.C. at the old Garfield Hospital. We lived in the Washington area till 1951. I now live in North Little Rock, Arkansas.



Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood
2nd Great Grandson of Isaac Tipton Reneau
Margaret Eunice Reneau...Great Grandmother
Lula Belle Stillings...Grandmother
Cynthia Elberta Wood...Mother

Ancestors of Mary Gibson Wood were Thomas Wood, one of the seven sons of Samuel Wood of Jonesborough, Tennessee. Thomas Wood married Mary Bayless in Jonesborough, Tennessee on March 9, 1802. Samuel Wood was born in Leicestershire Province, town of Leicester, England on May 2, 1737, the 4th son and 5th child of William Wood and Mary Bayless of Leicestershire. William and his wife, Mary, had nine children. William Wood was in the wool combing business. William and Mary were members of the All Saints Parish Church. William served as church sexton. Eight of the children were "christened" in this church and were well educated for that period in history. According to tradition the eldest son was to inherit all the family business. This prompted the other Wood boys to migrate to the new land in America. The first of the boys came to the new land, then the rest came by ship via indentured servitude, and were "purchased" by their brothers, (at a greatly lower price, for no one would bid against a brother bidding on a brother) and upon payment to the captain of the vessel, they were given their freedom, repaying their brothers, and the system would be repeated. The oldest son, William stayed in England because of the system of primogeniture, which made the eldest son his father's natural heir. William Jr. lived to a good old age and died unmarried and childless. His brothers in America should have been heirs, but because of their participation in the American Revolution against their land of birth, the property went to the state for a period of 100 years. After that date, little is known about the property.

Samuel and his two brothers sailed from England in 1755 on the "Hopewell" landing in Alexandria, Virginia. To pay for his passage, Samuel may have had to serve with the Colonial troops, inasmuch as family records have him serving with Col. George

Washington and also with General Braddock in his ill-fated march against the French and Indians at Fort Duquesne. After peace of 1763, it is thought Samuel returned to Virginia where he was employed by some of the large plantation owners of Fairfax and Loudoun counties. Samuel's first wife was Mary Robertson, the daughter of a plantation owner. Mary died after the birth of their daughter, Mary Wood, who was raised by her Robertson grandparents. Samuel's second wife was Sarah Reives, the daughter of James Reives a tobacco planter. During the American Revolution, he could not serve in the military due to health reasons, but he performed patriotic service for his country by giving his pewter tableware to be melted and made into bullets, and after the battle near Alexandria, he and Sarah nursed the sick and wounded in their home.

The couple resettled in East Tennessee, now known as Jonesborough, Tennessee. This small town is located on a small river, in a lovely valley, near the town of Johnson City, Tennessee. This is now called the Tri Cities area, Johnson City, Kingsport, and Bristol, Tennessee. Samuel owned over 400 acres of land in this area where there were lovely rolling hills, mountains, and rivers. The farm land is rich, and it had an active commercial area. Samuel Wood, the grandfather of Mary Gibson Wood, was active in politics, and was appointed by the first governor of Tennessee, John Savier, as one of the first magistrates of Jonesborough. The court house built later is still standing. The "wooden stocks" are still standing on the lawn of the court house building. If one's crime was theft, and it exceeded a certain amount, the offender's head and hands were secured by the stock, and his ears would be pinned back by small nails to the wooden stock. The next morning the local barber cut off the tips of the ears, to forever show, this man missing a part of both ears, was at some point in time was convicted of stealing. Thus we have the term...."that person's ears were pinned back."



Mary Bayless Wood
October 25, 1777 – October 18, 1863
wife of Thomas Wood

Thomas Wood, one of the sons of Samuel Wood moved at some point in time to the area of Cumberland County, Kentucky. He took with him his wife Mary Bayless. Mary Gibson Wood was born on June 14th in the year 1816. Cumberland County was later changed to Clinton County, Kentucky.

In 1834 Thomas went to visit his brothers in Illinois. On his trip back to his home in Kentucky he rubbed a blister on his foot, resulting in blood poisoning, resulting in his death eight days after his return home. Mary Bayless, his wife, lived another 29 years

In the year of 1837, August 22, Mary Gipson Wood was married to Isaac Tipton Reneau. The Wood family was prominent, and had one of the largest houses in south eastern Kentucky. Later in their marriage, Isaac and Mary moved into the Thomas Wood home. Margaret Eunice Reneau was their first child.

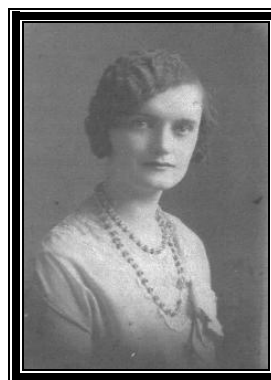
Margaret Eunice Reneau received a very good education. Both Isaac and Mary insisted on education of their children. By family oral history, it has been handed down that Margaret Eunice was appointed the President of Belmont College, then located in Kentucky. It is our understanding this was a finishing school for young ladies. Belmont University is now located in Nashville, Tennessee and is still an active institution of higher learning.

Margaret Reneau met Dr. Elbert Stillings in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky, and they were married over the objections of Isaac Tipton Reneau, while Mary Gibson Wood Reneau approved, and the wedding was held in the house of Thomas Wood.

From this union, Luola Belle Stillings was born, who is my grandmother. She was born October 14, 1869, four years after the end of the Civil War. Perhaps Dr. Stillings was still learning the medical trade. According to stories handed down by the family, Elbert Stillings served on the medical staff of General Hood, the commander of the Army of Tennessee, Confederate. It is said a surgeon's motto was..."when in doubt, cut it out." This may be true, for General Hood, by the end of the war, was missing his right leg and left arm. Hood was so medicated by whiskey and opium, he made some poor decisions in the battle of Franklin, Tennessee. Hood was fitted with a cork leg and arm and had to be tied to his horse in this battle. If great grandfather Stillings had anything to do with the medication...then perhaps he bears responsibility of Hood's muddled state of mind during the battle.

Luola (now spelled Lula) Belle Stillings met and married a very tall fellow by the name of William Frank Bennett. From that union, Cynthia Elberta Bennett was born in Lynchburg, Tennessee. If you notice, Loula Belle named her daughter after her

father...Elbert to Elberta. At some point in time while living in this area, William Frank Bennett was a Deputy US Marshall. The old home place was burned down by bootleggers seeking revenge for the destruction of their stills, where upon the family moved to Tullahoma, Tennessee. Grandfather William Frank, on occasions, would sit on the front porch at night leaning back in a straight back chair, pistol on hip, and shot gun over his lap, protecting his family from similar events.



Cynthia Elberta Bennet Wood
Great Granddaughter of
Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gibson Wood
Born 1907....died 1979

Cynthia Elberta taught school in this area, then went to visit Eunice her older sister, who lived in the Washington D.C. area. One night the two sisters had a double date with Raleigh Wood and Raible Green. Raleigh and Raible, who had met at church, roomed together in what is now known as the Blair House, across the street from the White House on Pennsylvania Avenue. The two couples went Duck Pin Bowling, Raleigh with Eunice, and Raible with Cynthia Elberta. Before the evening was over, Eunice and Raible got together and Raleigh and Cynthia paired off with each other.



Raleigh Edward Wood, Sr.
and
Cynthia Elberta Wood
Married 1935
Raleigh Edward Wood and Cynthia Elberta Bennett

were married in Franklin, Tennessee in 1935. My parents lived in Washington D.C. Raleigh had earned his law degree and worked for the General Accounting Office in the old red brick Post Office Building. The GAO is an arm of the Congress of the United States.

From this union Raleigh Edward and I were born. Our family enjoyed a close relationship, my father being exempted from serving in WWII due to his job with the Congress. Later, in the 1950's, Pop and Mom were moved to St. Louis, then to Indianapolis, Indiana, where they retired to a home in Memphis, Tennessee. Mom lived to be 72 and Pop living to be 83, both passing away in Memphis.

My brother Raleigh married Opal Wooten. They lived in Memphis till Raleigh completed his graduate degrees in theology. From their union they were blessed with 4 sons, Raleigh Edward Wood III, Joseph Harvey Wood, Andrew Barrett Wood, and Marcus Paul Wood, who was born ten days after the illness and death of my brother, Raleigh, at age 36.



Raleigh E. Wood, Jr.
1937 – 1973

Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood married Margie Clark in 1960, and we were blessed with three children, Clark Bennett Wood, Jonathan David Wood, and Carol Ann Wood Percy.

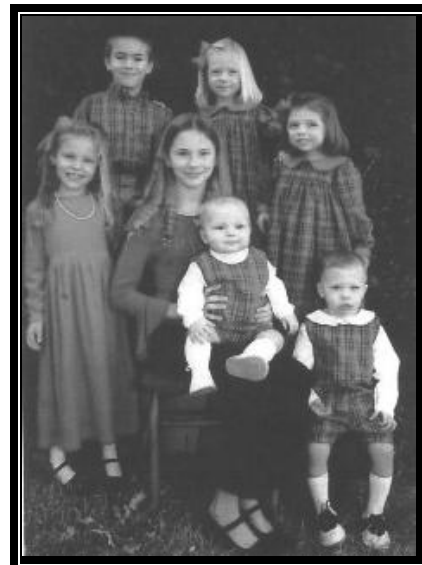


Margie Clark Wood
Wife of Bennett
Married June 18, 1960



Children of Bennett and Margie Wood
l-r: Jonathan David, Carol Ann, Clark Bennett

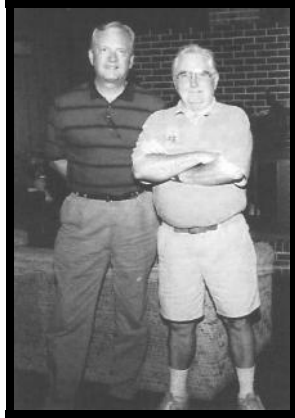
I retired from Government Service, Director of the United States Department of Labor. Margie retired from the Arkansas Dept of Education, Administrator of Special Education. We have seven grandchildren.



Grandchildren of Bennett and Margie Wood
front: Jonathon Jacob Wood, William Jay Bennett
Percy 2nd: Avery Ann Wood Meagan Wood,
Morgan Elizabeth Percy
back: Bennett Allen Wood Merin Wood



Johnnie Whaley, daughter of Lula
First cousin to Bennett Wood



Bennett Wood
William Frank Schrom, son of Bula
First Cousins



“Auctioneer” Bennett Wood
2003 Reneau Reunion
San Antonio, Texas

Raleigh Edward Wood, Jr.
Submitted by Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood

Raleigh Edward Wood, Jr. was the first son born to Cynthia Elberta Bennett Wood and Raleigh Edward Wood, Sr. He was born January 23, 1937 in Opalika, Alabama.

Raleigh Edward Wood, Jr. shared the same ancestors as did his brother, Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood. Bennett and Raleigh were born 15 months apart. Raleigh was educated to be a minister of the gospel of Jesus Christ. Raleigh was very intelligent. He received at least two post graduate degrees. He could read and write in Greek and Hebrew, as well as studying Latin and German. His Thesis was on the book of Thessalonians, and is published. Raleigh and Opal were married when Raleigh was in graduate school.



Opal Wooton Wood & Raleigh Edward Wood Jr
Wedding Photo
Feb 2, 1961
Hernado, Mississippi

Raleigh ministered the Saints in Georgia, Illinois, and Mississippi in his short twelve years career. He was serving at Starkville, Mississippi when he became ill, and passed from this life in March 1973. He left three sons, the forth being born about 2 weeks after his passing.

Raleigh Edward Wood, III was born November 28, 1962 in Bainbridge, Georgia. Raleigh III is married to Margaret Jewell Ragland Wood of Gulfport, Mississippi. Margaret has a degree in Education. Raleigh received his degrees from Mississippi State University, and is a Coach in High School. They have three children: Lindsay Jewell Wood, born July 4, 1994, Raleigh Edward Wood, IV, born December 12, 1996, and Ryan Douglas Wood, born September 26, 2002. They live in Grenada, Mississippi.

Joseph Harvey Wood was born in Rockford, Illinois June 8, 1965. He received his degree in Civil Engineering from Mississippi State University. Joe married Leslie Ann Williams on Aug 4, 1990. Leslie is a CPA. Joe and Leslie live in Starkville, Mississippi, and have two children, Katherine Elise Wood, born Nov 17, 1994. And Jacob Harvey Wood, born May 17, 1998. They live in Starkville, Mississippi.

Andrew Barrett Wood, (Andy) was born on March 26, 1967 in Arlington Heights, Illinois. Andy attended the University of Memphis and secured his education thru a football scholarship. Andy is 6 foot 4 inches, 265 lbs during his football days. He was the most valuable player when Memphis beat the University of Alabama 9 to 6. Andy married Donna Ann Temple of North Carolina. They live in Goodman, Mississippi, where Andy coaches at the

University level. Andy is considering becoming the Dean of Students. They have two children, Paul Barrett Wood, born Sept 8, 2002 and Ethan Andrew Wood born January 20, 2004.

Marcus Paul Wood was born in Starkville, Mississippi on March 15, 1973. Marcus is a head football coach. He was offered an Ivy League scholarship at Rutgers University, graduating from Mississippi State University. Marcus was an All-American academic selection. He is married to Penelope Parks Wood from Indianola, Mississippi. Marcus and Penny now live in Columbia, Mississippi. They have three boys, Marcus Paul Wood, Jr. born April 7, 1999, Michael Parks Wood, May 6, 2001, and William Raleigh Wood March 1, 2004.



Raleigh Wood Jr. Family

Front l-r: Margaret Wood, wife of Raleigh Edward Wood III; Opal Wood; Leslie Wood, wife of Joseph Harvey Wood.

Back l-r: Andrew Barrett Wood, Raleigh Edward Wood III, Marcus Paul Wood Sr., Joseph Harvey Wood.

Opal Wood never remarried and still lives in Starkville, Mississippi, where she retired from teaching, and now directs her attention to all the grand children. My brother Raleigh Edward smiles down on his lovely family.

The following photo was taken last year, 2003, at the Mississippi coast on a restaurant dock. What a great family get-together!



First Row l-r: Jacob Wood, Raleigh Wood IV, Lindsay Wood, Marcus Wood Jr.

Second Row: Katie Wood

Third Row l-r: Leslie Wood, Meg Wood holding baby, Ryan Wood, Opal Wood, Penny Wood, Donna Wood.

Fourth Row l-r: Joe Wood, Raleigh Wood Jr., Marcus Wood holding Parker Wood, Andy Wood holding Paul Wood.

The next photo is one of all the grandchildren. What fun to have the children dressed in numbered T-shirts! By number the children are: 1) Lindsay Jewell, 2) Katie Katherine, 3) Raleigh E. Wood, IV, 4) Jacob Harvey, 5) Marcus Paul, Jr., 6) Michael Parks, 7) Paul Barrett, 8) Ryan Douglas, 9) Ethan Andrew, and 10) William Raleigh. All Wood boys and girls!



The children from left to right: Raleigh Edward Wood, IV (3), Marcus Paul Jr. (5), Paul Barrett Wood (7), sitting Lindsay Jewell Wood, (1), baby held by Lindsay: Ethen Andrew Wood (9), baby held is William Raleigh Wood (10), girl holding William is Katherine Elise Wood (2), Ryan Douglas Wood (8), Michael Parker Wood (6) and Jacob Harvey Wood (4).

And here's a way to match the children to their parents! Raleigh III and Meg are parents of 1, 3, and 8. Joe and Leslie are parents of 2, and 4. Andy and Donna are parents of 7, and 9.

Thomas Wood Reneau and Descendants
Letter from Isaac Tipton Reneau to Electa Smith
provided by Betty Reneau,
Quotes from The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless
Courts Depp compiled by William Terry IV,
Information provided by Alvin Chandler, Betty
Reneau, and Anita Reneau Daniels

Thomas Wood Reneau was the first son born to Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. He was born January 21, 1842 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Being the oldest son, it fell to Thomas to manage and work the family farm while his father was traveling the region preaching. Isaac Tipton had a high regard for education, and in 1860 Thomas attended Bloomington Seminary in Central Tennessee. However, strife in the country precluded further education, and Thomas enlisted in the Union Army with the 5th Kentucky Cavalry during the Civil War.

On January 16th, 1868 Thomas married Electa Ann Smith. The following is a letter from Thomas' parents, Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Reneau, to Electa:

Home, Clinton Co., Ky. Jan 11, 1868

Sister Electa Smith:--

We understand that a marriage will be consummated, on Thursday, the 16th inst. between yourself and our Son Thomas W. Reneau. We wish you to know that, it meets our entire approbation; and, that, we cordially invite you to accompany him to our house, on Friday the 17th.

Yours in good faith,
 Isaac T. Reneau
 Mary G. Reneau

Thomas and Electa had eight children. William Calvin, born January 9, 1869; Isaac Newton, born August 03, 1871, Edward Gipson, born March 23, 1874. According to the 1880 Federal Census, William Calvin and Edward Gipson were born in Kentucky; and Isaac Newton was born in Tennessee. Between 1874 and 1878 Thomas and his family moved to the "new frontier," Texas. There they farmed the land, and the remaining five siblings were born: Thomas Emory, born November 12, 1878; John Velpaugh, born May 27, 1882; Mary Margaret, born August 17, 1885; Elza W., born May 7, 1877; and Clarence Harvey, born August 14, 1890. Electa Ann Smith Reneau passed away on April 19, 1891.

The following three photos are from Betty Reneau, granddaughter of Thomas Wood's brother, Reuben James Shannon Reneau. While these photos were not labeled, it is the opinion of many that they are of Thomas Wood Reneau, his wife, Electa, and their

first four sons. The size and age difference of the sons are consistent with the first four sons of Thomas and Electa. The photos, according to the background, were taken at the same time. There is a label that notes the photographer is from Greenville, Texas.



Electa Smith Reneau and Thomas Wood Reneau
 circa 1885



William Calvin Reneau and Isaac Newton Reneau
 circa 1885



Edward Gipson Reneau and Thomas Emory Reneau
circa 1885

On September 1, 1891, Thomas married Ella Blanche Martin in Hunt County, Texas. Three more children joined the family: Lila Estelle Georgia, born February 6, 1893; Virginia Jane, born September 28, 1900; Earl Wood, born March 25, 1902, and Ida Bessie, born January 25, 1908. Lila, Virginia, and Earl were born in Hunt County, Texas. Thomas and Ella moved to Kiowa County, Oklahoma sometime between the years of 1903 and 1905. Their youngest child, Ida Bessie was born in Oklahoma.



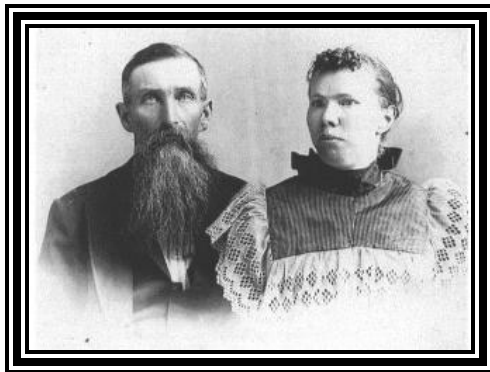
Thomas Wood Reneau and sons
l-r standing: John Velpaugh, Edward Gipson, Isaac
Newton
l-r sitting: Thomas Emory, Thomas Wood, and
William Calvin
circa 1901

During his lifetime Thomas Wood Reneau suffered the loss of six of his children: Elza Reneau lived only 4 days and died on May 11, 1877. On February 21, 1891, Clarence Harvey Reneau died at the age of six months. On March 1, 1902 Lila Estelle Georgia Reneau died at age nine. That same year, 1902, Thomas Emory almost 24 years old, died of typhoid fever on September 8. Just one year later, on September 19, 1903, Mary Margaret died at age eighteen.

In 1906, Thomas Wood, now living in Oklahoma, received the sad news that his son, John Velpaugh had been killed by a lightning strike on April 6, 1906. John Velpaugh was 24 years old. "The Greenville Herald" newspaper reported that John was a teacher at the school at nearby Savannah, and was struck by lightning during his mile and half walk to the school from his home in Floyd. Thomas returned to Floyd for the funeral of his son.

Thomas Wood returned to his home in Oklahoma. He resided there until his death on April 20, 1921 at age 79 years.

Three grandchildren of Thomas Wood Reneau's son, Edward Gipson, attended the Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, October 25, 2003: Alvin Chandler, Linda Reneau Moore, and Thomas A. Reneau Jr. Alvin is the son of Thomas Wood's granddaughter, Mamie Irene Reneau Chandler. Linda and Thomas Jr. are the children of Thomas Alan Reneau, grandson of Thomas Wood.

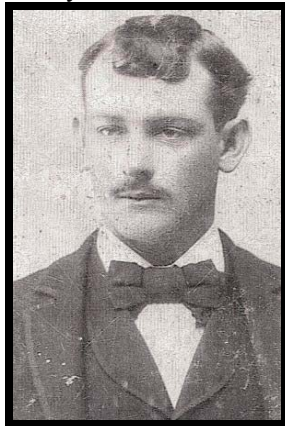


Thomas Wood Reneau and Ella Blanche Martin
Greenville, Texas

Thomas Wood Reneau's niece, Nettie Bayless Courts Depp, daughter of Mariba Reneau Depp, visited her uncle in Hobart, Oklahoma in 1907. Nettie's sister, Mary Pitsey Depp Rowland also lived in Hobart. In [The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp](#), William Terry IV, shares a letter that Nettie wrote of the visit: "I have spent one day in the country, with my uncle, Thomas Reneau. He has a very beautiful home, seven miles south of here...It is in this place that I saw the finest orchard that I ever saw, for four years growth. It had more fruit in it than any I have seen in our county this year."

Edward Gipson Reneau and Descendants
Information provided by Alvin E. Reneau
and Anna Reneau

Edward Gipson Reneau was born on March 23, 1874 in Kentucky to Thomas Wood Reneau and Electa Smith Reneau. He joined two older brothers, William Calvin and Isaac Newton. Edward Gipson's Reneau lineage was: Thomas Wood Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis. Edward "Gip" was quite young when the family relocated to Texas. His next sibling, Thomas Emory was born in Texas on November 12, 1878. The family farmed in Hunt County, Texas. On December 22, 1895 Edward Gipson married Lucy Cordia Lyons. Lucy was born in Texas in 1873.



Edward Gipson Reneau
 circa 1895



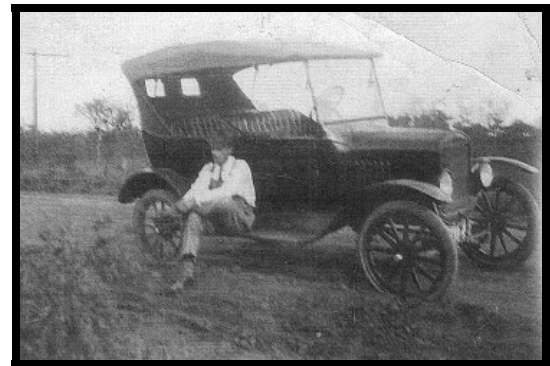
Lucy Cordia Lyons Reneau
 circa 1895

Gip and Lucy rented farm land in Hunt County. The 1920 U.S. Federal Census shows that the farm was near Salem Road. Edward's occupation is listed as a general farmer.



Edward Gipson Reneau Family Photo
 1-r back row: Reba Jewell, Mary Olive, William Wayne, and Lane Edward
 1-r front: Edward Gipson, Thomas Alan, Mamie Irene, Lucy Cordia Lyons Reneau, Louise Cordia—seated in front of Mamie. Bernice Agnes—being held by Lucy.
 circa 1914

The 1930 U.S. Federal Census shows Edward and Lucy still living on the farm. Three of their children were still living there: Lane, age 25; Louise, age 19; and Bernice, age 17. The record also noted that both Edward and his son, Lane, were farming.



Lane Edward Reneau
 circa 1930

Edward and Lucy's oldest daughter, Reba Jewell, married W. H. Taylor Sr. on February 14, 1918. Information from the 1930 U.S. Federal Census shows Howard W. Taylor, his wife Reba, and son, William H., living in Greenville, Texas. Howard was a salesman in a Dry Goods Store, and Reba was

employed as a nurse.

Mary Olive was the next to be married. She wed Claude Glawson on December 24, 1921. The 1930 U.S. Federal Census shows Olive and her husband, Claude, living and farming on land next to her parents. Texas death records show that Mary Glawson passed away on March 27, 1971, and that Claude had died February 10, 1968.

On April 21, 1923, William Wayne married Marguerite Kelly. Wayne and Marguerite had two sons and a daughter: Wayne Kelly, Sarah Margaret, and James Donald. Their oldest son, Wayne, married Helen Owens, and they have two sets of twins: Shane Kelly and Shawn Kerry; and Karen Denise and Keith Dennis. Wayne and Marguerite's daughter, Margaret married Travis Don Holly.

The youngest son of Wayne and Marguerite, James Donald, married Anna Vickers on March 31, 1951. James and Anna had a pump service, installing tanks and lines for various businesses. They had this business for 38 years. They have four children: Jimmy Wayne, born in September, 1951; Margaret Ann, born in May, 1955, Theresa Sue, born in October 1956, and Jon Andrew, born in August, 1957. Jim, James and Anna's oldest son, owns Reneau Art Gallery in Greenville. James and Anna's daughter, Theresa is married to Emmett Burton. James Donald passed away on January 3, 1996.

Mamie Irene was wed to Theo Alvin Chandler on January 23, 1928. Theo is listed as a farmer in the 1930 U.S. Federal Census, where he and Mamie lived on a farm in Hunt County, Texas.



Adult children of Edward Gipson and Lucy Cordia Reneau

l-r back: Thomas Alan, Lane Edward, William Wayne,

l-r front: Mamie Irene, Reba Jewell, Louise Cordia, Mary Olive, Bernice Agnes.

Louise Cordia married Jessie Odis Cotner on December 7, 1933. Bernice Agnes married John Bradley Hilliard on June 2, 1924. The wedding ceremonies for the above all took place in Hunt County, Texas.

Thomas Alan wed Marion Berger in November of

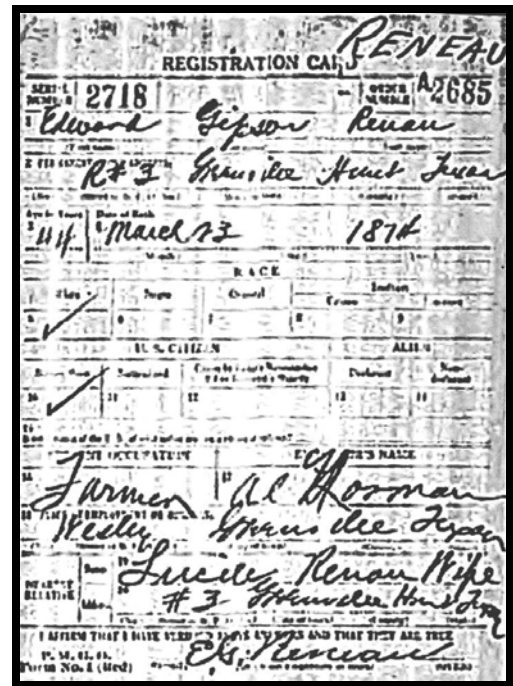
1941. There were two children born to this union: Linda Lou and Thomas Alan Jr.

Lane Edward married Bonnie Morrison on June 28, 1947. Lane and Bonnie had two daughters: Marilyn and Denise. Lane and Bonnie farmed in the Hunt County area.



l-r: Wayne, Lane, and Alan Reneau
October 1960

As evidenced in Military Records, "WWI Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918," Edward Gipson Reneau registered for the draft on September 12, 1918.



Front of Draft Registration Card

Edward registered for the draft on September 12, 1918. He was 44 years old at the time, and listed his occupation as Farmer. He listed on the registration his nearest relative would be Lucile Reneau, wife, at Route 3, Greenville, Hunt County, Texas.

REGISTRAR'S REPORT 42-4-57-0

DESCRIPTION OF REGISTRANT										
SEX	HAIR	EYES	COMPLEXION	HEIGHT	WEIGHT	HAIR	HAIR	HAIR	HAIR	HAIR
M	Bk	Bl	Fair	5' 10"	150	Bl	Bl	Bl	Bl	Bl

22 Has person lost arm, leg, hand, eye, or is he obviously physically disabled in any way?
No

23 I certify that the answers are true, that the person registered has read or has had read to him his own summary that I have witnessed him sign and so forth, and that all of the answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:

Academy
Sept 17 1918

LOCAL BOARD NO. 1
 HUNT COUNTY TEXAS
 GREENVILLE TEXAS

STATE OF TEXAS

Back of Draft Registration Card for Edward Gipson Reneau

The Draft Registrar described Edward's physical traits as medium height, medium build, blue eyes, black hair, and no physical impairments. It was just about two months after Edward Gipson Reneau registered for the draft that the war ended.

Lucy Cordia Lyons Reneau passed away in 1933 in Greenville, Texas. Edward died on September 9, 1941 in Greenville. Both Lucy and Edward are buried in East Mount Cemetery, Greenville, Texas.



Photo Display of Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Wood Reneau and family.

This photo was a popular auction item at the 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, Texas.

Lane Edward Reneau

Information provided by Denise Reneau and Marilyn Reneau Hearne

Lane Edward Reneau was born on September 8, 1903 in Hunt County, Texas, to Edward Gipson Reneau and Lucy Cordia Lyons Reneau. He was the fourth child born to Edward and Lucy, and joined two sisters, Reba Jewell and Mary Olive, and a brother, William Wayne. There would be a brother, Thomas Alan, and three sisters, Mamie Irene, Louise Cordia, and Bernice Agnes, to complete the family. Lane was about right in the middle of his siblings! Lane, with the other siblings, worked on the farm as they were growing up.

On June 28, 1947, Lane wed Bonnie Morrison.



Bonnie and Lane
1947

Before their marriage, Bonnie was a schoolteacher. The couple farmed in the Greenville, Texas area. Bonnie also enjoyed oil painting and reading. On March 7, 1948, the couple celebrated the birth of their first child, Marilyn Kay. The family was complete with the birth of their second daughter, Denise Elaine, on January 20, 1950. Both Marilyn and Denise attended the University of Texas in Austin.



Lane Reneau Family
l-r: Lane, Denise, Bonnie, and Marilyn

Denise lives in Austin, Texas. She is employed as a Consultant and Software Developer.



The John Hearne Family
Front l-r: Allison and Marilyn
Back l-r: Robert and John

Marilyn Kay was married to John William Hearne on July 25, 1981. She and her family live in Rowlett, Texas. Marilyn works as a school counselor. John is now retired, but also was a school counselor. Marilyn and John have two children: Allison, born June 17, 1983; and Robert, born May 2, 1986. Allison is a senior at the University of Texas at Austin, and Robert is a freshman at Baylor University.

Thomas A Reneau 1905 – 1975
Submitted by Linda Reneau Moore

Thomas Alan Reneau was the son of Edward Gipson “Gip” Reneau and Lucille Cordia Lyons Reneau. Edward Gipson Reneau was the son of Thomas Wood Reneau, son of Isaac Tipton, son of John Reno.

Thomas Reneau had a mischievous streak – as a child on a farm in Greenville, Texas. He walked to school. One day, he offered to bring some switches to the teacher. Before he brought them, he cut circles in several places, so that they would fall apart when she spanked someone!

He also recalled that he discovered an early form of birth control by tossing a horseshoe at his father. It landed in his crotch. Leading to no more Reneaus.

When he was about 17, he decided to leave Greenville and hitched a ride to Washington, D.C. where he enrolled in George Washington University for a year. He lived on apples and not much else during that time.

He returned to Texas and enrolled in the University of Texas at Austin and graduated with a degree in Civil Engineering in 1932. He recalled that not one member of his graduating class was able to get a job.



Thomas Alan Reneau and Emmett Bickley Day
(2nd cousins once removed)
Tom and Alan at the
University of Texas
1931

Of the eight children in his family, Thomas Alan was the only one who got a university degree. His brothers were Lane, Wayne and James Reneau, and sisters were Reba, Olive, Louise, and Mamie. They grew up dirt poor on a farm near Greenville, Texas. Thomas Reneau married Marion Berger in November 1941, just before Pearl Harbor. He served in the Army during WWII. They had two children, Linda Lou and Tomas A. Reneau, Jr. Both of the Reneau kids have a master’s degree. Both of them also have a mischievous streak that they trace back to their Dad.



l-r: Tom Reneau, Linda Moore, Alvin Chandler,
Gene Morris
Reneau Family Reunion
October 25, 2003
San Antonio, Texas

Three descendants of Gip Reneau attended the 2003

Reneau Reunion. Brother and sister, Tom Reneau and Linda Moore, with their cousin Alvin Chandler are shown in the previous photo. Also joining in the conversation is Gene Morris, Linda's husband.

**Mamie Irene Reneau Chandler
Alvin Eugene Chandler
Information provided by Alvin Chandler**

Mamie Irene Reneau was born on December 24, 1907 in Hunt County, TX. She was the daughter of Edward Gipson Reneau. Mamie's Reneau lineage was: Edward Gipson, Thomas Wood, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

Mamie Irene married Theo Alvin Chandler on January 24, 1929. Theo Alvin was born on May 10, 1908. The 1930 Federal Census shows that Theo and Mamie were farming in Hunt County, TX. Theo and Mamie had two sons: Alvin Eugene and Jerry Reeves Chandler. Both sons were born in Greenville, Hunt Co., TX.



The Theo Chandler Family
Theo, Alvin, Jerry and Mamie



Alvin Eugene and Jerry Reeves Chandler
circa: 1937

Alvin Eugene Chandler married Linda Ruth Toler in Garland, TX. Alvin and Linda have one son, Alvin Eugene Chandler Jr. who is married to Shannon

DeAnn Dall. Alvin Jr. and Shannon have three children, a daughter Katie Nicole, a son Garrett Cole, and another daughter, Rachel. Alvin Jr. and his family live next door to Alvin and Linda, so there is always a great time to be had with the grandchildren nearby!



Linda and Alvin Chandler Family
l-r standing: Linda, Alvin
l-r sitting: Shannon Dall Chandler, Rachel, Garrett Cole, Katie Nichole, Alvin Chandler Jr.

Mamie and Theo's second son, Jerry Reeves Chandler, married Mary Elizabeth Cozby in Dallas, TX. They have two sons: Brian Cozby, and Scott Edward. Scott is married to Jennifer Anne Davis. Scott and Jennifer have two children: Victoria Elizabeth Chandler, born July 14, 2000; and Olivia Grace, born October 23, 2003. Mamie Reneau Chandler passed away January 7, 1976 in Quinlan, TX. Her husband, Theo Alvin Chandler died November 16, 1987 in Quinlan, TX. They both passed away while living at their farm in Hunt County, where they had lived since 1941.



Mamie and Theo Chandler
circa: 1950



Alvin and Linda Chandler
San Antonio, Texas
2003 Reneau Family Reunion

Alvin and Linda Chandler traveled from their home in Rowlett, TX to join friends and family at the Reneau Reunion held on October 25, 2003 in San Antonio, TX. They are looking forward to the next Reunion in Austin. It has been especially pleasing to Alvin that he has learned so much about his Reneau side of the family tree.

John Mulkey Reneau and Descendants
Information provided by Tom Johnson,
Terry Swindell Hardin,
Charles M. Reneau
and Betty Hadus Reneau

John Mulkey Reneau was born June 26, 1844 to Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau in Clinton County, Kentucky. He joined two older siblings, Margaret Eunice and Thomas Wood. There would be five more siblings born to the family: Mariba Elizabeth, Barton Warren Stone, Mary Bayliss, Joseph Wickliffe, Isaac Tipton Alexander, and Reuben James Shannon.

John Mulkey married Elenor "Nellie" Ann Means on January 10, 1867 in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky. The marriage was duly recorded by Isaac Tipton Reneau in the Family Bible.

Three children were born to this union: Alice Thurman, born November 10, 1867; Susan Mary, born November 21, 1869, and Azel Tipton, born December 10, 1871.



In his manuscript, "John Reno and Susannah Thorn and Their Issue," Guy B. Reno notes that John Mulkey was employed as a County Surveyor of Clinton Co., Kentucky.



John Mulkey Reneau
Clinton County, Kentucky

In Richard McLean's Thesis, Go Tell it on the Mountain: The life and Times of Isaac Tipton Reneau, we find a copy of the letter that John wrote to his father. One can see the devastation that John felt when Nellie passed away on August 18, 1873.

Monday Morning
Aug. 18, 1873

Dearest Father:

It falls to my lot to record to you the death of my loving companion and your affectionate daughter, Nelly. She died about sunrise this morning praising her God and maker.

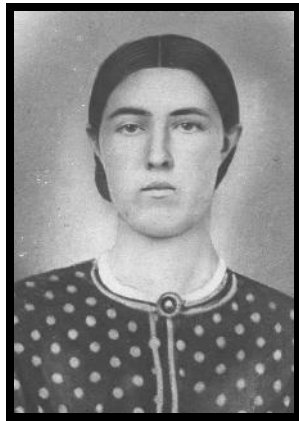
She was not delivered, but flooded to death. I would be proud if you could be here but you could not get here in time and I thought you would not wish to be gone so long and know nothing about it.

Bear up all you can the hardest stroke falls to me, my little motherless babes for whom I crave your earnest prayers.

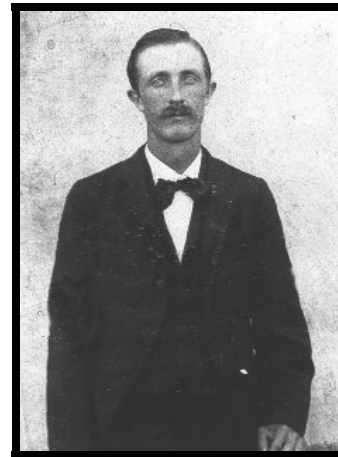
Your bereaved Son,
John Mulkey

Eight children were born to Jonathan Mulkey Reneau and Mary Mullens Reneau: Elmore, born May 13 1875; Thomas Henry, born May 9, 1877; John Bryant, born December 18, 1879; James Garfield, born October 29, 1882; Margaret Rebecca, born July 7, 1885; Elizabeth Anna, born August 20, 1888; William Elbert, born December 2, 1890; and Selina Olive, born March 17, 1894.

The family met with sadness in 1889, as two of John and Mary's daughters died. Margaret Rebecca passed away on August 31, 1889, at the age of four years. Elizabeth Anna passed away on September 13, 1889 just about one month after her first birthday. Several of the children, as they became adults, looked westward for opportunity. The 1920 US Federal Census shows Azel Tipton Reneau rented land and took up farming in New Hope Township, Union County, NM.



Elenor "Nellie" Ann Means Reneau
July 2, 1844 - August 18, 1873



Azel Tipton Reneau

It would be almost a year before John married again. On July 12, 1874 he married Mary Dillon Mullins in Clinton County, Kentucky. She was born February 20, 1850 in Fentress County, Kentucky.

Azel's sister, Alice Thurman, was living with him. They still lived on the same property in the 1930 census.



Early photo of
John Mulkey Reneau



Alice Thurman Reneau

Susan Mary was wed to Richard Samuel "Doc"

Claiborn on August 31, 1890. The 1920 Census shows that the couple had ten children living with them: (Their oldest child, Bessie Ann was not listed on the census) Minnie Ethel, 26 years old; Leonard Azel age 24; Permelia Pearl, age 22; John Branch, age 20; Edgar Elmore, age 19; Quincy Martin, age 16; Stella Elizabeth "Lizzie," age 13; Willie, age 11; Ruby Jewel, age 9; and Floy Alma, 5 years old. Minnie, Leonard, and Pearl were born in Tennessee. The remaining children were born in Texas, indicating that the family first lived in the state of Tennessee, where Richard Samuel Claiborn was born, and then moved to Texas about 1898 where the remainder of the children were born. Then, sometime after the youngest child, Floy, was born, the family relocated to New Mexico. They owned a farm located in New Hope Township, Union County, NM. Susan's sister and brother, Alice and Azel farmed land in the area. Since neither Alice nor Azel had married, it was nice to have a large number of nieces and nephews nearby. After John Mulkey and Mary both passed away in 1910, Selina, their youngest child, was raised by Azel and Alice.



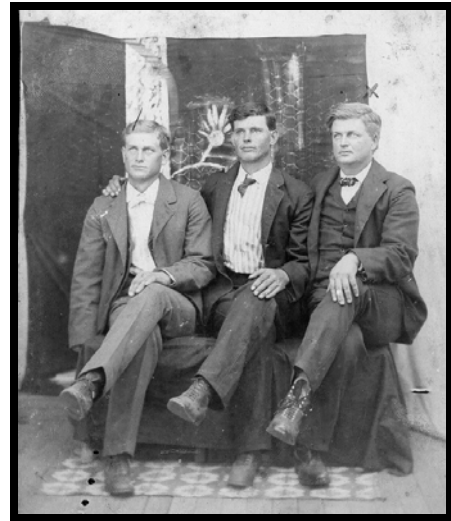
Richard Samuel Claiborn,
Susan Mary Reneau Claiborn
and children

John Mulkey and Mary's oldest son, Elmore, married Sallie C. Russell on April 10, 1904. They were married almost one year when Sallie died on March 20, 1905. She was buried in the Russell cemetery in Clinton County, Kentucky.



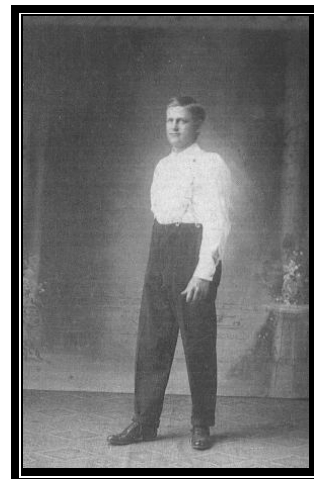
Elmore Reneau

It was a little over five years before Elmore remarried. On June 1, 1910 he was wed to a young widow, Lela Catherine Morgan in Cumberland County, Kentucky. Lela had a son, Kenneth Wells, so there were three to start this young family. Elmore and Lela had two children: Van Hildreth, born March 15, 1912; and Howard Elmore, born April 20, 1917. Little Howard Elmore lived only a few months; he died on July 17, 1917.



l-r: Tom Reneau, Bill Parmley, Elmore Reneau
Munday, Texas
1900

John Mulkey and Mary's second son, Thomas Henry, moved to Knox County, Texas in 1900, and lived there for five years before moving to Quanah, Texas, and then to Wichita Falls, Texas. Thomas Henry Reneau passed away on June 5, 1947.



Thomas Henry Reneau

The following is his obituary:

TOM H. RENEAU PASSES AWAY IN WICHITA FALLS

“Thomas H. Reneau, a former resident of Knox county and brother of John B. Reneau of Munday, passed away at 1:45 a. m. Wednesday at the Wichita Falls Clinic hospital. Mr. Reneau had been in failing health for some time.

Born in Albany, Ky., on May 9, 1877, Mr. Reneau was 70 years and 25 days of age. He came to Knox county in 1900 and lived here some five years before moving away. He had resided in Quanah and Wichita Falls for the past forty years. Mr. Reneau was a mechanic and carpenter by trade.

Immediate survivors included the following brothers and sisters: John B. Reneau, Munday; W.E. Reneau, Kermit; J.G. Reneau, Spearman; Mrs. J.E. Swindle, Wichita Falls; A.T. Reneau and Miss Alice Reneau, both of Clayton, New Mexico.

Funeral services were held from the Reneau home in Munday at four o'clock Wednesday afternoon being conducted by Rev. J. R. Swindle of Abilene. Burial was in the Johnson cemetery by the Mahan Funeral Home.

Pallbearers were Harvey Lee, Ardelle Spelce, Ed Johnson, J. E. Reeves, G. H. Beaty and P. V. Williams.”



Siblings: l-r: Thomas Henry Reneau, Selina Olive Reneau Swindell, and James Garfield Reneau

John Bryant Reneau, the third son of John and Mary, also traveled west for opportunity. John married Anna Johnson in 1909. The 1910 Census from Quay County, Logan Precinct, New Mexico, indicates that Anna, age 31, was born in Texas. John was 30 years old, and worked in Real Estate in New Mexico. Their son, John Bryant Reneau Jr., was born in New Mexico September 9, 1913. The family later moved to Munday, Texas where they farmed. On September 12, 1918, John registered for the World War I draft. On the form he noted that his present occupation was farming, his nearest relative was Mrs. Anna Reneau of Munday, Knox County, Texas. His physical attributes were described as medium height, medium

build, with light blue eyes and light brown hair.

Front: John B. Reneau
1917-18 World War Registration Card

Back: John B. Reneau
1917-18 World War I Registration Card

By the 1930 Census, John had become the Postmaster for Munday. Anna Johnson Reneau died in 1949. John Bryant passed away on September 9, 1954 in Munday, Texas.

John Bryant Reneau Jr. married Alice Beatrice Frerich on August 9, 1939 in Childress, Texas. The couple had seven children: John Bryant III, Charles, Kenneth, Mary Ann, Frances, Joseph Thomas and James Robert. Joseph Thomas and James Robert died in infancy.



Lt. John Bryant Reneau Jr.
with daughter, Mary Ann,
age 5 weeks and 5 days
circa 1943

John Bryant Jr. died in 1986. The following obituary was printed in the Munday (TX) Courier:

RENEAU SERVICES ARE HELD AT
RHINELAND

“Dr. John Bryant Reneau, Jr., 72, a longtime Munday resident, died Friday, July 11, at the Haskell Memorial Hospital. Rosary was held at 8 p.m. Sunday, July 13, at the McCauley-Smith Funeral Home in Munday.

Funeral mass was held at 10 a.m. Monday, July 14, at St. Joseph’s Catholic Church in Rhineland with Father Bob Strittmatter, pastor, officiating. Burial was in Johnson Memorial Cemetery. Serving as pallbearers were Al Cartwright, Travis Lee, Jerry Kane, Clint Norman, Vernal Zeissel and Gerard Kuehler.

He was born September 9, 1913, in Logan, New Mexico, and moved to Munday in 1918. He graduated from Munday schools in 1933 and received a degree in veterinary medicine from Texas A&M University in 1937. Moving to Paducah, he did veterinary work on area ranches. He entered the U.S. Army in 1941 as Veterinary Corps officer and served with the First Cavalry Division in the southwest Pacific. After his release from the service in 1946, he returned to Munday to maintain his practice and to farm. He was a member of the Texas Veterinary Medical Association, the Disabled American Veterans, and St. Joseph’s Catholic Church.

He married Alice Beatrice Frerich August 9, 1939, in Childress. Two sons preceded him in death.

Survivors include his wife; two daughters, Mary Ann Favela of Gilroy, Cal., and Fran Markowski of Austin; three sons, John Reneau III, Charles Reneau and Kenneth Reneau all of Munday; and seven grandchildren.”

John and Mary’s fourth child was also a son, named James Garfield Reneau. He, also, sought opportunity

in Texas. James married Laura Wakefield on January 29, 1917, in Lubbock County, Texas.



James Garfield Reneau



John Mulkey Reneau Home

Standing: John Mulkey and Mary Reneau
Sitting with banjo: James Garfield Reneau
Sitting next to James: Selina Olive Reneau
Couple in center unidentified.

Four children were born to James Garfield and Laura: William Preston, John D., Jo Olive, and James Windell. Laura Wakefield Reneau passed away February 7, 1936 in Fannin County, Texas. James Garfield Reneau died on December 22, 1960 in Fannin County, Texas.

William Elbert Reneau was the youngest son born to John Mulkey and Mary. He married Cora Ellen Speck. The couple had four children: Ralph, who died at birth, Mary Dean, Howard Eugene, and Lou Ellen. William, like his brother, John, was required to register for the World War I draft:

William Elbert Reneau’s physical attributes were noted as tall, slender build, blue eyes, and brown hair. William noted that his present occupation was farming. He had a wife and two children at home.

REGISTRATION CARD	
1	Name of registrant <i>William E. Reneau</i>
2	Address <i>Home Farm</i>
3	Date of birth <i>Nov 2nd 1890</i>
4	Place of birth <i>Clinton County, Ky</i>
5	Where born <i>Clinton Ky</i>
6	What are your present habits, occupation, or other? <i>Farming</i>
7	By whom employed? <i>None</i>
8	Have you a father, mother, wife, or child under 18, wholly dependent on you for support? <i>Yes and five children</i>
9	Name of wife <i>Mary Lee</i>
10	Name of child <i>William E. Reneau</i>
11	What military service have you had? <i>None</i>
12	Signature <i>William E. Reneau</i>

Front: William E. Reneau
1917-18 World War Registration Card

REGISTRAR'S REPORT	
1	Full name of registrant <i>William E. Reneau</i>
2	Date of issue <i>Clinton Ky</i>
3	How person has paid, his bond, but or both? <i>None</i>
I certify that my answers are true, that the person registered has read his own answers, that I have witnessed his signature, and that all of his answers of which I have knowledge are true, except as follows:	
Signature	<i>W. E. Reneau</i>
City or County	<i>Clinton Ky</i>
Date	<i>6/15/1917</i>

Back: William E. Reneau
1917-18 World War I Registration Card



Selina Olive Reneau

Selina Olive Reneau, as well as her older siblings, grew up on the family farm in Clinton County, Kentucky. There were many extended family members nearby. There were visits from relatives, welcomed to sit and relax on the front porch. Both John and Mary passed away in 1910. Selina went to live with her brother and sister, Azel and Alice Reneau in Texas.



l-r: Shannon Reneau, Selina Olive Reneau, Mary Mullins Reneau, James Mulkey Reneau.
Standing: William Elbert Reneau



John Mulkey Reneau and Mary Mullins Reneau
with their youngest children,
Selina Olive, and William Elbert.

Selina Olive Reneau was the youngest child born to John Mulkey and Mary Reneau.

Selina Olive married James Eli Swindell on August 16, 1916. The union brought four children: James Eli, born December 4, 1917; Jesse Reneau, born August 5, 1921; Mary Lee, born June 14, 1929, and Herschel Tipton, born August 6, 1931. John Mulkey Reneau passed away April 6, 1910 in Clinton County, Kentucky. A news clipping of his obituary reads:

“John M. Reneau died at his home near Huntersville, after an illness of three weeks. He leaves five brothers and three sisters, a wife, six sons and three

daughters to mourn their loss. His last illness was very serious from the beginning and he passed away very quiet. His remains were laid to rest in the Irwin cemetery. Uncle John was twice elected Surveyor of Clinton county. Everybody knew him thought well of him and all will join in sympathy with his family, for we feel we have lost a good man from amongst us. He was the oldest (sic) child of Rev. Isaac T. Reneau and was 65 years old. Rev. W. L. Smith made an appropriate talk at the grave.” John Mulkey Reneau’s widow, Mary, passed away four months later, on August 1, 1910.



John Mulkey Reneau

The following group photo appeared in the Albany, Kentucky Newspaper on June 26, 1969. The old photo of a reunion, many years ago, of a group of Civil War Soldiers, was sent to the newspaper by Mrs. Jessie Melton of Allen, Michigan, to see if any could be identified

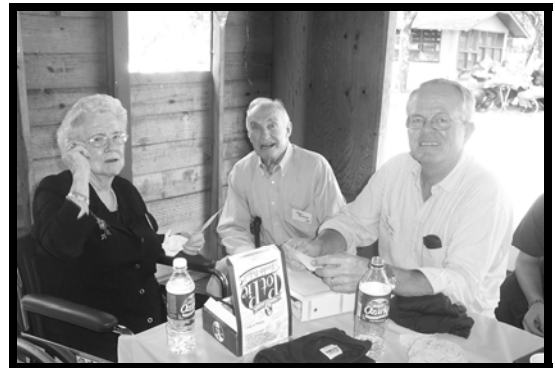


Back Row: John Mulkey Reneau wearing hat

There were three sets of John Mulkey’s descendants at the 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, Texas: Charles M. Reneau and wife Linda, descendant of

Elmore Reneau; Tom Johnson and his mother, Mary Dean Reneau Johnson and Lou Ellen Matson, with her husband, Don and daughter, Ellen Reneau Matson, descendants of William Elbert; Gene Reneau, and Willie Reneau, wife Cindy and son, descendants of James Garfield Reneau.

Some Reneau Reunion pictures which include John Mulkey Reneau descendants:



l-r: Mary Dean Johnson Reneau, Jack Evans Blake, and Tom Johnson



l-r: Willie Reneau, Gene Reneau, and Mary Dean Reneau Johnson



Cindy Reneau and son, Windell

Elmore Reneau and Descendants
Information provided by Charles Reneau

Elmore Reneau was the oldest son born to John Mulkey Reneau and Mary Dillon Mullens. Elmore joined three step-siblings, Alice, Susan, and Azel who were born to his father and his father's first wife, Nelly Means. Nelly Means had died in 1873 and it was about a year before John Mulkey remarried. Elmore had seven brothers and sisters, Thomas, John, James, Margaret, Elizabeth, William and Selina. Elmore married Sallie C. Russell in Clinton County, Kentucky on April 10, 1904. Like his father before him, Elmore became a widower as Sallie died on March 20, 1905. In the 1910 Federal Census Elmer (sic) is listed as a boarder living with John S. Sawyers family. Elmore is a 34 year old widower, and is a "retailmerch" in dry goods. The business was owned by Elmore, as it was noted that he worked on "his own account." The date of this census is April 15, 1910, which would track correctly since his second marriage to Lela Katherine Morgan Wells took place on June 1, 1910.



Elmore Reneau

A postcard from Anna Reneau, wife of Elmore's brother, John Bryant Reneau, wishes Elmore and Lela good luck:

Dear Bro. 4/8/1909
 It seems like JB isn't going to find time to write any way's soon so I will send you a card. We are enjoying life to its fullest extent. And wish you the same good luck. Hope you and your sweetheart haven't had a racket. This picture is a sample of Logan's business men. Aren't they dandys. With best wishes to you. Anna and John
 The 1910 Federal Census shows that Lela Wells, age 26, was a widow, living with her mother Sallie Morgan on the family farm. The record also shows that Lela had a son, Kenneth, age 3, living with his mother and grandmother.

Elmore and Lela had two children: Van Hildreth Reneau, born March 15, 1912; and Howard Elmore, born April 20, 1917. The baby, Howard, lived only three months, passing away on July 17, 1917.



Moore & Reneau
 General Real Estate and Locating
 Logan, New Mexico



Close-up of Real Estate Sign
 Logan, New Mexico

Unfortunately, we do not know which gentlemen in front of John Bryant's business is John!

Kenneth Wells has written some memories of Elmore: "My stepfather, Elmore Reneau, operated a general store and was postmaster at Albany Landing on Cumberland River around the turn of the century." "About 1910 he went to work for the George P. Taylor and Company and the Cumberland Grocery Company, both of Burnside."

[Elmore's grandson, Charles Reneau, notes that Elmore was the buyer for one company -George P. Taylor-- of farm products, e. g. chicken and eggs, and then sold for Cumberland Grocery Company all the other 'stuff' as he had at his General Store - Cumberland Grocery Company.]

"He (Elmore) spent several years on the steamboats buying and selling for the above named businesses from Burnside to Celina, Tenn. In 1913 we moved to Scott's Ferry, at the mouth of Goose Creek.

Dad Reneau worked on the river until the Steamboat era began to fade. Sometime after that he traveled South Central Ky. for a wholesale hardware company [Stratton & Terestege] of Indianapolis, Ind."



Elmore Reneau
in front of the Whetstone Post Office



Visiting Kin

l-r: Kenneth Wells, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau,
Van Reneau, Lela Reneau and Elmore Reneau
In front of Lela and Elmore's home in
Campbellsville, Kentucky

Elmore and Lela's son, Van, married Bonnie Burris on February 2, 1935 at Campbellsville, Kentucky. Van earned a Bachelor of Arts Degree in Education on August 17, 1934. He taught math and was a football coach for several years. Van and Bonnie had one child, Charles Martel, born on September 7, 1938. After World War II, on September 20, 1947, Van became a Western Auto Store dealer in Beattyville, Kentucky



The auto parked in front of the store is a 1947 Kaiser. Reneau's Western Auto Store was next door to the local Plymouth Dealer, and the car on the sidewalk was at the dealership.



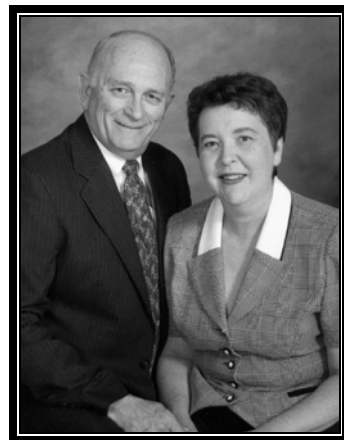
Van H. Reneau
Western Auto Store
with close-ups of business sign.

Van ran his Western Auto Store until his death from a fall while trimming a tree on February 22, 1966.



Van Hildreth Reneau

Van and Bonnie Reneau's son, Charles married Linda Lee Dickerson on November 26, 1964 in Ashland, Kentucky. Charles has obtained a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration and Economics at Morehead State University in Kentucky.

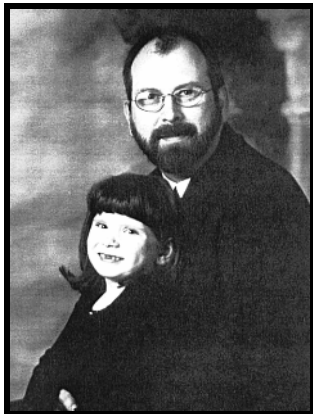


Charles and Linda Reneau

In the business for 30 years, Charles is an Independent Insurance Agent, with a CLU designation from American College. The family owns and operates the Reneau Insurance Agency,

Inc. in Russell, Kentucky. Linda is also an Insurance Broker. Charles and Linda have two children: James Martel, born September 3, 1966 and Nancy Jane, born March 4, 1970. Linda and Charles will be celebrating their 40th Wedding Anniversary in November of this year.

Charles and Linda's son, James, earned a Bachelor of Science Degree, concentrating in Math and Data Processing, at Morehead State University in Kentucky. He is divorced and has a daughter, Anna, who was born December 19, 1996. James is a Self Employed Systems Analyst, and a Senior Instructor at Shawnee State University in Ohio.



James Reneau and daughter, Anna

Charles and Linda's daughter, Nancy Jane attended college at Ohio Dominican University where she earned a Bachelor of Science in Library Sciences. Nancy married Gregory Lee Jackson on November 27, 1993. Both Nancy and Greg are partners in the Reneau Insurance Agency in Russell. They have two children: Katherine Ann, born June 6, 1996; and Leela, born September 2, 2003.



Gregory Jackson and Linda Reneau Jackson with their daughters.

l-r: Gregory, Katherine, Nancy, and Leela

John Bryant Reneau Sr.

Written by John Bryant Reneau Jr.

Submitted Fran Bryant Markowski

The Family of John B. and Annie Johnson Reneau, Sr.

John B. Reneau, Sr. was born in Albany, Ky., December 13, 1879. (Died September 9, 1954, in Munday, Texas). He came to the Munday area briefly in 1905, on his way to Logan, New Mexico to file on homestead land. After some business transactions, he opened a real estate office and obtained the job of U.S. land commissioner. He had served in the Spanish American War, serving in the Philippines; then he was on the police force in St. Louis before coming to Munday.

As stated in the T.D.L. Johnson summary, Annie Johnson was born January 3, 1879, in Somerville County, Texas, and reached Knox County in 1889. (Died January 17, 1949). She and one brother and two sisters went to Logan in the early 1900's to file on the homestead land being offered in the state.

John B. Reneau, Sr. and Annie Johnson came back from Logan to be married in 1909; then back to Logan where John B. Reneau, Jr. was born on September 9, 1913.

In the fall of 1917, they moved back to Munday, where they purchased and farmed the old Willis farm two miles east of town for two years; then they moved into town, where he and J.E. Glasgow established a real estate business until he obtained the position of Postmaster of Munday. In later years he was back into farming, during the horse and mule eras, and on until 1946, when he retired.

John B. Reneau, Jr., DVM graduated from Texas A & M College in 1937, with a degree in Veterinary Medicine; he did general practice over several counties, living in Paducah, Texas and working on the big, as well as small ranches in all of this area.

In 1939, John B. Reneau, Jr. married Alice B. Frerich, (a graduate of the 1937 class of T.W.U.), who was teaching in the Paducah school system at the time.

J.B. went into World War II in April 1941, for five years, serving with the First Cavalry Division as Veterinary Corps Officer; he went to the South West Pacific Theater of Operations and was separated from active duty in January 1946, with rank of Major.

Their sons are: John III, Charles, and Kenneth of Munday, and daughters: Mary Ann Favela of Gilroy, Ca. and Frances Markowski of Austin, Texas. Two sons died in infancy: Joseph Thomas and James Robert.



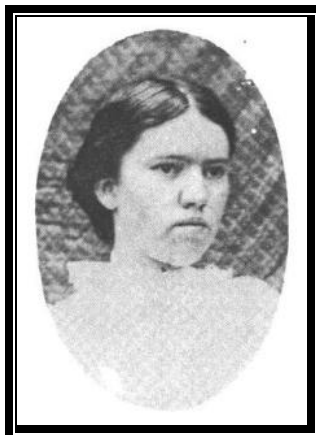
John Bryant Reneau Sr.

William Elbert Reneau
Information provided by Tom E. Johnson
and Lou Ellen Reneau Matson

William Elbert Reneau was born on December 2, 1890 at Albany, Kentucky. He was the son of John Mulkey Reneau and Mary Dillion Mullens Reneau. Will, as William liked to be called, was the seventh child of John and Mary.

Will's Reneau lineage was: John Mulkey Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles Reno, John Reno, Lewis, Lewis.

Bill attended school at Huntersville, Kentucky from 1897 to 1908. On June 20, 1908, he married Cora Ellen Speck in Albany.



Cora Ellen Speck
Albany, Kentucky

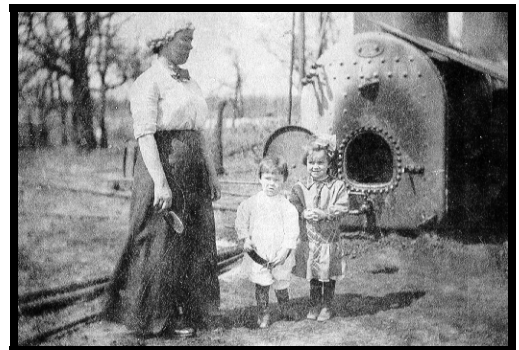
The couple moved to Munday, Texas in late 1908 after Cora had saved \$80.00 teaching school in Albany. They lived on land owned by Bill's older brother, John Bryant Reneau, and Bill tried farming without much success. Since the oil industry was a

promising field, they moved to Altus, Oklahoma, where Bill had a long career in the oil fields of Oklahoma and Texas.

Will and Cora had four children: Ralph, who died at birth in 1909, Mary Dean, born January 15, 1910 in Munday, Texas; Howard Eugene, born September 4, 1911 in Olustee, Oklahoma, and Lou Ellen, born July 27, 1931 in Electra, Texas.



Will and Cora Reneau with children
Howard Eugene and Mary Dean
circa 1911



Cora Ellen Speck Reneau with her children, Harold
Eugene and Mary Dean.
Oklahoma Oil Fields
1913

In 1913, the family moved to Electra, Texas where they lived for eighteen years.

Bill was employed by Magnolia Petroleum Company at the time, and continued working for Magnolia for 27 years. The 1930 US Federal Census shows that Will and Cora were living in Electra, Wichita County, Texas and, at that time, Bill was working as a Tool Dresser in the oil fields.



Will Reneau
Electra, Texas
Early 1920's

In December, 1933 Bill first came to Kermit, Texas. He was soon transferred to Odessa, Texas, returning to Kermit in September, 1939. On his second move to Kermit, Bill brought his family with him. He was working in the production department for Magnolia. In April, 1938 Bill became owner/operator of the Poplar Gulf Service Station in Kermit.



l-r: Will Reneau, Lou Ellen Reneau, Cora Speck Reneau, Mary Elaine Johnson and Mary Dean Reneau Johnson
Montana, 1940



Lou Ellen, Will, and Cora Reneau
Glacier National Park, Montana



Will and Cora Reneau
Lou Ellen Reneau
1942

Bill Reneau was an active member of the Kermit community. He was a member of various civic and service groups; was affiliated with the Masonic Lodge, Lions Club; a member of the Baptist Church; and former president of the Winkler County School Board.

Will and Cora enjoyed visiting friends and relatives, and loved to travel. One special visit was their trip to Cut Bank, Montana to see their oldest daughter, Mary Dean Reneau Johnson, and her family. There were several side trips to see that part of the country, including Glacier National Park and Waterton Park in Montana.



William Elbert "Will" Reneau
June 1, 1951

On June 22, 1951, Bill was suddenly taken ill. He was taken to Memorial Hospital early in the afternoon, where at 4:30 P.M. he passed away from a heart attack. He was survived by his wife, Cora, and their three children: Mary Dean Reneau Johnson, Lou Ellen Reneau, and Howard Eugene Reneau. Bill had three brothers and two sisters living in Texas at the time: John Bryant Reneau of Munday, James Garfield Reneau of Spearman, Azel Reneau of Texline,

Mary Dean Reneau Johnson
Information provided by
Tom Edwin Johnson II
and Lou Ellen Reneau Matson

The lineage of Mary Dean Reneau is: William Elbert Reneau, John Mulkey, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

Mary Dean Reneau, born January 15, 1910 in Munday, Texas, is the oldest child of William Elbert Reneau and Cora Ellen Speck Reneau. She has two siblings: Howard Eugene, born September 4, 1911, died August 9, 2003; and Lou Ellen, born July 27, 1931. A brother, Ralph, died at birth in 1909.

Mary Dean was valedictorian of the 1927 Electra High School class of 80, in Electra Texas. She was active in scholastics and sports, and represented North Texas girls in tennis at the state meet in Austin in 1927.

In 1931 Mary Dean graduated from Baylor University with a B.A. degree, with majors in Latin, English, and Education—no minors. For the four years prior to her marriage, Mary taught school.



Mary Dean Reneau and Edwin T. Johnson's
 Wedding Day

Far right: Mary's brother, Howard Eugene Reneau.
 July 19, 1934

Mary Dean Reneau married Thomas Edwin Johnson in Electra, TX on July 19, 1934. The wedding, bridal gown (\$15.00), flowers and home reception took all of her last month's teaching salary of \$120.00.

Mary and Edwin combined their honeymoon and

relocation to Cut Bank, Montana in late July, 1934, after visiting his parents in Eldorado, Texas. Edwin worked for the Texas Pipe Line Company in Cut Bank. The couple had three children: Mary Elaine, born June 21, 1935; Thomas Edwin, born August 10, 1939, and Dean Reneau, born July 10, 1943. Since there were not any adequate hospitals in Cut Bank for expecting mothers, Mary and Thomas traveled to Great Falls, Montana for the birth of each of the children. It is in Cut Bank, though, that the children grew up.

Mary Elaine Johnson married Hans Peter Dettmar in Midland, TX on June 17, 1967. Hans was born November 23, 1936 in Hamburg, Germany. The couple has one child, Hans Peter Dettmar Jr., born in New York City, NY. Hans Jr., and his wife Marianne Meyers live in the Washington DC area.

Thomas Edwin Johnson II married Jeanie Abigail Johnson in Midland, TX on July 16, 1966. Jeanie, born March 6, 1941, is the daughter of John Henry Johnson and Ada Cordia Petterson. Tom works in oil and gas investments in Midland, TX.

Dean Reneau Johnson and his wife, Kari Angela Hanson Johnson, live in San Francisco, CA. They were married in San Francisco on January 21, 1978.

During World War II and after the children were grown, Mary continued her teaching career, teaching two years in Midland, Texas. As an Oil Company Executive, Edwin and Mary traveled and lived outside the United States. Mary taught English as a second language for four years in Indonesia, when Edwin was employed in Sumatra (1957-1972).



Mary Dean Reneau Johnson
 1956

With Edwin's different job assignments, he and Mary could be considered world travelers. In addition to Electra, Midland, and Austin, Texas and Cut Bank, Montana, the couple lived in Puerto la Cruz, Venezuela, Sumatra, and Guadalajara, Mexico.



Mary and Edwin
Guardalajara, Mexico
Christmas, 1976



l-r: Howard Eugene Reneau and Dean Reneau
Johnson
Austin, Texas 2000



The Edwin Johnson Family
l-r: Edwin, Mary, Tom, Elaine, Dean
circa 1970



l-r: Jeanie J. Johnson and Hollen Johnson, wife and
daughter of Tom E. Johnson, Ellen Reneau Matson,
and Mary Dean Johnson
Austin, Texas 2000



Edwin, Mary, and family
l-r: Edwin, Mary, Tom, Jeanie (Tom's wife),
Elaine, and Dean
circa 1970



l-r: Mary Dean Reneau Johnson, Lou Ellen Reneau
Matson, daughters of W. E. Reneau, and
granddaughter, Elaine Johnson Dettmar, daughter of
Mary Reneau Johnson.
Austin, Texas 2000



l-r: D. Dean Matson, Jr, Don D. Matson Sr., and Howard Eugene Reneau
Austin, Texas 2000

Mary Dean Reneau Johnson's husband, Edwin, passed away in June 1998, in Austin, Texas. Mary continued to live in Austin until 2004. She now resides with her daughter, Elaine, in Sacramento, California

Sisters, Mary Dean Reneau Johnson, and Lou Ellen Reneau Matson, along with Lou's husband, Don, and daughter, Ellen Reneau Johnson, attended the Reneau Family Reunion in San Antonio, TX. It was such a special time for Mary, since she knew some of the grandparents of those Reneaus who attended. It was quite an honor to have Mary at the Reunion, as, at a young 94 years, she was the oldest Reneau in attendance!



Sisters

l-r: Lou Ellen Reneau Matson and Mary Dean Reneau Johnson
October 25, 2003

Tom E. Johnson

Information provided by Tom E. Johnson

Tom Edwin Johnson II ("Tom E. Johnson") was born to Thomas Edwin Johnson ("Edwin") and Mary Dean Reneau Johnson in Great Falls, Cascade County, Montana. He was the middle of three children born to Edwin and Mary, with an older sister, Mary Elaine

and younger brother Dean Reneau.

Tom married Jeanie Abigail Johnson on July 16, 1966. Jeanie is the daughter of John Henry Johnson and Ada Cordia Patterson Johnson.

Tom and Jeanie Johnson have four children, all of whom were born in Midland, TX: Hollen Elaine, born November 30, 1968; Hilary Leigh, born October 7, 1971; Heather Kathleen, born May 12, 1975, and Thomas Henry, born July 4, 1979. Tom and Jeanie's daughters are each married: Hollen Elaine married Geoffrey Thomas Wheeler in Captiva Island, Fl on April 26, 2003; Hilary Leigh married Patrick ("Beau") Cooper Barnett in Annapolis, MD, on November 8, 2003; Heather Kathleen married Nicholas William Watts in London, England on February 27, 2003.



Tom and Jeanie Johnson with their children

l-r: Tom, Heather, Jeanie, Hollen,
Tom H. and Hillary
April, 2003

Captiva Island Florida

On the occasion of daughter, Hollen's wedding



l-r: Mary Dean Reneau Johnson with Jack Evans Blake and Mary's son, Tom E. Johnson

October 25, 2003

San Antonio, Texas

Tom's great-grandfather, John Mulkey Reneau, was a brother of Jack Blake's great-grandmother, Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp. Third cousins, Tom and

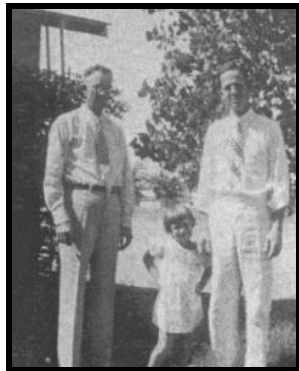
Jack, along with Tom's mother, Mary Dean, enjoyed visiting each other at the reunion!

Howard Eugene Reneau
Information provided by Lou Ellen Reneau Matson

Howard Eugene "Gene" Reneau was born September 4, 1911 in Olustee, Jackson County, Oklahoma, born to William Elbert Reneau and Cora Ellen Speck Reneau. He joined big sister, Mary Dean Reneau, who was nineteen months old. In 1936, Gene would have another sister, when Lou Ellen was born. Howard's Reneau lineage was William Elbert Reneau, John Mulkey, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis. Gene grew up in Oklahoma and Texas, where his father, William "Will" worked in the oil business.



Howard Eugene Reneau

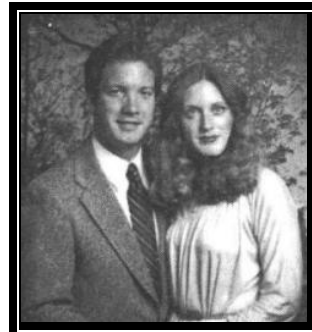


l-r: Will Reneau, with daughter and son, Lou Ellen Reneau, and Gene Reneau
 Odessa, Texas
 1936

Gene graduated from High School in Electra, Texas. Prior to entering the U. S. Army in 1942, Gene lived in Odessa, Texas. After his military service in World War II, he visited his family in Kermit, Texas. The "visit" turned into living in Kermit for 20 years. Gene married Thomasine Hudson in 1955 in Kermit.

They had one son, David Arthur Reneau, born April 29, 1956 in Longview, Gregg County, Texas. Thomasine also had a son (Gene's stepson), William Scott Reneau. Gene worked in the oilfields during this time, and later operated the Hotel Reneau for several years. Thomasine was a school teacher. The couple divorced in 1957. Gene lived in Kermit area until 1965.

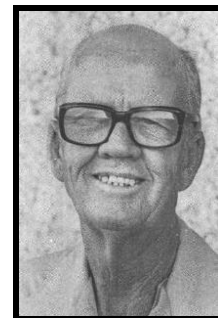
His son, David, sang with the Texas Boys Choir, and is a 1979 graduate of Austin College, in Sherman, Texas, where he earned his B.A. degree in music. David and his wife, Donna Lou Montgomery met in Tulsa where they were both performing with the Tulsa Opera. They were married on June 14, 1980 in Tulsa. Donna graduated in 1979 from Oral Roberts University, Tulsa, with a B.A. degree in Theater.



David Arthur Reneau and Donna Lou Montgomery Reneau.



l-r: Stepson, William and Jan Reneau, son, David and Donna Reneau
 1980



Howard Eugene Reneau

While living in Houston, Gene enjoyed golf, fishing, and working with a boy's organization called the Christian Service Brigade.

Howard Eugene Reneau passed away on August 9, 2003 in Houston, Texas. Burial was in Kermit, Texas.

**Memoirs of Howard E. Reneau
1942-1946, during service in the US Army World
War II**

Submitted by Lou Ellen Reneau Matson



Howard Eugene Reneau

1. Registered for draft and was inducted March 22, 1942 in Fort Bliss, El Paso, Texas.
2. Went from induction to Camp Barkley, which was 15 miles southwest of Abilene, Texas, for basic training.
3. After three weeks, returned to Ft. Bliss to train as a medical corpsman at Wm. Beaumont Hospital; training lasted six weeks.
4. Sent back to Camp Barkley to join the 38th Station Hospital.
5. After one month, we left Camp Barkley and went to Camp Kilmer, New Jersey, to stage for overseas duty.
6. We sailed for eight-and-one-half days on the Atlantic Ocean to reach Liverpool, England, where we had a brief stop at nearby Feasey Farms.
7. We were then sent to Winchester, England to displace a unit who had operated a hospital at St. Swithuns, a school for girls.
8. We spent eighty days training and in more extensive work to prepare for the invasion of the Continent as well as servicing troops in the nearby area of Winchester.
9. On June 6, 1944, we began to receive casualties from the invasion. Our capabilities limit for patients was 450. However, most of the time we had more than that. On one occasion we had 650, putting them in the auditorium, halls, or wherever we could take care of them.
10. After 80 days and handling over 11,000 patients (with only three deaths), we ceased operating as a hospital and prepared to move to the Continent.
11. After 4 days on turbulent waters in the English Channel, we disembarked from the boat by rope ladder and waded in chest-deep water to land. Then we walked about 7 ½ miles through St. Mere Eglise in the dark; we found a place to rest and sleep in an apple orchard. No apples were left the morning after, because we were out of any other type of food.
12. We remained in that area for 8 days, waiting for a place to go to set up our hospital again.
13. On October 10, 1944, we were put in trucks and taken through the war-ravaged roads and area of St. Lo, France, which was especially hard hit, to Chartres, France, which was only slightly harmed; we were taken to a hospital that had been operated previously by the Germans. At this hospital, we only had patients consisting of miscellaneous U. S. Army soldiers and other persons connected with doing work for us, and prisoners of war. We remained there for about 10 months. The German war ended while we were here.
14. Then we moved West to Les Mains for two months and began to make preparation to disband and leave the European Theatre of Operations (ETO) to return to the USA. During this time, the complete war with Japan had ended. We had word that we might go to the Pacific War, but this didn't happen since the war had ended completely.
15. We left in groups, some who were permitted to leave, some to Belgium to stage to go home. The areas there were named after cigarettes such as Lucky Strike, Camel, etc.
16. I was unlucky enough to have to wait. I stayed there near Antwerp, Belgium for about a month and worked in the personnel office, as I had in my hospital.
17. Finally, that dear old George S. Meade Liberty ship showed and I set foot on it for 13 ½ days. We were in two fierce storms. Of course, this added up to 38 days that I was on ship and I was seasick 27 ¾ days.
18. The little ship that came alongside of us in New York harbor had a band that blared out Welcome Home songs as, I guess, they did for all returning ships. The Red Cross was there as we stepped off of the ship to give us ice cream and all kinds of other goodies.
19. By train to Camp Kilmer for a day or two and a free call home to tell the home folks that I

had arrived back. We were getting the royal treatment.

20. On the Atchison-Topeka and the Santa Fe and then to Kansas City for an eleven-hour stopover there, and a bath in the YMCA. At Christmas time, I never experienced a more wonderful sight than walking about 2 miles on a snow-covered downtown street to see the shop windows after being away for three Christmases.
21. After a nervous wait at the depot, another ride to San Antonio, Texas to be discharged for the convenience of the U S Army.
22. What a ride home! On a bus, but only to Monahans, TX. From there I hitchhiked the last 20 miles or so home to Kermit, TX.

Lou Ellen Reneau Matson
Information provided by Lou Ellen Reneau Matson

Lou Ellen Reneau was born in Electra, Texas on the 27th of July 1931 to William Elbert Reneau and Cora Ellen Speck Reneau. She joined two older siblings: Howard Eugene “Gene” and Mary Dean. Lou’s lineage on the Reneau side is William Elbert Reneau, John Mulkey Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles Reno, John Reno, Lewis.



Will, Lou Ellen, and Cora Reneau
Odessa, Texas
1936

When Lou was five years old the family moved from Odessa Texas to Kermit, Texas. Her older sister, Mary, was now married, and her older brother, Gene

was out on his own.

Lou Ellen graduated from Kermit High School in 1948. She then attended Baylor University, Waco, Texas, graduating in 1952. She returned to her home in Kermit and taught Home Economics in Junior High.



William Elbert Reneau and daughter, Lou Ellen
Kermit, Texas
1946

On June 13, 1953, Lou Ellen Reneau married Donald Dean Matson. Donald was employed with Magnolia Seismic Department, working as a geologist and geophysicist. His work had taken him to Kermit, and he was living at the Reneau Hotel when he met Lou. The Reneau Hotel was owned and operated by Lou’s brother, Gene, and sister, Mary, and had some apartments in the rear where the newlyweds lived after their marriage.



Lou Ellen and Don Matson have two children:

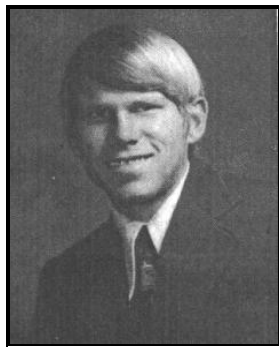
Donald Dean Matson Jr., born August 30, 1956 in Semiole, Texas; and Ellen Reneau Matson, born June 4, 1965 in Midland, Texas. The family has lived in Midland since 1957.

Lou Ellen is active in real estate, and belongs to State and National real estate organizations. The family attends the First United Methodist Church in Midland, where Lou is a church school worker.

Donald Dean Matson Jr. works in the Oil Industry. He is a graduate of Lee High School in Midland and has attended Texas A&M College, College Station and Midland College. His interests include tennis, golf, fishing and water related sports. He currently resides in Austin, Texas.



The Matson Family
Ellen, Dean, Lou, and Don
Austin, Texas 2000

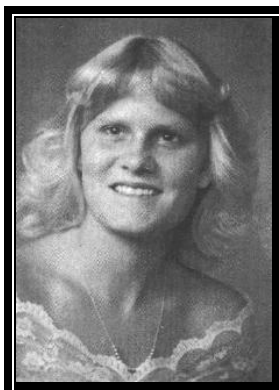


Donald Dean Matson Jr.

Ellen Reneau Matson is a graduate of Lee High School in Midland, and a graduate of The University of Texas in Austin with a Degree in Architecture. She is associated with National Instruments in Austin, TX, and is the International Facilities Manager for the Company. Her travels for the company have included many of their 50 world wide offices. Ellen is active in many sports, reading, photography, and especially enjoys her two pointers, Soba and Dakota



Lou and Don
50th Wedding Anniversary Trip
June 13, 2003
Colorado



Ellen Reneau Matson



2003 Reneau Reunion
San Antonio, Texas
l-r: Don Matson, Lou Matson, Charles Reneau, Betty
Reneau, Bennett Wood, Linda Reneau, and Margie
Wood



Reneau Reunion
 Lou Matson getting photos copied from Al Mote
 San Antonio, Texas 2003

Selina Olive Reneau and Descendants
Information provided by Terry Swindell Hardin

Selina Olive Reneau was born March 17, 1894 in Albany, Clinton County, Texas, to John Mulkey Reneau and Mary Mullins Reneau. Her Reneau lineage was: John Mulkey Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles Reno, John Reno, and Lewis.

Selina was known by her middle name, Olive. She was the eighth child, as well as the youngest child, born to John and Mary Reneau. She was sixteen years old, when both her parents passed away in the year of 1910.

Terry Hardin, Olive's granddaughter, writes, "After the death of her parents, John M. and Mary Reneau, her older brother and sister, Azel and Alice Reneau took care of her, and they moved to Goree, Texas around 1912. She went to school there and then on to teacher-training school in Cartwright, Texas. She met James E. Swindell at church, as he was leading the singing. They married in 1916, and "the rest is history!"

Four children were born to James and Olive: James Eli Jr., born October 31, 1893; Jesse Reneau, born August 5, 1921; Mary Lee, born June 14, 1919; and Herchell Tipton, born April 6, 1931.

Olive and her husband James, remained close to Olive's siblings, Azel and Alice Reneau, as evidenced in the U.S. Federal Census. The 1920 Census shows that Azel and Alice, as well as a married sister and family, Susan Mary Reneau Claiborn, had relocated to New Mexico.

The 1930 Census shows that Eli J. Sr., and Olive, along with their children, Eli J. Jr, Reneau, and Mary were residents of Union County, New Mexico. Azel

Reneau, James Eli, and Susan's husband, Jack S. Claiborn are all listed as General Farmers.



James Eli Swindell & Selina Olive Reneau Swindell
 Photo taken two weeks after their wedding
 August 16, 1916



l-r: Olive Reneau Swindell, Azel Tipton Reneau,
 Susan Reneau Claiborn, and Alice Thurman Reneau.



l-r: James E. Swindell Jr.
 and
 Jesse Reneau Swindell
 Sons of Olive and Eli Swindell

The year of 1932 brought sadness to the Olive and Eli Swindell. They lost their youngest son, Herchell Tipton, who died January 25, 1932.



James Eli Swindell Jr.
U. S. Navy

James and Olive's oldest son, James Eli Jr., married Martha Jean Gilliam.



James Eli Jr. and Martha
Hawley, Texas

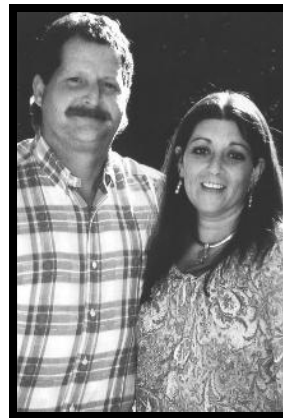
Martha and James had two children; Terry Dawn and James Richard "Rick". Terry is married to James Hardin. They have three children: Matt, Samuel, and Stephanie, and eight grandchildren.



Terry Swindell Hardin and James Hardin
Murchison, Texas

Terry and James Hardin's daughter Stephanie is

married to Rodney Schultz. They have five children: Donovan, age 19; Tori, age 8; Monty, age 14, Cloe, age 6; and Micah, age 4,



Rodney and Stephanie Schultz

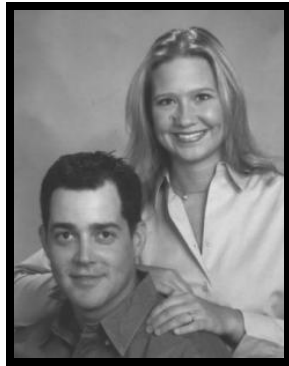


l-r: Cloe, Monty (in back), Micah, and Tori
Shultz.



Donovan and Micah Schultz

Samuel is the youngest son of Terry and James Hardin. He and his wife, Jiffy, have a son, Samuel Aidan.



Samuel and Jiffy Hardin



Samuel Aidan Hardin
5 months
Son of Samuel and Jiffy Hardin

Terry and James Hardin’s youngest grandchild Matt, Terry and James Hardin’s oldest son, is also married. He and his wife, Stephanie, have two sons.

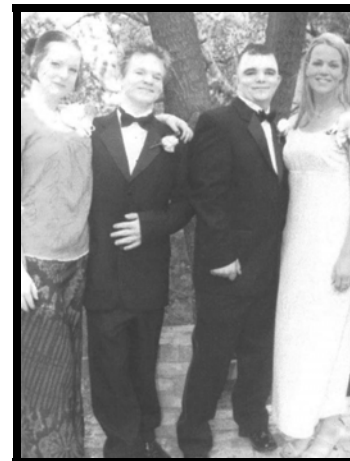


Matthew and Stephanie Hardin
with sons,
James and Jake

Martha and James Eli Swindell Jr.’s son, Rick is married to Kara Grace. Rick and his first wife, Vicky had five children.

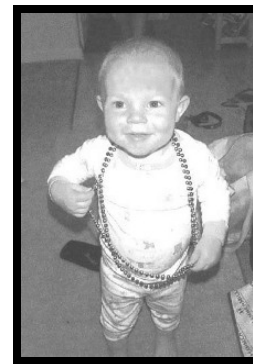


Kara and James Richard “Rick” Swindell
Lubbock, Texas



Four of Rick and Kara Swindell’s children
l-r: Emily, Stephen, Zachary, and Jessica
not pictured—Richard.

Rick and Kara’s son, Richard is married. He and his wife, Melissa, have a daughter, Sidney.



Sidney Swindell

James and Olive Reneau Swindell’s second child, Jesse Reneau, married Nell Fuller. Jesse studied for the ministry, and became a pastor in the Baptist Church. Some of the churches he served were in Hawley and Benjamin, Texas. Jesse and Nelle had one child, Mac, who married Taylora Hendricson. Mac and Taylora have three sons: Ethan Taylor, Zachary Paul, and Blake Reneau.



Nelle Fuller Swindell, wife of Jesse Reneau Swindell
1983



Taylora and Mac Reneau
Blake, Zachary and Ethan
Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
2002

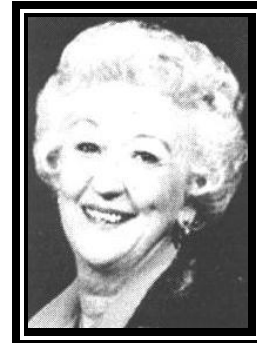
Mary Lee was the third child, and only daughter, born to James and Olive Swindell. Mary graduated from Hardin-Simmons University and began teaching in Blackwell, Texas and Sterling City, Texas. She married James William Strong in Abilene, Texas on June 5, 1954, with her brother, Rev. Jesse Reneau Swindell, administering the vows. The couple moved to Odessa, Texas. A few years later, on April 23, 1961, Mary Lee and James William celebrated the birth of their daughter, Melinda.



Mary Lee, Malinda, and James Strong

The following is part of the obituary of Mary Lee Swindell Strong, who passed away on July 21, 2003:
“She (Mary) was a generous and gifted teacher who

touched many lives in a special way. Mary Lee was often asked to share her gift of wit and prose for retirements, birthday and special events at Permian...Following the death of her husband in 1980, Mary Lee found great support from her family and friends. Retirement gave her more time to enjoy her love of people...Prior to retirement, her life’s joy’s expanded with the marriage of her daughter, Melinda, and later with the birth of her grandson, Brandon.”



Mary Lee Swindell Strong

It was only a short three months after the death of Mary Lee Swindell Strong that her daughter, Melinda Strong Waddington, passed away in Odessa, Texas, on October 20, 2003 at age 42.



Melinda Strong Waddington

Selina Olive Reneau Swindell enjoyed the company of her children and their families. The following photo was taken in Stith, Texas.



l-r: Mary Lee Swindell Strong, Selina Olive Reneau Swindell, James Eli Swindell Jr., and Jesse Reneau Swindell.

Selina Olive Reneau Swindell passed away at age 86 in Odessa, Texas. Her husband, James, passed away August 18, 1985 in Texas. Terry Hardin writes a wonderful tribute to her grandmother: "Our Grandmother was a wonderful woman. There were four of us grandchildren and she loved us dearly as we loved her. She had a sharp wit and a great sense of humor. She was a fine Christian woman and was devoted to her family. Time spent with Grandmother and Granddaddy Swindell were some of the happiest times of my live."



Selina Olive Reneau Swindell

Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp
Information provided by Jack Evans Blake;
Information provided by Betty Reneau;
Information from The Biography of Miss
Nettie Bayless Courts Depp 1874 – 1932, by
William Samuel Terry IV, published in 1981

Mariba Elizabeth was born April 14, 1846 in Clinton Co., Kentucky, to Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. On October 10, 1867, Mariba married John Burks Depp. John was born in Glasgow, Kentucky. His ancestors were some of the earliest and most prominent settlers in the area. Isaac Tipton considered this a good match for his daughter, and always wrote with affection about his son-in-law. John Burks Depp was interested in the well being of his community and state, as evidenced by his election to the State Legislature as a Representative from Barren County for a term.

Mariba and John Burks Depp's family included four daughters and two sons: Eola Elizabeth "Lizzie" Depp was born November 8, 1868; Mary Pitsy Depp, born April 9, 1870; Tipton

Hanson Depp, born September 1, 1871; Nettie Bayless Courts Depp, born Nov 21, 1874; Richard T. Oren Depp, born June 4, 1879; and Lillie Belle Depp, born September 7, 1881.

Lizzie Depp was a well known young lady who became a newspaper correspondent. She married William E. Allen on February 20, 1901. On March 22, 1905, their only child, Depp Allen, was born. It was a distressing time for everyone, as Lizzie was not well, and just four weeks after Depp's birth, Lizzie died. She was just 36 years old. Grandparents, Mariba and John raised little Depp Allen.



l-r: Mariba and John Burks Depp with grandson, Depp Edmunds Allen, and daughter, Nettie Bayless Courts Depp

On June 7, 1890, Mary Pitsy Depp married Wade Rowland of Fallen Timber Creek, KY. A few years later Mary and Wade moved out west to Oklahoma to live a pioneer life, where they and their children were among those that developed that area of the country. The children of Wade Rowland and Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland were: Minnie Tipton Rowland (she later changed her name to Marion), born October 5, 1892; George Burks Rowland, born May 5, 1894, died 1895; Jessie Edna Rowland, born October 3, 1897; Nettie Eola Rowland (she later changed her name to Annette) born February 7, 1899; Stella Elva Rowland, Born June 14, 1900.



Wade W. Rowland and Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland

Tipton Hanson Depp was the oldest son born to Mariba and John Depp. He traveled westward as a young man, going to California, and then to Fallon, NV. He married Ella Ferguson on Jan 29, 1910. They had one daughter, Fannette Oral Depp. Ella Ferguson Reneau died April 5, 1919. Tip married a second time to Grace Wildes. She passed away a few years later. Tip brought his daughter, Fanny, back to Eighty-Eight, KY. They lived there until Tip's death 1947. He is buried in Refuge Church of Christ Cemetery in Eighty-Eight.

A book, The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp 1874 – 1932, by William Samuel Terry IV, published in 1981, is dedicated to Tipton's daughter, Fanny Depp Koellner. The book includes many news articles that Nettie Bayless Courts Depp wrote under the pen name "Ora Ethel," as well as news clippings that Nettie kept that pertained to members of the Reneau and Depp families.

Nettie Bayless Courts Depp middle names came from family names: Bayless from her mother's side of the family, and Courts from her father's side. Nettie's biography shows the dedication that she had to learning and helping students to obtain an education. Among the schools where Nettie taught, were the Scottsville Graded Schools in Allen County, KY, and in Waukomis, Oklahoma Territory. She also served as Superintendent of Schools in Barren County. Nettie passed away on August 3, 1932. She was 58 years old. Her biography notes that:

"There were approximately 1,500 people that attended Nettie's funeral, which had to be held outside under the shade of the trees. Many of the hundreds of people she sent through college at her own expense came to pay their last respects to the teacher and the friend they held so dear to their hearts. The many relatives, students, friends and acquaintances all attended to bid farewell to their beloved, Miss Nettie."

Richard T. Oren Depp studied to become a teacher. Professor Depp lived in the Eighty-eight area when he married Miss Effie A. Palmore, daughter of Mr. Andrew Palmore, of Monroe County. The marriage took place at the bride's home near Persimmon, on February 21, 1904. Officiating at the ceremony was Reverend Joseph Wickliff Reneau. An announcement of the marriage noted that Prof. Depp "is one of the most prominent young teachers in the county." Effie Palmore Depp was teaching in the common schools of Monroe, and was considered "a young lady of refinement and culture."

Lillie Belle Depp was the youngest child of

Mariba and John. On October 21, 1908, Lillie married James Allen Matthews.

In the book, The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp 1874 – 1932, by William Samuel Terry IV, there is a copy of a news



Lillie Belle Depp

clipping of a wedding article noting that, "Miss Lillie Depp, a teacher of the public schools of Barren county, and Mr. J. A. Matthews were married yesterday (Oct. 21) afternoon at 2o'clock at 'Forest Home,' the beautiful home of the bride, Elder J. W. Reneau officiating." The couple had five children: Their first child, Gladys Christine Matthews, was born March 2, 1910, sadly living only 10 days, passing away March 12, 1910. The second child, Benjamin Franklin Matthews was born February 15, 1911. He married Bessie Rea Beam on November 5, 1939. Benjamin passed away December 5, 1977. Margaret Elizabeth Matthews was born July 9, 1913. She married Robert Oliver Alexander on May 2, 1937. John Tipton Matthews was born March 12, 1916. He married Oma Elizabeth Hurt on December 25, 1945. The youngest child was James Allen Matthews, Jr. born March 9, 1919. On January 21, 1940, he married Dorothy Irene Alexander.

When she was about 44 years old, Lillie Depp Matthews suffered a stroke. Lillie's husband, James was employed as a deputy sheriff of Barren County, KY. Twelve year old daughter, Margaret Elizabeth, their oldest daughter, stepped in to help tend the younger children. Tragedy again struck the family, as James Matthews died from pneumonia at age 48. Margaret continued taking care of the younger children and was credited with keeping the family together. Lillie passed away on February 22, 1949, at St. Joseph's Hospital, Louisville. She was 67 years old. She had been at the home of her son James Matthews, where she had been convalescing from a recent illness. Her death

was noted as a result of a brain tumor and complications. Funeral services were conducted at the First Christian Church on February 25, 1949 in Glasgow, Kentucky.

Among Nettie Bayless Court Depp's keepsakes was the obituary of her mother, Mariba Reneau Depp. It was printed in The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp 1874 – 1932, and follows:

Death of Mrs. J. B. Depp, January 21, 1928

Was One Of Finest Women of Barren County;
Burial At Refuge, Last Monday

"Mrs. J. B. Depp, widow of the late Mr. John B. Depp who died 8 months ago, passed away at the home of her daughter, Miss Nettie B. Depp, in Scottsville, Saturday, January 21st at two-thirty p.m. following a stroke of paralysis. (1928)

Mrs. Depp was born April 14, 1846, daughter of Isaac T. and Margaret (sic) Wood Reneau. Of her six brothers and two sisters, Messrs. I. A. Reneau, of Broken Bow, Neb., and Shannon Reneau, of Albany, and Mrs. Mary B. Beard, of Bowling Green, survive.

Four living children also survive as follows: Mrs. W. W. Rowland, of Hobart, Okla.; Mr. T. H. Depp, of Fallon, Nev.; Miss Nettie B. Depp, Science Teacher in Scottsville High School, and Mrs. Lillie B. Matthews, of Bowling Green.

Those of the family who have passed on before are her husband, Mr. J. B. Depp, who died 8 months and 13 days before Mrs. Depp, and Mrs. W. E. Allen, who died in 1902, leaving an infant son, Depp Edmunds Allen, whom the older couple reared, and Oren R. Depp, who died in 1912 at Hiseville, Ky.

Mrs. Depp was a kind, earnest and true Christian lady. She had done much in helping others, and her patient, faithful life will have lasting influence long after she is gone.

Mrs. Depp, was married October 10, 1867, and lived happily with Mr. Depp until death parted – 59 years. She was a member of the Church of Christ, her father being one of the pioneer preachers of Kentucky and Tennessee.

A daughter, Mrs. W. W. Rowland, of Oklahoma, and a son, Mr. Tipton Depp, of Fallon, Nevada, were unable to be present at the bedside because of the distance. Mrs. Lilli B. Matthews and Miss Nettie Depp were with her to the end.

Short funeral services was held in Bowling Green by Bro. Moore and Bro. House out of deference to Mrs. Matthews who was unable to make the trip to Glasgow, and for Mrs. Beard, the aged sister.

Later the funeral was preached at Eighty Eight,

by Bro. Moore, Monday and interment followed in the Refuge Cemetery.

Richard Oren Depp

**Information from The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp 1874 – 1932, by William Samuel Terry IV, published in 1981
Information provided by Betty Reneau**

Richard Oren Depp was the second and youngest son born to John Burks Depp and Mariba Reneau Depp. He was born June 4, 1879. His maternal grandparents were Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Reneau.

Richard Oren used his middle name and was known as Oren. In the book, The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp, there is an explanation for Richard Oren's middle name: "Oral history has it that when Oren was born, John B. Depp said that he wanted his son to be the most perfect and kindest man to ever live. Since Nero was the meanest and most wicked kind, in his opinion, he decided to spell Nero backwards. Hence, the name, Oren." There is also another explanation for the name Oren, as the name actually appears in the Bible. See 1 Chronicles 2:25.

In The Biography of Miss Nettie Bayless Courts Depp, we learn that Nettie was very close to Oren and were cherished playmates in their younger days. Professor Oren R. Depp, as he was known, followed in his sister, Nettie's footsteps and became a teacher. His first teaching assignment was in 1899.

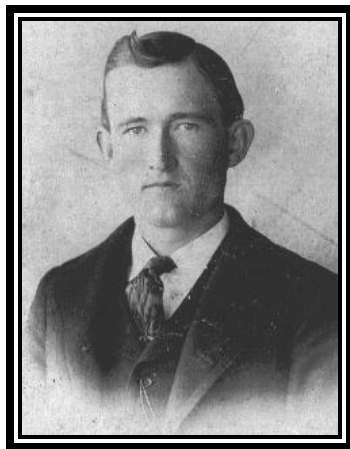
Professor Oren Depp and Effie America Palmore were married on February 21, 1904. Effie was also a highly respected school teacher. To this union there were five children born: Oren Larimore (Larry), born January 28, 1905; Thelma Lenette, born September 18, 1906; Tipton Ellsworth (Ted,) born May 17, 1908; Lennis Elizabeth, born January 22, 1910; and Oren Richard Palmore, born May 14, 1912.

On December 13, 1911, Oren and Effie suffered the loss of their dear son, Ted. Little Ted succumbed from pneumonia and croup. A news clipping saved by Nettie Depp and recorded in her biography noted:

"The Editor of this Department has heard with sorrow of the death of Ted, the bright and beautiful little son of Mr. and Mrs. Oren Depp, who departed this life at the age of two (sic – three) years, at their home in Hiseville, Ky.,

buried at Refuge church at Eighty Eight the following Friday, Elder J. W. Reneau conducting the services. Though the weather was very inclement and the roads in bad condition, the burial was well attended. The remains were brought Wednesday to the home of the child's grandfather, John Depp. On account of the incessant rain Thursday, the burial was postponed until Friday, as above stated. Five public schools were dismissed in order that the teachers or scholars or both might attend the burial, including the schools at Scottsville, Marrowbone and Hiseville, which latter school is taught by the parents of the child. The deceased child was the joy and pride of the household, and was a general favorite wherever known. The bereaved family have the sincere sympathy of a host of relatives and friends. The little boy has passed away. He has gone from this world of sorrow and tears; he has crossed the dark and turbid waters of the river of death; but he who said "suffer little children to come unto me," has given the little darling a glad welcome, with outstretched arms he has received him on the bright and shining shores of the New Jerusalem."

On March 19, 1912, just a little over three months after the loss of their son, Oren passed away suddenly in the prime of his life, leaving Effie, their three children, Oren Larimore, Thelma Lenette, and Lennis Elizabeth, and a son, Oren Richard Palmore Depp, born two months after he died.



Professor Oren Depp

Nettie Depp saved a new clipping about Oren's death and it is recorded in her biography:

"Announcement of the shockingly sudden death of Professor Oren R. Depp, at his home in Hiseville last Tuesday morning, came as a

stunning blow to his friends all over the county. He was taken ill about ten days ago with what developed into pneumonia, and grew rapidly worse to the end, the best, most indefatigable medical attention failing to stay the progress of the disease sapping his life. Tuesday his illness culminated in death about eleven o'clock. Only a few days before he was in The Times office, conversing in his usual cheerful, genial and gentlemanly manner, and in his apparently usual health and, in a little more than a week, he passed into eternity. Truly, in the midst of life we are in death.

Oren R. Depp was the youngest son of Hon. John Be Depp, of the Lick Branch country, a member of the famous Depp family, for nearly a hundred years a dominant and leading family of the country—and a people that for rugged honesty, strict integrity and sturdy adherence to convictions, stand second to no citizenship anywhere. Oren Depp was a polished chip off the old Depp block. A man of unyielding convictions, he was at the same time possessed of a genial charm of manner and personal magnetism that attracted and attached even those who differed with him. He was altogether a manly man, but he was none the less a gentleman, his character was bed-rocked on principles as true as steel and he was altogether a man, in the truest, highest and best sense of the word. For many years, he had been one of the foremost teachers in the county, and was a contesting candidate for the position of county superintendent of public instruction. It was his expressed intention to again make the race next year, and to human appearances, he would have been the Democratic nominee. While a much younger man than the editor of The Times, they were warm, close personal friends, and his death, to us is well-nigh a personal bereavement. As we begin the descent down into the shadow-land, the pinnacle of the hill of life behind us, the friends of our boyhood and riper years are dropping by the wayside with a rapidity that, it sometimes seems, will leave us all alone before the journey is ended.

Professor Depp was, about ten years ago, married to Miss Effie Palmore, of Monroe county, and the widow with three small children, survives the husband and father. He is also survived by his mother and father, and by one brother and three sisters—these being: Mr. Tipton Depp, of Fallon, Nevada; Mrs. J. A. Matthews, of the Bristletown country; Miss Nettie Depp, who is now a teacher in the Scottsville Graded School; and Mrs. W. W.

Rowland, of Hobart, Okla. Professor Depp, in religious belief, was a member of the Christian church. Like everything else that he did, his church work was well done, and he was as faithful, working, earnest and devout in his religious work as in his everyday life-work. Those who knew him best, were those in whose esteem and affection he stood highest, and the appalling suddenness of his death, in the very flower of a vigorous manhood, brings sadness to all hearts. He was thirty-three years old when death carried him off. Funeral services were held in the Hiseville Christian Church, Wednesday at ten o'clock, and the remains were interred in the Eighty Eight cemetery yesterday, Thursday at eleven o'clock. The great attendance at both services was eloquent testimony of the high esteem and great affection in which the deceased was held. The deepest, sincerest sympathy of all is with the stricken family in their grief." The 1920 and 1930 Federal Census shows that Effie continued her employment as a public school teacher in Barren County, Kentucky. She and the children remained close to the Depp and Reneau families. Oren Larimore Depp (Larry), the oldest child of Oren and Effie, married Violet Grinstead. Larry passed away in 1979. Thelma Lennette Depp, the oldest daughter, married Earl Amos. Oren and Effie's second daughter, Lennis Elizabeth, married Frank B. Wells. She died on November 16, 1994 in Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky. Their youngest son, Oren Richard Palmore, married Alma. (Her maiden name is not known at this time.) Effie Palmore Depp and Oren's cousin, Mary Elizabeth Day, (daughter of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau) were especially good friends.



Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day & Effie Palmore Depp

Effie Palmore Depp lived her remaining years in Barren County, Kentucky. She passed away December 3, 1962.

Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland
Information provided by Janice Blake Anderson

Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland, second daughter of John Burks Depp and Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp, was born April 9, 1870. The following article is taken from the KIOWA COUNTY-STAR REVIEW of Hobart, OK, dated April 7, 1960:
AFTER 90 BUSY YEARS, MRS. ROWLAND TO HAVE BUSY WEEKEND BIRTHDAY OBSERVANCE

Mrs. W. W. Rowland will celebrate her 90th birthday next weekend. If she chooses, she can entertain her children, grandchildren and great-grandchildren with tales of pioneer life on two Oklahoma frontiers. It is more likely, however, she will be busy helping see that everyone is having a good time at the family get-together in honor of the occasion which will be held at the Quartz Mountain Park Lodge. A busy woman all her life and firmly believing that is one of the reasons she has stayed active and healthy, it should come as no surprise to anyone that her 90th birthday weekend also will be a busy time.



Quartz Mountain Park Lodge
 l-r: Marion Tipton Rowland Blake, Jessie Edna Rowland Walker, Mary Pitsy Depp Roland, Annette Rowland Mann, Stella Elva Rowland
 Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland's 90th birthday celebration, 1960

There will be a Friday night dinner at which she will be hostess. The party, which will consist of about 25 members of the family, will spend the weekend at the lodge. There will be her birthday luncheon at noon on Saturday with all her daughters as hostesses, and Sunday morning a brunch at which Mrs. Rowland will be hostess.

Mrs. Rowland, who is looking forward to the festivities even though not all her grandchildren and great-grandchildren can be here, admits she probably will be glad to get home when it all is over—"just like one of the nice things about a vacation always is getting home."

At 90, she finds her chief handicap is her hearing—and, ironically, she had no deafness until only a few years ago when some teen-age boys tossed a giant firecracker onto the porch of the family home where she was sitting. It exploded near her head and permanently impaired her hearing.

She reads without glasses and she still enjoys working in the yard, usually an hour or two each day. She has taught a Sunday school class for 60 years and still does. It is the Loyal Women's class, of the First Christian church once known as the Altruistic, and although the number has shrunk as the age of the membership has grown, there still are some four or five "loyal members." Going to church when the Rowland family came to Hobart in 1901 was quite a different experience, she recalled. The First Christian church, organized right at the first and with the Rowlands active in it, met in "kind of a tent," in the 300-block on South Monroe Street.

Mrs. Rowland's first experience in a frontier country was at the opening of the Cherokee Strip. Mr. Rowland made the run and they went to live on a farm 1¼ miles out of Waukomis.

The idea of a daughter going west didn't appeal to Mrs. Rowland's Kentucky family at first. When Mr. Rowland had asked and gotten permission to marry her, there had been something said about "if you'll never take her west." But when the chance to go to the "new country" came, it seemed to everyone the best thing to do.

It turned out well, The Rowlands were successful at Waukomis. They sold their farm at a high price and then bought 80 acres alongside the town and opened town lots.

"We had a lovely home and I thought we were settled there for good when Mr. Rowland began to talk about coming to the new country in southwestern Oklahoma in 1901," she recalled. She remembers now that she had her serious doubts about pulling up stakes again, but this

venture, too, worked out although it was not all easy.

They shipped their furniture to Cordell and Mrs. Rowland took the children home to Kentucky and stayed until October when Mr. Rowland had things ready for them here. He had gone in with a Mr. Bedford in organizing the Farmers and Merchants National Bank.

Even today when she recalls the trip out into the new country, Mrs. Rowland remembers that when she boarded the train at Chickasha for the last lap, "I thought I really had reached the jumping off place."

They lived for a time in a small house rented from John Bretch. But that \$28.00 a month rent was worrying Mrs. Rowland. "We had never paid rent before and \$28.00 was a lot of money, so we decided to buy a farm, live on it, and save the rent," she said.

That is exactly what they did—five miles southeast of town—and it was while living there that some of the incidents happened which would make good listening for the great-grandchildren.

There was, for instance, that terrifying night which all the pioneers remember—when the prairies seemed almost spontaneously to erupt into flames. With Mr. Rowland in Wichita, Kan., on a business trip, she was alone on the farm with her daughters, the oldest of whom, Marion, was only eight or 10 years old. She had noticed some sparks of fire on a nearby farm and after putting the smaller children to bed, she posted Marion, (now Mrs. W. M. Blake of Lubbock, Texas,) to watch them while she went about the premises burning everything which would easily catch fire.

Having taken all the safety precautions she knew to take, she had gone to bed and it seemed like only minutes later that the whole house lighted up almost like daylight as the wind blew the fire toward it.

She had her plans made: if they had to leave the house, she would take the girls and put them down on quilts out in the plowed ground. But the fire did not come that near. Later, she was to learn that the blaze was not a local problem—similar fires had swept all across the western prairies that night.

There also was the time Mr. Rowland was driving his team and surrey home from his daily work in town—and was completely overturned, horses, surrey and all when a big whirlwind hit him. After he had managed to get the horses feet out of the air and back on the ground, and the surrey back on its wheels, he was coming on

home, the whole rig looking very much the worse for the wear when Mrs. Rowland met him. He told her what had happened and then said, "But that's not all. The bank is not going to open its doors in the morning."

Mrs. Rowland said there was no sleep at their house that night. They had visions of losing everything they had, but it didn't work out that way. The bank did close, all right, but it paid out.

Later, Mr. Rowland went into the Home State bank and then sold his interest there, continuing in the loan business.

He served as one of the earliest county commissioners, from Nov. 16, 1907, to Jan. 16, 1913, and he also had a hand in the planting of the present grove of courthouse trees, in 1909. He brought the plow and plowed up the courthouse yard for the tree planting. Mrs. Rowland also recalled he planted the courthouse yard to turnips, providing food for many who otherwise would not have had it that fall.

In early day incident from the days on the farm which Mrs. Rowland recalls with a chuckle is the first visit of Chief Lone Wolf to their home. Again, she was at the farm by herself and Mr. Rowland had ordered a load of wood delivered. Lone Wolf came to bring the wood. Mrs. Rowland, unfamiliar with Indians, was frightened within an inch of her life. It is funny now because he later became a good family friend, she said.

But let her tell about that day—"I always did my Sunday cooking on Saturday because there wasn't much time left on Sunday after we drove in for services. I had my Sunday meal all ready that day when he came. The first thing that came into my mind was to offer him something to eat." It all ended with the surprised Indian having a bountiful meal and the Rowlands losing their Sunday dinner.

One of the things which Mrs. Rowland finds hardest is to get used to is the idea that her grandchildren are not children any more but most of them up around 40 years old. She has 23 great-grandchildren, the oldest of whom now is in college. He is Wade Rowland Sanders, a grandson of Mrs. E. C. Mann, attending the University of Oregon, Eugene.

Just keeping up with her family is a sizable task as is evidenced by the pictures everywhere in the home where she and her daughter, Miss Stella Rowland live. There are her four daughters, Mrs. Blake, Mrs. Mann, Mrs. J. W. Walker of Odessa, Texas, and Miss Stella. Her only son, George Burks, born before the family left

Kentucky, died when they were living at Waukomis when he was one year old.

There are 11 grandchildren. One grandson, Rowland Houston, a son of Mrs. Mann, was killed in World War II.

Most of the grandchildren live in the southwest and west, although one, Commander N. W. Sanders is at Elmendorf Air Force Base in Anchorage, Alaska, and another Mrs. V. P. Anderson, the former Janice Blake, is in Dayton, Ohio. They will not be here this weekend.

Keeping up with a big family is something Mrs. Rowland has done all her life. Born April 9, 1870, in Glasgow, Ky., she herself was the next to the oldest of six children and the first daughter to marry. When she married Mr. Rowland Jan. 7, 1890, at just a little short of 20 years, she took on the responsibility of caring for his small brothers and sisters. There were 14 in the orphaned family.

So, she points out, it has been a busy life and she early learned to live one day at a time. That has many times proved a big help. This is the way she manages not to be bitter about things like the totally unnecessary incident which so badly damage her hearing.



Quartz Mountain Park Lodge
Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland, center,
with daughters l-r: Annette Rowland Mann,
Jessie Edna Rowland Walker, Stella Elva
Rowland, Marion Tipton Rowland Blake

Stella Elva Rowland
Information provided by Janice Blake
Anderson

Great times are nice when they can be repeated, and that is what the Rowland relatives did when Stella Elva Rowland, daughter of Mary Pitsy Depp Rowland, granddaughter of Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp, celebrated her 90th birthday. Stella was born June 14, 1900 and during the summer of 1990 the family again reconvened at Quartz Mountain Park Lodge for a

birthday celebration. The family had previously celebrated Stella's mother's 90th birthday at the Quartz Mountain Park Lodge thirty years earlier. While Stella never married, she claimed the hearts of many nieces and nephews, who helped in the celebration. One such group was the "Blake children." All of the siblings were present to wish Stella a very Happy Birthday!



Stella Elva Rowland
90th Birthday Celebration
Quartz Mountain Park Lodge
l-r standing: William, Bob, and George Blake,
Janice Blake Anderson,
Jack, Samuel, and John Blake

Marion Tipton Rowland Blake
Submitted by Jack Evans Blake

Marion Tipton Rowland Blake's birth name was Minnie Tipton Rowland. She later changed her name to Marion. Marion was born to Mary Pitsey Depp Rowland and Wade W. Rowland on October 5, 1892 in Glasgow, KY. She had three sisters and one brother: Jessie Edna, Annette Eola, Stella Elva, and George Burks. In 1902 Wade Rowland moved his family to Hobart, OK, bringing them in a covered wagon. Before the family left Kentucky, Wade promised Mary Pitsey's mother, Mariba Reneau Depp, that he would bring his family back to Kentucky every three years. And, he kept his promise, so the Rowland children were able to know their family in Kentucky.

Marion's Reneau lineage begins as the daughter of Mary Pitsey Depp Rowland, granddaughter of Mariba Reneau Depp, and great granddaughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau.



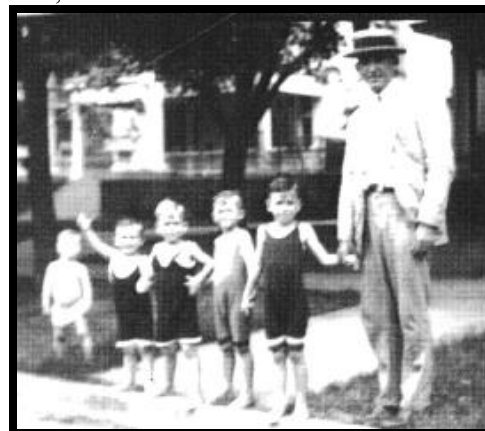
Sisters
l-r: Jessie and Marion Rowland
circa 1899

Marion married William Mark Blake on June 29, 1916 in Hobart, OK.



Mr. and Mrs. William M. Blake
On their Wedding Day
June 29, 1916

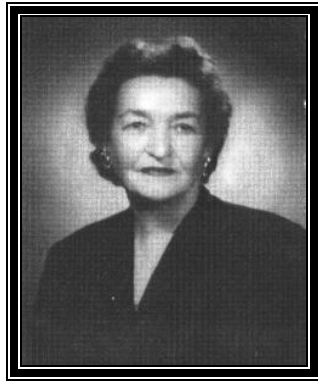
Marion and William had six sons and one daughter: William, Bob, George, Jack, Sam, Janice, and John.



William Blake with five of his seven children.
William, Bob, George, Jack and Sam.

In May of 1952, Marion Tipton Rowland Blake was awarded the distinguished title of Texas Mother of the Year. During this time, Marion,

her husband William Blake and their seven children were living in Lubbock, Texas. With all of her responsibilities Marion still found time to compose poetry and songs, and to engage actively in cultural, educational and religious activities All while bringing up six sons and a daughter. Mrs. Blake attended a luncheon at the Waldorf Astoria Hotel in New York City on May 9 at which all the state nominees were honored.



Marion Tipton Rowland Blake
1952

The same year that Marion was honored as Texas Mother of the Year, a book of her poetry, Flaming Skies, was published.

A selection of verse from her book is a fitting tribute to Marion Tipton Rowland Blake:

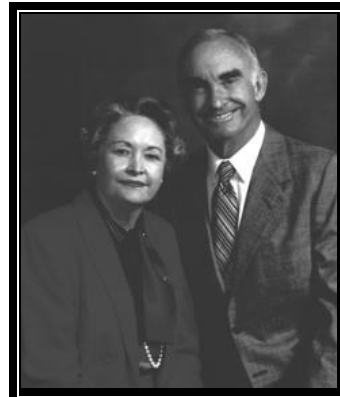
*Seasoned
Life—with much sorrow
And its share of joy—
Seasons and shapes
A human soul
And makes it fit
For the final goal.*

Marion passed away January 19, 1964 in Lubbock, TX and is buried in Resthaven Memorial Park Cemetery.

Jack Evans Blake Family
Information provided by Jack Evans Blake

Jack Evans Blake was born October 5, 1922 in Houston, TX. He was the fourth son of Marion Tipton Rowland Blake and William Mark Blake. Jack traces his Reneau lineage from Marion Tipton Rowland Blake, daughter of Mary Pitsey Depp Rowland, daughter of Mariba Reneau Depp, daughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reno, son of Charles, son of John, son of Lewis Reno.

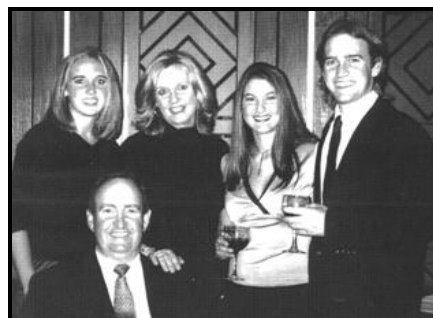
Jack married Carol Jo Wheeler of Fort Worth, TX. The marriage took place in the Magnolia Avenue Christian Church of Fort Worth on February 25, 1950. They met while at Texas Tech University in Lubbock, TX. Jack worked for Gulf and Amarado after leaving college. In 1955 he became an Independent Oil Operator, and has been since that time.



Carol Jo (Jody) and Jack Blake
1984

Jack and Carol Jo have four children: Jack E. Blake, Jr. was born in 1952; Bruce Wheeler Blake, born in 1954; Carolyn Blake, born in 1959; and Mark Douglas Blake, born in 1961.

Jack Evans Blake Jr. resides in Midland, TX with his family. Jack Jr. is married to Mary Teresa Beddow. They have three children and one grandchild: Patrick Banaise Blake, born 1976; Spencer Evans Blake, born 1981; and Riley Marie Blake, Born 1985.



l-r standing: Riley Marie Blake, Mary Teresa Blake, Poppy Goodin and Spencer Evans Blake.
sitting: Jack Evans Blake Jr.

Jack Blake Jr. and Mary Beddow Blake's son, Banaise, is married to Amy Kidwell. Banaise and Amy have one son, Samuel Banaise Blake, who was born in 2002.



Amy Kidwell Blake, Patrick Banaise Blake
with son, Samuel Banaise Blake
2002

Jack and Carol Jo's son Bruce Wheeler Blake and family live in Liberty, TX. He is married to Christina (Tina) Marie Henderson. They have two children: Jessica Rowland Blake, born in 1983; and Bruce Alexander Blake, born in 1988.



Jack and Jody with son, Bruce and family
l-r standing: Bruce and Tina Blake
l-r sitting: Jessica, Jody, Jack, and Alex Blake
Carolyn Blake Johnston, is Jack and Jody's third child. She is married to David Kyle Johnston. They have two children: David Kyle Johnston Jr., born in 1983; and Katelyn Ashley Johnston, born in 1988. The family lives in Anchorage, AK.



l-r: David, Katelyn, Kyle and Carolyn Johnston
Dec. 2003

The youngest child born to Jack and Carol Jo is their son, Mark Douglas Blake. He is married to

Paige Kreager. They have two children: Caroline Fleetwood Blake, born in 1991; and Ross Kreager Blake, born in 1995. The family resides in Austin, TX.



l-r: Mark, Paige, Caroline, and Ross Blake

Jack and Carol Jo celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary on February 25, 2000. They have called Midland their home for all those years, while enjoying a second home at Lakeway in Austin. Spending time at the lake house with family and friends is one of their favorite pastimes.



l-r front: Jack Blake, Carol Jo Blake, Caroline Blake, Riley Blake, Jessica Blake, Tina Blake, Bruce Blake.
l-r back: Spencer Blake, Ross Blake, Alex Blake, Jack E. Blake, Jr., Mary Blake, Paige Blake, and Mark Blake.



Jack Evans and Carol Jo Blake
2002



l-r: Jack Blake Jr., Mary Blake, Riley Blake, Katelyn Johnston, Jessica Blake, Tina Blake, Alex Blake, Carol Jo Blake, Jack E. Blake, and Bruce Blake.

Jack and Carol Jo, along with their son, Bruce, and daughter-in-law, Tina, attended the Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, TX, Oct. 23, 2003. It was a great time to renew friendships and meet new cousins.



Tina, Carol Jo, Bruce and Jack Blake
Reneau Reunion Registration Table



The Blake Family

Standing l-r: Mark Blake, Spencer Blake, Katelyn Johnston, David Johnston, Kyle Johnston, Bruce Blake, Tina Blake, Alex Blake, Jessica Blake, Sandy Beddow, Ed Beddow Riley Blake, Banaise Blake, Amy Blake. Standing at left: Ross Blake, Caroline Blake Seated l-r: Paige Blake, Carolyn Blake Johnston, Carol Jo Blake, Jack E. Blake, Eve Beddow, Mary Blake, (holding Sam Blake) and Jack E. Blake, Jr.

Janice Blake Anderson family
Submitted by Janice Blake Anderson

Oct 14, 2003

I'm so sorry we won't be able to attend the reunion. We are having some work done on our home.

Our three children have done well, I think, through the years. They have seven college degrees between them and have established a firm place for themselves in life.

Jandy, our oldest daughter has a bachelor's and master's degree in psychology. She is married to Larry Jones and lives in San Jose, California, along with her two beautiful daughters, Whitney 11, and Savannah 8.

Kathy (or Kat as she likes to be called) our second daughter, has a doctorate in Wildland Resource Science. She is now on the faculty at the University of California at Davis doing research. Her book, Tending the Wild, which is about California Indian land management, will be published by the University of California Press in August 2004.

Scott, our son, and the youngest, completed a bachelor's degree in Construction Technology, and then another degree (in art) from Art Center Design in Pasadena, where he graduated with honors. He then went to work for Walt Disney for seventeen years.

My husband, Lt. Col., USAF (Ret), Vincent Paul Anderson has written his autobiography. The book is about our family and his World War II and Korean War and peace time experiences. He has a bachelor's degree in engineering and master's degree in management. He is a member of the Military Officers Association of America, Who's Who in America, the Sheriff's Team of Active Retired Seniors, and is a past president of Toastmasters International.

My name is Janice Blake Anderson, but everyone calls me Jan. I attended Boston Conservatory of Music and majored in ballet. I became a ballerina and later I had several dancing studios where I taught dancing to children. I am a homemaker and I volunteered and taught Special Olympics students tennis for 11 years. I really enjoyed and loved teaching my students.

Thank you for having this reunion. I'm sorry we cannot attend. I wish the best for you all.

PS If you come to California, please visit us!

Janice Blake Anderson & family



A gift from their children in honor of Janice and Vincent's 50th Wedding Anniversary

Rear L-R: Larry Jones, Kathy Anderson,
Jandy Anderson Jones, Scott Anderson.
Front L-R: Vincent Anderson, Whitney Jones,
Savannah Jones, Janice Blake Anderson.
April 2003
Cruise to the Bahamas

Barton Warren Stone Reneau & Descendants
Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

Barton Warren Stone Reneau was born May 2, 1848 to Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. The line for Barton went from his father Isaac Tipton, to John Reno, to Charles Reno.

Barton was named after Barton Warren Stone, a prominent preacher, for whom Isaac Tipton must have had a high regard.

During the time that Barton was growing up, his father was away much of the time preaching the Gospel to the many small communities in the Cumberland mountain area of Kentucky and Tennessee. As evidenced in the many letters that he sent home to his family, his thoughts were always with them, and he helped to guide them even from afar. With our thanks to Betty Reneau (Isaac Tipton Reneau's great granddaughter) we share the following letter from Isaac Tipton to his son Barton:

W. F. Harrison's, Feb. 11, 1867

B.W.S. Reneau:

My Son, I hope you will energetically embrace the present opportunity for learning. I think the School in Albany is a good one; I spent Saturday last in conversation with Professor

Murray, and I think he is quite a gentleman and a good scholar--fully qualified to teach. I want you and Nelley to comply with every request he may make in reference to learning; he will do right, and teach you fast and correctly. He knows better what to do, and how to do it, than you; you should therefore comply in every particular-- your own honor requires it.

I expect to continue you at school till your education shall be completed; and in view of a thorough education, I wish you to take every principle "up by the roots." I know you have a mind that can do it.

I have engaged Mr. Hopkins to make you a table with a drawer large enough to hold your books and Nelley's. You must lock your drawer of evenings, and safely carry the key in your pocket. If you have paper and ink at home, bring them with you; if you have no paper, go to Harrison's store and get it on my account; but not get it at any other store. The ink which you have at home, is much better than any that you can get in town.

You must be careful of Nelley--not let her go by herself; and you must take good care of your horses, and not let them break their bridles.

Now, my Son, I shall depend on your doing all that I have requested you to do; you be sure to discharge your duties as a child, and I will discharge mine as a Father. Now is the time to do something for yourself. And that God may continue his favors with you, and enable you to become both great and good, is the prayer of your devoted father,

Isaac T. Reneau

Let John and Nelley read, and then let your mother read and put in my drawer.



Barton Warren Stone Reneau

On October 3, 1872, Barton married a young lady from Clay County, Tennessee. Sytha Ella Moore was the daughter of Washington Scott Moore and Evelyn Cherry Moore. From research done by Dorothy Reneau Mote we learn that:

"On 20 Nov 1882 Sytha and Barton sold 5 1/4 acres of theirs for \$420 with one horse or Bay Mare. Eighty Dollars in hand paid the receipt of which is hereby acknowledged the remaining one hundred and forty five dollars due and payable on the 25th day of December 1882." This transaction was from Warren County KY (Smiths Grove).

During this period Barton and Sytha had a growing family. Tipton Moore, born October 18, 1873; Mary Evelyn, born October 13, 1875; Joseph Stone, born October 7, 1877; Eugene LaRue, born January 17, 1879; and Laura Alice, born on August 18, 1881.

From Smiths Grove, Kentucky, Barton, Sytha, and their children moved to Tennessee, where their next child, a girl, Mattie, was born on August 21, 1883.

Barton's older brother, Thomas, and his family had moved to the "new frontier" called Texas. It wasn't long and the call of new land interested Barton and Sytha. They moved their family to Floyd, Texas near Greenville, and took up farming. Three more children were born during this time: Hettie Ann, born, March 29, 1886; Ola, born November 14, 1888; and Benton, born August 23, 1891. There was sadness during this time, as well. On July 18, 1883, Joseph Stone Reneau died at age six.

While the family has few pictures of Barton, we do have a portrait of Sytha and the children:



Barton Warren Stone Reneau Family
Back l-r: Hettie Ann, Mattie, and Mary Evelyn
Front l-r: Laura Alice, Tipton Moore, Sytha Ella Moore Reneau, Benton G., Eugene LaRue, and Ola
circa 1894

In October of 1919, Barton passed away. He is buried in Clinton Cemetery, in Hunt County, TX. Sytha stayed on at the farm and lived there until her death in 1933. She is also buried in the Clinton Cemetery in Hunt County. Her obituary from the local newspaper follows:

KIN OF FOUNDER CHURCH OF CHRIST
DIES NEAR FLOYD

Mrs. Sytha Ella Reneau 83, long time resident of Hunt county, and daughter-in-law of Issac T. Reneau, one of the founders of the Church of Christ, died this morning at 7:30 o'clock at her home 2 miles south of Floyd, west of Greenville. Death followed an illness of about a week's duration.

Final rites will be observed at (not legible) o'clock this afternoon. The funeral services will be conducted by Leslie G. Thomas, minister of the local Church of Christ. Burial will be in the Clinton cemetery.

WIDELY KNOWN

Mrs. Reneau, one of the most widely know women in this county, was born in Kentucky on Aug. 7, 1850. When a young woman she came to Texas and settled in Hunt county and for half a century had made her home on the same farm near Floyd where she was a prominent factor in the progress of that section of the county.

She was a conscientious Christian woman and had been a member of the Church of Christ for fifty-five years. She never overlooked an opportunity to be of service in behalf of Christianity and lived steadfastly to the teaching of the Master and the tenets of her church, endeavoring at all times to be a worthwhile and useful church member as well as a citizen.

FRIENDS MOURN

Many friends throughout this section will mourn the death of Mrs. Reneau whose family has long been one of the (not legible) ...seeds for religiousness and (not legible) living and her influence has been felt by many. She raised a family of fine children who have assumed their places as good citizens.

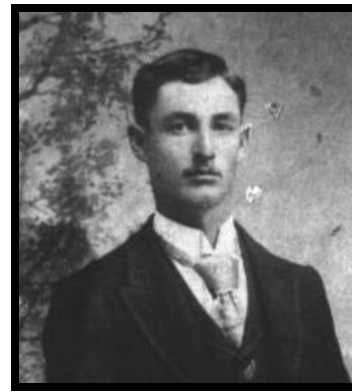
The surviving children are: Mrs. Lora (sic) Campbell, Fort Smith Ark.; Mrs. A. J. Commons, McKinney; Mrs. Mattie Young, Hutchison, Kansas; Mrs. Ola Bryan, Floyd; T.M. Reneau, Dallas; Eugene Reneau of Eugene, Oregon, and Benton G. Reneau of Floyd. Numerous other relatives also survive

Tipton Moore Reneau and Descendants
Submitted by Marie Reneau Knight

Barton Warren Stone Reneau was the fifth child of Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. Barton W.S. Reneau was born May 2, 1848 in Albany, Kentucky. Barton W.S. Reneau

married Sytha Ella Moore on October 3, 1872 in Clay County, Tennessee. He died October of 1919 and is buried in the Reneau Family plot at the Clinton, Texas cemetery.

Their oldest child was Tipton Moore Reneau (my grandfather) who was born October 18, 1873 in Glasgow, Kentucky. I do not know the exact date that the family came to Texas, but it was probably around 1882 or 1883. Barton W.S. Reneau and Sytha Ellen Reneau's third child was Joseph Stone Reneau who was born on October 7, 1877 and died on July 18, 1883 and this son is buried in the Clinton, Texas cemetery, but not in the family plot with his parents; therefore they had to be in Hunt County, Texas by that time.



Tipton Moore Reneau

The family settled in the Floyd community close to Greenville, Texas. Tipton Moore Reneau grew up there and according to his obituary taught school in Alba, Texas before his marriage to Jenny Russell Reneau on July 14, 1895.

Tipton and Jenny lived in Farmersville, Texas for about three years, and then moved back to Alba, Texas.

Tipton Moore and Jenny Russell Reneau had six children: Pauline Reneau born July 24, 1896 (d. 1981); Wilbur Eugene Reneau (my daddy) born July 29, 1898, (d. 1/18/74); Carl Tipton Reneau, born October 12, 1900 and died at the age of 2 years; Madie Reneau, born May 3, 1903 (d. 2/1976); Alden Reneau born September 2, 1907 (d. 6/4/1973); and Lucille Reneau, born January 3, 1910 (d. 1985).

As was the custom many times during those years, births were not registered at the time the children were born, and I know Granddaddy got his children's birth certificates after the children were grown, and Alden and Lucille both thought he got the years of their births incorrect. The years of their births may be off by one year. Tipton Moore Reneau's first wife—Jenny

Russell Reneau died on December 26, 1913. Around 1922, Tipton Moore Reneau moved to Dallas, Texas and lived there the remainder of his life. After moving to Dallas, Tipton worked for the Internal Revenue for several years and then had real estate property that he managed the rest of his life.



Tipton Moore Reneau
circa. 1946

His children may have gone to Dallas before Tipton did, but they all were in Dallas by 1922. In the 1920's the family all lived together on Junius Street in east Dallas. Paulee was married but the rest of the family wasn't. When Wilbur Eugene Reneau Sr. married my mother, Nina Lucile Campbell Reneau in 1926, she moved in the family home with the rest of the family, and they lived there until shortly before Wilbur Eugene Reneau, Jr. was born.



Four Generations
l-r: Wilbur Eugene Sr., holding Wilbur Eugene Jr., Sytha Ella Moore Reneau, Tipton Moore Reneau
circa 1929

Wilbur Eugene Reneau Sr. worked for the Tennessee Dairy in Dallas and that is where he

met my mother. Wilbur and Nina Reneau had two children: Wilbur Eugene Reneau Jr., born October 4, 1927; and Edith Marie Reneau, born May 4, 1931. Both were born in Dallas, Texas.



Wilbur and Nina Reneau
Children: Edith Marie and Gene (Wilbur Jr.)
circa 1936



Edith Marie Reneau
with her grandfather, Tipton Moore Reneau
circa 1944

Madie married Marion W. MacDade (Mack) on December 24, 1921.. Madie and M.W. McDade had one son, James Russell Reneau, born January 15, 1924.

Paulee was married to A.T. Coffin, and they had no children.

Alden Reneau married Rachel Williams, and they had one son, Harold Edwin Reneau, born June 27, 1934 (d. 2/16/1984). Alden retired in 1971 after owning and operating the Reneau Grocery Market for 24 years.

Lucille Reneau married James McKillop about 1935. He was a member of the Merchant

Marines during WW II, and the McKillops lived all over the United States coast lines because of his work. In later years they lived in the Dallas area, then moved to Kerrville, Texas and lived there the last few years of their lives. They had no children.

So, Tipton Moore Reneau had four grandchildren. After 1936, Tipton lived with his oldest son, Wilbur Reneau Sr. off and on the rest of his life. My grandfather, Tipton Reneau, was a witty character who loved his extended family well.

Tipton Moore Reneau died from a heart attack on April 11, 1949 in Dallas, Texas. He is buried at Restland Cemetery in Dallas, as are the Wibur Reneau's, the McDade's, the Alden Reneau's, the Coffin family, and Lucille McKillop.

M.W. McDade was a building contractor. He built his and Madie's home, and Wilbur and Nina Reneau's home in the late 1920's and early 1930's. They were built from the same house plans and were half a block apart in east Dallas, fairly close to White Rock Lake. The children of Tipton Moore Reneau remained very close as they reached adulthood, and enjoyed spending holidays, etc. together.



Mack and Madie Reneau McDade
May 1969



Russell McDade
Son of Mack and Madie Reneau McDade
circa 1950

Around 1940, Daddy (Wilbur Reneau, Sr.) went to work for the Union Terminal Company, which was the train station in Dallas. He worked there until his health forced him to retire in 1963. Daddy had many strokes and heart problems.



Wilbur Eugene Sr. and Nina Reneau
circa 1968

Wilbur Eugene Reneau Jr. and Marie Reneau grew up during the depression, but we didn't realize it was such hard financial times. Gene had a paper route and a magazine route, but most boys his age had paper routes, etc. We were blessed to have a happy family life and didn't feel deprived by the lack of material things.

Marie Reneau married Darrell Knight on September 9, 1949, and they made their home in Rannels County, Texas. They have three sons: Steve, born October 22, 1950; Danny, born September 6, 1952; and Larry, born September 9, 1955. In 1981, we moved to the farm about 10 miles northeast of Hawley, Texas. Darrell is semi-retired now, and I am retired after 20 years as a secretary. We have eight grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren.



Seated: Marie Reneau Knight and Darrell Knight
celebrating their 50th Wedding Anniversary
with their three sons and their wives:
l-r: Steve and Pat, Larry and Mary Kay, and
Danny and Jan
September 9, 1999



Marie and Darrell Knight
Christmas 2003

Gene and Alyce DeWees Reneau married on October 21, 1950. As Gene was working for Core Lab, which was an oil related business, they lived all over the northwest. Gene and Alyce have three children: a daughter, Jean Reneau, born April 29, 1955, living in Denver, Colorado; a daughter, Lea Ann, born August 27, 1959, and her husband Matt Stricklin, living close to Gene and Alyce; and a son, Tipton Edward Reneau, born January 2, 1966, and his wife Stephanie, living in Pocatello, Idaho. They have two granddaughters, and have lost one granddaughter in 1997. Gene eventually resigned from Core Lab and was a minister for the Church of Christ for many years. He and Alyce have retired (except Gene still goes to India, and does mission work about twice a year). They live in Hawley, Jones County, Texas, about a mile from us.



Gene and Alyce Reneau
October 21, 2002

Alden Reneau and Family
Information provided by Lisa Reneau Lapsley

Alden Reneau was born September 7, 1907 Alba, Rains Co., Texas. He was the youngest son of Tipton Moore Reneau and Jennette Mae Russell Reneau. Alden joined his older siblings in the family: Pauline Malissa, Wilbur Eugene, Carl Tipton and Madie. In 1910, another sister, Lucille, completed the family.

Alden married Rachel Williams on July 16, 1933 at the North Dallas Baptist Church. After their honeymoon the couple made their home on Newman Street in Dallas.



Miss Rachel Williams
Newspaper photo announcing
Rachel's engagement to Alden

On June 27, 1934, Alden and Rachel celebrated the birth of their son, Harold Edwin.



Harold, Rachel, and Alden Reneau
circa 1946

Alden had started working for Clark & Johnson Grocery Market in 1927. He worked there for twenty years, and then in 1947, opened his own grocery market, Reneau's Grocery. It was located on 4350 Hartford in Dallas.

As you can see in the following snapshots, the Grocery Market was a family business, with Alden, Rachel, and Harold all part of the staff. The store made grocery deliveries as well.



Rachel Reneau
Reneau Grocery
1947



Alden and Harold Reneau
Reneau Grocery
1947



The Reneau Grocery Truck
Rachel Reneau and two nephews,
Jimmy and Jerry Williams
1949

Rachel and Alden were part of the Dallas community that saw their city grow rapidly during the 1960's. In 1968, the Dallas North Tollway opened, a fast roadway going from downtown Dallas nearly four miles to Mockingbird Lane. Rachel was a part of this history as the first customer through the toll gate:



Dallas Times Herald
February 12, 1968

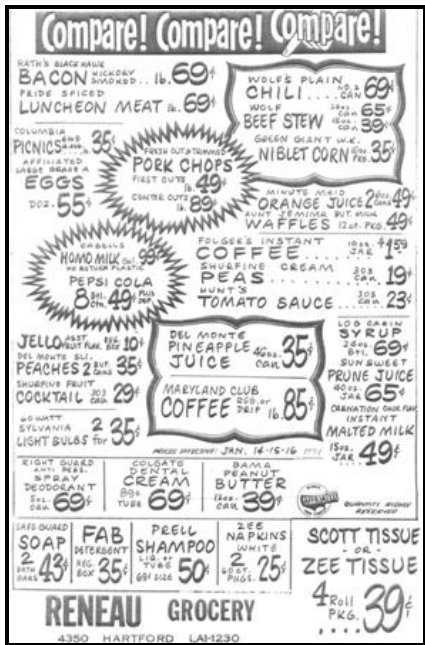
The news clipping noted that, "Mrs. Alden Reneau of 2515 Arroyo was the Dallas North Tollway's first paying customer when the roadway opened at 6 a. m. Sunday. Greeting Mrs. Reneau were Clyde R. Ashworth, center chairman of the Texas Turnpike Authority board, and Jack Davis, engineer-manager.



Alden Reneau
circa 1970

The family belonged to the North Baptist Church. Alden taught Sunday School class there for thirty years.

The family owned and operated Reneau's Grocery for twenty-four years, with Alden retiring in 1971. Alden and Rachel kept a copy of the last advertisement for the store as a keepsake of all the years in the grocery business



Grocery Flyer from Reneau Grocery
1971

Alden Reneau passed away at age 65 on June 4th, 1973 in Dallas. Burial was at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas. Rachel continued to live in Dallas, passing away January 18, 2003. Burial was at Restland Memorial Park.

**Harold Edwin Reneau and Family
Information provided by Lisa Reneau Lapsley**

Harold Edwin Reneau was born June 27, 1934, in Dallas, Dallas County, Texas, to Alden Harold Reneau and Rachel Williams Reneau. His grandfather was, Tipton Moore Reneau, who also made his home in Dallas.



Tipton Moore Reneau
Grandfather of Harold Edwin Reneau

Harold's Reneau lineage was Alden Reneau, Tipton Moore, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis. Harold's mother and father started their own business in 1947, opening Reneau Grocery. Thirteen year old Harold also worked in the family business.



Harold Edwin Reneau
Reneau Grocery Store
1947

Harold graduated from Dallas High School, attended Arlington College and received his BS from the University of Texas. He then was employed by the Dallas Public School system. On September 3, 1961 Harold married Doris LaNeil Chisolm. She also worked for the Dallas Public Schools.



Mr. and Mrs. Harold Edwin Reneau
Wedding photo
September 3, 1961

Doris and Harold set up house at 4408 Cole Avenue in Dallas. Harold joined the service and the couple moved to North Carolina.



Doris and Harold Reneau
September 3, 1961



Lisa Michelle, John Tipton, and Doris Reneau
1986



l-r: Rachael and Alden Reneau with their
daughter-in-law, Doris, and son, Harold.

John Tipton Reneau married Alicia Bennett in 1989. They have two daughters: Kristin Ashley, born 1991; and Jacee Nicole, born 1993. Lisa is married to Terry Lapsley from Portland, Oregon. They reside in Jacksonville, Florida, where Lisa works for Maxwell House Coffee.

Doris and Harold's first child, John Tipton Reneau, was born in 1964 at Fort Bragg, Cumberland Co., North Carolina. In 1970 the family had moved to Orlando, Orange County, Florida. Their second child, Lisa Michelle was born in Orlando, completing the family.



Lisa and Terry Lapsley
on their honeymoon in the Bahamas
April 2001



Doris and Harold Reneau
and children
John Tipton and Lisa Michelle
circa 1977

Later, the family moved to Jacksonville, Florida. Harold Edwin Reneau passed away on February 17, 1984, in Jacksonville.

Eugene LaRue Reneau and Family
Submitted by Anita Daniels

Eugene LaRue Reneau was born January 17, 1879, in Smiths Grove, Kentucky to Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Ella Moore Reneau. Eugene's grandparents were Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. Eugene LaRue's Reneau lineage was: Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis.

Eugene joined his three older siblings: Tipton Moore, Mary Evelyn and Joseph Stone. When Eugene was four years old, the family moved to Tennessee, and then two years later moved to Floyd, Hunt County, Texas. The family lived

and farmed 37 acres, which was eight miles west of Greenville.

In 1903, Eugene married Lula Ellen Vernon. Lula was two months old when her family had moved from New Haven, MO, to Collin County, TX, which was next to Hunt County.



Eugene and Lula Reneau
September 23, 1923

Eugene and Lula were married three years when they moved to Leedey, OK. Their two daughters Gladys, and Esther were born in Leedey. In 1910, the young family moved to the territory of New Mexico. There they lived the pioneer life on the 320 acre homestead. Life was primitive at best and a real adjustment for the couple. Their three sons, Scott, Rex and Marion were born in Pasamonte.



l-r: Eugene, Scott, Gladys, Esther, Lula and Rex
Pasamonte, NM -- 1914

Neighbors were few and all had to work out their own plan of existence. Eugene took to raising mules to help supplement the family income.



Eugene with one of his mules

In 1920, the family left their homestead and moved to a nearby town, Clayton, New Mexico, starting a general store. It was quite a transition from the pioneer life they had led in Pasamonte.



Reneau children: l-r standing: Esther and Gladys
l-r sitting: Rex, Marion, Scott circa 1921

The children were growing up. Gladys married Albert Brandle in 1926, spending time in both Amistad, NM and Weatherford, OK. The times had taken its toll on the family. In 1928, Lula, Esther and Rex moved to Weatherford. Scott had already moved from the family home and stayed in Clayton. Eugene took young Marion, traveling to Oregon, hoping to find work out west. They first lived in Junction City, OR where Marion was able to attend school. After Marion graduated from Junction City High School in 1936, Eugene and his son moved to Portland, where he got work in the Shipyards.

On Feb. 20, 1935, Lula Vernon Reneau, age 52, passed away in Weatherford, OK. Her early death precluded any possibility of Marion getting to see his mother after he reached adulthood, and of course the family would never be whole again. On Jan. 15, 1939 Marion married Phern Anna Hansen. They had two children, Gerald Wilbert and Anita Phern. The young family worked on a dairy near Phern's parent's dairy. This was a time for Eugene to get to enjoy grandchildren, Anita and Gerald. Also, there were trips to Salem, OR to visit daughter, Gladys and family.



Eugene, Anita and Gerald – 1942

Fridays were always special for Eugene and his little granddaughter, Anita. This was the day that Eugene dressed in his finest. Anita always wore a pretty dress, and the two would take the bus to downtown Portland. The Meier and Frank Department Store had a nice restaurant on the

10th floor. It was always a treat for Anita to have lunch with Grandpa downtown. Eugene, besides entertaining his granddaughter, also had a group of friends who were regulars at the Friday lunch.



l-r: Ed and Gladys Brandle, Eugene Reneau, with Ed's two daughters, Edwyna and Linda --1952

On Aug. 1, 1953, Eugene Reneau passed away in Portland, OR. It was that same year that Marion took his family, and sister, Gladys, back to Texas and Oklahoma to be reunited with brothers, Scott and Rex, and sister, Esther. It was a great reunion for all the siblings and their families.



l-r standing: Rex, Scott, and Marion
l-r sitting: Esther and Gladys
Clinton, OK – 1953

**Gladys Reneau Brandle and descendants
Information provided by Edwyna Brandle
Field
Linda Brandle Pasqua**

Gladys Sarah Reneau was the first child born to Eugene LaRue and Lula Ellen Vernon Reneau. She was born Jun 7, 1907 in Leedey, OK Her sister, Esther LeeJeanne, was also born in Leedy,



Gladys Sarah Reneau
Leedy, OK – 1907

The young family then moved to Pasamonte, NM, where they homesteaded. Here, three brothers for Gladys and Esther were added to the family, Scott, Rex and Marion.

In 1978 Gladys wrote to her youngest brother, Marion, describing the times when he and his brothers were born:

“I was 4 yrs old when Scott was born and there was a blizzard on in 1911 out on prairie where the folks homesteaded. You couldn't see the street where you parked. Papa gave Esther and I something to do and he took care of Mama. When I heard a baby cry, I was up and I said that I knew where some baby clothes were (wasn't much I missed-ha) and I went under the bed and brought out a suitcase of clothes and help dress him. This was around 1 or 2 o'clock. We'd eaten our dinner, but when Rex came it had been warm fall and at night. Papa went and got a neighbor lady to be there. I hadn't gone to sleep, even tho I was supposed to. I had an idea what was happening and Mama knew I was awake and she had me do some things and then ACT like I was asleep. Then when Marion came it was snowy and foggy and there was a man staying there helping Papa and so he took Esther, Scott, and I to a neighbors and she came and helped Pop, but I knew we had a baby, so I asked. Yes, a big boy. (Ancient history-ha.)”



Great Friends!

Gladys Reneau, Audrey Ellis, Esther Reneau
New Mexico—circa 1917

Gladys always had a joke ready to play to keep the days from ever getting dreary. She saw the positive side of everything, in the letters she wrote or the photos that were taken.

On Jan. 14, 1925, Gladys Sarah Reneau married Albert Brandle. Albert lived in nearby Amistad. Albert was born in Iowa, and his family had moved to homestead in New Mexico. Albert and Gladys also farmed in Union County, NM where they spent the first years of their marriage. On Jan. 2, 1926, their son, Edward Lee Brandle was born. In 1937 the family moved to Portland, OR where Gladys' younger brother, Marion, and her

father, Eugene, lived. For a while they helped out on the Reneau-Hansen dairy farm. Later, both Gladys and Albert found work in Salem, OR and moved there. Salem became home to the family for the rest of their lives. Both Gladys and Albert were very proud of their son, Ed, and were especially happy when Ed married Vi, the daughter of their good friends, Vert and MaryEllen Ellis.



Gladys Reneau Brandle and Albert Brandle
Portland, Oregon – circa 1937



Gladys with her son, Edward



Ed, Gladys and Albert



Two Special Grandmas and Grandchildren
l-r: Gladys Brandle and MaryEllen Ellis
Ken, Eddy, and Linda (in front) –1954



Vi and Ed Brandle
April 23, 1946

Ed and Vi had three children: Edwyna “Eddy” born in 1948; Linda “Lennie” born in 1951; and Kenneth, born in 1954. Being a Grandma was special for Gladys. She and Albert were able to watch their grandchildren grow to adulthood. Eddy married Robert Craig Field. They had a son, Craig Robert Field.

Craig is married to Michelle “Shelley” Amy Perkins. Craig and Shelley are the proud parents of a son, Chancellor Robert Field, born November 18, 2003. Craig works as a manager in the meat department for Fred Meyer Stores. Michelle works for the Department of Children’s Services for the State of Oregon.



l-r: Stacey Brandle, Ken Brandle, Vi Brandle,
Eddy Field holding grandson, Chance, Michelle
Field and Craig Field – 2003

In Nov. 2003, a family gathering over the holidays brought cousins together: Charlene, great granddaughter of Marion Reneau with her son Ryan, and Craig, great great grandson of Gladys Reneau Brandle, with his son, Chance.



l-r adults: Charlene and Ralph Welch, Michelle
and Craig Field. l-r children: Georgia Welch,
Ryan Welch, and Chancellor Field.

Albert passed away on January 18, 1984. Gladys remained in their home, until her health was such

that she needed to live in an Assisted Living Home. Gladys passed away on April 20, 1987. She will always be fondly remembered by her family and numerous friends. She was central to the family, and was known for her strength, good will, and wonderful sense of humor.

Edward Lee Brandle
Information provided by Vila Ellis Brandle
and Edwyna Brandle Field

Edward Lee Brandle was born to Albert Brandle and Gladys Reneau Brandle on Jan. 2, 1926. Gladys was the daughter of Eugene and Lula Reneau. Gladys, Albert and Edward lived in Amistad, NM. Gladys' best friend was Mary Ellen Ellis. Mary Ellen and her husband, Vert, had a daughter about Ed's age. Her name was Vila. The families each lived on one acre homesteads. Where they lived there were 6 children who played together: 5 girls, and Ed, the only boy! Gladys, Albert & Ed moved to Oregon in 1937, Albert first worked on a dairy, and Gladys worked at the meat packing plant, Valley Packing. All this time Gladys and MaryEllen kept up correspondence.



Gladys and Albert Brandle, Eugene Reneau and Ed Brandle in Portland, OR 1937



Edward Lee Brandle

Ed later went in the Navy during WWII. After he got out he came back to Salem and bought a car. He then drove his parents to Amistad to surprise Vert and MaryEllen. And it was love at first sight for Vi and Ed. Vi was in her last year of high school, and her folks wanted her to wait, but she convinced them this was what she wanted to do. Vi said that she never had a regret and life with Ed was great. Ed had joked to his

friends that he had told his Navy buddies on the ship that when he was young he played with a girl whose face was as round as a tomato, and then he said to her when he found her again, he would marry her! Ed and Vi were married in 1946. Three children were born to the couple: Edwyna Lue, Lynda Fayone, and Kenneth Edward.



l-r: Ken, Linda, Edwyna, Vi and Ed at Gladys & Albert's home, Salem, OR July, 1961

Ed worked for Norpac for 39 years, retiring in 1991 as corporate electrician of all Norpac plants. He was a member of the Salem Elks, American Legion and served on the Oregon State Electrical Apprenticeship Council. Ed passed away Nov. 1, 1999. We all miss the twinkle in Ed's eyes and the smile that he had for everyone. Ed and Vi's daughter, Eddy, lives in Burns, Oregon. She works for Erickson's Sentry Market. A highlight for the family is when she visits family in the Portland-Salem area. Congratulations to Eddy and Gerald on their marriage on Aug. 2004. Gerald Thomas Stewart was born Dec. 15, 1938 in Chickasha, OK .He moved to Klamath Falls when he was 6. Served in the Navy, attended college at Berkeley, graduating in 1966. He worked for Del Monte Corporation in California for 20 years, then moved to Medford, OR, where he spent 20 years as a paint contractor. He moved to Burns, OR in 1999, and is now retired. He is a PER of the Medford Elks and is now on the board of Trustees at the Burns Elks."

Linda Fayone Brandle married Steven John Bauer. Their first child, Kellee John, lived just one day, born July 16, 1972 and passed away on July 17, 1972. We know the whole family shared in their grief. Lyn's second child, born in 1977, was named, Joshua John Bauer. A year later, Katy Lynn Bauer was born.

On January 23, 1998, Lyn married Craig Pasqua. Craig is a USTA Tennis Pro and (North American Indian Tennis Association) President. Also, he is the Director of tennis at Harker School in San, Jose, California. He currently coaches the top ranked De Anza College Women's tennis team and helped guide them to

the 2003 California Community College State Championships, gaining a national ranking in the process. Craig is a skilled tournament player and has won the North American Indian Tennis Championships in singles and doubles. Currently, Craig is one-half of the back-to-back NAITC championship team in the Open and Men's 35 Doubles. He is a member of the USTA, USPTA, ITA and serves on the North American Indian Tennis Association's Board of Directors. Craig is a graduate of Stanford University and holds a degree in psychology.



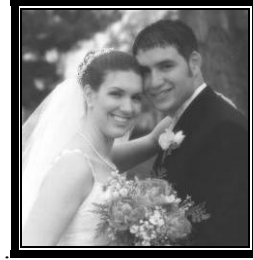
Linda and Craig Pasqua

Linda has been working for two Glaucoma specialists for the last thirteen years. She mentioned that it is not as exciting as Craig's work; however, it is a very rewarding job. Linda's son Joshua completed his four year active duty with the U.S. Navy in 2003. On Oct. 23, 2003, Joshua married Joy Doss, in North Carolina, where the couple now lives. Joy is an insurance agent for State Farm Insurance. Josh is a tech for Direct TV, and is planning to go back to school. They are expecting a baby this October!



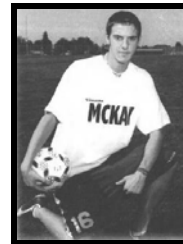
Joshua and Joy Bauer

Linda's daughter, Katy married Jason Garvey on Jan.5, 2002. They met at church and live in Campbell, CA. Katy is a Cardiac RN at El Camino Hospital in Mountain View, CA. Jason is the College Director at the First Baptist Church of Los Altos, CA and will soon be going to the seminary. They also have a business called Disciple Designs in which Jason designs web sites.



Katy Lynn Brandle Garvey and Jason Garvey
January 5, 2002

Gladys' grandson, Ken, is a driver for UPS. He married Lori Duncan in 1978. Two children were born to the couple: Stacey Lynn, born October 25, 1983; and Kyle Edward, born April 29, 1987. Tragically, the family lost Kyle, who passed away in an auto accident on October 28, 2003. Kyle is remembered as a young man who loved sports and wanted to work in that field. He was a junior at McKay High School in Salem, OR and was a valued team member in the school's sports program.



Kyle Edward Brandle

Kyle's sister, Stacey, now attends school at Chemeketa Community College in Salem, OR.



Ken Brandle and daughter, Stacey Lynn --2003

Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman
Information provided by Koleta LeeJeanne
Bauman Moad, Charles Wayne Bauman and
mementos of Marion Reneau
Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

Esther LeeJeanne was the second daughter of Lula Ellen and Eugene LaRue Reneau. Esther married William H. Bauman on Feb. 27, 1932 in El Reno, OK. and worked the Bauman family farm near Cordell, OK. Esther always

considered education an important part of life. She continued her schooling after she was married, graduating with a BS Degree, Cum Laude in May 1935, from Southwestern State Teachers College.



Esther LeeJeanne Reneau
1935

On May 22, 1935, a week after graduation, Esther wrote to her youngest brother, Marion, who was living in Oregon. She expressed her dedication and determination to get her degree:

Dear Marion,

You probably think I've forgotten you, but I certainly haven't. I finally got all graduated. Had to take another course at the last by correspondence, and, with all my other work, have certainly been busy. At last I can get my breath and take time to think it all over.

I got my "life certificate" in 1931. This degree means four years of college work. Hadn't gone to school much since I got my "life" until after I was sick. Then went back and finished. I majored in primary work and Spanish. If I'd known I was going to marry a German, my foreign language should have been German. Bill and the folks try to teach me some German. His mother and father were born in Germany. I can understand quite a bit....

Lovingly,
Your sis, Esther

Esther and Bill had two children: Charles Wayne (called Wayne) and Koleta LeeJeanne.



l-r back: Bill and Esther Bauman, Mary Reneau, Annie Bauman l-r front: Wayne and Koleta Bauman, Lloyd and Dorothy Reneau.

The family enjoyed visiting with Esther's brother, Rex, his wife, Mary, and children, Loyd and Dorothy. The previous photo is of a family get-together, circa 1948. Rex and family visit with Esther and family, including Annie Bauman, Bill's sister.



The Baumans -- 1953
Wayne, Bill, Esther, Koleta

Both Wayne and Koleta became school teachers, following their mother's example.

After he had obtained his degree, Wayne taught school in Oklahoma. He later moved to Oregon for a teaching position. There, he met and married Mary Catherine Welsh on March 13, 1966



l-r: Jerilynne Smith, Mary Welsh Bauman, Wayne Bauman, Gerald Reneau
March 13, 1966

As of 2004, Wayne is retired from teaching school. Mary works in management at Providence St. Vincent Medical Center at the Lab-Microbiology Department. In their spare time, the couple enjoys traveling and boating. They have made a couple trips to Europe, and at home spend leisure time on their boat.

Koleta married Wayne Arnold Moad on May 31, 1958 in Cordell, OK. Koleta is also a school teacher, and now does tutoring, along with working on the Texas Assessment Test. She and Wayne Arnold have a son, daughter, and three grandchildren and a great grandchild.

Koleta and Wayne's son, Charles Moad is a Lieutenant for the Odessa, TX Police Department. He has three children: Jennifer, Michael Scott, and Cheryl Lynn. Charles is also a grandfather, as his daughter, Jennifer

Lane Moad White has a daughter, Haylee. Jennifer is married to Jimmy White. On April 14, 2004, Hayden Howard White was born. Jennifer and Jimmy and their children, Haylee and Haden, now live in California. Jimmy is in the Navy.



Koleta Bauman Moad and family
l-r: Charles Wayne, Koleta, Traci LeeJeanne,
Wayne Arnold.
circa 1972



Hayden Howard White
May, 2004

Koleta and Wayne Arnold's daughter is Traci LeeJeanne Moad Curtsinger. She is the Regional Marketing Coordinator for Covenant Children's Hospital Network in Lubbock, TX

Koleta Bauman Moad and Wayne Moad celebrated their 46th Wedding Anniversary on May 31st, 2004.

Esther's husband, Bill, passed away in 1961. Later, Esther and her sister-in-law, Annie Bauman, decided to move to Oregon City, Oregon to take advantage of better teaching opportunities for Esther. Esther taught grade school until her retirement in June, 1974. Esther enjoyed getting together with her siblings,

Marion Reneau and Gladys Reneau Brandle, who lived in Oregon.



Koleta and Wayne's 46th Wedding Anniversary
Celebration

l-r: Hayden White, Chuck Moad, Cheryl Moad,
friend Judy, Michael Moad, Wayne Moad,
Jennifer Moad, Haylee White, Koleta Moad



Esther LeeJeanne Bauman

Esther passed away December 4, 1988 in Oregon City, Oregon. She is buried next to her husband, Bill, in Lawnview, Cemetery in Cordell, OK.

Scott Lewis Reneau and Family
Information provided by Jean Reneau Cornett

Scott Reneau was born February 18, 1911 on the family homestead, in Pasamonte, NM, the son of Eugene LaRue Reneau and Lula Ellen Vernon Reneau. He joined his older sisters, Gladys and Esther. Later, he would have two younger brothers, Rex and Marion.

Scott's Reneau lineage was: Eugene Reneau, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis.



l-r: Eugene, Scott, Gladys, Esther, Lula, Rex
Homestead, Pasamonte, NM
1914

When Scott was nine years old the family moved from the arid homestead land of New Mexico to Clayton, NM, where they operated a General Store. The family then relocated to Clarendon, TX. In 1928, Scott's mother, Lula, along with siblings, Esther and Rex moved to Weatherford, OK. Gladys had married and lived in Amistad, NM. Scott's father, Eugene, took the youngest child, Marion, with him out west. Scott was 17 years old during this time of transition. He chose to stay in Clarendon.

On December 29, 1940, Scott married Joyce Hollingsworth of Montague County, TX. Scott was running a Texaco Service Station and making mattresses in Clarendon. He was the owner of Scotty's Mattress Factory. Doing much of the work, Scott bought the material, cut, and sewed the ticking. After ginning the cotton into the ticking, he would make a roll around the edges and tuff the middle. Joyce and Scott were part of the Clarendon community and participated in the town's activities.

The car they owned was a 1933 Chevy, and was the car that Scott taught Joyce how to drive.

The couple had two children, both born in Clarendon, TX: Leonor Jean Reneau, born December 20, 1942; and Lewis Wayne Reneau, born January 24, 1945.



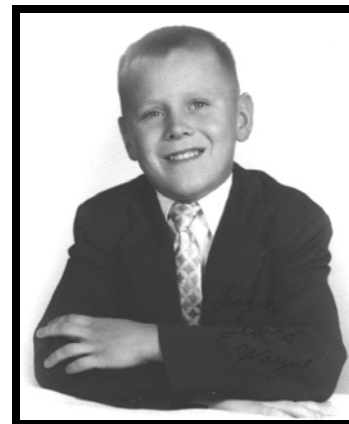
Joyce, Jean, and Scott Reneau
Clarendon, TX
1942



Leonor Jean Reneau
1949



July 4, 1941
Joyce and Scott in the 4th of July Parade
Clarendon, Texas



Lewis Wayne Reneau

Scott enjoyed getting together with family whenever he could. In fact, his younger brother,

Marion had kept a postcard that was written to him from Scott in June, 1939. Scott had written, "Marion, I started out to see you. But had to turn back in Colorado. See you some other time." It wasn't until 1953 that Scott and his siblings were able to get together, when Marion brought his family to Texas and Oklahoma. That was the first of several Texas trips, as well as Scott and his family taking a trip to Oregon. In the meantime, Scott, Joyce, Jean, and Lewis Wayne did enjoy getting together with family in Texas.



l-r: Rex, Mary, Scott, Joyce, Marion, Phern
1967



Joyce, Scott
Lewis Wayne and Jean
In Pampa, Texas
Rex and Mary Reneau's home
circa 1951



Jim and Jean Cornett

Joyce and Scott's son, Lewis Wayne, married Shirley Ann Colter in June, 1967. The couple has one daughter, Lisa, born in 1968. Lisa now lives in Midland, Texas, and works in an office.

One of the biggest struggles the family faced was when Jean contracted polio. It was a very difficult time for everyone. With therapy and determination Jean made a full recovery. Yet, in 2004, Jean is now feeling the repercussions of the disease.

Scott and Joyce lived in Clarendon for 30 years. Then, in 1957, Scott moved his family to Denver City, TX.

In 1967, Scott and Marion, along with their spouses came to Pampa to visit their brother, Rex and his wife, Mary. When the three "boys" got together, there was always fun happening!

Jean married Randall Lee Lambert, September 5, 1959. They had three children: Randall Lee II, Bobbie Dean, and Jennell Denyse, Sadly, Bobbie passed away when he was two years old. Jean later married Jim Cornett. Jim and Jean live in Seagraves, TX, where they enjoy their children and grandchildren. Jean's mother, Joyce, now lives with Jim and Jean, being able to visit with grandchildren and great-grandchildren.



Lewis Wayne and Shirley Reneau
with daughter, Lisa
circa 1973

Scott and Joyce later moved to nearby Seagraves, TX. They resided in Seagraves until Scott's death on August 10, 1982. He is buried in Memorial Park Cemetery in Denver City, TX.

Jean's daughter, Denyse, is married to Keith Durham. Keith and Denyse live in Seminole in Seminole, Texas. Keith works as a foreman for a construction company. Denyse is a bookkeeper. Their son, Jaffin Alan, is attending Howard College in Big Spring, Texas, with plans to transfer to Texas A & M to study veterinary medicine. Keith also has two children from a previous marriage: Brad is in the US Navy, and Stephanie is married and has three children. She also teaches part time.



Keith, Denyse and Jaffin Durham

Jean's son, Randall, works for Sprint as a Computer Consultant, designing programs. Jean refers to Randall's life as a true miracle, as in 1985 he was given six months to live due to cancer. In 1991 he had experimental surgery and is now doing very well.



Visiting with Relatives

l-r: Marion Reneau, Jim Cornett holding Jaffin Durham, Rex Reneau, Jean Reneau Cornett, Lewis Wayne Reneau and Shirley Reneau
1987

Rex Raymond Reneau and Family
1914 – 1996
Submitted by Dorothy Reneau Mote

Rex Raymond Reneau was born in Pasamonte, New Mexico while the State was still having birthing pains. New Mexico became a State in Jan of 1912. Rex was born in a dugout.

Dugouts were common in the plains of New Mexico. There was not enough wood to construct a cabin. Your choices were either dugout or adobe construction. At the same time as building your home the homesteader had to have some way to provide for his family. Dugouts were quicker than adobe.

Rex was born to Eugene LaRue and Lula Ellen (Vernon) Reneau. Eugene was the son of Barton Warren Stone Reneau, son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reneau. Eugene and Lula already had three children giving Rex two sisters, Esther LeeJeanne and Gladys Sarah and one brother, Scott LaRue. Two years later another son was born, Marion James. With two brothers and two sisters the children grew on the plains.



l-r: Brothers Rex and Scott Reneau

Life was hard. Eugene was providing for his family by raising mules and trying to farm the dry, dry land. Without even knowing it they had contributed to what was to become part of the Dust Bowl. It became so difficult that the decision was made to move to Clayton, a larger town that was thriving in 1920. Eugene and Lula bought a "General Store" where they sold what was needed for the settlers from shovels and candy to material for clothing. Esther and Gladys were old enough by this time to help out in the store. Gladys married Albert Brandle during this time.



Reneau General Store

L-R: Lula, Eugene, Gladys, Esther
Clayton, New Mexico

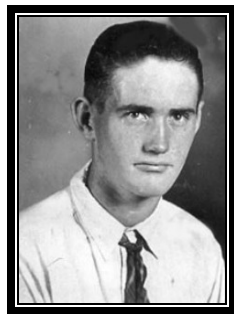
The economy was beginning to slow down. Confusion begins to creep into their story at this point. Eugene and Lula's decision was made to leave New Mexico and return to "civilization." Esther graduated from High School in Clarendon, TX. The next time, (1930) we see in the census Lula and Rex are living in Weatherford, OK at 311 W. Franklin. Esther is living with another family in a nearby town, and Gladys is married and living with Albert in New Mexico. The Dust Bowl Days and the Great Depression are ahead for the family. Eugene had tried desperately to find work but could not find work in Texas. In the 1930 census, Marion is living with Eugene in Oregon.

At age 16, Rex attended school and worked when he could. As Rex aged, the trend reversed, with Rex working and attending school when he could. He managed to get two years of college, but then his mother, Lula Reneau died in 1935 of a heart condition and pneumonia.



Rex Reneau and Mary Ford Reneau
1936

In January of 1949 the family moved to Pampa. Rex had known only a life of work so he saw how he could get ahead if he worked at odd jobs after work. Thus began his work toward plumbing. He worked extra as a plumber's helper for many years.



Rex Raymond Reneau

At age 21, Rex was on his own with the estate of his mother to settle. His older sister Gladys had moved to Oregon. At age 22, Rex married Maggie Lavonia Ford. He didn't like the name Maggie, so he called her Mary, which is the name on her marriage license and later on her tombstone. Maggie was also 22, and they started their life together on April 29, 1936.

Rex worked two jobs, one as a maintenance man at Southwestern State University, and one at Wheeler Grain Elevator at night. On March 11, 1937, Loyd Raymond Reneau was born. On July 21, 1938, Dorothy Jean Reneau was born. The family saw very little of Rex, but he did come home for lunch each day to see them all awake and listen to the "Gladiola News." Sponsored by Gladiola flour to make those Gladddi oola bisquits! Rex got an opportunity to go to work at Skelly Oil Refinery in Pampa, Texas. He would only have to work one job to make the same amount as he made in Weatherford at two jobs.



Mary and Rex Reneau
children, Dorothy and Loyd
1945

Dorothy married Arthur Lanier Mote in 1954 and gave him four grandchildren he enjoyed so very much. He began to see a bigger picture at age 45, so he started to study for his Master Plumber's License during his spare time. During this time he had been living close to his sister Esther and his brother Scott. Marion, and his wife, Phern, and children Gerald and Anita were living in Oregon and made a trip to Texas in 1953. Gladys and her husband, Albert also lived in Oregon. Gladys joined her brothers and sisters in the reunion. They were overjoyed to see each other after so many years. Since Rex had not been around his father's family much, Marion, and Rex and their families, along with Gladys went to see the Reneau relatives that lived in Texas and Oklahoma. It was a wonderful reunion, and opportunity to see their father's sisters, Hettie Commons and Ola Bryan.

At age 50 Rex got his Master Plumber's License. But the rest of the world did not stand still. During this time Skelly had sold to Getty Oil Company and later was sold to Texaco Oil Company. Rex retired at age 65 from Texaco. Not long after he retired, he developed macular degeneration and lost most of his sight. He was not a "happy camper" about this because he could no longer read his newspaper. He developed more health problems and was admitted to Pampa Nursing Home when he was 78 in 1992. His loving wife Mary died in 1994 in June. Rex was transferred to a nursing home in San Antonio where Dorothy lived and passed away on January 14, 1996. He is buried in Memory Gardens in Pampa, Texas next to his wife of 56 years.



Rex and Mary Reneau
daughter, Dorothy and son, Loyd
Pampa, Texas, 1955

Loyd Raymond Reneau
Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

Loyd Reneau, son of Rex Raymond Reneau and Mary Lavonia Ford was born in 1937. The following photo was sent to my father, Marion Reneau (Rex's brother) in 1940. Quite a good looking family, with all those Reneau genes!



Rex, Loyd, Mary, and Dorothy

When Marion and his family traveled from Oregon to Texas to see Rex and his family in 1953 it was really a fun time. The brothers hadn't seen each other since they were children—over twenty years ago. And, of

course, the cousins had never met! Well, it didn't take any of us long to get acquainted. Following is a snapshot of a warm welcome from Cousin Loyd to Cousin Anita!



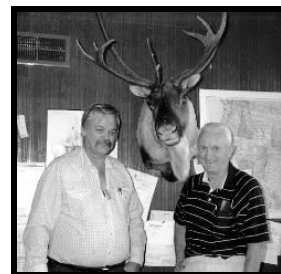
First Cousins
Anita Reneau and Loyd Reneau

Rex and his family also traveled to Oregon. The next snapshot shows Loyd looking at the family picture album with his Oregon kin.



l-r: Cousins Wayne Bauman, Lennie Brandle,
Loyd Reneau, Uncle Albert Brandle, Aunt
Gladys Reneau Brandle and Ken Brandle.
Lennie and Ken are two of Gladys and Albert's
grandchildren.

Loyd retired from working on the Railroad for many years, and continues to own and operate L & R Produce (stands for Loyd Reneau) in Amarillo, Texas. The produce house is over 19,000 square feet in floor space, and that is just the main floor. He has trucks that travel all through New Mexico, Oklahoma and the Texas panhandle. In 1987, his Uncle Marion visited his office in Amarillo:



l-r: Loyd Reneau and Marion Reneau
L & R Produce Office



l-r: Rex, Loyd, and Mary Reneau
Amarillo, Texas
1987

Loyd and his wife, Nancy live in Amarillo, Texas.



Nancy and Loyd Reneau
1987

**Dorothy Reneau Mote and Family
Submitted by Dorothy Mote**

I am Dorothy Reneau Mote, daughter of Rex Raymond Reneau who was the son of Eugene LaRue Reneau, son of Barton Warren Stone Reneau, son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reneau, son of Charles Reneau, son of John Reneau, son of Lewis Reno.

I met Lanier Mote in Pampa Texas in 1953. He worked for Gulf Oil in oil exploration. We married June 6, 1954 in Pampa, Texas. Our pastor said that I was really a nice girl until I got a Mote in my eye. Shortly after we were married Lanier started to be called Al. We have four children, John born April 6, 1956, Karl born April 13, 1957, Jannetta born October 30, 1961 and Katrina born November 19, 1963. Their stories are included in this book.

We now have 11 grandchildren and seven great grandchildren. They are all such a pleasure and so much fun!

I was a stay at home mom for 15 years. During this time we lived in Pampa, TX in 1959 we moved to Amarillo, TX.

All of our relocations have been for better job opportunities so in 1965 we moved to Roswell, NM. We were only there 9 months when we moved to Lubbock, TX and finally to Burleson, TX where we lived for 12 years.



Dorothy and Al Mote with children
l-r standing: Karl, Johnny
l-r sitting: Jannetta, Katrina
1964

While we were in Fort Worth I went to work as a clerk for the Federal Government at General Services Administration. I worked there six years. Al was working for General Electric and our hours were the same. I needed more flexibility so I became a Real Estate Broker in 1979. Al was transferred to San Antonio in 1980 and my work was portable. I worked in Real Estate until 1988 when my children were all grown. I decided that I needed more stable hours and went back to the federal government at the Department of Defense, Fort Sam Houston where I retired in 2001 as an Engineering Technician in charge of the service contracts amounting to approximately 3 million dollars. Al retired in 1999.

In 2003 we hosted the Reneau Reunion in San Antonio with my cousin Anita Reneau Daniels who researched to find "lost" relatives. Louise Wisener and Lou Matson sent out flyers to the families they knew and were a big help. The turnout was GREAT! Another Reunion is coming up in October given by "found" families. I really hope this can continue for generations to come. We enjoyed meeting so many "new" Reneaus.

We celebrated our 50th wedding anniversary in June 2004. All of our children, most of our grandchildren and many friends helped us celebrate.

We then went on our genealogy trip to research the Mote family but I found Reneau's

everywhere! Some of the dates were not yet in the research of Sue Damewood and Steven Fancy.



Dorothy and Al Mote with children
 l-r standing: Karl, John
 l-r sitting: Katrina, Jannetta
 2004

In August of 2004 we became the “caretaker’s” of a beautiful gift from God, Christina, our Great Granddaughter. Christina is the daughter of Amber who is the daughter of Jannetta. My husband and I still travel and work on genealogy. Genealogy has really become a passion with us.

We trade out the babysitting duties with Amber’s sister Kathryn and brother Charles, the Aunt and Uncle of Christina and, of course, Grandma Jannetta.



The Motes at the Reneau Reunion
 l-r: Richard, Michelle, and Elissa Winsett, Charles Lambert, Kathryn Lambert, Amber Dixon, Jannetta Lambert, Victor Gonzalez (Amber’s fiancée) Karl, Chris, and Clint Mote



The Mote Family
 l-r back row: Kevin Wayne Mote, Casey Alan Mote, Clinton Matthew Mote, Victor Gonzalez, Charles Edward Lambert
 l-r middle row: Staci Kay Mote (Kevin’s wife), Christopher Lee Mote, Karl Mote, Amber Dixon Gonzalez, Jannetta Mote Dixon Lambert, Kathryn Jewel Lambert, John Dale Mote, Tracy James (T. J.) Dolotina
 l-r front row: Cody Wayne Mote, Spencer Mote (Kevin’s children), Peggy Mote (Karl’s wife), Dorothy Reneau Mote, Lanier (Al) Mote holding Christina Jean (Amber’s Daughter), Katrina Mote Dolotina, Alana Nichole Dolotina

John Dale Mote

Submitted by Dorothy Reneau Mote

John Dale Mote was born April 6, 1956. John was a very sensitive and loving child and would do anything to please. He was the first grandchild of Rex and Mary Reneau and the son of Dorothy Reneau Mote and Al Mote.

John's lineage is: Dorothy Reneau Mote, Rex Raymond Reneau, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reneau, Charles Reneau, John Reno, Lewis. Being the first grandchild John was showered with attention from all the Reneaus.



John Mote
with

Great Aunt Joyce and Great Uncle Scott Reneau



Gathering Easter Eggs at Grandpa & Grandpa
Reneau's home

Watching the egg hunt:

l-r: Grandpa Rex Reneau, Grandma Madeline
Mote, and Daddy, Arthur Mote
John Mote with Easter Basket
and brother Karl in the forefront

John married Susan Ales in April of 1973. He went into the Army and served three years. During this time Michelle Anease and Jason Wayne were born. John married Kay Harrington in 1982. Kay has one daughter Kathleen that

John claims in addition to his two other children. Jason married Bonnie Persick. When Jason's daughter Adriana was born on June 10, 2000, John became a grandfather. Adriana was truly a miracle baby, she weighed only 1 pound and 9 ounces when she was born! She is doing great now and going to school. Jason also now has a son Brandon.



Grandpa John with son Jason and Family
l-r: John, Jason—holding Adriana, Bonnie –
holding Brandon.

Michelle married Richard Winsett. Michelle has two girls Elissa who is 4 and Kailee Winter who was born June 1 of this year. Kathleen has three children so John is a very busy grandfather!



Michelle and Richard Winsett
daughter, Elissa



John's Newest Granddaughter!
Kailee Winter Winsett
June 2004



John Dale Mote
2004

John has been in construction work most of his life and last year built his first large custom home. This year John also followed many of his ancestors and was ordained as a Minister of the Gospel.

Karl Wayne Mote
Submitted by Dorothy Reneau Mote

Karl Wayne Mote was born into the realm of Reneau descendants on April 13, 1957. He was born to Dorothy Reneau Mote and Arthur Lanier Mote at 11:55 pm in Highland General Hospital in Pampa, Texas. His lineage is Dorothy Reneau Mote, Rex Raymond Reneau, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reneau, Charles Reneau, John Reno, Lewis.

He was the second grandchild of Rex and Mary Reneau. When he was 8 months old he was determined, had a great sense of humor and enjoyed fun.



Karl Wayne Mote
8 months

He had one older brother, John and the two of them made quite a pair. When he was two years old, in 1959, the family moved to Amarillo.

During this time he had two sisters arrive in his world, Jannetta born Oct. 30, 1961 and Katrina born Nov. 19, 1963.

Karl was very close to his Reneau grandparents and spent a lot of time with his Grandpa Reneau. Karl went to school his first four years at Oak Dale Elementary in Amarillo. Then in 1965 the family moved to Roswell, NM for a short period of about 9 months and on to Lubbock, TX for another short period of time (another 9 months). After that the family settled in Burseson, Texas. Karl went to live with his Grandfather and Grandmother Reneau when he was 16 as a rebellious move to make his own way in the world. He was employed at a meat packing plant where his job was to sling hides. This was a very nasty unpleasant job whereupon he decided to return home.

Karl married Peggy Cook on May 1, 1976. Karl and Peggy have four boys, Kevin Wayne, Clinton Matthew, Christopher Lee (Chris), and Casey Alan.



The Karl Mote Family
l-r: Casey, Chris, Karl, Peggy, Kevin and Clint
June, 1994

Kevin married Stacey Thornton and Karl and Peggy are the Grandparents of Spencer and Cody.



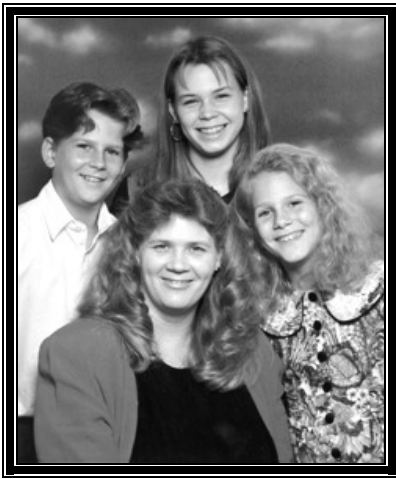
The Kevin Mote Family
l-r: Spencer, Stacy, Kevin, and Cody
June, 2004

Karl has been in construction most of his life and now owns his own business of construction contracting and still lives in Burseson with his family.

Jannetta Mote Dixon Lambert
Submitted by Jannetta Mote Dixon Lambert

Hi! My name is Jannetta Lynn Mote Dixon Lambert. I was born in Amarillo, Texas, October 30, 1961. I am the third child of Dorothy Jean Reneau Mote and Arthur Lanier Mote. My mother is descended from Rex Raymond Reneau, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John (Reno) Reneau, Charles (Reno) Reneau, John (Reno) Reneau and Susannah Thorn.

I spent the majority of my childhood and graduated high school in Burleson, Texas. Shortly thereafter I moved to San Antonio with my first husband, Robert Stephen Dixon and our daughter Amber Lenee Dixon, who was born February 23, 1980. I married my second husband, Charles Brock Lambert on August 25, 1984. Our children are Charles Edward Lambert, born May 30, 1985 and Kathryn Jewell Lambert born October 8, 1987.



Jannetta Mote Dixon Lambert
and children l-r: Charles Lambert, Amber
Dixon, Kathryn Lambert
1996

Amber attended school in San Antonio and graduated from Lee High School. Amber is married to Victor Manuel Gonzalez, and their child Christina Jean was born May 8, 2004. They live about six blocks from "Grandma Jannetta" which is very nice.

Charles also attended school in San Antonio and graduated from Lee High School in 2003. Charles is currently living with his father and will be attending San Antonio College in the fall. Kathryn still lives at home with me. You might

think that growing up in a large family as well as having a family of four of my own; it might be a bit strange with only 2 people in the house. Fortunately that is not so. Amber is a dedicated worker for the Bexar County Humane Society and thru her we have accumulated a few animals that we all dearly love. Kathryn and I live with 2 dogs and 4 cats. I have put my foot firmly down and said NO MORE, however, Amber still attempts to find homes for the animals that come through the shelter.

Kathryn is attending International School of the Americas, which is a magnet school with accelerated classes in San Antonio. She attended a school field trip to Monterey and Zacatecas Mexico. She is expected to graduate in 2006.



Amber, Victor and Christina Jean Gonzalez
2004

I currently work full time for Texas Rehabilitation Commission and have started back to school part time. I should graduate with a bachelor degree in Psychology and a minor in Business in a year or two.



Jannetta Mote Dixon Lambert
and children l-r: Amber Dixon Gonzalez,
Charles Lambert, and Kathryn Lambert



l-r: two friends with Kathryn and Charles Lambert, getting a well deserved break after cleanup at the 2003 Reneau Reunion
San Antonio, Texas
October 25, 2004

Katrina Mote Dolotina
Submitted by **Katrina Dolotina**

I am Katrina Marie Mote Dolotina, daughter of Arthur Lanier and Dorothy Jean Reneau Mote. (Daughter of Rex Reneau, son of Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno.) I was born November 19, 1963. I was the youngest of 4 children. There were 2 older brothers and 1 older sister: John Dale Mote (1956), Karl Wayne Mote (1957) and Jannetta Lynn Mote (1961)– respectively. I was born in Amarillo. I lived there until I was 3 years old. We moved to Roswell New Mexico for a short time, then we moved to Burseson TX. This is where I grew up. I went to pre-k at Busy Bee nursery & then elementary school at Nola Dunn. On to Pauline G Hughes Middle School and Burseson High School. In my freshman year in high school I was voted class clown.

Just after finishing my sophomore year, mom, dad and I moved to San Antonio TX. My brothers and sisters had already married and moved out of our house. They were now all living on their own. With only 2 years of high school left I decided to go into the work program at school. So working part time in a flower shop and going to school I bought my first brand new car in 1981. I graduated from Winston Churchill High School in 1982. I was saving money so that I too could move into a place of my own. I did this the summer of 1983.

After a couple of years and moves I finally found a great roommate and we are still friends to this day, 20+ years later. Finally, deciding that I should further my education, I went back to school part time at Incarnate Word University. I was now working full time in a furniture store and wanted to go into interior design. Once I got

there- I found out that I like psychology much better. Still living with my roommate and going out on the town in my free time. I was working full time and taking 6+ hours of college then I met TJ Dolotina through some mutual friends. He was singing in a band and I was dating his drummer’s roommate. That was short lived and a few months later we ran into each other and he asked me out. He had flowers delivered to my apartment before we went. I knew that night that we were meant to be together forever.

Four months later on Christmas Eve he proposed and we were married less than a year later, August 5th, 1989. We will be celebrating our 15th anniversary this year and are thrilled! Shortly after the wedding, we went on our Honeymoon to Hawaii. TJ grew up there and his father and other family members still live there. We were fortunate enough to go to his grandparent’s 50th wedding anniversary party while we were there. This was a wonderful opportunity for me to meet my husband’s extended family. We traveled 3 islands and it was breathtaking. Six months later TJ was offered a job/promotion in Hawaii working for the same company that he worked for in San Antonio. This was a great opportunity for us both. Since our honeymoon was in October, I had dropped out of school for a semester to go on our trip. I was planning on starting up again with the new semester. But life had other plans for us. Within 2 weeks of his job offer, we had our house packed and were headed off for a new life together in Hawaii. We ended up living there for 3 years (from June of 90-June of 93). Talk about culture shock! But it was wonderful! I had never lived out of the State of Texas. I cannot put into words what that time meant to us as a couple and starting our new life together. We were blessed with being able to travel the islands together, sight see, hike, meet and get to know his family and understand the way that he grew up. I could not think of a better way to begin our lives together. After a while, we wanted to start our own family, buy a house, and settle down.

So 3 years after picking up and moving there- here we were picking up and moving back. Job or no job we headed back to San Antonio. We had both come to think of San Antonio as home and missed it terribly. We took a 3-week road trip on our way home. We flew into Los Angeles and drove through 7 states on our way back to San Antonio- all along our path we visited friends and family and gathered genealogy information on TJ’s biological side of

the family. It just so happens that God was watching out for us and provided TJ with a job within the same company again within 2 weeks of our departure date from Hawaii. When we returned we moved into my parents house for 4 months, looking for that dream home. Well we found it. Closed our house on Sept 30th 1993 and moved in to it that night. We slept on a blow up bed, borrowed from my parents. All of our household goods were in storage. That following January I found out I was pregnant after 2 ½ years of trying.

September 1st 1994 Alana Nicole Dolotina was born! That was almost 10 years ago and she has been a delight: a true blessing from above. She was in dance for 4 years & Girl Scouts for 5 years but traded that for Karate. She is currently holding her orange belt. She is active in our church in the LOGOS program, which includes Bible Study, hand chimes, & Drama. I am working part time at the Church Day School program as a teacher for 2 year olds and love it. It is right next door to Alana's school and they follow the same calendar. This gives me the extra time I need to spend quality time with her. TJ is an Account Executive for Walgreen's Home Care Division called Walgreen's Health Initiative offering Home Infusion, Durable Medical Equipment and Respiratory Therapy. He has been in this field since we met in 1988. Prior to that he was in the Air Force, which is what brought him to San Antonio in the first place. TJ is currently in a band singing classic rock tunes and loves it! He performs about 2 times a month locally.



Katrina, Alana, and T.J. Dolotina
August 2002



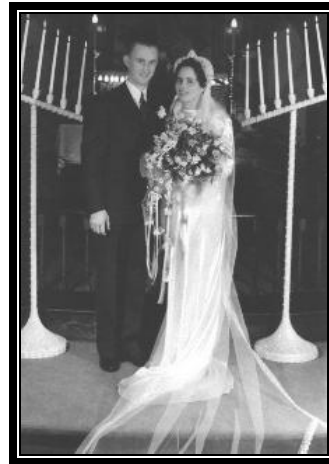
Visiting at the Reunion!

l-r: Amber Dixon, Alana Dolotina, Elissa Winsett, Richard Winsett, and T.J. Dolotina
San Antonio, Texas
October 25, 2003

Marion James Reneau

Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

When I was young I really didn't think too much about my last name. However, I didn't know any other family with the same last name, so I thought Reneau was unique! My parents were Marion James Reneau and Phern Anna Hansen Reneau. They met while both were working at McKesson and Robbins Drug Co. in Portland, OR.



Marion James Reneau & Phern Hansen Reneau
January 15, 1939
Portland, Oregon

Marion James Reneau was the son of Eugene LaRue Reneau, son of Barton Warren Stone Reneau, son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reno, son of Charles Reno.

I was born in 1941, the second child of Marion and Phern. I joined my older brother, Gerald, who was born in 1940.



The Reneau Family
Anita, Marion, Gerald and Phern
1942

I don't remember my dad being in the Merchant Marines during World War II. But, he used to tell me how Gerald and I would help him pack his bags when he was going to sea. He would laugh and tell me he would find things such as marbles and other items that we felt he would need on his trip.



Marion J. Reneau
Merchant Marines
1942

Our family first started out on a dairy farm just outside Portland, Oregon. My dad took care of the dairy cows, and mother delivered the milk. During this time my father became allergic to the dairy cows, and was told by the doctors that he would have to find some other line of work. Dad told me that one day he was riding the bus and overheard a couple men talking about different jobs. One said that being an electrician was the way to go, as it was an open field and would continue to grow. Dad took that to heart and went to night-school to become an electrician. After that he got a job working as an electrician.



Marion Reneau and one of the herd
1939



Phern Reneau delivering milk
1939

In a few years my dad met a couple of other electricians who wanted to start their own company. My father went in on the deal, and Watco Electric Company was started. It was named after William A. Tindula, the partner who funded the business. It was fortunate that dad was a hard worker and brought in business so that as the years progressed he and his partners were all equal in the business.

Dad went through seven back surgeries in his life time. There were many months that he would be in traction. The hospital sometimes seemed like a second home. Dad got really good treatment, as his company did all the wiring for the hospital. Regardless, we know that these times were frustrating, and there were many days he did his electrical business paperwork from his bed.

In 1953 our family drove to Texas and Oklahoma. This was the first opportunity that Dad had to be reunited with his brothers and sisters. My grandfather, Eugene Reneau had brought my father (his youngest child) out west in 1928. My grandmother, Lula Ellen Vernon Reneau stayed in Texas with the four older children. Lula had passed away in 1935, and Eugene died in 1953.



l-r: Gladys Sarah Reneau Brandle, Scott Lewis Reneau, Rex Raymond Reneau, Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman, Marion James Reneau
Cordell, OK 1953

It was time for the siblings to get together. What a wonderful trip that was! Gerald and I got to meet cousins we had only heard about. And we met people who had the same last name!



Cousins

l-r: Leanor Jean Reneau, Koleta LeeJeanne Bauman, Dorothy Jean Reneau, Anita Phern Reneau, Lewis Wayne Reneau, Loyd Raymond Reneau, Gerald Wilbert Reneau. Charles Wayne Bauman.
Cordell, OK 1953

My father loved to play baseball. He was a pitcher on his high school team. He also played on the church team after he was married. After he had Watco Electric Company, dad decided to sponsor an American Legion Baseball Team. The Watco Team was well known in the state. Dad treated the boys with courtesy, dignity, and gave them the chance to play ball without worrying about funding for the team. He chartered first class busses in the summer so the team could go on the road and play in different tournaments. There were many semi-pro teams that wished they had the same benefits! All he asked of "his ballplayers" in return was that they conduct themselves as gentlemen and good citizens. Some of Watco players went on to play

pro ball, including Tom Treblehorn and Dale Murphy. But, Dad was just as proud as those who became teachers, news reporters, builders, lawyers, doctors, plumbers, and the like.



Watco American Legion Baseball Team
Oregon State Champions 1973
Marion Reneau, sponsor—in the middle!

My mother loved to go to the games. She was Watco's Number One Fan. Well, my Dad's granddaughters were great fans, too. They were all in early grade school, and really felt important to be riding on the team bus!



Marion and Phern Reneau
1976



Marion James Reneau
l-r: Laurie Jean Daniels Cook, Susan Lynn Daniels, Anita Reneau Daniels, Charlene Marie Daniels.
February 1995

My mother passed away on August 16, 1990. She had been in poor health, from strokes and diabetes. Mom and Dad had divorced in 1977, yet remained friends throughout their lives. Dad was always coming to the house to help her out, and I think that the friendship they had was something special to them both.

My father's second marriage was to Charlotte Jean Porter Crable. She was a nurse. That must have been a blessing from above, as, Dad, in his later years had Alzheimers.



Marion and Charlotte Reneau.
Tigard, Oregon
1996



A Baseball Birthday Cake!
GreatGrandpa Reneau, Sarah & David Cook
February 1995

We got together as often as we could. Dad especially enjoyed visits from his granddaughters and great-grandchildren. Charlotte was able to care for him at home until his death February 24, 1996. I will always be grateful for that.

It was hard to count the number of young (and older, now!) men who attended Dad's funeral.

There were at least a hundred. They all expressed such gratitude to the man who had made so much possible for them, and was such an influence on their character.

Marion James Reneau

Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

FROM HANDWRITTEN NOTES OF MARION RENEAU IN PREPARATION FOR TALK WHEN PRESENTED WITH THE FIRST "MARION J. RENEAU, I BELIEVE" AWARD FOR HIS OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE GAME OF BASEBALL 1957-1977. PRESENTED DURING THE LEWIS & CLARK COACH CLINIC, 1988, AT LEWIS & CLARK COLLEGE, PORTLAND, OREGON. THIS AWARD CONTINUES TO BE GIVEN BEARING HIS NAME.



Marion Reneau receiving first annual "Marion J. Reneau, I Believe" Award Dec. 1991
l-r: Tom Treblehorn, John Cavanaugh, Marion Reneau

As child I had great ambitions and thoughts about, someday, playing professional baseball. Then to be a big league Manager and then to be an owner of a major league team--if I couldn't be one of these--I wanted to be a steam locomotive railroad engineer. As none of the above worked out I had to substitute:

1. The baseball player--I pitched high school ball for 4 years at Junction City, Or. Played semi pro in Eugene, and Portland City League--Hop Gold Brewery and Portland Police Teams.

2. As a manager at 19 years old, I managed the Benton-Lane Cascade League Team in the Eugene Corvallis areas for 2 years.

The years from 1955 to 1967--I had 7 lower spinal surgeries. I had also become the President of Watco Electric Co. I spent over 2 years of the next 12 in the hospital and after that a lot of time at home.

It was in 1959 when I began thinking of sponsoring a high school team in the P. I. L. American Legion summer program. My son and daughter were students at Cleveland High School. I became acquainted with Mr. Jack

Dunn, baseball coach at Cleveland. He told me that he was losing his Legion sponsor and that he would be glad to have Watco Electric as Cleveland's Commercial Sponsor.



Marion Reneau
"Ace hurler" 1934
Junction City High School Baseball

One of the greatest pleasures I have had in the sponsorship of the different baseball teams was the association with the coaches, players, parents, public, the American Legion, the City League, Babe Ruth, Little League, and News Media. It gave a great deal of satisfaction to see the young men develop into good citizens and gentlemen. The discipline and training they had received from the coaches and parents has been most encouraging to me. I am very pleased to have been associated with everyone concerned. During the time that I had back problems--resulting in 7 surgeries: The Legion and City League Ball players would come to the hospital or my home and visit and kid around with me, giving me a better outlook on life. Because at one time the doctors told me that I would have to have back surgery and then I would have to make a decision -- if I wanted to stand straight or lay flat in bed for the rest of my life. The baseball players would come to my home--and with the doctors' permission --put me on a stretcher and take me to the ball games. I would lay on the ground and they would roll me over on my side and I could see the ball games. Always at least 2 players would remain with me with their gloves to catch any foul ball coming my way. After 4 more surgeries I started to regain my health. Today I am completely recovered and feel great. Thanks to the Good Lord, my family,

and friends. I love all of you and you are appreciated. Thank you one and all.

Gerald Wilbert Reneau
Submitted by Gerald Reneau

My name is Gerald W. Reneau. I was born July 26, 1940. My father, Marion James Reneau, and my mother Phern Anna Hansen Reneau lived and worked on a small dairy farm outside of Portland, Oregon. My father was the son of Eugene, the son of Barton Warren Stone, son of Isaac Tipton.

My sister, Anita, was born November 2, 1941. The first time I saw her, I told my parents to take her back. I have always been sorry that I broke the yellow cup and saucer to her play dishes!



Siblings, Gerald and Anita Reneau
Portland, Oregon
Christmas, 1948

I am now semi-retired. I spend my winters as a ski lift operator on the slopes of Mt. Hood. I also cut firewood as a part time business. I worked for the National Forest Service in Oregon and retired in 1995.



Pat and Gerald Reneau
December 1985

We enjoyed meeting so many people at the Reneau Reunion. The last time we had been in Texas was shortly after we were married in 1972. My wife, Patty, and I live in Eagle Creek, Oregon, near Portland, Oregon, with our two cats. We enjoy the outdoors, hiking and skiing. We hadn't been that interested in genealogy, however, now we are into it, looking back on both sides of our families.



Pat and Gerald Reneau
San Antonio, Texas



Long Distance Cousins meet in San Antonio,
Betty Reneau from Kentucky
and
Gerald Reneau from Oregon



Family Fun at the Motes
before the 2003 Reunion
l-r: Betty Reneau, Dorothy Reneau Mote,
Brenda Payne Rose, Gerald Reneau, Patty Bates
Reneau, Anita Reneau Daniels, Charles Daniels

Anita Reneau Daniels Family
Submitted by Anita Reneau Daniels

My name is Anita Phern Reneau Daniels. I am the daughter of Marion James Reneau and Phern Hansen Reneau. My Reneau lineage is: Marion James Reneau, Eugene LaRue, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

I married Charles Edgerton Daniels on July 1, 1960. We met when I was at school at San Francisco State College and he was in the Sixth US Army National Honor Guard at the Presidio of San Francisco. My family lived in Portland, OR, and his family lived in Fairfax, VA, so the two couples did not meet until our wedding.



Charles and Anita Daniels
July 1, 1960
Bethany Lutheran Church
Portland, Oregon

We have three daughters: Laurie Jean, born in Fayetteville, NC in 1961; Susan Lynn, born in Portland, OR in 1962; and Charlene Marie, born at Fort Bragg, NC in 1966. I would imagine that you can tell that Charles was in the military by where our children were born.



The Daniels Family in 1967
l-r: Laurie, Susan, Anita, Charlene and Charles
Portland, Oregon

Our daughter, Laurie and I had returned to Portland, while Charles attended Officer

Candidate School. After he earned his commission we lived in Germany for three years. Other places we have lived are: Fayetteville, NC. Fort Bragg, NC, Fort Richardson, AK, Moorhead, MN, Fort Benning, GA, and Fort Lewis WA.

After Charles retired, we returned to Portland and bought a small farm where we raised sheep. Charlie also had a remodel business. I had not worked outside the home until Charles retired.

In 1979 I applied for a clerical position at JCPenney Regional Credit Office in Portland, mostly because it said no experience needed. By the time I retired after eighteen years, I was the Regional Customer Service Credit Manager and had a department of 150 people. As Customer Service Manager, and before that as Regional Personnel Manager, I did get to do some traveling. I traveled to our Home Office in Plano, TX, fairly often. I was so fortunate for those trips, as I got to meet some of our Texas Reneau kin!



Cousin Tea

Mada and Erma's home in Dallas, TX 1979
 l-r standing: Erma Robertson Thomson, Anita Reneau Daniels, Samantha Marie Thomson, Robert Kirkpatrick
 l-r sitting: Mada Campbell Robertson, William James Thomson. Susan Thomson



Hettie Reneau Commons' daughter and son with spouses at Cousin Tea, Dallas, TX 1979
 l-r: Loyce Commons Mangrum, Gladys Commons, Anita Reneau Daniels, Virgil Commons, J.R. Mangrum

One of my fondest Texas trips was staying with Mada Campbell Robertson and Erma Robertson Thomson (daughter and granddaughter of Laura Alice Reneau Campbell). They hosted a tea and many Reneau cousins were there for me to meet.



Cousin Tea at Mada and Erma's home in Dallas B.G. Reneau Jr. Family with son and his wife
 l-r: Delia, Carolyn, Randall, Anita, B.G.

We later moved off the farm over to Vancouver, WA. We both retired. Charles works in his garage workshop making beautiful pieces of furniture and other items. And, we got interested in genealogy. We have made trips back to Montana (my mother's family), Wisconsin (his mother and father's families), and Texas (my father's family.)

We have four grandchildren, ranging in age from 18 years to 1 year: Sarah Jean, born in 1985; David Bradley, born in 1988; Georgia Margaret, born in 1997; and Ryan Charles, born in 2003.



Our Grandchildren
 Sarah and David Cook, Ryan and Georgia Welch
 Vancouver, WA
 2001

We fill our time with taking care of Ryan during the week while his parents work, and cheering David at his baseball games. Sarah and Georgia

like to use our home as “base” to make cookies, and help prepare for family events.

My cousin, Dorothy Reneau Mote hosted the 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, TX. I so enjoyed helping her, even if I was far off in WA State!

I am presently working on the *Reneau Review* Newsletter, something I offered to do at The 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio. My big project, though, is the Reneau Book, filled with stories and memories of Reneaus. I really enjoy working on both the newsletter and the book. The bonus is that I have met so many RENEAUS!!



Charles and Anita Daniels
1999

Laurie Daniels Cook
Submitted by Laurie Daniels Cook

Hello Reneau Family, October 17, 2003
I'm Laurie Jean Daniels Cook and I'm connected to the Reneau family from my grandpa, Marion James Reneau, and my grandma Phern Anna Hansen Reneau. Their daughter, Anita Phern Reneau Daniels is my mom, and my dad is Charles Edgerton Daniels. I am the oldest of three daughters, and I was born April 2, 1961 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. I currently am an office assistant in an insurance broker's office. My husband is Gary David Cook, born June 27, 1952, in Portland, Oregon. We were married January 22, 1983, in Gresham, Oregon. Gary is a pharmacist. Our children are Sarah Jean Cook, born August 2, 1985, in Portland, Oregon; and David Bradley Cook, born January 3, 1988, in Portland, Oregon. Sarah is 18 and has started her freshman year at Oregon State University, in Corvallis, Oregon. She has been a golfer since she was seven years old. David is 16 and is a sophomore at West Linn High School. He loves sports, especially baseball. He has played since he was a six year old rookie. My family has lived in West Linn, Oregon, since 1986.



Susan, Charlene, and Laurie with Grandpa Reneau at Grandpa's cabin in Rhododendron, Oregon
1968

I have fond Reneau memories growing up. We loved going to our grandpa's cabin in the winter, playing in the snow and building fires in the fireplace to roast marshmallows. Grandpa would even take us on hikes. Grandpa Reneau sponsored high school legion baseball teams in Portland, Oregon. In the summertime we followed Grandpa's baseball teams and went right along on the team buses. We were some of the biggest fans!



Sarah Jean Cook
High School Senior Golf Team



David Bradley Cook
High School Baseball Team
First Grand Slam hit on June 26, 2004!



David, Laurie, Gary, and Sarah
May 19, 2001

Love and very best wishes to those at the Reneau Reunion!
Laurie Jean Daniels Cook

Susan Lynn Daniels
Submitted by Susan Lynn Daniels

October 19, 2003

I'm connected to the Reneau family through a man with bright eyes and a shy smile. He was the first to extend his hand for a handshake greeting always welcoming the opportunity to meet someone new. He was fast with a joke or a comment that would put you at ease. He became a successful businessman and was generous with his time, his money, and his talents. I saw it in the money he donated for lights for high school baseball parks, in the sponsoring of high school American Legion baseball teams, and in the encouragement he offered to kids to do their best in school and baseball.

Marion James Reneau is my connection to the Reneau family. I have always thought he believed in making life easier for others than it had been for him. He was self-made, growing up without any extras, and separated from his mother and siblings by many miles. He had regrets, and certainly things he would have done differently. Over the years, and in many ways, he taught us about the value of family.

He would reach out to take my small hand in his as we crossed the busy highway for the morning newspaper. It was our daily ritual when the family was at the mountain cabin. I was about 6; grandpa was much older. He was confident in his stride and gentle with his grasp. We would talk; me imparting my 6 year old wisdom and him soaking it in as if I was sharing the most important knowledge he would hear that day. This memory is just one of many I have of my grandpa, Marion James Reneau.

Learning about the past generations of Reneaus has brought me an appreciation of the strength and courage that lies within every family. I used to hope that Reneau genealogy would uncover

some long held treasure; that we were related to unclaimed wealth. We are, but the wealth is not in money; it's in the riches of discovering our past, our commonalities, our struggles, our achievements, and in watching future generations pursue their dreams.

I'm Susan Daniels, granddaughter of Marion James Reneau through his daughter Anita Reneau Daniels. I was born on July 11, 1962. I live in Portland, Oregon. Happy Reneau Family Reunion.



Susan Lynn Daniels
Portland, Oregon
2002

Charlene Daniels Welch and Family
Submitted by Charlene Daniels Welch

October 11, 2003

Dear Reneau Family Reunion,
Greetings from Vancouver, Washington. My name is Charlene Marie Daniels Welch and I am the youngest daughter of Anita Reneau Daniels and granddaughter of Marion James Reneau. I was born on March 23, 1966 at Fort Bragg, North Carolina. My dad is Charles Daniels.



Charlene welcomes Grandpa
when he and Granny came home from a
Hawaiian vacation., 1970

My grandpa, MJR—as it said on his white handkerchiefs – loved my sisters and me as if we'd hung the moon and stars. My childhood is filled with memories of him and our grandmother, Phern Reneau, and our adventures

at their cabin on Mt. Hood and traveling with his baseball team.

I don't know why, but I remember whenever I said to him, "I'm hungry!" He would reply, "Well, I'm Grandpa!"

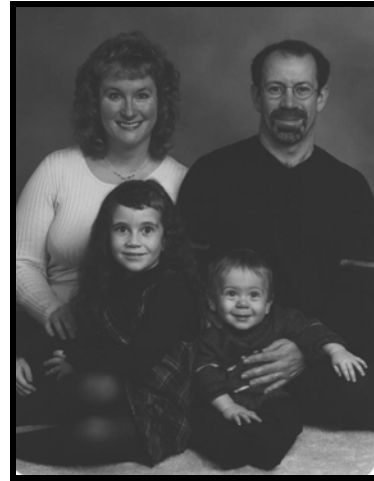
As I grew older, grandpa remained interested in my future and one day arranged an informational interview for me as I was exploring potential careers. People in our community still remember him and recognize his name. It's always fun when they say, "OH, you're Marion Reneau's granddaughter!"

I miss grandpa very much and I think of him often. I wish he was alive today to see how my life unfolded. I think he would be proud of my family. I married my husband Ralph in May 2001. He works for the American Red Cross. Along with Ralph, I gained a beautiful stepdaughter, Georgia, who will be six on October 31st 2003. And then, we had a bundle of joy, Ryan Charles Welch, on January 29, 2003. I also work outside the home at the American Heart Association.

It's wonderful that the Reneaus are reuniting to remember their heritage and gathering such wonderful information to give to future generations!

Best wishes for a once-in-a-lifetime "family vacation!"

Charlene Marie Daniels Welch



Charlene and Ralph Welch,
daughter, Georgia and son, Ryan
Vancouver, Washington
2003



Traveling with Grandpa Reneau's American Legion Baseball Team that he sponsored.
Grandpa is holding me for the team picture! Photo taken in 1971.
We are third from the right in front row

Marion James Reneau
Submitted by Sarah Jean Cook

NOTES FROM SARAH COOK WHEN SHE
 INTERVIEWED HER GREAT GRANDFATHER MARION
 RENEAU.

"When I was a kid"...interview with Great Grandpa Reneau on 2-21-94 (Questions were to guide the student to ask about what it was like when a grandparent was little.) Article typed verbatim from Sarah Cook's writing.

- Q: What was your grandparents school like?
 A: A 1 room schoohouse with all 8 grades in it. He went there for 4 years, a totle (total) of 12 kids in the school was Riverview west of Eugene, Oregon. He went to High School in Junction City, Oregon. It was a 4 room school, 16 kids were in his graduating class.
- Q: What did your grandparents do for fun?
 A: He loved to play baseball. He played all 4 years of highschool. He rode horses and he did spelling Bees. He made his own baseballs from twine he wrapped it to 9".
- Q: What kind of jobs or chores did your grandparents have to do?
 A: Milk the cows, bring the eggs in. He had to get water from the lake because there was no well.
- Q: What kind of foods did your grandparents eat? Was it any different from today?
 A: He ate dried fruits and veggies, because there were no freezers. They had to butcher a calf for their meat. They caught rabbits.
- Q: What do your grandparents think is the biggest change from the "old days" to today?
 A: There's alot more machinery. More controll of labor people. There were no phones. The cars have changed alot.
- Age: me 8, Great Grandpa 77



David (3 yrs) and Sarah (5 yrs) Cook with their Great-grandpa Reneau
 February 28, 1991

Laura Reneau Campbell
Information provided by Randall, John Campbell, and Erma Robertson Thomson

Laura Alice Reneau was born in Smiths Grove, Kentucky on August 18, 1881, to Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Moore Reneau. Barton was the son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reneau. When Laura was born she joined three brothers, Tipton Moore, Joseph Stone, and Eugene LaRue. She also had an older sister, Mary Evelyn.

Laura was two years old when the family moved to Tennessee, then on to Texas, where Barton and Sytha began farming the 37 acres of land that they had bought. The times there were both sad and happy. Her older brother, Joseph died on July 18, 1883, and a month later, on August 21, 1883, Mattie, a younger sister was born. Two more sisters joined the family: Hettie was born on March 29, 1886, and Ola was born Nov 14, 1888. Her youngest sibling, a brother, Benton, was born on August 23, 1891.

Laura Alice Reneau married James Edward Campbell on February 2, 1902, in Hunt County, Texas. During the first years of their marriage they lived in Munday, Texas, where James was a farmer and woodworker.



James and Laura Campbell
 circa 1902

James and Laura had three children, two daughters and a son, all born in Munday, Texas: Mada Erma, born February 28, 1904; Marvin Emmett, born February 8, 1907; and Ila Ella, born December 11, 1908.

James was originally from Arkansas, and, in 1913, the family moved to Fayetteville, Arkansas. Then, in 1916, they moved to Fort Smith, Arkansas. James and Laura owned and operated a small store, "Campbell's Grocery," in

Fort Smith. Their store and home was located at 1512 May Avenue, Ft Smith, Arkansas.



James and Laura Campbell and children
Mada, Marvin, and baby, Ila
circa 1909



l-r: Marvin, Ila, Laura Campbell,
Mattie Reneau



Laura and James' son, Marvin,
and grandsons,
l-r: Randall, John, and Richard Campbell

Randall M. Campbell
Submitted by Randall Campbell

November 24, 2003
I was born in Ft. Smith Arkansas. Mother and Father moved to Cleveland, Ohio when I was 6 mos. old. My dad sailed on the Great Lakes and worked in the engine room. When World War II broke out, he and his friends went to New York

and signed on Liberty ships. He had a Chief Engineer License, and sailed all through the war. Mada Campbell Robertson is my father's sister. My mom died in 1978 and father died in 1984. There were five of us children: Randall (me), Richard, John, Margaret, and Cindy.

I joined the Merchant Marines at the end of the war and made one trip with my dad. I married Sept 2, 1950, and was drafted into the Army Sept 10, 1950. Two years in the Korean War. I grew up in Machine Shops and when I was around 26, I started to go to night school. Next thing I knew I spent the next 40 years in the Fluid Power Industry: Salesman, Sales Manager, and then VP of Sales. I retired when I was 66 and now I am 76. I play golf twice or more per week, mow the grass, and love to go to casinos. Life has been good, but goes too fast!



Randall and Florence Campbell,
with son, Scott and daughter, Allison.

John Campbell
Submitted by John Campbell

September 18, 2003
As for myself being the grandson of Laura Alice Reneau Campbell, what can I say! Not Much. Mostly I have that gene from them that made me do a lot of traveling and getting into things that were new. I started in the Space Program in 1956 at Cape Canaveral right out of the US Navy and pretty much stayed in it until 1998. I still do consulting with my old company so I am not completely out yet. We lived for five years in Houston working at the Manned Spacecraft Center helping to put Armstrong on the Moon. I have a personal letter from him when I retired. The part I can relate that may be of interest is I am the only Reneau descendant with their name on the Moon.

On April 23, 1962, the First Spacecraft to be on the Moon was launched. It was called The Ranger 4 Mission. It consisted of the Atlas launch vehicle, the Agena 2nd stage and the JPL Spacecraft. The purpose was to send back the

first pictures from the moon. We engraved our names on the shims (the parts that help to separate the JPL S/C from the Agena) and when the S/C hit the moon all of our names flew about and are still there. This mission to take the pictures was not successful but we did do it with Ranger 7 on July 28, 1964 which sent the first pictures of the moon back to earth. I worked for the Agena part with the Lockheed Missiles and Space Division in Cape Canaveral, FL. My wife, Edwina I. Bish Campbell is a retired RN and we have three children, Terri L Nicholl, (2 children, Jessica and Adam), Linda J. Kyvik (daughter Cameron) and M John Campbell, not married. We have lived in several parts of the USA and England (called Space Gypsies!) and are now settled in here in Palm Bay, FL.



John and Edwina Campbell, Palm Bay, Florida

Hettie Reneau Commons
Information provided by Loyce Commons
Mangrum, Virgil and Gladys Commons, and
Anita Reneau Daniels.

Hettie Reneau was the daughter of Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Moore Reneau. She was the second to the youngest child of nine children, born March 29, 1886.



AJ and Hettie Commons
 Wedding Photo, 1908

Hettie married Andrew Jackson (A.J.) Commons in 1908 in McKinney, Texas. There were seven children born to this union: Carroll Barton, Fannie Lee, Ruby Wilson, John Wesley, Howell E., Virgil Wallace, and Loyce Marie.



Sisters, Ola Reneau and Hettie Reneau
 Commons with son Carroll Barton Commons.
 1909

Hettie sent the following picture to her brother, Eugene LaRue Reneau and his wife Lula:



Carroll, Fannie Lee, and John W.
 Abt. 1915

Hettie's note on the back of the photo: "Gene, I send you this picture expecting some of yours and Lula's in turn. Also, write me a long letter and I will sure answer it. The children's names are Carroll, Fannie Lee, and John W. is the baby. With the lovingness of care, as ever, sister, Hettie."

The year 1914 was a bittersweet year for Hettie and AJ. They had suffered the tragic loss of their youngest child, Ruby Wilson on February 28, 1914. She was just sixteen months old. Three months later they experienced the joy of another child, John Wesley, born May 6, 1914.

A J. worked as a Produce Merchant and Hettie spent her time raising the children. A. J. passed

away February 21, 1946. Hettie continued to live in McKinney, Texas, and passed away September 14, 1972, at the age of 86. Both A.J. and Hettie are buried at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney.



Hettie Ann Reneau Commons
1960

In 1930, AJ and Hettie's oldest son, Carroll Barton Commons, married Ina Griffith. They presented the family with two children: Betty, born in 1931, and Jimmie, born in 1932.

Betty Carroll is married to Kenneth Nelson. They live in Irving, TX.

Jim Glenn is married to Doris Hockett. They live in Henderson, TX. Their children are: Lisa Carol, who married Delmer Brooks, no children; Donna Lea, who married Kelly Roycroft, two children, Robert Glenn and Wendy Dawn; Jimmy Glenn, Jr. single; Amy Suzanne, who married Scott Hammelt, two children, Allen Scott and Erin Michelle.

In 1951 Carroll married Janice King, and two more children were born: David and Patricia. Carroll passed away August 30, 1985.

David Allen married Suzanne Chille. They have two children, Michael David and Eric Trenton.

Patricia Diane married Lester Krysl. Lester is now deceased. Patricia Lester has two children, Cara and Lindsey.

Fannie Lee Commons married Alex Hutton on October 31, 1950 in Dallas, Texas. Fannie immediately had a family with a new stepdaughter, Elaine. Fannie was a longtime member of Highland Oaks Church of Christ, Dallas, TX. She retired from the Dallas Independent School Adm after 20 years.

Fannie Lee passed away October 18, 1999. Alexander passed away October 17, 1993

John Wesley Commons married Margaret in June of 1943. They had three children: Bruce, George and Doralyn.

John passed away November 9, 1994 in Princeton, Texas. He is buried at the Pecan Grove Cemetery in McKinney, TX.



Fannie Lee and Alexander Hutton
1991

Howell E. Commons married Shirley Kinney in Los Angeles, California. The couple had three children: Sharon, Christopher and Kim.

Howell passed away in 1975 in Huntington Beach, CA.



A J and Hettie Commons' children
l-r: Walter, Loyce Marie, Johnny Wesley, Carroll Barton, Howell E., Fannie Lee, Virgil Wallace.
Family Reunion in Dallas, TX, 1974

Virgil Wallace Commons married Gladys Gilbert in 1938 in Oklahoma. They are members of the Church of Christ and live in DeSoto, TX. They have two children: Michael Wayne and Earl Wallace. Virgil and Gladys will be married 66 years in April, 2004.



Virgil, Gladys, Michael and Earl Commons
2000

Virgil and Gladys have five grandchildren: Mike Jr. and Chris Commons, Wendy Horn, Lori Rutledge and Chad Commons; nine great-

grandchildren: Brandi, Trevor, Calab, Abbigail, Lilli, Brennon and Ryan Commons, Kaitlyn and Austin Horn; and two great-great-grandchildren: Aston Commons and Angel Rutledge.

Loyce Marie Mangrum is the youngest child of A J and Hettie. She resides in Dallas, Texas. Loyce married J C Mangrum in 1944. They have one daughter, Barbara Ann. Barbara is married to Clyde Sumners, and they have two daughters, Bobbie Marie, and Christi Ann. J.C. passed away on May 5, 1995. He was a retired Church of Christ minister.



Loyce and J C Mangrum
1989



Barbara Ann Mangrum Sumners and family
l-r back: John-Calab Alexander Gambill, Bobbie Marie Sumners Gambill, John David Gambill, Christie Ann Sumners Moses,
l-r front: Julie Marie Gambill, Clyde Steven Sumners, Barbara Ann Mangrum Sumners, Will H. Moses, and Joshua Christian Moses
Dec. 2002

Steve Sumners is the Church of Christ minister in Bristow, OK. John David Gambill is the Church of Christ youth pastor in San Springs, OK. This makes five generations of members of the Church of Christ since Isaac Tipton Reneau. Both Fannie Lee and Loyce were at a "Cousin Party" given by Mada Robertson and Erma Thomson. Mada's mother, Laura Reneau Campbell and Hettie Reneau Commons were sisters.



Erma Thomson and Mada Robertson
Cousin Party
Dallas, Texas, 1986



l-r: Fannie Lee, Loyce
l-r: Alex and J.C.
Dallas, Texas, 1986



l-r: Fannie Lee, Loyce and Marion Reneau
Cousin Party
Dallas, Texas, 1986

Hettie Ann Reneau Commons
Submitted by Loyce Commons Mangrum

My mother, Hettie Ann Reneau Commons had a great love for her immediate family and her extended families. She was a member of the Church of Christ and many times, in our home, had church quilting parties for families in need and the orphan home.



Quilting Bee at 1301 Oak St.
McKinney, TX
1936

The two men in the picture came for the free lunch!

Hettie loved to make pretty quilts in her free time. The following picture shows some of the beautiful quilts she made. My daughter, Barbara Ann, has them in a showcase in her home in Oklahoma.



Hettie's Quilts

Family meant a lot to my mother. The picture above was taken during a visit at her parents,' Barton and Sytha, farm in Floyd, TX. Mother had lots of energy. She was very kind hearted and never talked bad about anyone. She grew old very gracefully. She would be very proud of her nieces, Dorothy Reneau Mote and Anita Reneau Daniels, for carrying on the Reneau story.



l-r standing: Mattie Reneau Griffin, Laura Alice Reneau Campbell, Sytha Ellen Moore
l-r sitting: Hettie Ann Reneau Commons, Ola Reneau Bryan
circa 1918

Ola Reneau Bryan
Information provided by Loyd Raymond
Reneau and Anita Reneau Daniels

Ola was the eighth child born to Barton Warren Stone and Sytha Moore Reneau. Barton was the son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reno, son of Charles. She was born on November 14, 1888 in Hunt Co., TX.



l-r: Sisters Mattie and Ola Reneau
c. 1913

On December 27, 1929 Ola married Leonard Bryan. They stayed in Hunt County and farmed the land owned by Ola's mother, Sytha, who was now a widow. We expect that she and Leonard were a great help to Sytha. Later, Leonard and Ola moved to Fort Worth. In 1941 they sent Ola's brother, Eugene, who was living in Oregon, a photo of them at the Stock Show.



Leonard and Ola Bryan
Fort Worth Stock Show
Fort Worth, Texas

The descendants of Barton Warren Stone Reneau owe Ola a debt of gratitude, as she became known as the family genealogist; compiling a history of the family. Loyd Reneau, son of Rex Reneau and Mary Ford Reneau, has a handwritten copy of some of Ola's research. Ola sent each of her sibling's family records that included up to date information at the time. Her work, passed on to Marie Reneau Knight, spurred an interest in genealogy for future generations. While Ola and Leonard did not have any children, her genealogical interests are a treasure to her grand nieces and nephews.



Ola Reneau Bryan
October 1953

Ola passed away October 16, 1967 in Fort Worth, TX, and is buried in Mt Olivet Cemetery in that city.

Benton G. Reneau

**Information provided by Benton Reneau Jr.,
Bill Reneau, Mackie Lee Reneau Maples,
and Wilma Reneau Graham**

Benton G. Reneau was the youngest child of Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Moore Reneau. He was born on August 21, 1891 in Hunt County, TX, and joined five sisters: Mary Evelyn, Mattie, Laura Alice, Hettie Ann, and Ola, and two brothers: Tipton Moore and Eugene LaRue. His siblings ranged from age 18 to 3 years when Benton was born, so he had a wide range of playmates and caregivers. He grew up on the family farm in Floyd, TX.



Benton G. Reneau
circa 1897

In November of 1913 Benton married Willie Amelia Lynn Surrett. They were the parents of six children: Mackie Lee, born November 29, 1914; Dwight Arthur, born July 16, 1917; Wilma Belle, born June 27, 1918; Billy Boyd, born February 2, 1927; and Weldon Loyd, born June 9, 1929; and Benton G. Jr., born July 11, 1935. The children all grew up in the Floyd-Greenville area.



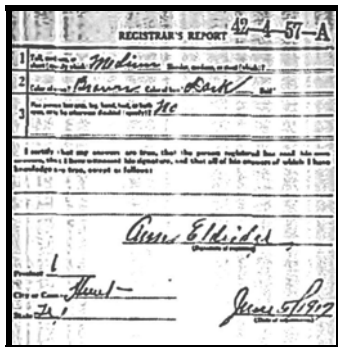
Benton G. Reneau Sr. and
Willie Amelia Lynn Surrett Reneau

On June 5, 1917, Benton G. Reneau registered for the World War I Draft.



Front of Draft Registration Card

Benton notes that he is a natural citizen, living in Floyd, Texas. His occupation is a farmer, and that his dependants include his wife, mother, and one child.



Back of Draft Registration Card

The Draft Registrar noted the physical appearance of Benton to be of medium build, with brown hair, dark eyes, and no apparent physical disabilities.

Willie Amelia died April 5, 1933. Their children ranged from age 19 to age 4 years at the time. In 1946, Benton married Bera Aycock.



Benton G Reneau Sr. and Bera Aycock Reneau

Mackie Lee, oldest child of Benton and Willie, married W. Douglas “Mutt” Maples. They have three children: Betty, Laurence, and Bobby. Mackie Lee and Mutt were at the 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio.



l-r: Patty Bates Reneau, Mackie Lee Reneau Maples and W. Douglas Maples
San Antonio, TX
October 25, 2003

In the snapshot above, Mackie Lee is showing old photos to Patty. One of the photos was of a group at the family farm in Floyd. Mackie Lee was able to identify many of those in the snapshot.

It was especially fun to see her identify an “unknown” photo, brought to the Reunion by Anita Reneau Daniels, that had belonged to her grandfather, Eugene LaRue Reneau. Mackie Lee, with a twinkle in her eyes, said that it was her baby photo!



Mackie Lee Reneau
1916

The second child of Benton and Willie Amelia was Dwight Arthur Reneau. He married Marie Arey. Dwight and Marie had two children: Ronald, and Brenda Kay.



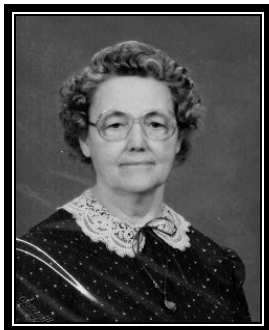
Dwight Arthur Reneau
circa 1937

Dwight, along with his sister, Mackie Lee and brother, Billy Boyd, took their Oregon cousin, Marion Reneau, to see their grandparents' farm site. It was here that Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Ellen Moore Reneau farmed when they moved to near Greenville, Texas from Kentucky.



Site of Barton and Sytha Reneau farm
l-r: Marion Reneau, Dwight Reneau, Bill
Reneau, and Mackie Lee Reneau Maples.
1989

Wilma Belle Reneau was the next child born to Benton and Willie Amelia. She married Glen Major Graham in 1942. They had two children: Edna Orlena and Maurice Glen. Glen Major Graham passed away October 18, 1986 in Dallas County, TX.



Wilma Bell Reneau Graham

The next child of Benton and Willie Amelia was Billy Boyd. Bill and his wife, Lila Owens Reneau, loved to travel. They enjoyed a wonderful relationship with a Japanese Student, and visited Japan several times. Bill and Lila had met their cousin, Marion Reneau at a "Cousin Party" in Dallas at the home of Mada Campbell Robertson and her daughter, Erma Thomson on September 21, 1986. Bill and Marion became great friends, as well as cousins. There were several trips to Oregon to visit Marion and his family. It was a lot of fun when Bill and Lila came to town! Lila passed away July 4, 2001 in Texarkana, TX. We all miss her. Bill continues to be very involved with his siblings and cousins in the Greenville and Dallas area, always filling a need to help out at special times.



Billy Boyd Reneau and Lila Owens Reneau
Dallas, TX
1986

Bill attended the 2003 Reneau Reunion in 2003, and helped with the auction.



Bill Reneau and Brenda Rose
Auctioneers at 2003 Reneau Reunion

The fifth child born to Benton and Willie Amelia was Weldon Loyd Reneau. He married Edith Louise Alsobrooks in 1954. They had two sons: Hal Ray and Jerry Don. Weldon passed away July 1, 1985.



Weldon Loyd Reneau

Benton G. Reneau Jr. was the last child to arrive in the family. "B.G.," as he is nicknamed, was a Mobil Dealer for many years.



Benton G. Reneau Jr.

B.G. married Delia Kathlee Wade in 1948. They have two sons, Russell and Randal, and two granddaughters and two grandsons.



Reneau Gathering in Floyd, Texas

The families of Hettie Reneau Commons, Tipton Moore Reneau, and Benton G. Reneau, enjoy time with mother/grandmother Sytha Ella Moore Reneau, at the family farm in Floyd, Texas.

Benton G. Reneau Jr.
Information provided by B. G. Reneau Jr.

Benton G. Reneau Jr. was the youngest of six children born to Benton G. Reneau Sr. and Willie Amelia Lynn Surratt Reneau. "B. G.," as he was called, was born on July 11, 1925. B.G. married Delia Kathlee Wade in 1948. They have two sons, Russell Keith and Randal Allen, who also have families. B.G. and Delia live in Farris, TX, next door to the home that their children grew up in, and their son, Russell and his family live in the old home. You can imagine there is a lot of activity going on in the Reneau homes there!



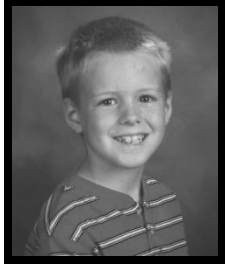
Benton G. Reneau Jr. and Delia Wade Reneau
 September 21, 1986
 Dallas, TX

"Cousin Party" hosted by Mada Campbell Robertson and daughter, Erma Thomson.

BG and Delia are very proud of their two granddaughters and two grandsons. Jennifer, age 20, and K.C., age 16 are the daughters of Russell and Denea Reneau. Brad, age 10, and Kevin, age 6, are the sons of Randall and Carolyn Reneau.



Jennifer Reneau
 enjoys sports, especially baseball!



Brad Reneau

Photo taken when Brad was in 3rd grade
Brad loves living next door to his grandparents!



Kevin Reneau

Kindergarten photo
Kevin, too, has great times living next door to
Grandma Delia and Grandpa Benton Reneau



K.C. Reneau

active in Baptist Church Youth,
and works in school to keep her A Average.

In 1970, B.G. was chosen the official representative of the more than 5000 southwestern division dealers for the Company's annual convention, which was held in Las Vegas, NV. A news clipping follows:

MOBIL DEALER VEGAS BOUND

"Benton Reneau, Mobil dealer at 3314 West Kiestat Westmoreland, has been chosen official representative of the more than 5,000 southwestern division dealers for the company's 1970 convention, November 17-19 in Las Vegas, Nevada.

This year's convention, titled: "Image Makers-1970" is expected to draw some 3,000 dealers and their wives from throughout the nation.

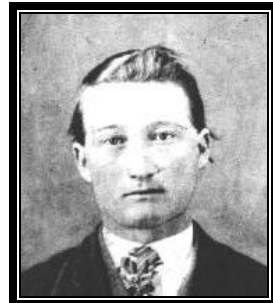
Featured speakers for the event include Dr. Charles W. Jarvis of San Marcus, Pan American Airlines executive Grant Butler and for the ladies syndicated columnist Ann Landers.

Mr. Reneau, who resides at 2433 Monaco Lane, has been in business in Oak Cliff for four years. He is serving second consecutive term on the Mobil Dealer Advisory Committee."

B.G. is now an "active retiree." He and Delia enjoy being part of their children and grandchildren lives, and watching their growth and development.

Mackie Lee Reneau Maples and family
Information provided by Mackie Lee Reneau
Maples
Betty Maples Smith
and Robyn Smith Elliott Underwood

Mackie Lee Reneau was the first child born to Benton G. Reneau and Willie Amelia Surret Reneau. Mackie Lee was born November 29, 1914. There would be five additional children to complete the family: Dwight Arthur, Wilma Belle, Benton G. Jr., Billy Boyd, and Weldon Loyd. Mackie Lee's paternal grandparents were Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Sytha Ella Moore Reneau. Mackie Lee was about five years old when her grandfather, Barton, passed away.

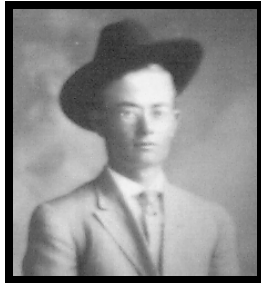


Barton Warren Stone Reneau
1848 - 1919



Sytha Ella Moore Reneau
1858 - 1933

Mackie Lee did get to know her grandmother, Sytha, as evidenced in the 1920 U.S. Federal Census that Benton rented land to farm from his mother and the family there. By the 1930 Census, Benton and Willie were still farming in Hunt County, however on a different piece of land.



Benton G. Reneau Jr.
1891 - 1970



Willie Amelia Surrett Reneau
1896 - 1933

Willie Amelia succumbed to breast cancer at the young age of 37. Her death left a void in the whole family.

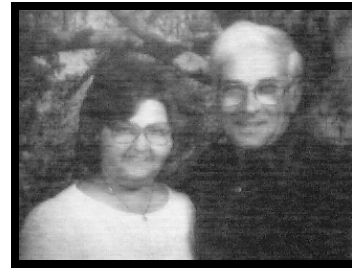
Mackie Lee was married to William Douglas Maples on November 29, 1935. Three children were born to them: Betty Evelyn, born June 22, 1937; Lawrence Douglas, born November 21, 1938; and Bobby Glen, born May 10, 1940. Sadly, little Lawrence Douglas passed away in February, 1939 at just over one year of age.



The young W. Douglas Maples Family
l-r: Bobbie Glen, W. Douglas, Mackie Lee, and Betty Evelyn.

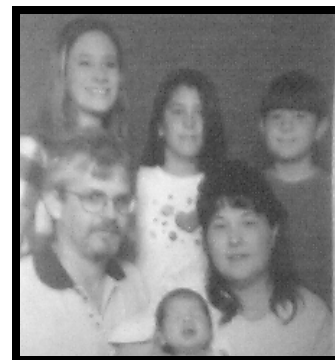
Betty Evelyn married Ralph Kenneth Smith on November 29, 1955. The couple has two

children: Robyn Lee, born April 22, 1962; and Kenneth Kyle, born August 2, 1965.

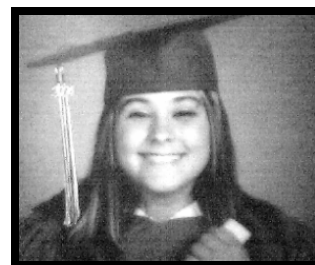


Betty Maples Smith and Ralph Kenneth Smith

Robyn married Douglas Williams in 1980. A daughter, Falyn Lee, was born on July 5, 1982. Robyn was divorced from Douglas in 1982, and then in 1984 married Johnny Elliott. Falyn was adopted by Johnny Elliott. There were two children born of this marriage: Lacey Johnnell born August 21, 1986; and Elijah Jake, born February 3, 1989. Robyn is married to Larry Underwood, and they have a son, Cameron Dakota, born April 8, 1999.



The Larry Wayne Underwood Family
l-r standing: Falyn Lee Williams Elliott, Lacey Johnnell Elliott, Elijah Jake Elliott
l-r sitting: Larry Wayne Underwood, Cameron Dakota Underwood, Robyn Lee Smith Underwood
1999



Lacey Johnnell Elliott
Wolfe City High School 2004 Graduate with Honors



Elijah "Jake" Elliott
Eighth Grade Graduation from Middle School
Wolfe City, Texas
2004



Trent Smith, Tana White, and Tyler Smith



Cameron Dakota Underwood
5 years old
2004

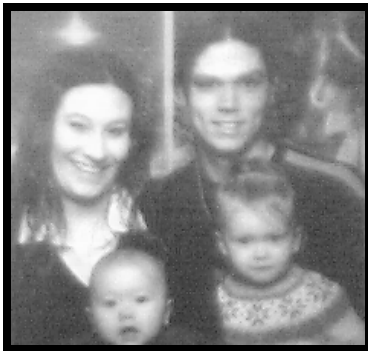


Tara Le White Smith and Kenneth Kyle Smith

Robyn's daughter, Falyn, married Grover David Snyder on April 6, 2001. Falyn and Gover have two children: Tristyn Nicole, born December 4, 2001; and Joshua Coby, born July 7, 2003.

Bobby Glen married Linda Ruth Walker on August 22, 1959. Bobby and Linda have two children Glenna Ruth, born May 2, 1961 and Cindy Kay, born September 14, 1965.

Bobby and Linda's daughter, Glenna Ruth Maples, married Leonard Dwayne Stanley on September 22, 1979. The couple had two children: Alisha Roxanne, born March 28, 1981; and Leah Ann, born March 17, 1983. On March 21, 1998, Glenna married Ronald Alan "Al" Kelley. He brought three children to the family from a previous marriage: Kurtis Alan, born November 19, 1988; Kendall Dareen, born December 28, 1991; and Kyle David, born September 25, 1994.



The Grover David Snyder Family
Falyn holding Joshua Coby, and David holding
Tristyn Nicole

Glenna's oldest daughter, Roxanne Stanley, married Keith Allen James on June 2, 2001. Keith and Roxanne have a daughter, Karli Jade, born September 5, 2003.

Glenna's youngest daughter, Leah Stanley, married Cody Norton Cox on May 15, 2004.

Bobby and Linda's daughter, Cindy Kay Maples, married Jerry Lee Smith on May 29, 1982. There are three children born to this marriage: Joshua Lee, born November 20, 1982; Jarred Lynn, born August 3, 1985; and Justin Lyle, born November 6, 1988. Joshua married Shelby Hurst. They have a son, Weston Lee, who was born March 25, 2001. Joshua and Shelby divorced in January of 2003. Cindy Kay Maples Smith married Larry Dee Oliver on December 31, 1999.

Betty Maples Smith and Ralph Kenneth Smith's son, Kenneth Kyle, married Colette Denise Lanier in November of 1983. There were two children born in this marriage: Colby Tyler, born June 22, 1984; and Corey Trent, born October 12, 1985. Kyle and Collette divorced in 1989. Kyle married Tara Le White on August 28, 1993. Tara has a daughter, Tana LeNae White, completing the new family.

On November 29, 2004, Mackie Lee and Douglas will have been married 69 (that's right, 69) years!



Douglas and Mackie Lee Maples
November 29, 1985
50th Anniversary

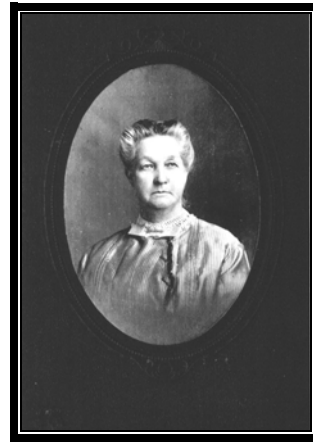
Granddaughter, Robyn Smith Elliott Underwood shares some of her memories of childhood about her grandparents:

“My grandad farmed in Floyd, Texas until they moved to Wolfe City in 1940. They farmed on Sytha Ella's farm (Mackie Lee's grandmother) and another farm called the Cook Farm. They farmed cotton, corn and onions. Today, they are not living where they raised their kids although they still own that house and rent it out. We call it the Washateria, because Mackie Lee ran a Washateria that was attached to one end of the house for 41 years before retiring. She did laundry and dry cleaning for people, and people could also come and do their own laundry. William Douglas owned Maples Construction Company for 28 years. When they moved to the house in Wolfe City from Floyd Betty Maples Smith was 3 years old and Bobby Glen Maples was 6 months old, and they lived there until their children were grown and married for some time. I think it was around 1982 when they moved into their present home. My brother and myself have lived in the Washateria at different times and raised our children there. It has been the place of many happy memories. I can remember staying with Grandma and Granddad during the summer and on weekends when they lived in the Washateria and waiting anxiously for Grandma to close and lock the Washateria doors so that I could roller skate on the concrete floor around and around the washing machines. I also remember my Granddad showing me how to drink a Nugrape coke with peanuts poured in the bottle, I would purchase the drink from a chest type drink box and the peanuts from a vending machine Grandma had in the Washateria.”

Today, Mackie Lee and Douglas enjoy their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren. It is a busy time when all are together!

Mary Bayless Reneau Beard and Family
Submitted by Betty Hadus Reneau
and Anita Reneau Daniels

Mary Bayless Reneau was the sixth child and third daughter, to be born Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau (nine children living to adulthood and having their own families.) She was born July 17, 1850 in Clinton County, KY. Her father, Isaac Tipton Reneau was the son of John Reno, son of Charles Reneau. Her mother, Mary Gipson Wood Reneau was the daughter of Mary Bayless Wood and Thomas Wood. Mary Bayless Reneau was named after her maternal grandmother Mary Bayless.



Mary Bayless Reneau Beard
Christmas 1915

Mary helped at home with the housework, especially with Margaret Eunice away at school in the 1860's. Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp also married and left home in 1867. So Mary Bayless had the years of 1868 to 1874 to be at home when not teaching as she reportedly did to help. The 1870 US Federal Census shows Mary living with her parents, Isaac Tipton and Mary Reneau, in Albany, Clinton County, KY. She was 19 years old. Four other siblings were living at home, as well: Barton Warren Stone, age 22; Joseph Wickliffe, age 16; Isaac Tipton Alexander, age 10; and Reuben James Shannon, age 8.

Mary married William D. Beard on December 22, 1874. The 1880 US Federal Census shows William and Mary living in Clinton County, KY. William's occupation is "farmer" and Mary is noted as "keeping house." There are three children in the family now: Sarah Elizabeth, age 3; John Wakefield., age 2; and Mary (Mamie)

A., age 5/12ths. Mary and William Beard had four additional children: Mariba Lea, Edgar, William, and Reuben. The family attended the First Christian Church in Albany, KY. Their children became a very distinguished group and contributed much to the church, schools, and government wherever they lived. Unfortunately, William D. Beard did not live to see his children and grandchildren make their contributions, as he died before 1890. In the Clinton County Census of 1890 Mary Bayless Reneau Beard is listed as the head of household being a widow with Mary A. (Mamie), age 10; Mariba Lea, age 9; Edgar, age 7; Willie age 5; and Rubin age 3. No mention is made of Sarah Elizabeth or of John Wakefield. They may just have been left out or may be living with someone else at the time. Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" was married in 1898, and John Wakefield was married and living in Nebraska by 1910.

In the 1900 Census, Mary is a widow and is 49 years old. The children living with her are: Mary (Mamie), age 19; Lea, age 18; Edgar, age 16; William, age 15; and Reuben, age 13. Mary Bayless is listed as head of household, and her occupation is "farmer." Both Edgar and Reuben are listed as "farm laborer." Mary is noted as a schoolteacher. No occupation is shown for Lea and William. William is listed as crippled. Lea, William and Reuben are shown as attending school in the last twelve months.

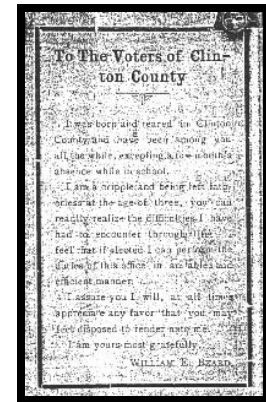
In the 1910 Census William B. Jr. is the head of house with his mother, Mary, living with him, as well as Mariba Lea, age 28. No mention is made of Reuben or Edgar.

Mary Bayless Reneau Beard's later years were spent living with her daughter, Mariba Lea Allen, and family in Warren County. Mary Bayless' son, William Beard also lived with the family.

William (Willie) was born in 1885. He had infantile legs and feet, and had to either use a wheelchair or a type of leather harness on which he scooted. He learned to drive a car fitted with hand controls. Willie ran and was elected as Clinton County Clerk in 1910. Following is the campaign card he distributed. The original is in a plastic container to preserve it, so the copy here is hard to read. In the photo Willie is on the leather harness that he scooted to get around.



Front of Campaign Card
 Campaign Card reads:
 William E. Beard
 Candidate for County Court Clerk



Back of Campaign Card
 Campaign Card reads:
 To The Voters of Clinton County

 I was born and reared in Clinton County, and have been among you all the while, excepting a few month's absence while in school. I am a cripple and being left fatherless at the age of three, you can readily realize the difficulties I have had to encounter through life. I feel that if elected I can perform the duties of this office in an able and efficient manner. I assure you I will, at all times appreciate any favor that you may feel disposed to render on to me. I am yours most gratefully.
 William E. Beard



William (Willie) Beard Jr.
1912

County Clerk, Clinton County, Kentucky

Willie won the election in 1910 and served as County Clerk in Clinton County for the term of January, 1910 to January, 1912. He was unsuccessful in his bid for another term as County Clerk. Willie later moved to Barren County and married there. Willie Beard did not have any children. He died while residing in Barren County, and is buried there.

The remaining three sons of Mary Bayless and William Beard did not stay in the Albany area, and contact with them and their descendants has been lost. John Wakefield, Edgar, and Reuben all relocated to Nebraska. Here they married and had families. Little is known about them except through the US Federal Census. In 1910 John Wakefield Beard is shown as living in Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska, and is married to Stella H. Hoffman. They have one daughter, Wilhelmina, who was born in 1908.

John Wakefield, Stella and their daughter live with Stella's parents, Charles M and Wilhelmina (Mina) E. Hoffman. John was a Retail Merchant and owns a Music Store. In 1920 there has been an addition to the family, as another daughter, Mary E., born in 1918, has been added to the family. They still share the home with Stella's parents. Things have changed in 1930. John is married to Grace E. He is now a salesman for a company. His daughters have remained living with their grandparents (Stella's parents.) Wilhelmina is now 21 years old and is a teacher for the public schools. Mary is twelve years old. Nothing is mentioned about Stella.

Edgar Beard is also living in Beatrice, Gage County, Nebraska in 1920, according to the 1920 Census. His wife is listed as Louie and they have two children, Arthur, born in 1907, and Mary, born in 1910. The record notes that Louie H. and the children were all born in Nebraska. Edgar is a salesman in a music store. In 1930,

Edgar is listed as a piano tuner for a music company. Louie is not employed outside the home. Their son, Arthur works as a steel worker, and Mary is a public school teacher.



Photo of Wilhelmina Bayless Beard
Granddaughter of Mary Bayless Reneau Beard
Written on back of the photo is:
To Grandma Beard from Wilhelmina Bayless B.
taken Sept. 1910

Reuben P. Beard, in 1920 is living with his family in Nebraska City, Otoe County, Nebraska. His wife's name is Evelyn. Reuben works as a salesman in a music store, and Evelyn is listed as a music teacher. They have two children: Kathleen, age 8; and Billy, age 2 and 3/12ths. In 1930, the family is still in Nebraska City, and there has been an addition to the family. They have a third child, a daughter, named Jeanne E., who is nine years old. Both Edgar and Evelyn are still in the music business.

Mary Bayless Reneau Beard's oldest daughter, Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Beard, continued to live in Albany. She married James Oscar Cole December 29, 1898 in Clinton Co., Kentucky. James Cole was born on March 20, 1872. James and Lizzie settled on a large farm just north of the city square in Albany where she kept house and cared for the children.



Lizzie Beard Cole
is sitting in the front row, first on the right.

James farmed, taught school, and other things, including logging when necessary. But his main work was in education. He taught one-room schools, served as Principal of the Clinton County High School, and was Superintendent of the Clinton County system. He also worked in the Teachers' Institutes, preparing teachers for the schools to best help the students.

Lizzie and James had five children: William "Willie" Long, born on November 30, 1899; Reba Pearl, born December 15, 1901; Charles, born 1903; Elise, born 1908; and Lillian, born 1910.



l-r: Willie Long Cole and Reba Pearl Cole
circa 1902

All the children became teachers, three of whom made teaching their life's work. The family was active in the First Christian Church in Albany, and would have a great part to play in the educational system of Clinton County and influence many children and students.



Sunday School Class
First Christian Church, Albany, KY
Fall 1915

Elise Cole, 2nd on left back row; Lillian Cole, 4th
on left center row.

Lizzie and Jim's oldest child, Willie Long taught school as long as he could but had to

finally retire from it because of an injury received in the logging when a young man, which left him with a bad leg. Willie married Vera Buck, and they had a daughter, Doris Lee, who now lives in Elizabethtown, Kentucky. Doris married Johnny Howard, and they have two children, Teresa and Johnny Wayne. Willie Long died on September 17, 1983 in Elizabethtown.

The second Cole child was Reba Pearl. She lived until just nine days short of her 100th birthday, dying on December 6, 2001. Her mind was as sharp as it had ever been. She married Oscar Banks Conner on September 22, 1922, and worked many years in the school system as a teacher, principal and librarian in Clinton County High School. Oscar Banks Conner ran a grocery store in Albany for many years, opening up early and then going after Pearl to take her over to the school each day. They had one child, Joe Oscar Conner, born September 9, 1925.

Pearl taught Commerce and was Librarian when she left in 1951, just six weeks before school closed to go to Indianapolis, Indiana, to take a federal job and be with her son Joe who had never married. Just a few years later Joe was killed by a drunken driver on his way home from an AA meeting. Pearl stayed in Indianapolis, and was later joined by her sisters.

Charlie Cole was the third child and the last boy born to Lizzie and Jim Cole. He coached and taught at Clinton County High School. He married Pauline who was from Barren County. The couple had two children, a son and daughter. They then made their home in Barren County. Charlie died in 1993 and is buried in Barren County. Some of his cousins from Clinton County were able to attend the funeral.

The last two Cole children were girls. Mary Elise was born on January 12, 1908. She remained around home until during World War II when she went to Akron Ohio to work. When she retired she eventually joined her sister, Pearl, in Indianapolis and lived there until her death on March 30, 1997. Lillian, the youngest child, was born on September 11, 1910. She married William N. Nolan and lived across the road from her parents. Lillian and William had one son, George (November, 1933-January 8, 1998). Lillian taught many years in the Albany Graded School and the Clinton County High School until her retirement. Following the death of her husband on February 8, 1987, Lillian moved to Indianapolis to live with her sisters and be near her son. Her son George died leaving two sons, Bill and G.A., the latter also living in

Indianapolis. Lillian is the only surviving child of Sarah Elizabeth (Lizzie) and James O. Cole.



Cole Children with their Mother, Lizzie
Grandchildren of Mary Bayless Reneau Beard
l-r front : Lillian Cole Nolan, Lizzie Cole (in
wheelchair) and Elise Cole.
l-r back: Willie Long Cole (in hat), Pearl Cole
Conner, and Charlie Cole.
Christmas, 1946

Lizzie and James Cole, along with their children, were active in the Albany First Christian Church. The bricks in the structure of the present church building were formed and burned on the James Cole farm in 1927 following the fire that destroyed the frame building in 1926. The family contributed their time and talents in many ways to the church



Children of Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Cole and
James Cole
l-r: Willie Long Cole, Charlie Cole, Pearl Cole
Conner, Lillian Cole Nolan, Elise Cole
1954

James O. Cole passed away on June 1, 1943. Sarah Elizabeth "Lizzie" Beard Cole passed away on June 6, 1954.

William and Mary Beard's third child was Mary (Mamie) Beard. She married J. E. Gaskill. They had at least one child, Louise. The family lived in Nebraska in 1906, according to a journal kept

by Nettie Bayless Courts Depp, and writing under the pen name Ora Ethel, when publishing her experiences in the Albany Kentucky Newspaper. Nettie had met Maimie and her family while they were visiting relatives in Kentucky.



Wedding Photo of
Mamie Beard Gaskill and J. E. Gaskill



Mamie Gaskill with her baby, Louise

Mariba Lea Beard (fourth child of William and Mary Beard) married William Louis Allen, the son of Thomas and Hulda Grider Allen. William Allen lived and farmed in Warren County near Bowling Green, Kentucky. Lee and William Allen had one daughter, Mary Hulda, who was born November 30, 1915. Mary Hulda's was named for her two grandmothers. There were also twin girls born to William and Lea, however, they did not survive.

Mary Hulda and her family attended the First Christian Church in Bowling Green, KY. Later, Mary Hulda became the Director of Education for the church, as well as traveling to hold

classes for the Education teams in other churches across the state and nation. She was a District Youth Advisor; taught at Camp and Conference; and was a leader in The Christian Women's Fellowship.



Mary Hulda Allen
 Daughter of Lea Beard Allen and William Allen
 Granddaughter of Mary Bayless Reneau Beard
 circa 1924

Following the death of her parents, Mary Hulda went to Mt. Carmel, Illinois, and finally to Tennessee, where she pastored a church until her retirement. She later moved back to Bowling Green, where in 1987, she passed away, leaving no direct descendants, as she never married. Mary was one of many Reneau descendants called into the ministry, following in the footsteps of her Great-Grandfather, Isaac T. Reneau..



Mary Hulda Allen
 circa 1936

The 1930 US Federal Census shows Mary Bayless still living with Lea and William Allen. Mary was 79 years old. Her granddaughter, Mary, was 14 years old.

Mary Bayless and William Beard left a great legacy to the Reneau family and to the First Christian Church in Albany and elsewhere. Mary Bayless Reneau Beard passed away on August 13, 1933 in Eighty-eight, Barren County, Kentucky. She is buried in Clinton County, Kentucky, in Albany Cemetery, where her oldest daughter and husband, James O. and Sarah Elizabeth Beard Cole, are also buried.



Siblings
 l-r: Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Mary Reneau Beard, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, and Mariba Reneau Depp



Family Visit
 Standing: l-r: Granville Oscar Reneau, Nettie Reneau, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, Eva Reneau Dowell, Reuben James Shannon Reneau.
 Sitting: Mary Bayless Beard Reneau

Joseph Wickliffe Reneau
By Margaret Piera (Maggie) Reneau Miller,
daughter of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau
Information submitted by Peggy Curtis Wolff
Katherine Reneau Moore
and Clyde Wickliffe Day

Joseph Wickliffe Reneau was born on July 19th, 1853, in Monroe County, not far from the Cumberland River, seventh child of Isaac Tipton and Mary G. Wood Reneau. Isaac T. Reneau was a very noted early-day minister of the Gospel, Christian in his ministry of early days. He preached in Tomkinsville a very noted sermon in 1858. Published in pamphlet. He and his wife were both school teachers.

Joseph Wickliffe, “J. W.” Reneau as he was familiarly known was a school teacher for about 35 years – some in Clinton Co., Warren Co., and his last three schools were at Old Beech Grove “88”, in Barren Co. 1894 and 1895, – at Lick Branch in 1896.



Joseph Wickliffe Reneau

J. W. had been preaching since 1889 – Christian Church without instrumental music – at Randolph, Ky., Summer Shade, “88”, Poplar Log, Flippin, Philipi, Tomkinsville, Pleasant Hill, Monroe Co., Turkey Neck Bend, Cloyds Landing, Gamaliel, and numerous other Churches of Christ. After his school at Lick Branch in 1896, his time was almost given to the study of the Bible and preaching the Gospel. He kept a record of all of his schools, also of each couple he married, a record of each sermon with notes of Bible, also where preached, contributions of each dollar received.

Joseph Wickliffe Reneau was Post Master at Eighty Eight, Ky., from 1897 to 1914, I think, and we girls all helped in this post office business. Papa was a minister on till his passing on Jan. 18, 1926. He was home from a trip of preaching in Tulare, Calif., also Dinuba Calif., and other points, visiting his daughters – Mrs. Mariba Ann Ball and family in Calif., also Mrs. Mary E. Day of Texas. Papa’s records of schools, marriages, sermons, and notes were accidentally destroyed after his death in 1926, so what I write is from my memory. I helped him compile lots of this work.

My father, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau – J. W. as he was familiarly known, came to Glasgow Ky., from Albany, Ky., in early 1894 to visit his sister, Mrs. John B. Depp. Preached at Randolph, Pleasant Hill, Metcalfe Co., and some other points. Found a house and small acreage to rent with option to buy.



Nancy Arimetha “Arie” Smith Reneau and Joseph Wickliffe “J.W.” Reneau

Wrote Mother for her to sell all she could not have loaded on two farm wagons, and hire two certain men with good mule teams to start on 7 day of March. Loading was done by noon. Night of March 9th was spent with friends in Albany, Ky. March 9th we traveled thru mud to Bear Creek Hill where Papa had arranged for us to spend the 2nd night. March 10th. March 11 he met us at Cumberland River ferry – a happy meeting. On March 11th we traveled all day to a Bro. John Fraiser’s home on Marrowbone Creek, or may be Willo Shade, Ky. We spent the night of March 11th at Mr. Fraiser’s home – on March 12th Sunday we arrived in Eighty-Eight, Ky., about 2:20 PM, very tired but happy to be with Papa and Mother.

Mother brought the three legged baker skillet with tops, iron stew pots, plenty of beans, dried fruits, flour, meal and salt pork, and molasses, also tree sugar-which she made.

My mother was Nancy Arimetha Smith “Arie” for short as she was always known.



Nancy Arimetha Smith and her sister

She was the daughter of Zerelda Ann Smith and Isaac D. Smith. Zerelda Ann, the daughter of the

noted Raccoon John Smith and Ann Townsend. Papa and Mother were good nurses and always lent a helping hand in sickness, among the neighbors. The children all followed in this work.

The following is a photo of Mariba Ann Reneau Ball, with her sister, Margaret Reneau Miller, author of the article.



l-r: Mariba Ann Reneau Ball, Margaret Reneau Miller

Joseph Wickliffe Reneau
Information provided by Peggy Wolff
and Martha Harrison

Eight children were born to the union of Joseph Wickliffe and Nancy Arimetha Reneau: Mariba Ann, born November 7, 1875; Mary Elizabeth, born October 27, 1877; Martha Thurman, born June 14, 1879; Minnie Eva, born September 30, 1881; Margaret Piera, born November 20, 1883; Isaac Smith, born October 4, 1886; Myrtie May, born April 3, 1889; and Montie Clarissa, born December 9, 1891.

Mary Elizabeth Reneau married Lorenzo Dow Day on April 4, 1904 in Greenville, Texas. The following photo was taken in Kentucky before she moved to Texas. She is with her sister, Minnie Eva Reneau Hunt, husband, Noah Hunt, and children. Noah passed away on May 15, 1915. Six children were born to Minnie and Noah: Willie Cecil, born August 29, 1901; James Wickliffe, born September 4, 1903; Luther Thurman, born May 30, 1906; Leonard Pearl, born August 11 1908; Eva Irene, born Jan 19, 1911, and Raymond Leslie, born January 29, 1913.

After Noah's death, Minnie married Emery Curtice Denham on March 27, 1917 in Glasgow, Kentucky. The ceremony was performed by S.M. Bohannon. Emery had three children from a prior marriage: Loy Beatrice, born April 12,

1903; Faye V., born in 1905; and Ninna Lee, born April 17, 1908. Minnie and Emery had two children: Joseph Earl Slawter, born, August 14, 1919, and Myrtie Mable, born January 4, 1922.



Back: Mary Elizabeth Reneau
 With sister, Minnie and family
 Front: l-r: James Wickliffe Hunt, Noah L. Hunt,
 Willie Cecil Hunt, Minnie Reneau Hunt, Luther
 F. Thurman Hunt.
 Kentucky, early 1900

Martha Thruman Reneau, the second daughter born to Joseph Wickliffe and Arie Reneau, married Joe W. Glover on January 3, 1900, in Eighty-Eight, Kentucky. Martha and Joe were the parents of six children: Nina May, born November 24, 1901; Arie Lizzie Marie, born June 12, 1903; Margaret Oreen, born July 14, 1911; Joseph Robert, born December 16, 1919; and two infant daughters born in 1904 and 1908 who did not survive.



l-r: Myrtie Eldean Reneau (youngest daughter of Isaac Smith and Neva Moore Reneau), Arie Lizzie Marie Glover, Nina May Glover (daughters of Margaret Reneau Glover and Joe Glover), and Margaret Piera Reneau Miller (daughter of Joseph Wickliffe and Arie Smith Reneau)

Margaret Piera married Cleveland Travis Miller on December 08, 1920, in Tompkinsville, Kentucky. Cleve and Margaret relocated to

Visalia, California. The young lady with them in the photo below is Margaret's niece, Myrtie Eldene Reneau, youngest daughter of Isaac Smith Reneau. Eldene married Russell Kingrey. Myrtie Eldene passed away on September 15, 1968 in Scottsville, Allen County, Kentucky, drowning in Dale Hollow Lake. She was 44 years old.



l-r: Cleve Miller, Myrtie Eldene Reneau and Margaret Reneau Miller



Joseph Wickliffe Reneau and his son, Isaac Smith Reneau

Margaret's husband, Cleveland Travis Miller, passed away February 3, 1964 at age 80 in Visalia, California. Margaret passed away in March, 1978 in Ivanhoe, Tulare County, California.



Montie Clarissa "Rissie" and Burtus Harlan

The youngest child of Joseph and Arie was Montie Clarissa Reneau. She was known as "Rissie." Rissie married Burtus Harlan on January 2, 1910. Eleven children were born to Rissie and Burt. Their first child, Isaac Earl, born October 26, 1910, died on November 5, 1913. Rissie and Burt had three other babies who died in infancy. Those times must have been tragic for the family. There was also joy in the lives of Rissie and Burt, as their surviving children grew to adulthood: Clifton Carl, Wavy Wendell, Ruban Kaye, Alma Joyce, Lera Denn, Lila Jean, and Byrl C.



The Bert Harlan Family Golden Wedding Celebration, January 2, 1960

Back l-r: Ronnie (Lila's boy), Donnie (Kaye's boy), Byrl Harlan with Rissa Lee, Dick Lumpkin holding Barby, Kaye Harlan.

Middle l-r: Dolores (Doe - Byrl's wife), Dean Lumpkin, Alma Harlan, Bert and Rissie Harlan, Lila Drake with Mike, Dorothy (Kaye's wife), Wavy Harlan

Front l-r: Bobby (Kaye's boy), Sandra (Kaye's daughter), Steve (Byrl's son) Larry (Lila's boy)



A Sibling Get-Together!

l-r standing: Myrtie May Clark, Minnie Eva Hunt Denham, Mary Elizabeth Day, and Margaret Piera Miller.

l-r sitting: Martha Thurman Glover and Isaac Smith Reneau

Nancy Armathea Reneau passed away at age sixty-seven on September 23, 1918. The following was printed in a local newspaper at her passing:

Mrs. Reneau Passed Away
Wife of Well Known Minister is Dead

“Mrs. Nancy Armathea Reneau, wife of Elder J. W. Reneau of Eighty Eight died Monday, after a lingering illness at the age of sixty seven years. Before her marriage, she was a Miss Smith, and was born and reared in Clinton county. She was a granddaughter of the celebrated pioneer preacher, “Raccoon John Smith”, and was a lady of the highest character and strong individuality. Her husband, who survives her, has been a prominent minister of the Christian church for many years, of which Mrs. Reneau was a consecrated member. She leaves eight children as follows: Mrs. C.C. [Mariba] Ball, Dinuba Cal., Mrs. L. D. [Mary] Day, Floyd, Texas, Mrs. Joe [Martha] Glover, Fathian, Ill., Mrs. Bert [Montie] Harlan, Gamaliel, Ky., Mr. Isaac S. Reneau, Nobob, Mrs. E. C. [Minnie] Denham and Misses Maggie and Myrtle Reneau of Eighty Eight. Mrs. Reneau was a most lovable lady and her death has cast a gloom over the entire community. Funeral services were held at the Refuge church, in Eighty Eight, followed by the interment in the beautiful cemetery nearby.”

Another obituary for Nancy Arimathea was written by Emmett Creacy, who conducted the funeral service:

“On September 23, 1918, the death angel came to the home of Elder J. W. Reneau, Of Eighty-Eight, Ky., and claimed for its victim his devoted wife. Sister Reneau, before her marriage, was Miss Nancy Arimathea Smith, a granddaughter of the pioneer, “Raccoon” John Smith. She was born on May 29, 1851. She became a member of

the one body on October 10, 1878, being baptized by Elder Isaac T. Reneau. Sister Reneau was the wife of the well known J. W. Reneau, who for over thirty years has been proclaiming the gospel of Jesus Christ in its purity and simplicity. She was a faithful member of the Church of Christ that worships at Eighty-Eight, and will be missed, for her kind and pleasant conversation always showed the spirit of Christ. It is difficult to comprehend the circumstances of life and the providence of God, but we rejoice to believe that God does all things well and that “all things work together for good to them that love the Lord.” A great number of friends from far and near, as well as relatives attended the funeral services, which were conducted by the writer at Refuge church of Christ, Eighty-Eight. Her body was laid to rest in the beautiful little cemetery there.”

After the death of his wife, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau continued his ministry. He not only preached in Kentucky, but traveled to visit his daughter, Mariba in California, and daughter, Mary, in Texas. He continued his ministry in California and Texas, as evidenced in the following letter he wrote to his daughter, Myrtie and son-in-law, George:

Tulare Calif Dec 5 1925

Dear Myrtie and George

Received your letter some time ago but was waiting to know what I should do. Will start for Texas, about the 7th but will not reach Floyd until near the 20th. I am getting on very well and have done fairly well here, but saw that there would not be work for me through the winter.

I hope to be able to do some work when I get home. If they want me at any places you can tell them I will be back the last of Dec so if I am able, can begin work 1st of the year. If any of them pay anything on the notes put it in the Bank to my credit. I want to be able to pay off that note when it come due. I will write you again when I get to Texas.

I shipped a box of clothes to you last Sat. hope you will get them before you get this. I gave the quilts to Mariba as she needed them worse than we did. They are all well, and I left there last Sat and will not go back as it costs me 2.30 to go from here to Dinuba and back. I am sending Mariba \$5.00 today and will have over 100 to start to Texas.

Trust all are well. I am at Bessie Smith's home today. Write to Floyd Tex. Will be there in about 2 weeks.

Your Father
J. W. Reneau

Joseph Wickliffe Reneau lived eight years after his wife's death. He passed away January 18, 1926, and his obituary follows:

THE DEATH OF REV. J.W. RENEAU LAST MONDAY

"Rev. J. W. Reneau, in his 63rd year, died at the home of his daughter, Mrs. George Clark, Monday evening. Pneumonia caused his death. Mr. Reneau had only recently accepted a call to pastorate of the Church of Christ at Scottsville, but had not moved to his new charge. Surviving are seven daughters and one son: -- Mrs. George

Clark of Glasgow route seven; Mrs. Tom Ball of California; Mrs. Mary Day, of Texas; Mrs. Joe Glover, of Indiana; Mrs. Curtis Denham, of Eighty Eight; Mrs. Cleveland Meador (sic), of Eighty Eight; Mrs. Bert Harlin, of Temple Hill; Mr. Isaac Reneau, of Nobob. Two sisters, Mrs. J. B. Depp, Glasgow rfd three; Mrs. Mary Baird, Bowling Green, also survive, as well as a brother in Neb.

Mr. Reneau was born in Monroe county, and was the son of the late Rev. Isaac Tipton Reneau, an illustrious preacher of his day.

Funeral service was conducted by Mr. R. A. Palmore Tuesday afternoon, and interment, was in the cemetery at Eighty Eight.

Mr. Reneau was one of God's finest sons -- a true blue, loyal, christian gentleman. His influence for good was great, and he will be sadly missed by legion of friends."



Descendants of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau

“Bare Feet” was the Style at Beech Grove School in 1894



This photo and article appeared in the newspaper in Ivanhoe, California – name of newspaper and date is not known.)

**News clipping submitted by Kathryn Moore
Photo submitted by Terry Hardin and Peggy Wolff**

BEECH GROVE SCHOOL IN 1894 – Our efforts this week on the “Old Photo” feature are on vacation after a receipt of a comprehensive and most appreciated writing on Beech Grove School, 1894, from Mrs. Maggie Reneau Miller, 13834 Roseline Avenue, Ivanhoe, California.

All we have to do is print her description, and you have a beautifully written and most thorough “story” concerning the Class of 1894 at Beech Grove.

Mrs. Miller writes as follows:

“Old Beech Grove school house with its white weather boarding, 8 windows and two doors. Beautiful shady beech trees with the stately white oak sat on south side of No. 90 highway – ¼ mile Southeast of Eighty Eight, Ky. J. W. Reneau was teacher and Principal and Miss Zora Simmons was Assistant. I think there were 118 students enrolled, some had married and some moved away before the picture was taken and some sick. In 1895, J. W. Reneau was principal

at same school and Miss Settie Nunnally, Assistant. I have done my best after 71 years have gone by to identify each one. I had not seen the photo but a few times since 1934. I was 11 years old in November after this 1894 picture was taken.

FIRST ROW: Curt Watt, Jesse Hood, Pearl Billingsley, Woodie Huffman, Elbert Huffman, Hershell Huffman, Ode Nunnally, Ortha Huffman, Arthur Chrumpton, Gilmore Miller, Cleve Travis Miller, Sanford Free, Judge of Metcalfe Co.; Comer Bray, Freddie Pedigo, Clayton Simmons, Sammie H. Miller.

SECOND ROW: Charlie Evans, Forest Brown, Willie Larimore, Dewey Billingsley, Harry Eubank, Lemore Depp, Buell Chenoweth, Isaac Smith Reneau, Emmett (Jack) Evans, Sherman Hussman, James Herbert Branstetter, Stenator from Ky.; Sammie Richardson, Otis Chenoweth, John B. Denham.

THIRD ROW: Mattie Ford (Mrs. Emmet Evans); Maude Perkins, (Mrs. Fred Pedigo); Eva Perkins, (Mrs. Luther Billingsley); Hattie McFarland, (Mrs. Peden Bacon); Miss Myrtie Travis, Maggie Reneau, (Mrs. Cleve Travis Miller); Ever Clark, Ruby Bowles, Maude Bray, Bessie Bowles, Gertie Bellamy, (Mrs Chris Lowe); Nettie Denham (Mrs. Moss Ralley); Bessie Free, (Mrs. Newton Judd), Just see

portion of face; Fannie Bellamy, (Mrs. Ernie Quinn); Alice Bellamy, (Mrs. Crit Jennings); Virgie Garmon, (Mrs. Dee Walters); Dollie Richardson, (Mrs. Jesse Bransletter); Maude Simmons, (Mrs. Herbert Branstetter); Myrtie Reneau (Mrs. George Clark); Mollie Hood, (Mrs. Jim Witty); Dee Branstetter, (Mrs. Hershell Huffman);

FOURTH ROW: Jody Denham, Virgil Denham, William Otis Ford, Elmore Pedigo, Chralie Branstetter, Eliza Brown, Vic Billingsley, (Mrs. Jesse Bramsletter); Ida Miller, (Mrs. Leslie McGlocklin); Maude Baldock, (Mrs. Morris Simmons); Ernie Billingsley, (Mrs. Charlie Branstetter); Ida Ford, (Mrs. John B. Denham); Sallie Bitt Bray, Melinda Nunnally, (Mrs. Joe Gaddie) Verda Denham, (Mrs. Ernest Atnip); Dorothy Huffman, (Mrs. Charlie Huffman).

FIFTH ROW: Sammie D. Sartin, Bob Chenoweth, Hughie Travis, Semore Pedigo, Agnes Ford, (Mrs. Zion Simmons), Lettie Richardson, (Mrs. Newton Pedigo); Laura Free, (Mrs. Cephas Perkins); Minnie Reneau (Mrs. Curtis Denham); Ethel Chenoweth, (Mrs. Andrew Moore); Euna Pedigo, Martha Reneau (Mrs. Joe Glover); Myrtle Baldock, (Mrs. J. O. Whitow); Cora Free, (Mrs. Herman Perkins); Luary Nunnally, (Mrs. Leo Gentry); Mary Reneau, (Mrs. L. D. Day, Sr., Del Rio, Texas); Minnie Ford, (Mrs. Clem Denham); Eva Miller, (Mrs. Noah Bushong); Fannie Chenoweth, (Mrs Elmore Depp); Emma Miller, (Mrs. Alus Hurt); Bob Richarson, Visitor; Morris Simmons, Leslie Billingsley, Henry Baldock, Trustee; Frank Huffman, Trustee; Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Teacher; Mrs Zora Simmons at table; Mark Bellamy, by tree, Assistant Teacher; Charlie Huffman by tree, visitor.

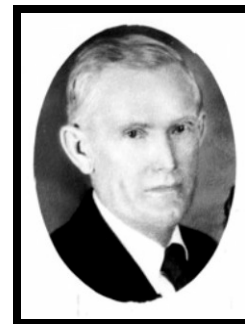
“My father, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau was a wonderful teacher in public schools of Kentucky, as well as a noted scholar in the Bible being a minister of the Church of Christ, a true Christian. He and Miss Zora Simmons were both very excellent teachers in training young minds to study and apply the mind for the work at hand. I want to thank my sister, Mrs. Minnie Denham, for the loan of this good old photo to have copied for me and others who have wanted to see for so long. I was about 10 ³/₄ years old when this picture was taken. In 1894, Papa J. W. Reneau and five daughters and one son in the group—and yet, I have memory enough after 71 years to identify all but one face—without help. No. 11—front row, is my husband, Cleve Travis Miller, who passed away February 3, 1964. I think 86 of the students are dead and 32 living.”

**Mariba Ann Reneau and Descendants --
Anne Christine Ball Woods
Merle Samuel Woods and Family
Submitted by Janice Owen Woods**

Merle's grandmother Mariba Ann Reneau was the daughter of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau and Nancy Arimathea Smith (who incidentally was the daughter of Zerelda Smith who married her first cousin Isaac Denton Smith. Zerelda was the daughter of the famous preacher Raccoon John Smith). Joseph Wickliffe and Nancy lived most of their life in Eighty-Eight Kentucky and were buried in The Refuge Churchyard there.



Mariba Ann Reneau Ball



Claudius Crockett Ball

Mariba was born in Albany, Clinton Co., Kentucky on November 7, 1875 and married Claudius Crockett Ball in Eighty-Eight, KY on October 16, 1895.

Their three oldest children were born there. They migrated west and two more children were born in Floyd, Hunt Co., TX, one of them being Merle's mother Ann Christine Ball. Then they moved to Dinuba, California and had three more children. Mariba Ann died May 6, 1967. She was a sweet lady and famous for her macaroni salad which she brought to every family pot-luck. We lived next door to her in Dinuba when our oldest four children were little and they loved her.



Anne Christine Ball Woods



Wilford Willie Woods

Anne Christine Ball married Wilford Willie Woods on December 5, 1923 in Fresno, California. Three boys were born to the couple: Leonard LaVerne, born August 17, 1924, Stanley Alvin, born January 17, 1926, and Merle Samuel, born, July 21, 1927. Stanley passed away December 23, 1998.

I was born in Yonkers, New York and met Merle when my family moved to Dinuba, California. We moved to Lubbock, TX in 1965 so our children could attend Lubbock Christian School and Lubbock Christian University. Merle was a Letter Carrier and retired in 1987 and since that time we do volunteer work at the Senior Citizens' Center. We enjoy traveling and make at least one trip a year to California. We have five children, seven grandchildren and one great granddaughter and especially enjoy our family Thanksgiving Dinners together with them.



Eloise Woods Wynn
2002

Our oldest daughter, Eloise was born October 7, 1952. She married Marvin Wynn in 1977.



Marvin Wynn
2003

Both she and her husband are school teachers in Big Spring, Texas. They have one daughter, Melissa Jo, born November 27, 1979.



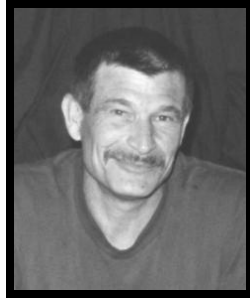
Melissa Jo Wynn
2000

Sadly, they lost their young son, Matthew, to cancer two years ago. Matthew was born February 12, 1993 and died August 23, 2002. He is missed by all.



Matthew Wynn
2002

Our oldest son, Jeffrey was born May 29, 1954. He is divorced. Jeffrey lives in Hood River, Oregon and works as a carpet layer.



Jeffrey Woods
1998

Jeffrey has three sons: Jason, born April 18, 1977; Jered, born May 7, 1980; and Jacob, born September 6, 1982. Jeffrey's sons all live in the Lubbock area. Jacob is single, and works for Office Max.



Jacob Woods
2003

Jason married Jessi Hewlett on June 1, 2002. Jason works in construction. His wife, Jessi, is a teacher.

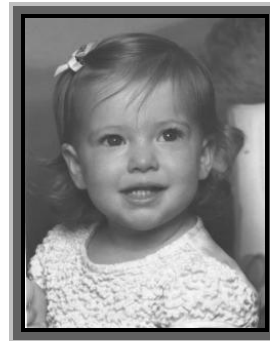


Jeffrey, Jessi and Jason Woods
June 1, 2002

Jered married Crystal Jones on August 11, 2001. Jered's brothers, Jason and Jacob, along with their father, Jeffrey, were in the wedding party. Jered is a Microsoft systems computer engineer, and his wife, Crystal, works part time for a dentist. Jered and Crystal have a little daughter, named Jacie, who was born January 23, 2003, and they are expecting again.



Crystal Jones Woods and Jered Woods
l-r: Jason Woods, Jeffrey Woods, Crystal and
Jered, and Jacob Woods.
August 1, 2001
Wolfforth, Texas



Jacie Woods
Age 15 months, April 24, 2004

Our third child is Nancy Woods Stivers, who was born May 18, 1957. She is divorced and works for Tarpley Music Company in Lubbock, Texas. She has three children: Jennifer, born October 20, 1980; Kimberly, born November 19, 1982; and Ryan, born May 20, 1985.



Nancy Woods Stivers
2001

Nancy's daughters are both married. Jennifer married Chris Zarate on July 25, 2003. Jennifer is finishing her education to become a teacher, and Chris works for United Market. Nancy's second daughter, Kimberly, married Tim Shultz on June 1, 2004. Nancy's son, Ryan, attends college.



Children of Nancy Woods Stivers
l-r: Jennifer Zarate, Ryan Stivers, and Kimberly
Shultz
2003



Jennifer and Chris Zarate
July 25, 2003



Tim and Kimberly Schultz
June 25, 2004

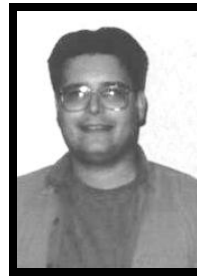
Our second son is Andrew Woods. He was born March 27, 1959, and works in maintenance for the Texas Tech Health Sciences Center in Lubbock.



Andrew Woods

2001

Our youngest child is Stephen Woods, who was born January 2, 1970. He is single and drives a cab in Lubbock.



Stephen Woods
2002

We enjoy our children, grandchildren and our little great-granddaughter, and are so blessed to have most of them living nearby! We celebrated our 50th Wedding Anniversary on November 10, 2000.



Merle and Janice Woods
50th Wedding Anniversary
November 10, 2000



Merle and Janice Woods visiting with Bennett
and Margie Wood.
2003 Reneau Reunion, San Antonio, Texas

**Kathrine Mason Moore
Kathy Moore Nightingale
Submitted by Kathy Moore Nightingale**

My name is Kathy Moore Nightingale; I live in Ponte Vedra, Florida with my two sons, Robert 12 and Thomas 8, and my husband of fifteen years, Rocky. We have lived there for 2 years,

before that we were living in Atlanta. I am originally from Fresno, California where my mother Kathrine still lives, as do many Mason cousins. I am a retired flight attendant for Eastern Airline; I worked for them for 17 years. For the past twelve years I have been home with my children and I am an avid volunteer at both of their schools. My husband is VP of a small telecommunications company in Jacksonville, FL.

My mother, Kathrine Mason Moore is from Fresno, California and has lived there for over 70 years. She is a retired Employment Manager for Pacific Bell; she worked for them for 30 years. My mom had two children, my brother and myself. Sadly my brother passed away in 1991 at the age of 41, Tom had Down's syndrome but died of heart failure.



Children of Claude Crockett Ball and Mariba Ann Reneau Ball

I-r standing: Anne Conger, Etta Mason, Margaret Hepler, Gene Ball
I-r sitting: Joe Ball, Virgil Ball

It's my mom's mother, Etta Ball Mason, now deceased, who is descended from the Reneau line, her mother Mariba Reneau Ball who married Claudius Crockett Ball, came from Kentucky. Her father was Joseph W. Reneau and her mother was Nancy Arimathea Smith.



2003 Reneau Reunion
San Antonio, Texas

L-R: Janice Woods, Katherine Moore, Kathy Moore Nightingale, Merle Woods

First Cousins Kathrine Moore and Merle Woods enjoyed seeing each other at the Reneau Reunion. Katherine is the daughter of Etta Ball Mason, granddaughter of Mariba Reneau Ball. Merle is the son of Anne Ball Woods and grandson of Mariba Reneau Ball Mason. Included in the photo above is Merle's wife, Janice, and Kathrine's daughter Kathy.

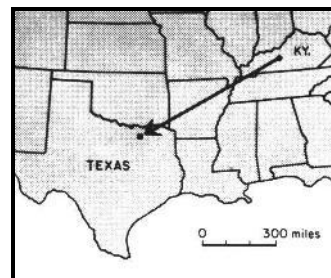
Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day
"The Beginning"
By May Day Harris, written in 1987
Submitted by Mary Ellen Day Walker

(May Day Harris was the oldest child of Lorenzo Dow Day and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day.)

In 1902 Mary Elizabeth Reneau, daughter of James Wickliffe Reneau and Arimathea Reneau, was unable to find a school in Kentucky. (She had been teaching for several years.) Her sister, Mariba (Reneau) Ball, and her family were preparing to move to north Texas. Mariba's husband, Claude Ball, had an uncle in Farmersville, Texas. Mariba had two uncles near Floyd, Barton Warren Stone Reneau and Thomas Wood Reneau.



Mary Elizabeth Reneau
Photo taken in Kentucky before moving to Texas in early 1900's



Eighty-Eight, Kentucky to Farmersville, Texas

There were a number of cousins. I remember Hettie, Mattie, Ola, and Benton, children of Barton and Sytha Ella Reneau,; and also Gip Reneau, who had a large family. Mary decided to come with the Balls. They had a little girl named for her. Claude tried farming near Floyd, but was not very successful as the seasons and crops were different. Mary was an experienced seamstress. She had made wedding dresses for her sisters, Minnie and Martha, before she left Kentucky. She inquired about teaching, but found she would have to pass a new set of examinations, including Texas history and Government, so she did not try. Little Mary Ball became ill and died. Mary worked all night making a lace-trimmed dress to bury her in. I'm sure she made clothes for Mariba's family—probably for others in the community.

Mary secured a job in a dressmaking shop in Farmersville. She was paid 50 cents a day. (Farm wage for men was a dollar a day.) She stayed with the Ball Family (uncle of Claude) and worked for her board. I'm sure this included ironing and some sewing. She also took buttonholes to work at night. Mr. Ball had a wood and coal yard—he was often away from home. Mrs. Ball did not like to be alone.

Bell-shaped skirts (many seams) and white shirtwaists with full sleeves were popular at that time. The skirts just cleared the ground and had a dust ruffle underneath. Flounces were used on some skirts and on all petticoats. Some sleeves were very full from the shoulder but fitted below the elbow (leg of mutton style). Bias folds were used on some skirts. There was lots of cutting and fitting to be done at the shop. (The owner was a tyrant, according to Mary.) They worked ten hours a day, six days a week.

Mary had met Lorenzo Dow Day while at Floyd. He was a friend of some of her cousins. I know little about their courtship. But it continued after she moved to Farmersville. (His mother and half brother lived there.)

Mary and Dow were not young at that time. She was born Oct 27, 1877, while he was born Dec. 16, 1869. So when they decided to marry in April of 1904, she was 26, and he was 34. He had farmed on rented land. But some time after Simon Peter Day's death in 1899 his property was divided. Dow inherited about 20 acres and bought the adjoining 20 from a younger brother. I do not know if he built the house or if it was already there (an L-shaped four-room house). Dow was living there before they married. Forty acres was considered a one-team farm. He had a pair of mules and a buggy horse. The wedding

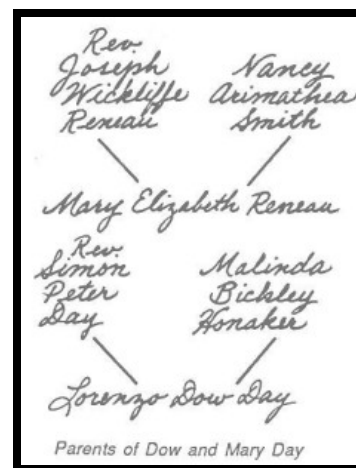
was performed on Easter Sunday, April 4, 1904, at the home of Rev and Mrs. Graham in Floyd. Graham was a local Methodist preacher, probably preaching at the Floyd Methodist Church. He was a friend of Dow Day. It was planting season so there was no honeymoon.



Wedding Portrait of Dow and Mary Day
April 4, 1904

They went to Greenville on Monday and bought some furniture and dishes. I have three little glass bowls, part of a "berry set" (six small bowls and a large bowl) which were bought that day. I do not think it is cut glass.

They started housekeeping on his farm. When the crop was "laid by" (August or September, I think), they went to visit Mary's family in Kentucky. They traveled by train and stopped in St. Louis to see the World's Fair. There was a black and white movie with the song, "Meet Me in St. Louis." Dow enjoyed the "world's largest ferris wheel" but Mary stayed on the ground. They visited the foreign Pavilions and machinery exhibits.



Mary's parents lived in Eighty-Eight, Kentucky, about eight miles east of Glasgow in hill country. Mary's three younger sisters and her brother, Isaac, were living with the parents. The sisters were Maggie (Margaret), 20, Myrta Mae, 15, and Montie Clarissa (known as Rissie), 12. Isaac was 18. J.W. Reneau was a Church of Christ minister serving several small churches including Refuge Church at Eighty-Eight. He was Postmaster at 88 for many years. Mary and Minnie helped put up the mail as older teenagers. I do not know if he was Postmaster in 1904, but I think he was. (His great-granddaughter Donnie Sue Bacon has been Postmaster there for maybe 15 years. She found some reports signed by J. W. Reneau.)

Before leaving Floyd, Dow had asked Claude Ball what he could bring him from Kentucky—he asked for a bottle of “moonshine” whiskey. To Mary's horror, Dow found someone to take him to a still and he took back the bottle of moonshine.

Dow especially enjoyed a trip through Mammouth Cave which is in that area of Kentucky. Mary went along but did not enjoy the trip so much. (I think by then she realized she was pregnant.) I was born March 28, 1905.



The Eight Reneau Children
of Joseph Wickcliffe Reneau and
Nancy Aramathea Smith Reneau

Top l-r: Mariba Ball, Isaac Reneau, Martha Glover
Below l-r: Maggie Miller, Mary Day
Clarissa Harlan, Myrtie Clark, Minnie Hunt
Denham

When J. W. Reneau preached at a new place, of course they asked about his family. He would say, “I have seven daughters and each of them has a brother.” Of course there were exclamations of “Fourteen children!” The children were:

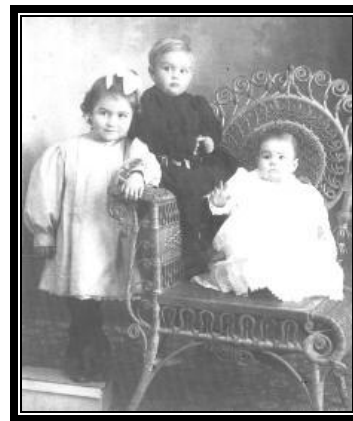
Mariba Ann Ball	Nov 7, 1875
Myrta Mae Clark	Apr 3, 1889
Mary Elizabeth Day	Oct. 27, 1877

Martha Thurman Glover	June 14, 1879
Minnie E. Hunt Denham	Sept 30, 1881
Margaret P. Miller	Nov.20, 1883
Isaac Smith Reneau	Oct. 4, 1886
Montie Clarissa Harlan	Dec. 9, 1891

Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day
Clara May Day Harris
“The 1920’s”
By May Day Harris, written in 1987
Submitted by Margaret Day

(Clara May Day Harris was the oldest child of Lorenzo Dow Day and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day. She was known by her middle name, “May.”)

At the start of the 1920's, we were living on the farm in Hunt County. I was 14, Jim was 12, Howard was 9, and L.D. was 7. Mama was pregnant with her last baby, Clyde, who would be born in August of 1920. We were faming our 90 acres with two teams of mules.



May, Jim, and Howard Day
Before the 1920's

Uncle Joe and Aunt Molly were living in the old house by the railroad, not far from our house. Uncle George had been living on Grandpa Day's old home place on the next farm over, but had moved to Caddo Mills. He was an ordained minister like Grandpa, but had no appointment and was farming. He did marry couples now and then. I remember that while we were visiting him one time, a couple drove up in their buggy and asked him to marry them in the buggy. A few years later, Uncle George moved to the Rio Grande Valley, where Uncle Marvin had gone when L.D. was a baby.

Early in 1920, Papa was building a new wagon bed. He slipped and landed hard on his abdomen, just below the ribs, on the edge of a

one-inch board. He was badly hurt, and took x-ray treatments for it. The doctor wanted him to go to Baylor Hospital in Dallas for an operation, but he refused to go until after Clyde was born. Papa did go to Baylor Hospital in September of 1920 for the operation, but the doctors found that he had an inoperable abdominal tumor, and sent him home after telling him that he had six months to live.

Papa was soon incapacitated and in a wheel chair. The tumor was the kind that produced fluid which filled up his abdomen, and the doctor had to puncture his abdomen to drain off the fluid. He put in a catheter and drained it more than twenty times in the next 18 months.

1921 came, with Papa incapacitated and the boys too young to get the fields ready to plant. The neighbors got together and plowed and planted the fields. Jim and Howard were big enough to do the rest of the cultivating with the teams.

In May of 1921, I graduated from the 10th grade, which was the highest grade Floyd High School had at the time. However, in the fall they added the 11th grade, so I stayed in school another year. In July of 1921, Howard was kicked by a mule in the stomach, and died a day later. He would have been 13 on August 8th of that year.

Jim and Emmett did the cultivating then. Emmett was younger than Howard. He had polio as a toddler and was frail, but could work with mules and the riding cultivator. Mama worked in the fields with the boys hoeing the cotton. I took care of baby Clyde.

1922 came, and I graduated from 11th grade in May. Papa was a member of the school board and signed my diploma. He died soon after, at the end of May. Clyde was almost two years old.

In September of 1922, I went away to college in Denton at the College of Industrial Arts (for women). Later it became the Texas State College for Women, and now it is Texas Women's University. I went to school during the regular terms and also in the summer, and graduated in 1925 with a permanent teaching certificate. After a false start teaching high school in Canadian, Texas, for one semester, I taught 4th grade in Greenville the next term, living with Aunt May. Her daughter Willie Cody shared a pull-down bed with me. Cousin Willie, two years older, was teaching at a country school near Greenville and got married that summer to Maynard Cheek.

I left in the fall of 1926 for the Valley. I stayed with Uncle Marvin until I found a place to live.

Mr. and Mrs. Jeffers boarded two teachers. They lived near the school and the Methodist Church. The Wilson Tract School was five miles from Harlingen. I was one of ten teachers. Additions to the school were incomplete when school began. Randolph Harris was one of the carpenters on the project. One of the local men introduced him to me at the Methodist Church.



Clara May Day
1926

Jim started at Texas A&M in the fall of 1926. Mama, Emmett, and L.D. were still working the farm. Then she rented it out to Cousin Benton Reneau, who lived about a mile away (Mama was a Reneau before she married). She and Clyde continued to live on the farm, even after Emmett and L.D. left to attend the University of Texas.

In 1927 Randolph and I were married. We moved to Del Rio and finished out the 20's there.



May and Randolph Harris
Visiting University of Texas Campus,
Austin, Texas
1931

...And After...

Mama and Clyde stayed on the farm until Clyde was 14, when they finally moved two miles into Floyd. Emmett helped Mama buy a house, and Randolph went up there for several weeks to level it and fix the doors and put on a new roof.

Mama kept the farm and rented it to Charlie Turner for several years.



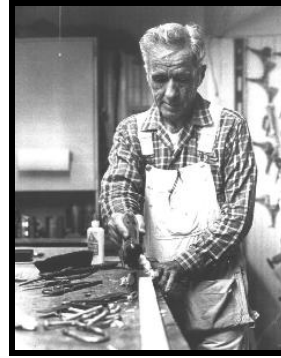
Randolph and May
Del Rio, Texas
1928

In 1946 Mama moved to Del Rio to the house next door to us, where she stayed for the rest of her life, making quilts and talking to Randolph about the old days and visiting with children and grandchildren



Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day with her children
Standing l-r: Clyde, L.D. Jim,
Seated l-r: May, Mary, Emmett
Christmas 1952

Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day passed away July 11, 1965 in Del Rio, Texas. May and Randolph stayed in their home in Del Rio. Randolph continued his work and pastime as a carpenter, having a shop by their home.



Randolph Harris
in his shop
early 1990's



May and Randolph Harris
San Antonio, Texas
circa 1950

May and Randolph celebrated their 70th Wedding Anniversary in 1997.



Randolph and May
September 24, 1997
Del Rio, Texas

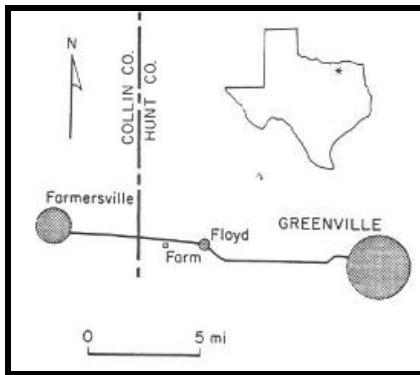
James Reneau Day
"Home on the Farm"

By James Reneau Day, written in 1987

Submitted by Margaret Day

(James Reneau Day was the oldest son of Lorenzo Dow Day and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day.)

My father, Lorenzo Dow Day (a name that he thoroughly detested; he was called Dow Day) was the oldest boy of the second group of children of Grandmother Malinda Day. When He was in his teens he ran away from home in order to go to school. He stayed with his older half brother, John Q. Day, and took some schooling equal to one or two years at a commercial college in Greenville. He didn't want to be a farmer—he wanted to be a banker. But after his education he was unable to find a job so went back to the farm.



Farm of Peter and Malinda Day

His father, Simon Peter Day (called Peter), died in 1899, and at that time half of the land on the old farm between Floyd and Farmersville was divided up among the children, each one getting 20 acres. That was the beginning of our farm. Father acquired another 20 acres, built a one or two room shack and a barn, and started batching and farming it. He eventually bought out Uncle Joe's interest and we children inherited about 11 acres at Grandmother Day's death, making a total of 90 plus acres. We gave one and a half acres for the highway on the north side of our farm.

My mother was born at 88, Kentucky (named because the town was found in 1888), near Glasgow. After teaching school there for a time she came to Texas and stayed with her aunt Ella Reneau, who lived about two or three miles south of Floyd. My father met her at that time and they were married. He was 34 and she was

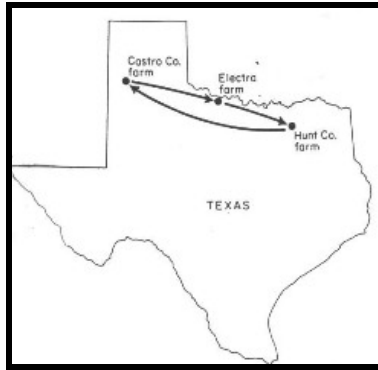
26. They went to St. Louis to the World's Fair on their honeymoon. That must have been in about 1904. They saw and later bought by mail one of Edison's phonographs, a small wind-up machine that played 2 ½ inch diameter by about 8 inch long records which were made of wax and broke easily. The machine had two horns; a small horn about a foot long for general use and a large two or three foot horn with flowers, etc., for company. Our family was special in this regard for few people in the country had an Edison phonograph.

After Mama and Papa were married they moved into the house on the farm where Papa had batched before--coal oil lights, bachelor stove, etc. May was born there. Then the Dallas News started advertising the West Texas area. The XIT Ranch, which covered all of the country from south of Lubbock through Amarillo to the north end of the Panhandle, was being broken up and sold off as farms.

My parents were sold on the possibilities, particularly the amount of land which could be farmed there. Therefore, they rented out their 40 acres and moved west to a 160 acre farm about halfway between Dimmitt and Hereford in Castro County adjoining the remains of the XIT Ranch. I was born there February 4, 1907. My folks did not like that country. It was too cold, too windy, and too dry. This was before irrigation and a farmer only made about two crops out of five (and that mainly feed grains, coffer corn, milo maize, etc.), for which there was not a good market. They were barely able to make a couple of good crops of feed, which the cattle on the adjoining ranch broke down the fence to eat.

In about 1908 they left Castro County and moved to rented land near Electra just south of the Red River. That is where Emmett was born. They lived there about three or four years and then moved back to Hunt County. I was about five or six years old at the time. I remember only one or two incidents at Electra but can remember a few things about moving back to Floyd. At that time a farmer moving very far would go to the railroad company and lease an "immigrant" boxcar. He loaded his furniture, stoves, etc., in one end of the car, then his farm equipment, (plows, cultivators, etc.) in the other end of the car, then his horses, mules, cows, chickens, etc. in the central part near the doors so that he could water and feed his stock. I can remember a few things about unloading the boxcar at Floyd and hauling the stuff out to the farm. The place had gone down a lot during the

years it had been rented out so we had to get busy and start getting everything together again.



Early farming of Dow and Mary Day

Not long after that I started to school at Floyd. My first year (primary) was in a little brown frame school building a couple of blocks northeast of the old depot on the railroad. The next year the new brick two-story school was build on the north side of the railroad just east of Floyd (not the present school).



Lorenzo Dow Day Family
1915

Back l-r: May, James

Middle l-r: Dow Day, Mary Reneau Day

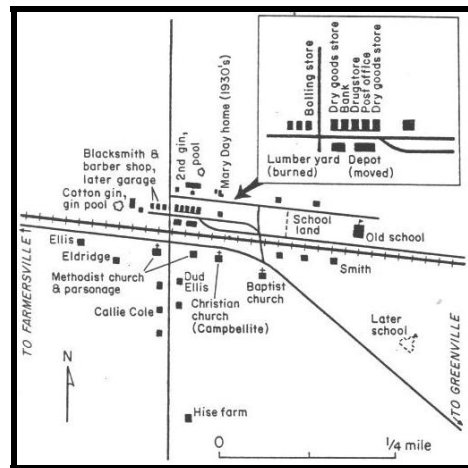
Front l-r: Emmett, Howard, L.D. Jr.

A few years later I can remember Papa saddling Prince (our gray horse) and putting May in front and Howard and me behind and taking us the quarter mile north from our house to the railroad. There we could get off and walk to school on it without getting our feet so muddy going from our house to the railroad. It was about 2 ¼ miles from our house to school.

Later when Emmett started to school (he had had polio) Papa brought a mail hack, a buggy frame with a tin body, back and sides, with a glass door in front which could be lifted up to put the lines through—pretty fully enclosed. He bought a pony, “Dilcy,” that was gray and about 25 or 30 years old, but a fine pony. It had a brand “C” on

its flank and I have often wondered if it came from the Scharbauer “C” Ranch at Midland.

After we got the mail hack and pony, May and Emmett rode in it to school, and we boys, Howard and I and later L. D., walked to school. Floyd school went through the tenth grade (at that time there were 11 grades instead of the present 12). It was only partly accredited. It wasn’t big enough to have a football team, but we played basketball (outside) and baseball. I wasn’t big enough to play basketball, but I did play some baseball. Emmett being crippled, a lot of the kids made fun of him and imposed on him, but Howard really gave them a hard time when he was around.



Floyd in the early 1900's

In our family, Santa Claus always brought a boy a pocket knife at age five, a popgun at seven, and a .22 rifle at about nine. Saturday afternoons we usually took off from work and went to Greenville for groceries, etc. We would usually see Tom Mix or some other cowboy, silent films of course. But one time we boys, Emmett, Howard, and I (L.D. probably wasn’t large enough) did not go to Greenville and elected to go hunting with a .22 rifle. There were a few trees along the creek on the east end of our farm, and there were some woods along the creek north of our farm and railroad which belonged to the Gray family. We found a squirrel in a pecan tree on the Gray land and proceeded to bombard it. We used up about a box of shells, but eventually killed the squirrel. We took it home, very elated that we had got it, and dressed it for Mama to cook for breakfast. She cooked it but I came up sick the next morning and was unable to eat any of it.

On our farm we usually raised about fifty acres of cotton (the money crop), about fifteen acres of

corn to feed the stock, and five or ten acres of oats or wheat. At that time there was no such thing as a combine. We had a McCormack-Deering binder which was horse-drawn and cut about a six-foot swath of oats or wheat and bound it into bundles. We followed behind and stacked the bundles into shocks of about six or eight bundles each. After the shocks had dried out (a month or more) a threshing crew came through and threshed the grain. There were two types of threshing crews. One was called an independent threshing crew. It hired men to do the work and had a cook and cook shack to feed the hands in addition to the threshing machine, which was belt-driven by a small steam engine which also pulled the threshing machine from farm to farm.

The other type of threshing crew was called a "chicken-eating crew" made up of local men and boys from adjoining farms who had to be fed by the woman on whose farm they were working. The way the work went, a number of men had a team and wagon each, with a rack on top of the wagon and a man on the ground with a pitchfork. The man on the ground forked up the bundles of grain from the shocks to the man on the wagon. When they had placed the bundles about six or eight feet high on the wagon, he drove it to the thresher and unloaded the bundles from the wagon into the thresher which threshed the grain. The wheat came out of a chute where it was sacked, and the straw was blown out of a spout into what was called a strawstack. When the strawstack got too big, the spout was moved over a bit to form an adjoining strawstack, or a double stack. That made a low place between the two stacks filled with lighter chaff.

Of course we kids liked to play on the strawstacks, but my father demanded that we wait until after a rain to settle the stack. We couldn't always wait that long so one day L.D., Emmett, Howard, and I played on a new strawstack. L.D. was about four or five years old and of course I was the oldest and thus responsible for all of us. L.D. fell into the chaff between the double stacks and went completely out of sight. I went in after him and got him out. That ended playing on the new strawstack and, of course, we didn't mention it to Papa.

In about 1915 or 1916 Uncle Jim Cody died at their farm about ten muddy miles away from Farmersville. The hearse was black and heavy and was drawn by four black horses. The mud was so heavy that they had to rest the horses periodically. We were in our horse-drawn surrey for two hours and there were a number of other

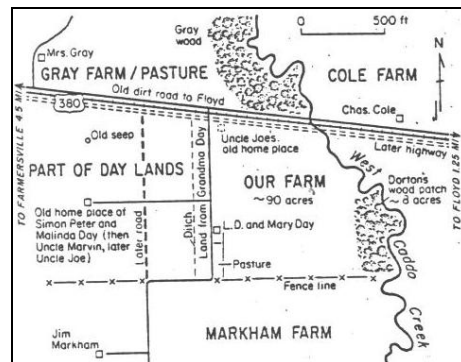
relatives and friends in their buggies, surreys and wagons. At that time men were hired to dig the grave. The funeral house people lowered the casket down on lines and screwed on the top of the pine box containing the casket. Then some of the men took off their coats and grabbed a shovel and started filling the grave. The clods sure thumped loud as they hit the pine box. Things are a bit different now.



Dow and Mary Day Farmhouse near Floyd
1931

We were near the top of the local people by having a fine team of horses, Prince (the gray) and Selim (a beautiful dapple gray), and a fine surrey. Selim broke his leg so we had to shoot him and we got Dan (a bay) to take his place. Then at the advent of automobiles we fell behind as we bought a 1918 Model "T" Ford car, black of course, with islinglass shades in case it rained. Other people got Oldsmobiles, Baby Grand Chevrolets, Packards, etc.

When Uncle Joe lived in his old home place ¼ mile north of us next to the railroad, L.D. was born at home and we children were sent to Uncle Joe's for the night. His house had a second story, a sort of unfinished loft, and we slept up there with cousin Bill. Bill had a bicycle which we tried to ride but it didn't work well on the muddy roads. Harry Cody (another cousin) had a motorcycle which also didn't work well in the mud.



Dow and Mary Day farm near Floyd

I have seen the mud so deep that a farmer had to hook four mules to the front two wheels of the wagon to go to town for a sack of flour. It was not unusual when riding horseback to ride out of the road into a field to go around the worst mud holes in the road. When we got our Model "T" we just stayed home if it rained. If we could get to the railroad (1/4 mile north of our house) we could drive on the Bermuda grass right-of-way till we got to a creek or bridge. Then we would get the car on top of the railroad and drive over the railroad bridge. It was a bit bumpy and we had to be sure no trains were coming. (There were only about two short freight trains per day.) When the dirt roads dried up enough to get over in a car, there were still about three bad mud holes to navigate on the way to town.

Mama did most of the chastising of the children to keep them in line. Each of us boys had a pocket knife, and if anything happened that I needed a whipping, she sent me out to the orchard to cut a good switch off a peach tree. If I didn't get a good one, she would get it herself and give me about twice as much. The other kids would stand around and watch and if anyone laughed, he would be next for the switch. My dad rarely whipped me, but I remember one time I was fighting with Howard and slammed a barn door on him which broke his left arm. Papa used a bridle rein on me to pretty good effect.

In 1919 we went to Kentucky in our 1918 Model "T" Ford car, quite a big trip (900 miles, took nine days, and we camped out each night). We visited Mama's people in 88, Kentucky and nearby places. On our way home we stopped in Mount Ida to visit Aunt Lilly. On our way to Kentucky we had camped near a swamp and the mosquitoes ate us up. We kids had sores all over our arms and necks. When we got to Aunt Lilly's, she went out to some pine trees in the yard and got some resin and put in on our sores. They healed up quickly.

We boys used to make a lot of our spare money by trapping. There wasn't anything but skunks and opossums. Around World War I we could get about \$4 for a good skunk hide and about \$2 for an opossum hide. The first time we caught a skunk, I was about 12 or 13 (Howard was a year and a half younger). We caught the skunk in a steel trap under the barn at the old home place 1/4 mile north of our house. We finally shot it with a .22 and then the fun began. We didn't know how to skin it. We cut the hide all the way from the tail up the stomach to the head and managed to cut into its musk bag. We were the sickest two boys you ever saw after that, and since we

got some on our shoes we were not too popular at school for awhile.

When Howard was twelve, we were both plowing cotton on a Saturday, with a riding cultivator and a walking cultivator. I had been driving the team of horses named Prince (the gray) and Dan (the brown horse). Howard had been driving the team of red mules, Jack (the horse-mule) and Kate (the mare-mule). Howard had taken the harness off the two mules at noon (we were planning on going to Greenville for groceries, etc., that afternoon), when he remembered that Jack had a sore spot on his shoulder. Our father had always insisted on our watching for such sore spots and, when found, putting some Dr. LeGear's Healing Oil on the sore spot. Howard should have taken the bridle and gone to the mule's head, caught or bridled it, and returned it to the harness shed to doctor its shoulder. Instead he took the heating oil and walked up behind the mule. The mule kicked him in the stomach with one foot. Howard lived about 32 hours, dying at the Greenville hospital Sunday night.

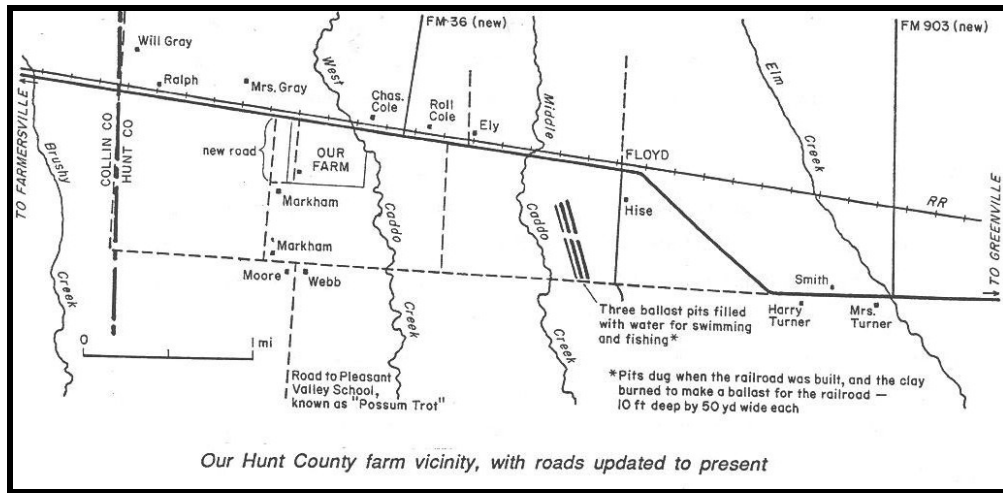
Papa was well thought of in the community. He was president of the local school board, a member of the Odd Fellows and Woodmen of the World, and was active in our local Methodist church at Floyd, being chairman of the Board of Stewards and sometimes in charge of the Sunday School.

Our recreation was to go to Sunday School and church or to go to some program at school. Occasionally some of our Sunday School teachers had a "party" for the class. There was usually ice cream and cake, and we had a great time. Frequently we went to Greenville on Saturday afternoon for groceries. We kids would take in a W.S. Hart or Tom Mix movie, silent of course. One time we started home from Greenville along toward sundown in the Model "T" Ford. I think it was after Papa's death and I was driving. The road was paved about five or six mile west of Greenville-then there were about four or five miles of black mud. We hit a terrible rainstorm before we reached the end of the pavement. We made about 1/2 mile from there before we got stuck in the mud. I don't think anyone got through that night. I know the Farmersville football team spent the night in Haines Smith's barn. We pulled off our shoes and walked about 1/4 mile through the mud to Mr. Harry Turner's house. The Turners belonged to the Methodist church we attended, and they let us spend the night there. The next morning I walked home and brought our two mules back to

pull the Ford home. When we kids drove the Model "T" Ford to Floyd to school or church at night, we had to be careful coming home in the dark. The Model "T" had a magneto instead of a battery and we had to crank it. The lights ran off of the magneto so that the faster the engine ran, the brighter the lights got. When preparing to go through a mudhole, we stopped short of it, got out, and decided the best route through it. Then we turned off the lights to keep from burning them out, revved up the motor, put it in low gear, and gave it all she had. Usually that got us through and it gave us a thrill. If the lights burned out, it meant driving the rest of the way home in the dark. We always carried a flashlight, and someone held it so the driver could see the road. It was a bit touchy when we

turned off the main road to go to our house because we had to cross a small bridge with no railings. The one with the flashlight got out to light the bridge as the driver drove across.

We didn't carry a spare wheel and tire. If we had a flat, which was very common, we jacked up the wheel, took the tire tool and pried the tire off the wheel, took the inner tube out, found the hole in it, and patched it with Cold Patch. Then we put the inner tube back in the tire and put the tire and tube back on the wheel and pumped the tire up with a tire pump to 60 pounds pressure. As I remember, the front wheels had 30" by 3" tires and the rear tires were 30" by 3 1/2". Our tongues were hanging out after pumping up a tire. It was remarkable how fast we could repair a tire and tube on a dirt road with a big rainstorm heading our way.



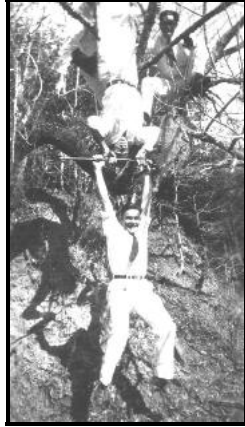
James Reneau Day
"Geology in the Rough"
By James Reneau Day, written in 1987
Submitted by Margaret Day

(If you are not familiar with geology terms, there are some definitions at the end of James' article.)

When I finished school at Floyd, I wanted to attend Greenville High for my last year of high school work. However, Floyd school was not fully accredited and Greenville wanted to set me back two grades or two years. I solved that by going to Wesley College just south of Greenville, a two-year Methodist school. They took me in and I was fully accredited upon graduation from high school. I commuted back and forth to Wesley in a 1918 Model "T" Ford

car (the wind-up variety), and hauled two girls from Floyd with me to cut down on the expense. Upon graduation from Wesley College, I was able to enter Texas A&M with no problems except money, of course.

During our childhood and youth, Papa and Mama encouraged all of us to save some money toward our education expense. First, we usually bought three or four pigs in the spring and fattened them up to kill for meat that winter. Usually one pig was smaller than the others so Papa gave it to me, or whoever was due, and for the pig we had to feed and water all of the pigs until they were slaughtered. Then Papa weighed my pig and paid me the going rate per pound. As I remember, I got \$9.24 for my pig. That was my first savings.



Texas A&M freshman, J.R. Day (bottom)
College Days
1926

As we got older, when we were not busy in our own fields hoeing or picking cotton, we could hire out to a neighbor and could keep all we could make. Also in picking cotton at home, each of us got a bonus of the amount when we first picked 100 pounds of cotton, 150, 200, 250, 200, 250, etc. I think 350 was my maximum.



Barns behind the farmhouse
1931

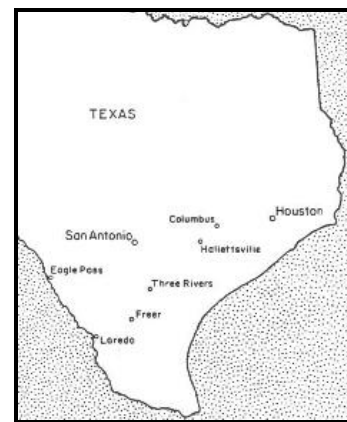
All of that money added together equaled \$300 when I went to A&M. I worked my way through and at graduation I owed May (my sister) \$250. so my education cost me \$550.

I graduated from A&M in June of 1929 with a BS in geology, and immediately took the train to Houston, where I had a good-paying job (\$150/month) with Rycade Oil Corporation, a sister company to Amerada, in the Esperson Building. I lived in Houston from June to October, 1929, during which time I did some surface geology near Lufkin in East Texas. My first field work was south of Lufkin mapping the outcrop of a very coarse sandstone (rice sandstone) called Corrigan Sandstone. I spent about a week doing that work and what I remember most was that I had checked out a 1924 Dodge coupe and failed to check out my

tools. Later I had a flat and found that I only had a lug wrench for the de-mountable rims on the wheels—no jack. I found a freshly graded place on the road where the ditch was about 1 ½ feet lower than the ground level. I put a board on top the ground by the ditch and dropped my right front wheel off in the ditch. That left the tire hanging in the ditch so I changed the de-mountable rim and tire and then back up to get all four tires on the ground again. Try it sometime.

Later I spent about a week in Eagle Pass with L.W. MacNaughton, my boss (later of DeGolyer & MacNaughton) on Rycade's Chittim Lease. We ran some elevations on some drilling wells on the Chittim Ranch about fifteen miles east of Eagle Pass.

Still Later, Rycade and Humble Oil Company were checking some crooked holes at Nash Salt Dome and at Humble Oil Field north of Houston. I was working with a Humble Petroleum engineer who was running a crooked hole measuring devise in the wells (taking a picture of a level at different depths in the wells and then plotting it up to see how crooked the holes were). My job was to climb about two girts above the Fouble Board and mark the drill pipe so as to keep it straight at the rig floor. Needless to say, we found the holes extremely crooked, which partly explained why Rycade had only a few producing wells out of 56 wells drilled on the Wisdom Lease on the Nash Salt Dome.

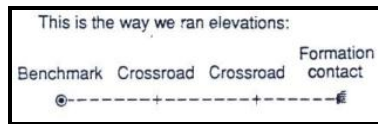


1929-30 work locations

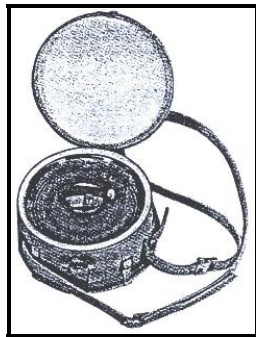
In about November of 1929 I got my first company automobile. It was a 1929 (unheated) Model "A" Ford roadster with cellophane curtains in case it rained. They were too much trouble so I carried a yellow slicker under the seat and if it rained, I put on the slicker and kept going. At that time I was transferred to San Antonio and our office was in the Milam

Building, the first air-conditioned building in San Antonio. Four of us geologists were doing joint surface mapping: A.E. Oldham and Willis Clark for Amerada Petroleum Corporation, and L.W. MacNaughton and I for Rycade Oil Company. We mapped contacts between various formations south of San Antonio and between Columbus to the east and Laredo on the west. I stayed in about every small town across that area and at a few ranches in Duval County.

My first mapping was in Atascosa County south of San Antonio where I mapped the contact between the Carrizo, a very coarse sandstone above the Mt. Selman Formation, which was an iron-rich shale. The way we mapped was to use county maps (1 inch = 1000varas); drive all roads; look for cuts in roads and creeks and map where the formation crossed the road, creek, etc. For elevations we used an Anaroid Barometer called an altimeter which was circular, about 8 or 10 inches across by 6 inches deep. It was only accurate to about 204 feet. We would check into a railroad depot where we had an elevation or possibly a USGS benchmark if we could find one (we had maps showing where they were and a pamphlet giving all elevations).



We took a reading on the altimeter at the benchmark (actually several readings and averaged them). The altimeter was set on the front seat of the car, and to read it I put my head at the same place on the steering wheel each time.



Altimeter with leather carrying case

After the reading at the benchmark, we drove to the first crossroad to take another reading, then to the next crossroad for another reading, then to the formation contact that needed at elevation to take another reading. Then we drove back to the second crossroad for a reading, to the first

crossroad for a reading, and back to the benchmark for a reading.

If the benchmark read 542, first crossroad 560, second crossroad 500, formation 488, second crossroad 520, first crossroad 590, and benchmark 582, it showed that the barometer was changing in the same direction and it was possible to arrive at an elevation for the formation contact.

The best time of day for taking readings was early in the morning or late in the afternoon. Around noon or in the afternoon with a thunderstorm forming, the barometer changed so erratically that it was useless to try to run an elevation. Any time the figures didn't add up, they were thrown out and tried again later.

The outcrop of the Carrizo Sandstone formed a sandy area with little post oak trees and practically no roads, and trying to cross it you were liable to get stuck in the sand. Also, the local bootleggers hung out in that sandy area and you had to watch out for them. There were not too many rattlesnakes in the area, but you had to walk across pastures to get to outcrops and frequently ran into cattle. The Herefords usually didn't give trouble but the Brahmas were mean and might chase you. I found that the best way to handle them was to charge them and get them to running away from me.

Later I worked farther south and mapped the contact of the Oakville Sandstone above the Guidan Formation from around Oakville and Three Rivers southwest into Duval County and around San Diego and Freer. The Oakville Sandstorm weather to hard sandstone and capped mesas, particularly in Duval County, and the rattlesnakes were thick as flies along the sandstone outcrops. I have killed as many as half a dozen before noon in the spring. I stayed at ranches in Duval County and the ranchers told me that the rattlesnakes were particularly bad in the spring about March or April when the days started warming up. The snakes come out of their dens to lie on hot sandstone rocks to warm. They were nearly blind when they first came out and would strike at every noise. The ranchers said a cow would be walking along a trail and a rattlesnake would strike at the noise and bit the cow in the foot or leg. A cow is much smarter than a person. After being bitten by a snake, she will lay down and not move for a day or two till all of the poison has worked off, whereas a man will run and pump the poison through his system much sooner. After a cow has been bitten, a knot will swell up on her leg so that later she will

have to be sold as a canner or cutter rather than as regular beef.

After my work in Duval County, I went to Columbus and worked along the Colorado River to the north and southwest to around Hallettsville. I had traded in the 1929 Model "A" Ford after putting 30,000 miles on it for a 1930 Chevrolet coupe, green in color and closed in from the weather. It was a big improvement, and I was really proud of it.

One day I was working an area northwest of Columbus and late in the afternoon I decided to drive an old unused road to the west and hoped to connect to a gravel road that would take me back to town. As I went west on the road, the weeds got higher and I hit a slick place or two that I hoped I wouldn't have to go back across. Then all of a sudden I came on a small creek about three or four feet deep with sheer sides and a little water running through the bottom and stood my Chevie on its nose in the creek. I got out and saw some oil on the water which scared me, but it was only some off the engine block. Everything else was okay; I was just in the creek. I looked at it and thought, "I'll never get out of here." I walked about a mile to the nearest house and found an old Negro man who was sick. I borrowed an axe and went back to my car.

It was now after dark and pretty cold and misting rain. I took my shovel and started working down the sides to the creek and chopped up some fenceposts to build a little bridge in the bottom. I worked till I got tired, then slept till I got cold, then worked some more. Along a little after sunup, the old man came down to see how I was doing. I had just about got both banks worked down for crossing and with a little help I finally fired up the car and got across. I took the old man home and then went to Columbus. I got there about 9 a.m. with nothing to eat since the last noon sandwich. I got something to eat and went to bed. I didn't do any more work that day. In January 1931 the Depression set in and my job ended. I had to turn in my Chevrolet, pay off my \$150 expense advance, and start looking for work. It was a real letdown.

I worked at the AAPG (American Association of Petroleum Geologists) Convention at San Antonio running slides for the speakers. I told them I was experienced, and then learned how to show the slides. If a light burned out or anything else happened I would have been in trouble. However, Dr. LaHee of Sun Oil Company commended me and another geologist for our work.

During the convention I was fortunate to get a job from a San Antonio Oil man to go to the Texas Panhandle near Tulia with another geologist, Leroy Fish. He was to carry the rod and I was to be instrument man to make a plane table map of an area in the canyon south of what is now Palo Duro State Park, in Brisco and Swisher Counties. We were furnished with a 1929 or 1930 Model "A" Ford, pickup, tent, groceries, etc., and went into the canyon to camp out for about 2 ½ months. We were to be furnished with a cook, but didn't have one the first month. Leroy and I took turns cooking.



l-r: Leroy Fish and J.R. Day
1931

The plane table job was based on an oil seep which was near where Tule Canyon ran into the Prairie Dog Fork of the Red River approximately 20 miles east of Tulia. The canyon was almost 1000 feet deep and we were mapping some sandstones in the walls of the Canyon which required climbing up and down the canyon walls. The way "detailed" plane table work is done is as follows:

The instrument man sets up his plane table on a high place from which he can see in all directions, levels the plane table and orients it with a compass, and then sketches in creeks, roads, etc. The rod man carries a 15 foot stadia rod with each foot marked off in black and white colors. He finds the formation to be mapped, signals the instrument man, then holds the rod on the formation while the instrument man lines up the alidade (telescope), levels the instrument, and makes a reading to see how much higher or lower the shot point is than the instrument location (on which you have an elevation.) By a series of rod locations on the outcrop and different instrument locations the area is mapped and tied back to the beginning location for both elevation and accuracy of the map. Over a period of time the area to be mapped is covered

and has elevations on the mapped bed which can then be contoured to see if any structure is indicated. We mapped some of the area outside the canyon and found small playa lakes on about each section of land. That is the beginning of the drainage system of the "Llano Estacado."

The formations in the canyon were: about 100 feet or more of the High Plains Tertiary caliche which formed a sheer bluff in most places, with the Ogallala water sand at its base, underlain by about 600 feet of interbedded sandstones and shales which were Triassic and upper Permian in age. Below was a massive gypsum (weathered anhydrite) which was called Blaine and is about San Andres in age. We mapped on three levels: (1) base of High Plains Tertiary, (2) a sandstone in the Triassic, and (3) on top of Blaine Gypsum.



J.R. Day carrying plane table
1931

One day we were tying our traverse back to the beginning and had to walk several miles across deep gypsum canyons, etc., and of course it started raining, just a heavy drizzle. I put my raincoat over the plane table to keep our map dry and proceeded to get wet. Then some water got in the compass on the alidade, so I couldn't use it for finding North. That require back-sighting on every set-up and about twice as much work.

We had finally gotten a camp cook, a cowboy named White, and he was a good cook. We were camped on a creek which ran into the main canyon and had asked the cook to drive down the river about four miles and then up Tule Canyon to pick us up about sundown. Since it was cloudy and rainy, he got confused on the time and drove up Tule Canyon before we got there. He then decided we had walked back to camp so he drove back (remember, there were no roads—we used the creeks and river and crossed the stream of water about every quarter mile and tried to avoid the quicksand. In the meantime we had finished our tie back to Tule Canyon and

waited for the pickup. It started getting dark and we knew we could never get back to camp the way we had come, so we started walking down Tule Canyon, getting madder by the minute. We had walked about five miles down the canyon, crossing the running water about every quarter mile, before we finally met White with his pickup on the second trip. We got to camp about 9:00 or 10:00 that night and were pretty worn out.

While doing the plane table mapping job we didn't see many animals (no snakes, a couple of coyotes, a few rabbit, and some wild cattle). I think we only saw a couple of cowboys on the "J.A." (John Adair) Ranch. We got stuck in the quicksand a number of times and used this method of getting out. We had a block and prize pole in the back of the pickup. We took an ax and cut some cedar brush, prized up a wheel, and put brush under it. After all wheels were firmly on cedar brush, we built a runway of cedar brush several lengths of the pickup. Then we fired up the motor and got it warmed up so that it wouldn't die. Then we put it in gear and gave her all she had. With luck when we reach the end of the runway she would keep going.

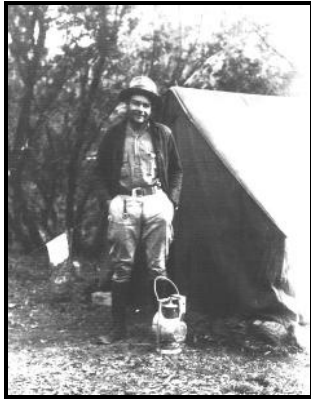
After awhile our battery went down so that we had to crank the pickup, and as Model "A's" were apt to do, we broke the front spring so that we couldn't get the crank into the motor. Then we had to jack up a rear wheel and crank the motor with the wheel.

We had two or three camps in the canyon. The first one was on Tule Creek. The Ogallala water sand at the base of the High Plains Tertiary (which is the water reservoir for all the plains) cropped out in the canyons and springs seeped into the canyon and caused running water in the creeks and river. The water was good fresh water till it got to the Blaine Gypsum. Then the water became gyp-water (similar to Epsom Salts). In all cases we drove up the canyon till we were above the gypsum outcrop to make camp where we had fresh water.

One time it rained enough that considerable water ran down the creeks and river. We were driving up the river toward our camp on Cedar Creek when we got stuck in quicksand. It was late in the afternoon and we were not too far from camp, so we just left the pickup stuck in the quicksand overnight. We had heard so many tales about quicksand that the next morning we didn't know whether we would find the pickup or not. As it turned out the pickup only sank down to the running boards in the quicksand. So we jacked it up, put cedar brush under it, built a

runway of cedar brush and got it out without undue difficulty.

Eventually we completely wore out the heels and soles of our boots so we had to go to Clarendon, about twenty miles to the northeast, to get the boots repaired. It started raining and we had to put on chains to get there. When we did get there it was about dark; however, we were able to get a boot repair man to come down to his shop and repair the boots. In the meantime we got a good West Texas steak dinner at the café.



J.R.(Jim) Day
At camp

We started back to our camp in the canyon about 10:00 p.m. that night. The roads had dried up some so we were getting along pretty well till we came to a creek we had to ford. It was a typical flat-bottomed creek for that area, being about ten yards or so wide and the muddy water running down it looked pretty bad. I got out and took a shovel to feel my way across the stream to see how deep the water was. It was a little over a foot deep so we drove across it and eventually reached our camp.

After we finished our plane table mapping job in Palo Duro Canyon, we returned to San Antonio. I attended ROTC camp at Ft. Sam Houston for a couple of weeks, helped Amerada run some elevations near Pearsall, and did a bit of core drilling before work played out in about June of 1931. Then I went back home to the farm near Floyd in Hunt County. Since they didn't have much of a car there, I bought a second hand 1928 Ford Model "A" coupe, painted it by hand and had the motor overhauled, which left me with a pretty good car to search for work.

I stayed until February, 1932, when I got a plane table mapping job at San Antonio. It was for Duval Oil Company and covered an area in Duval and McMullen Counties about 100 miles south of San Antonio from Oakville-Three

Rivers area to San Diego, Texas. I stayed in Duval Oil Company's bunkhouse on their lease five miles south of Freer and twenty miles west of San Diego.

I was running the plane table again and Leroy Fish was the rod man. We started mapping the outcrop of the Oakville Sandstone and running elevations on the base of the Oakville sandstone and top of Guidan Shale. We started our map around Duval's camp and worked back northeast through the south part of McMullen County and western Live Oak County to near George West. While mapping we walked along the outcrop of the Oakville Sandstone which was one den after another of rattlesnakes. I guess we saw and killed more rattlesnakes than in all my other field work.

I remember climbing a little Oakville Sandstone hill to set up my plane table. I had the plane table over my shoulder, the alidade hanging on my other side in its box, a pair of field glasses and my lunch, plus a canteen full of water. As I climbed over a big rock I met a rattlesnake sunning on top of it and I looked him in the eye at about two feet. He could have struck me anywhere from the waist to my head, but fortunately he was as scared as I was and he ran one way and I fell back the other way.

I always heard how far a rattlesnake could strike so I found a real small one that was only about three feet long. I had a stick about five feet long so I played with him to see just how far he could strike. It turned out that he could only strike about two-thirds of his length. He still had to have one coil on the ground as a base to strike from.

We were working near San Caja Mesa in southern McMullen County when we saw some men working at the edge of the mesa. We started over when a peg-legged man fired a rifle over our heads. We stopped. He came over and we introduced ourselves and told him what we were doing. He was one of a group of men from Three Rivers who had read J. Frank Dobie's book *Coronado's Children*, in which legend had it that Spanish soldiers had been jumped by outlaws and had buried twenty jack loads of silver in a cave under the side of San Caja Mesa. The men had found a cave under the side of the mesa and had dug back about 80 feet but found no silver. The peg-legged man took us up to the mesa. It was an excellent outcrop of the Oakville Sandstone over the Guidan Formation. Previously I had obtained a fellowship to take graduate work at Texas A&M beginning with

field work in Webb County in June 1932. It was a three-way deal with USGS, Texas Board of Water Engineers, and Texas A&M College, working for Dr. Lonsdale, who later was with the Bureau of Economic Geology. I had to quit my plane table job the first of June and meet Dr. Lonsdale at Laredo. We mapped the area adjoining the Rio Grande from Laredo north about 80 or 100 miles and the results were later published in a Water Supply Paper on which Dr. Lonsdale was generous enough to carry me as a junior author. That was my only publication. I was issued a Model "A" Ford 2-door car with TEXAS BOARD OF WATER ENGINEERS in large letters on the side of it. They only furnished the car. I had to buy gasoline for it, wash and grease it, etc., all to come out of the \$200 per month I was to receive for the three months of field work.

I was working alone most of the time but occasionally there were four of us: Dr. Lonsdale, Dr. Sayre of USGS Washington, Miss Julia Gardner, a paleontologist with USGS Washington, and myself. Miss Gardner told me she had three drawers of fossils in Washington from the Bigford Formation that I collected for her.

The four of us were out on a ranch in Webb County northeast of Laredo when we came to a Mexican. Miss Gardner had studied Spanish so she was trying to talk to the Mexican. I noticed that Dr. Lonsdale had a smile on his face and after Miss Gardner had struggled through several minutes of Spanish with the Mexican, Dr. Lonsdale said, "It sure is a nice day, isn't it?" (in English). The Mexican said, "Yes, it sure is." I stayed on three or four different ranches: the Espejo Ranch, the Chupadero Ranch, and others. One day while I was at the Espejo Ranch I was working the Rio Grande and had to drive to the river to the abandoned Adobe Ranch house in order to go further north and east. I was working northeast of the Adobe Ranch house and near sundown I started to the old ranch house on my way home to the Espejo Ranch. As I neared the old Adobe Ranch, four of the toughest Mexican men you have ever seen drew their horses across the road in front of me and had their rifles across the pommels of their saddles. I stopped. They wanted to know if I had permission to be there. I did from the owner in Laredo. They could not speak good English and I knew only a few words of Spanish. However, they made it plain that they didn't want me there, to get out and stay out. The letters on the side of my car made it look official.

I got them to agree to let me come back one more day to finish my work in the area. They were running liquor over the river to the Texas side where a black low-wing monoplane picked it up and took it to San Antonio. If those men had wanted to, they could have killed me and drug me across the river and no one would have missed me for several days. Needless to say, I was awfully happy to finish my work in that area and move on to other land.

The surface mapping in Webb County was for three months (Jun, July, and August, 1932) and it was plenty hot, over 100 most days. After that I registered for graduate work at Texas A&M from September 1932 through mid-February 1933, when Amerada rehired me to come to San Angelo and become an oil scout.

I scouted West Texas and Southeast New Mexico for Amerada from February 1933 to 1935. I lived in San Angelo and scouted wells and made scout checks in Artesia, New Mexico, Midland, Texas, and San Angelo, Texas, then typed out my report and got it on the 9:00 p.m. train each Friday. It kept me pretty busy. Amerada moved their office from San Angelo to Midland in November, 1934, and Edna and I were married at Christmas, 1934.



Jim and Edna Day
1934

I scouted out of Midland until June, 1935, when I was sent to Northwest Kansas for three months of surface work. When I returned from that, I was moved to the Amerada Monument Camp about twelve miles southwest of Hobbs, where we lived until June, 1937. I was on about 100 drilling wells in the Monument Field during that time.

When we got back to Midland in June 1937, there was no place to rent, so we eventually built a house and got into it in about November, 1937. I had finally gotten a raise to about \$225 per month. I stayed in Midland till the fall of 1942,

working on maps, running samples, and sitting on drilling wells. Then I entered the army, first at Camp Tyson, Tennessee, Barrage Balloons, then to Los Angeles, then to Omaha, Nebraska to a motor school. I went back to Los Angeles and then to Camp Custer, Michigan. I spent about a year with the MP's doing basic training, then went to Detroit with some Italian prisoners of war until October, 1945, when I got back to Midland.

Amerada didn't know what to do with me, so they sent me to the Black Hills of South Dakota to do surface geology and some sections. Amerada had done extensive geophysical work in South Dakota south of the Black Hills and were drilling some wildcat wells but were having difficulty correlating the wells. It was about 4500 feet from the surface to top of granite. Therefore, they wanted me to go to the Black Hills and measure and sample the section of rocks from granite which was exposed in the central part of the Black Hills about fifteen miles west of Rapid City up to the top of the Greenhorn Limestone in Upper Cretaceous which outcropped north of Rapid City.

I drove my personal 1936 Chevrolet to Tulsa and stored it there and picked up a company Chevrolet. Edna was with me, of course. We drove from Tulsa to Rapid City and stayed there for about three weeks. Later we stayed at Hot Springs, South Dakota. I had a copy of a field trip guidebook with maps of the Black Hills, so I spent two or three days getting acquainted with the geology and deciding where to make my cross sections. I decided to make my first one generally along the road west of Rapid City to Custer, then a second one about ten or fifteen miles south from near Hot Springs to the east, and if time allowed, a third cross section from southwest of Hot Springs to the west into Wyoming.

I decided to do something I have never done before but I'm sure someone had done: starting at top of granite I was to measure the section and take a sample every five feet. I had a hunting bag on my back to carry the samples in and each five-foot sample I put into a sample bag like those used on drilling wells. Each night when I got back to the hotel, I looked at the samples collected that day, describe them, and plot them on a 1"=100' well log. Instead of plotting the samples from the top down like drilling in a well, I plotted them from the bottom up and assigned them a depth later. The work was a little dangerous because I climbed around on cliffs

and could fall and no one would find me for awhile. Also, it started getting cold.

The most difficult part was to find continuous outcrops without leaving out parts of the formations. Immediately above the granite was the Pasapa Black Limestone of Mississippian age. I don't remember exactly, but it was probably 200 feet thick and formed some steep bluffs. Above it was a series of shales and limestones of Pennsylvanian age, of which the main formation was the Minnekahta. The geological section was as follows:

Pierre Shale - black upper Cretaceous shale
Greenhorn Limestone - a thin bed of soft, marly limestone
Niobrara Shale - gray to dark marly shale
Dakota Sandstone - massive sandstone, good reservoir bed to west
Lakota Sandstone - more bedded sandstone in Lower Cretaceous
Sundance Sandstone - a gray sandstone of Jurassic age
Spearfish Shale - red shale (called Devil's racetrack) of Triassic age
Minnekahta Formation - mainly bedded limestone of Pennsylvanian age
Opeche Shale
Minnelusa Formation - 461 ft of bedded limestones and shales of Pennsylvanian age
Pahasapa Limestone - black, weathering, massive limestone of Mississippian age
Englewood Shale - thin shale of Silurian age
Deadwood Sandstone - 275 ft of coarse sandstone of Cambrian age
Granite - Precambrian age

There were fairly good roads over most of the area and I could drive to most outcrops. The main difficulty was the national park south of Custer where there was a herd of buffalo. The females and their calves were relatively gentle and gave very little trouble but one pasture had some old buffalo bulls in it and when the ranger gave me a key to the pasture, he told me to be very careful and never let a bull get between me and my car. I did let one get between me and the car once but finally maneuvered by way back to it.

The work was rather interesting but lonely, working by myself all the time. But when I got two sections finished and logged up for comparison, I looked at samples of an old cable tool well that penetrated most of the section and the logs correlated very well. However, it was December with about a foot of snow on the ground so I was ready to head back to Texas.

By then it was pretty evident that I needed to get another job, and I was fortunate to get one with a

nice raise to \$300 with Pan American Production Company of Houston (not the Stanoling-Pan American). It was a good small company and I was to open a geological office in Abilene, Texas. I was District Geologist with about five helpers, working alongside a landman and his assistant. We reported directly to Houston to headquarters and it worked very well. In five years we found over 100 million barrels of oil and my salary increased to \$1000 per month.

At that time (1951) I was slated to go to Houston where I didn't want to go, so I resigned from the company and joined a small company, Statex Exploration Company, a subsidiary of a California company. It looked like a wonderful opportunity for all of us but due to the death of our president and a conflict of personalities, I finally left them after seven years, in 1958. I worked a year for a man who was pretty difficult, Fred Fuhman. Then I bit the bullet and started working for myself, doing mostly well sitting on drilling wells.

Here is what it means for a geologist to sit on a drilling well (at least, this was the way I did it). First the geologist must have the following equipment: an automobile in good running condition capable of going anywhere day or night (that means having two jacks, tire tools, tow chain, shovel, geological pick, pliers, screwdriver, etc., plus food that doesn't need refrigeration, mainly canned potted meats, crackers, cookies, pickles, and fruit, usually apples). I also had a 100-foot extension light cord, pans for water, sample dishes, coffee pot, and Petot tube (for measuring gas).

Other equipment included a 12-power Spencer binocular microscope with carrying box, rotary engineer's fluoroscope using ultraviolet light, goose-necked light to use in looking at samples, folding bridge table, and bedroll consisting of one quilt, one blanket, and a pillow.

I had an adequate number of sample bags in case the contractor ran out of them—he was supposed to furnish them. On a 5000-foot well it took 500+ bags, one for each ten feet plus more for 5 foot or less samples through the pay section. I carried ¼ lb candy bags to make a cut of all samples caught on the well and had some core boxes for cuts of any cores takes.

I did a lot of well sitting for Tom Brown Drilling Company. He called to tell me the name of the particular well, such as TOM BROWN, Elliott #1, located Gaines County, Texas, located 660' from north line and 660' from west line of Section 168, Block G. WTRR Survey. He told me when he was to start drilling the well and the

roads to follow to get to the location; which drilling rig was drilling the well and the name and telephone number of the tool pusher, and (if they had a radio on the well) how to telephone the rig.



Article from Midland Reporter-Telegram, 1959

He would then tell me the names of the other companies who had an interest in the well. There were frequently four or five or more companies involved. I called each of them to get the names and both company and home telephone numbers of each. Usually each one wanted to be called in case of any core or drill stem test, or when the well was logged by an electrical logging company.

Tom Brown then told me how deep the well was to be drilled, any formations to be cored, and what formation to be drill stem tested; also which contractors he wanted to use for diamond coring, for drill stem testing, and which electrical logging company to use.

After I had prepared my little book with the well name, location, elevation, and the name and telephone number of each of the people to be notified. I alerted the service companies, core drilling, core lab, DST and electric log companies. I got electric logs and prepared maps of the area to be drilled. If it was in a field, I had to have logs and correlate them, and all completion information of all nearby wells so

that I could anticipate the structural position of the well and where we might expect the pay to be cored and drill stem tested. If it was a wildcat well, I got information on all nearby wells. All of the above was free work in getting ready for the well sitting job.

I called the tool pusher to tell him where to catch samples and where to keep drilling time. Most wells have a geograph which keeps one-foot drilling time from start to finish of well and these charts are changed each twelve hours by the driller. In addition I had the driller keep 5-foot or 10-foot drilling time through certain parts of the well.

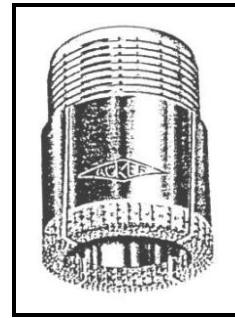


Drilling rig geograph

I also asked the driller to call me when the well got a certain depth—usually a few hundred feet above the coring point—so that I would have adequate time to drive to the location, plot up the drilling time on a strip log I had previously prepared, and look at the samples in order to correlate the well with others nearby to estimate the structural position of the well and the coring point. Then I actually picked the coring point. We cored the Queen Sand on a number of wells, and on those we got a very distinct drilling break—hard anhydrite to soft sand. As soon as we got that break (which meant drilling two or three feet into it) I shut down drilling and had the driller circulate out the samples. On a 5000-foot hole this took one or two hours. During that time I called the mud engineer to come to the well and get the mud into condition for coring, and also called the Diamond Coring Company to come to the well (he had previously had the core barrel trucked to the location). He brought the diamond bit with him; it cost several thousand dollars, so he was very careful with it.

I also called Tom Brown to tell him how deep we were, how the well correlated to others nearby, and to advise him that I had called the core man and the mud man. I called each of the contributors who had contributed acreage or

money to the well and told them the structural position of the well, the core point, when it was estimated we would start coring, and the estimated time we would have the coring finished and have the core pulled out of the hole, in case they wanted to see the core. They all wanted to be notified, but very rarely would anyone actually come out to the location to see the core.



Standard diamond core bit

From the time we found the top of the Queen Sand it took about two hours to circulate out and check the mud, then about two hours to pull the drill pipe and bit out of the hole, about an hour to make up the core barrel and core bit, and about two more hours to go back in the hole ready to start coring, roughly seven hours if everything worked out well, which seldom happened.

Depending on how long a core we were to take, we would be anywhere from three or four hours to a day or two coring the Queen Sand. When we got near the end of the coring, I called Core Lab at Midland to come to the location to pick up the core and take it to their laboratory for analysis. I told them the approximate time we would have the core out of the well and for them to arrive at that time or before. Of course, I gave them directions to get to the well.

Assuming everything went well and Core Lab arrived on time, the core engineer and the driller and his crew took the recovered core out of the core barrel and laid it out in order on the pipe rack. When it was all laid out, the man from Core Lab and I measured it to see if we got full recovery of the number of feet of formation cored, and if not, tried to estimate where we missed any of it.

I had him chip me a cut of each foot of the core, which I put in a specially prepared core box. I looked at the core under the microscope and fluoroscope to see what the formation was and whether it had any shows of oil and where. Previously I had made a rough description of the

core when it was first laid out and all the mud rubbed off of it.

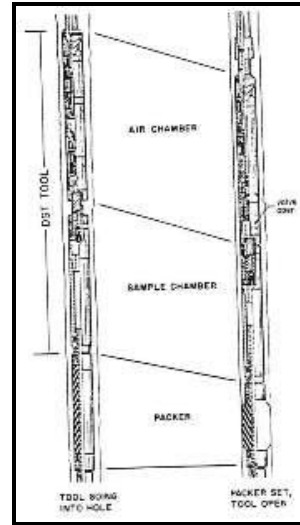
The man from Core lab loaded the core in his refrigerated truck and hauled it to Midland for analysis. The core engineer laid down the core barrel, took off the bit, and went home. I looked at the core chips and then called Tom Brown. If it was a field well and the core looked good enough, the crew prepared to lay down drill pipe preparatory to running casing in the hole and completing the well.

On a wildcat well or if we were unsure of the amount of pay cored, we had to wait for the core analysis from Core Lab. If we were planning to drill deeper, we ran a drill bit back in the hole to deepen. If a wildcat, we might want to run a drill stem test (DST). If we planned to DST, we went back into the hole with drill pipe and had the mud man condition the mud in the hole for the DST. I called the drill stem tester to bring his equipment out to the location for the test. I told him where and how to find the well location, how deep we were, how much anchor pipe to bring, where to set the packer, whether we wanted a single packer or a double packer, and what safety equipment to bring.

Since some operators, for safety's sake, did not want to open the drill stem test tool till daylight, we made estimates of how long it would take to pull drill pipe out of the hole, make up the test tool, and return the drill pipe and test tool to the bottom of the hole. It took roughly two hours to pull the drill pipe, about an hour to make up the test tool, and about two hours to run the drill pipe back in the hole, so we elected to condition the mud and hole around midnight, then pull out the drill pipe, make up the test tool, and rerun the drill pipe and test tool back in the hole, and be prepared to set the packer and open the test tool about daylight.

The normal way a DST is run is to set the tail pipe on the bottom of the hole and let part of the weight of the drill pipe inflate the formation packer on the top of the Queen Sand or some anhydrite string just above the Queen Sand. The test tool is then opened. Because the drill pipe has only air in it, the formation pressure will force whatever fluid (oil, gas, or water) into the drill pipe. We usually opened the tool for about five minutes to be sure it has opened properly, then shut in the tool for one hour to get a reading on the chart of the initial formation pressure. We then opened the tool again for one to two hours, or less if the well flowed; then shut the tool in for two to three hours and pulled the drill pipe

out of the hole to see just what was recovered on the DST.



A formation tester used for drill stem testing.

The procedure takes from six to ten hours, nearly all day, and I call all the interested people about the time of the test so they can witness it. After the test I call all of them to tell them the results of the test.

Assuming we get oil on the test and decide to run casing, I call Schlumberger or another electric logging company to come to the location to log the well, and call all the interested people to say that we are going to log the well and when. When the logger gets to the well I meet the engineer and give him all of the information about the well. I tell him what type of logs to run and how much detail log to run and where.

If everything goes well it takes from three to ten hours to finish logging. Then I have the engineer run off several field prints of the log and give him the names of each of the companies and individuals who want logs, how many they want, and their addresses, so Schlumberger can send the final prints of the log to each of the people involved.

Then I pack up all of my equipment, get all of the geologist records, drilling time, and samples, and take the samples to scout check where they are cut for each company concerned.

I go home and get some sleep. I prepare the logs with all formation tops, cores, and shows of oil, both on sample and electric logs. I write a general report on everything that happened during the drilling of the well. Finally, I prepare my bill and send it to Tom Brown for payment and start thinking about getting another job.

During most of the time I sat on wells the general fee was \$75 per 24 hour day, plus expenses while on the well. You don't get very rich on wells that only take a few days. On deeper wildcat wells that require weeks or months the pay is better, but you don't get a lot of sleep till it is over. I hope this will explain what my work was like. It was interesting work and paid fairly well for the time spent on wells, but there was a lot of unpaid time, going out to wells on weekends and holidays, in all kinds of weather. However, I was fortunate to acquire minor interests in wells and leases so that over a period of 20 years I got enough oil from my interests to live on.

 Geology Terms Used:

Alidade: surveying instrument for measuring angles: an instrument consisting of a rule with sights at both ends, used in surveying for measuring angles and directions.

Core: sample obtained by drilling: a tubular segment of rock, ice, or other material obtained as a study sample by drilling.

Formation: rock unit: a unit of rock consisting of a succession of strata or an igneous intrusion.

Gypsum: white mineral: a naturally occurring colorless or white mineral, hydrated calcium sulfate that is used to make cement, plaster of Paris, chalk, and agricultural fertilizers.

Outcrop: rock projecting from soil: the part of a rock formation that is exposed on the surface of the ground.

Planetable: Surveying instrument: a surveying instrument for use in the field, consisting of a drawing board mounted on adjustable legs with a sighting telescope and ruler.

Sandstone: rock made of sand: a type of sedimentary rock made up of particles of sand, mostly quartz, bound together with a mineral cement, along with some feldspar, mica, and rock debris. It is widely used as building material.

Shale: rock of dark sediment and clay: a dark fine-grained sedimentary rock composed of layers of compressed clay, silt, or mud.

Wildcat: speculative oil or gas well: an exploratory or speculative well drilled in an area not yet known to be productive of oil or gas.

 James Reneau Day was the oldest son of Lorenzo Dow Day and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day. His Reneau lineage was: Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles, Lewis,

Lewis. J.R. or Jim, as he was called, was born November 4, 1907 in Castro County, Texas. He married Edna Johnson on December 22, 1934 in San Angelo, Tom Green County, Texas. Edna Johnson was born October 25, 1900 in Eddy, Fells-McClennon County, Texas. Edna passed away in Midland, Texas on February 27, 1988. Jim passed away on May 29 of the same year in Midland. They had no children.



Edna Johnson Day and James Reneau Day
 1977

Emmett Bickley Day

Submitted by Margaret Day
 Written by Emmett Bickley Day. Originally printed in "The Houston Chronicle Rotogravure Magazine," Sunday, August 24, 1952.

He Battled Polio—and Won!

In the newspapers recently, Nina Warren, daughter of California's governor, brought renewed hope to polio victims. As one who had been stricken by the disease—and recovered—she spoke with authority.

I know her message well. For I contacted the malady myself 40 years ago. Since that time it has not been possible for me to ever completely forget that polio hit me. But it has not made much actual difference in my adult life for my recovery was exceptionally good.

I do not use crutches, and I wear no braces. Doctors who have examined me for insurance purposes have marveled at my recovery. The marks of polio are there. It attacked my spinal column, both my arms, and both my legs. My breathing was not impaired, for I lived through a severe attack of polio forty years ago when iron lungs were unknown. I was treated by a country doctor, and I was never a patient in a hospital until 23 years later.



Emmett B. Day
1931

My doctor, who is now dead, was Dr. J. D. Burt of Farmersville, Texas, in Collin County, northeast of Dallas. Doctor Burt was a graduate of a medical college, and though he read medical journals, he readily admitted that the profession knew practically nothing of infantile paralysis, the name used then for what we call polio today. He did the best he could with what he had.

Doctor Burt encouraged my mother to use hot applications and to give daily rubbing treatments. In the months that followed, many pints of olive oil were rubbed into me. It was about six months before I could move my hands or feet. It must have been eighteen months before I could walk again. In those dreary months my mother cared for three older children and waited on me continually, hoping and praying that some day I might be able to care for myself.

At the age of two I crawled after the other children. I could use my right arm to some extent, and I could move the other arm, drag my legs and move my legs a little. Doctor Burt advised my parents to let me do the best I could without braces. He felt that if my weak legs were put into rigid braces they would never gain the strength to carry me. Therapy as we know it today was unknown. I learned to walk the second time when I was three years old, and I have managed to walk better year by year since then.

The first time I walked any distance I was running away from home to follow my brothers and my sister. They had told me it was too far for me to go, and my mother told me to stay with her. The more I thought about it, the more I wanted to go. My desire was too strong to be denied. I slipped off. I was at that time about four, and I could walk only a few steps without falling.

On the first trip I fell many times, but each time I got up and went ahead. My parents missed me and discovered where I had started. They watched me fall time and time again and decided to let me see if I could make it. My objective was about one quarter of a mile away. When it became apparent that I might make it, my father walked after and gave me his hand to eliminate several falls at the end of that journey. He never scolded me for running away, and he carried me most of the way back home.

From that day forward I had confidence to go with that desire to walk. It was not easy. I fell so many times at the age of five that my knees were generally covered with bruises. My parents ordered a special set of pads to protect my vulnerable knees. That helped a great deal, but when I started to school at the age of seven I could get along fairly well without the pads.

At school I never made an athletic team, but I learned to throw a baseball and to take my turn at bat. I could never move fast enough on my feet to compete on even terms in athletics. In the classroom I was on even terms, and I took advantage of this opportunity to excel. Here the others found it harder to sit still and concentrate than I did.

Although my father died when I was twelve years old, I managed to stay in school. During the worst part of the Depression I worked my way through college and through one year of graduate school. At 22, I passed the Texas Certified Public Accountants examination, and for the last twenty years I have earned a fairly good living as an accountant. I have lived for the last fifteen years in Houston, during which time I have married and raised a daughter who is now twelve.

At the age of 42, I look back on the struggle I had. Many things which seem tragic at the time cause me to smile when I think of them. Some failures I made were only blessings in disguise. The years that lie ahead past 42 are the ones in which my physical handicap will cause me the least discomfort. I feel like I'll be able to enter the "rocking chair derby" on even terms with the best of them.

The things I have written here are topics I do not often talk about. It is not good for one who is handicapped to dwell on his own shortcomings. It is far better to think of the small victories he has gained over those shortcomings.

What I have written may help someone who is about to give up hope and quit trying. If what I have told helps only one to look up and try again, it has been worth the telling.

Emmett Bickley Day
Information provided by Margaret Day



Emmett with his mother and siblings
 l-r: Emmett, L.D. Mary Elizabeth, Clyde, May,
 James
 photo taken during WW II

Emmett Bickley Day was born Feb 10, 1910, the son of Lorenzo Dow Day and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day. Emmett's Reneau line was: Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau,, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis. Emmett married Elizabeth Olene Walden on September 17, 1938 in Sealy, Texas. Elizabeth Olene was born October 30, 1907 in Batesville, Arkansas. In 1987 Olene wrote: "I met Emmett at a church party. I remember he had a funny hat with a little brim that turned up. After awhile we began going together, and then we got married. I still worked at Cary Company until I was pregnant with Ruth."



l-r: Emmett Day, Mary Elizabeth, Olene Day,
 May Harris
 circa 1950's

Emmett and his wife, Olene traveled from Houston to Del Rio, Texas, to visit his mother, Mary, also his sister and husband, May and husband Randolph.



Ruth Day
 Christmas 1952

Emmett passed away on August 25, 1971 in Houston, TX. Olene passed away on August 2, 1998 in Austin, Texas.

Lorenzo Dow Day Jr.
Information submitted by Lorenzo Dow Day

May 29, 2004

I am descended from: Isaac Tipton Reneau, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day. Two brothers of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau moved from Kentucky to Greenville, Texas area, and raised their families there. They were Barton and Thomas Reneau. Many of their descendants still live in that general area. I was born February 16, 1913 in Hunt County, Texas. Married May Bell Lehman on July 18, 1933. There are two children: Mary Ellen and William Howard.



May Bell Lehman Day and Lorenzo Dow Day Jr.
 circa 1995

Mary Ellen Day Walker
Submitted by Mary Ellen Day Walker

Lorenzo Dow Day Sr., my grandfather was well thought of in the community. He was president of the local school board, a member of the Odd Fellows and Workmen of the World. He was active in the local Methodist Church at Floyd, Texas, being chairman of the Board of Stewards and sometimes in charge of the Sunday School.

Mary Elizabeth Reneau said the Reneaus were not really happy with her marrying a Methodist. Lorenzo Dow Day Jr., married my mother May Bell Lehman. They had two children, William Howard, deceased and Mary Ellen Day (myself). My Reneau line is Lorenzo Day Jr., Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.



Lorenzo Dow (L.D.) Day Jr.
By the Day farmhouse
Floyd, Texas
1931



Children of LD Day Jr
and May Bell Lehman Day:
Mary Ellen Day and Howard Day
Christmas 1952

I married Wilford Dean Walker from Little Elm, Texas. We have one daughter Valerie Lynn who married John Steven Ralston.

Wilford and I live in Lewisville, Texas. We attend the Flower Mound Church of Christ which is patterned after the first century new testament church. Wilford says John Smith would be proud of it since that is what he worked for from the 1820's until at least 1849. We have loaned the Life Of Elder John Smith and Raccoon books out to many. It is a conversation piece to tell them I am related to John Smith, my third great grandfather.



Valerie Lynn Walker Ralston
And
John Steven Ralston

When visiting Monticello, Kentucky, Raccoon John Smith's cabin was at the First Christian Church. We received a warm welcome and tour when they found out I was related to John Smith.



Mary Ellen Day Walker
in front of
Raccoon John Smith Cabin
Monticello, KY

Most of my family research was done by Wilford, who spent a great deal of time and effort helping me fill out the papers for admission to the Daughters of the American Revolution. There were many in the revolution named George Smith, however, he is listed as George Smith or Schmidt.

Wilford was doing some research at the Court House in Greenville, Texas. They still had the original marriage license of Lorenzo Dow Day Sr. and Mary Elizabeth Reneau, married on Sunday, April 4, 1904. It was never picked up by the family and remained at the courthouse nearly 100 years until Wilford acquired it for me.



Mary Ellen Day Walker and Wilford Walker
October 25, 2003
Reneau Family Reunion in San Antonio, TX

THE GOOD OLD DAYS

Clyde Wickliffe Day and his wife Rachel Elliott Pressly Day

By Margaret Reneau Day

Clyde Wickliffe Day got his middle name from his maternal grandfather, Rev. Joseph Wickliffe Reneau. He was born on his parents' farm in Hunt County, Texas, on the west side of West Caddo Creek where it crosses the highway from Floyd to Farmersville, just south of that road. The farm was a part of the original homeplace of his grandfather, Rev. (Simon) Peter Day. A quarter mile farther west was his grandfather's home. Peter Day had fought in the Civil War as a private in Martin's Regiment (cavalry) in Company F, 5th Regiment of Texas Partisan Rangers. He was born in Virginia and came to Texas (Collin County) in 1858 after marrying his first wife, Timuxina (sp?) Weeks, in 1857. "A Week was lost, a Day was gained. But yet no loss of time sustained." She died in 1861 and he was married again in 1865, to the widow of a Texas soldier, Malinda Wilburn Bickley Honaker. Their third child was Clyde's father, Lorenzo Dow Day, named after Lorenzo Dow, a famous preacher of the era. Peter Day, in addition to being a minister, was a farmer. He would not accept money or gifts for his preaching, giving away the things his congregation tried to present to him. The only gift he did finally keep was a suit that was tailored to his size, which only he, short of stature, was able to wear.

Dow Day married Mary Elizabeth Reneau, born in Tennessee, who had come to north Texas with her sister Mariba Reneau Ball's family in 1902 after teaching school for a few years in Kentucky. They had two uncles living near Floyd, Barton Reneau and Thomas Reneau, and a number of Reneau cousins. Mary's parents

were Rev. Joseph Wickliffe Reneau and Nancy Arimathea Smith. Arimathea was the granddaughter of Elder John Smith, known as "Raccoon John" Smith, a pioneer Kentucky preacher of renown. Dow and Mary Day married in Farmersville, Texas, in 1904. Clyde, born in 1920, was the baby of the family. Big sister May was fifteen years older, and then came Jim, Howard, Emmett, and L.D., as well as a couple more children who died around the time of birth.

When Clyde was born, his father was seriously ill. He had refused to go to the doctor during Mary's pregnancy, and then found that he had an inoperable (in those times) abdominal tumor and less than a year to live. Dow managed to stretch that time, but died May 29, 1922, the month May graduated from Floyd High School. His name is on her diploma as a member of the School Board. Within a month his mother, Malinda, on the next farm also died. (Peter had died in 1899.) The summer before Dow's death his twelve year old son (William) Howard Day had died from gangrene after being kicked by a mule in the stomach. He had been instructed by his Papa to doctor the mule for gall sores when he brought them into the barn at lunch time, but Howard forgot and let them loose to get water. He came up from behind to put on the stinging medication and was fatally kicked.

Clyde grew up on the farm, which was managed by Mary and the older boys. Even Emmett, who had had polio as a young child, was able to work with the mules in the field. When the last big brother L.D. went away to college in Austin, Clyde was 11, too young to farm with his mother. She rented out the farming to neighbor Charlie Turner for a few years, and then her cousin Benton Reneau talked her into renting it to him.



Clyde Wickliffe Day with Spot
1931

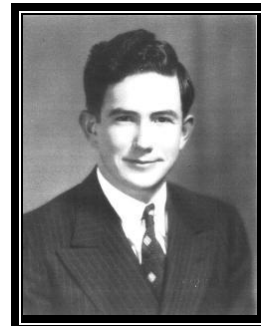
When Clyde was about four years old, he was climbing up the board sides of the big cotton trailer, which were stacked up to about five feet high at the time. More 1 X 12's could be added as whatever crop was being harvested filled the wagon. Mary caught sight of Clyde through the window reaching the top and called out to him. He lost his balance and fell off the front of the wagon. She rushed outside to find Clyde had landed on top of the big metal king pin on his cheek and was unconscious. She picked him up and carried him the quarter mile to the old Day homeplace, arriving as he was coming back to consciousness. Clyde was all right, with a chipped cheekbone as a reminder of the incident. Clyde and his mother Mary stayed on the farm until he reached high school age. His sister and three remaining brothers had all graduated and left home to attend college. Jim went to Texas A&M and May went to C.I.A., a forerunner of Texas Women's University. Emmett and L.D. went first to Wesley Jr. College in Greenville for preparation, and then to the University of Texas. In the summers Clyde worked as a farm hand, now one of the crew who pitched the cut bundles of oats into the big wagon as the mule team pulled it through the fields over to the steam-driven thrasher. He also hoed and picked cotton and hoed corn. He drove his mother cautiously to Greenville each Saturday in the Model A, parking at the edge of town while they went shopping and to the library. Big brother L.D. had given him a driving lesson the afternoon before he left for college.

When Clyde reached high school age the decision was made to move into the little nearby town of Floyd, bringing along the milkcow and chickens. Big brother Emmett bought them a dilapidated house about four blocks from the high school for \$150, and May's husband Henry Randolph Harris came from Del Rio for the summer to put in new floors and roof and build window frames and window sashes, assisted by Clyde. Mary took in two boarders, Miss Duckworth and Mr. Satterwhite, and Clyde slept upstairs in the attic. He milked the cow and fed the chickens and occasional hogs. He serviced Miss Duckworth's slop jar. He worked as a janitor at his church, the Methodist church. At five and a half feet tall he played on the school basketball team.

Clyde graduated from high school (which was 11th grade) in 1937 in a class of 18 students, the largest graduating class up to that time. He attended Wesley Jr. College in Greenville for a year of college preparation, which was the last

year the school operated. He held an after school and Saturday job at Thompson Hardware in Greenville as a janitor and gopher, and even sold merchandise on Saturdays.

In the fall of 1938 Clyde went to Austin to attend the University of Texas, staying first in Mrs. Mergele's boarding house at 1912 Guadalupe where his brothers Emmett and L.D. had stayed. Mrs. Mergele already had a full staff, so he got a job at another boarding house at 18th St. and Colorado and eventually moved to it. College students in those days had roommates who not only shared the same room, but slept in the same bed as well.



Clyde Wickliffe Day
early 1940's

Clyde worked for the National Youth Administration program for \$15 per month, starting in the Mechanical Engineering Department painting equipment. Then he worked in the Chemistry Department storeroom. (He was a Chemical Engineering student.) He issued glassware and chemicals to students for laboratory use. That's where he met Rachel Elliott Pressly, one of the students taking a class in the lab.

Rachel's upbringing had been quite different, living with her Presbyterian missionary parents in Mexico. Her father, Dr. Henry Elliott Pressly, had also grown up in Mexico where his father, Rev. Neill Erskine Pressly, was a missionary and the American Consul in the Gulf of Mexico port city of Tampico.

The Presslys were "red-headed Scotsmen" from South Carolina, where several previous generations had also been Presbyterian ministers. Henry held dual citizenship, which enabled him to stay in Mexico during the turbulent times when many foreigners were deported as Mexico nationalized its oil industry.

Henry married Mary Bradley, ten years his junior, from Due West, South Carolina, where there were many family ties. Every fifth year was spent on "furlough" working in the States,

and Rachel was born during one of these furlough years in Tampa, Florida. Her sisters Margaret and Kathryn were also born in the U.S., but the boys were born in Mexico: Henry, Jr., who was called Chat (Chot), Jim, and Jack.

Mary spoke no Spanish when she came to Mexico to begin missionary life in the town of Valles, so Spanish was spoken in the home to help her learn the language. Mary played the organ, and her portable organ was loaded into the old car for evangelical trips to surrounding villages. They started singing and a curious crowd gathered to find out what was going on, giving Henry a chance to preach.

On Sundays church was an all-day activity, and Rachel and her three brothers and two sisters were accustomed to the long hours of services. It is not to be supposed that these little red-headed children were saints. Rachel had to wear glasses at an early age, and once she hid them under a pile of bricks, telling her parents she had lost them. Her sin was uncovered when workmen found them as they used the bricks.



Rachel Pressly
circa 1925

Rachel's first four years of school were in mission schools in Valles conducted in Spanish. She remembers learning one poem in English as a first grader, which brought tears to her father's eyes. At the beginning of fourth grade they moved to Tampico, where she attended an American school in English, quite a sweeping change. She remained more at home in Spanish with earlier learning such as the multiplication tables and the books of the Bible.

The family went to the States on furlough for Rachel's eighth grade school year, to Due West, South Carolina where there were lots of relatives. A cousin was President of Erskine College there. The family remained in Due West for some years while Henry returned to his mission work in Mexico. Rachel attended high school there. She was a member of a girls' singing group at the high school which was

asked to come sing at several places including Clemson College. They were even on the radio, which was important at that time. She was the alto, there were two or three sopranos, and two tenors.

Rachel started attending college in Tallahassee, Florida, but after less than a month there her mother called and said to move to Austin, Texas, where she had found a scholarship for her. She lived with Dr. and Mrs. Robert Warner and their daughter Ginny, who later was her Maid of Honor. She studied Home Economics, as it was called then. Her missionary mother wasn't much of a cook and she resolved to do better.

On Sunday afternoons Rachel went with one of the Presbyterian Seminary students to one of the nearby rural communities, either Pleasant Valley or Eanes, to minister to them. She held Sunday school for the children while the seminary student had a service for the adults. She did this all through college.

Rachel had to take a Chemistry lab as part of her course of study. She was noticed by the storeroom assistant, Clyde Day, who looked up her address and phone number (he had access to student information). He called her one night for a very long conversation, which led to a date the next Friday, which happened to be Friday the 13th of March, 1942.

That fall Clyde had moved in with a group of Chemical Engineering students for his senior year at 110 Elmwood Place. He graduated in 1942 and went on active duty in the U.S. Navy July 1, 1942, going to Ithaca, New York for training at Cornell University, then to Washington D.C., and then to Boston to board the U.S.S. Boston as an ensign.



Clyde and Rachel Day
Long Beach, California
1945

Clyde took a short leave of absence in October of 1943 to return to Austin and marry Rachel. Their honeymoon was at the lake house of Mr. and Mrs. Adams of Adams Extract fame. Clyde returned to the U.S.S. Boston and headed for the Pacific front of World War II, arriving in Pearl Harbor on Dec. 6, 1943.

Rachel finished her college education in 1944 and secured a teaching job in the town of Fort Stockton in west Texas for the '44-'45 school year.

In March of 1945 the U.S.S. Boston came back to Long Beach, California for overhaul. Clyde had two 3-week leaves of absence, the first of which he spent at home in Floyd, and the second spent in Long Beach with Rachel, who by then had quit her teaching job and came to stay with him at the Buffam Hotel in Long Beach. Then Clyde went back to the U.S.S. Boston and Rachel went to North Carolina, where her parents were that year on sabbatical, and stayed with them in Mooresville, where Great Aunt Neelie lived, until their first child Neill was born. On VJ Day (Sept 2, 1945), the war ended with Clyde on the U.S.S. Boston in Tokyo Harbor. The men were allowed to go on shore several times before the ship left the area. Its job was to go up the coast of Japan and send shore parties in small boats in to accept the surrender of guns and ammunition and destroy local fortifications. This they did for a few days, and then returned to Tokyo for a few days. The ship's crew was divided into three watches, and each watch took turns having liberty, during daylight hours only. The liberty boat took them to the beach and let them go, saying not eat anything and to be back at a certain time for the ride back to the ship.



Rachel and Clyde Day
1945

Lieutenant Day was transferred to the U.S.S. Wichita to return to the States, going first from the west coast to Del Rio, where May and Randolph Harris lived, to visit his mother, and then to Houston to separate from the service and look for work. He then went to North Carolina,

arriving a few days before Neill Wickliffe Day was born on Dec. 31, 1945, just hours before the new year.

When Neill was ten days old, Clyde went back to Austin and talked to Dr. Bill Cunningham about finding work. Dr. Cunningham called an engineer in Corpus Christi and got Clyde a job interview with the head of the engineering department of the Celanese Chemical Company plant at Bishop, Texas, near Kingsville. He was hired and Rachel and Neill came to Kingsville to live when Neill was six weeks old. Six months later they bought the house on Johnston Street across from the park and the school which would be home for almost twenty years. Margaret Reneau Day was born in 1948 and Henry Pressly Day in 1949.

Rachel's younger brothers Jim and Jack Pressly came to live with the Days for a few years. Jim finished high school there, playing football for King High, and then went to the University of Texas to study architecture. Jack stayed in Kingsville after high school graduation and attended Texas A&I College there. The Day children were very young, but Margaret remembers that they sneaked through a back door into the bedroom where Jack Pressly was studying once and threw an inflated ball at the back of his head, running out into the back yard to make their getaway down the alley as he came running after them.



Rachel and Clyde Day
with children l-r: Henry Pressly, Neill Wickliffe,
and Margaret Reneau Day.
early 1950's

In 1954, the year before Elizabeth Bradley Day was born, Clyde was much away from home in New Jersey where Celanese was building a chemical storage terminal in Newark. The family came out in the summer of 1954 to stay close by on top of First Mountain in West Orange, New Jersey. On the way north, they went through Vicksburg and visited Civil War battlefields, at which four-year-old Henry was stung by a bee in one of the canons, through Mt.

Vernon and sights around Washington D.C. At the end of the summer, they went to Niagara Falls, into Canada and west, coming back into the States at Sarnia in the Detroit area where Rachel's sister Margaret lived, then drove to Omaha, Nebraska where her brother Chat and wife Lee lived. They got to Omaha and found out that Lee's father had been killed in a car wreck and they were gone, so went on south toward Texas through Oklahoma City.



The Day Children

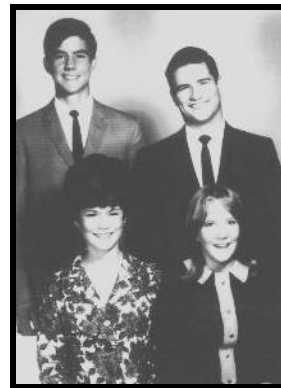
l-r: Neil, Margaret, Henry, and Elizabeth
late 1950's

Back home in Kingsville, Clyde or Rachel or both were at the (Presbyterian) church whenever the doors were open. For a few years Rachel operated a nursery school at home. Her most famous attendee was Tio Kleberg, who became the manager of his family's ranch, the King Ranch, the largest ranch in the world, with headquarters just out of Kingsville. The last King heir of the ranch was Henrietta M. King, who had married a Kleberg.

Rachel was later a Pink Lady at the hospital and a substitute school teacher, in addition to continuous church work. She and Clyde took church membership seriously, and Sunday morning always found the four Day children on the next-to-front row on the right, where Mom could keep an eye on them from the choir in case Clyde had duties which kept him out of the pew. Clyde was the assistant scoutmaster for Troop 147 for years and a rifle instructor for the NRA Junior Rifle Club. At work Clyde became a group leader, then Assistant Plant Engineer, then Plant Engineer, then Manager of Technical Departments. In the early '60's Clyde was doing a lot of traveling in connection with work. He was out in California for about a year doing some engineering design for Celanese, and Rachel, Neill, Margaret, Henry, and Elizabeth came out for the summer, this time with Clyde

driving one car and Rachel another, through the Painted Desert and by the Grand Canyon. They stayed during the month of June at the beach home of a family in Dana Point, and then when California schools dismissed for the summer they went to the same family's winter home in San Marino, a few blocks from the Huntington Gardens. At the end of the summer they went to see the big redwoods at Sequoia National Forest and to visit Reneau kinfolks Maggie Reneau Miller at Ivanhoe and Mariba Reneau Ball at Visalia. They went to Sacramento to visit some old Kingsville friends, the Crows, and visited San Francisco before going by Lake Tahoe and back toward home. The cars got lost from each other for a couple of days and were reunited at Pike's Peak, then traveled uneventfully back to Kingsville.

In 1965 Clyde was sent to the main office in New York City as Chief Engineer of Celanese Chemical. The family moved up to Wilton, Connecticut, for the 1965-66 school year and learned how to ice skate and drive in the snow.



l-r standing: Henry and Neill Day
l-r sitting: Margaret and Elizabeth Day
1967

Neill was off at college in Austin, but hitchhiked up for Christmas vacation. The neighbor kids were friendly, and the trees were beautiful and tall. Clyde's mother died in the summer of '65 and he flew down alone for the funeral. That was just the start of missing the wide open spaces. After a year of leaving the house before dawn to catch the commuter train to New York City, and returning after nightfall a good bit of the time, Clyde was ready to go back home to Texas. Rachel had been teaching in the Head Start program and taking college courses, so when the family moved to Houston in the summer of '66 she continued teaching, this time in Kindergarten. Both she and Clyde had to commute about an hour each way to work every

day, which they did in Houston for the next 17 years. In 1970 Clyde took early retirement from Celanese and went to work for Olsen Engineering for a couple of years. Then he worked for Brown & Root for ten years as administrative manager of a petroleum and chemical engineering division before retiring again in 1983. He had started working with clocks in his spare time in 1972, both on the cases and on the mechanisms, which became a favorite pastime.



Rachel and Clyde Day
1970's

Rachel got her master's degree from Prairie View A&M and bilingual certification to teach bilingual Kindergarten classes, which she did for some years. She retired at the end of 1983 and they moved to Kerrville in the Texas Hill Country in January of 1984. In March of '84 Rachel suffered a minor stroke. Fortunately, she regained most of her mobility and was able to drive again, although a blood clot remained in an inoperable spot in the right carotid artery which neither prayer nor Coumadin dissolved. She continued actively participating in First Presbyterian Church, Church Women United, Delta Kappa Gamma Women Educators Society, and Retired Teachers.

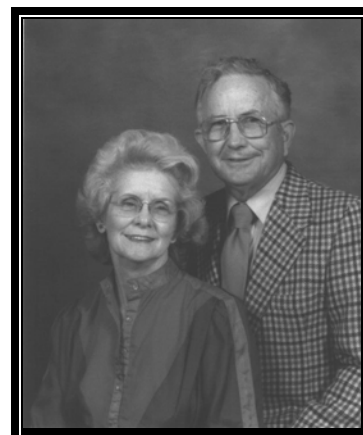
Clyde and Rachel volunteered to help mentor students at church after school, and helped at the Heart of the Hills Hospice. Clyde sat on its Board from the late '80's until the turn of the century, serving as the Volunteer Administrator from 1993-2000 when it merged with Peterson Hospice. During the same two decades Rachel and Clyde were involved with a Presbyterian border ministry organization called Proyecto Amistad in Piedras Negras, just across the Rio Grande from Eagle Pass, frequently driving three hours there for meetings. Rachel's expert

knowledge of Spanish helped them understand what was going on at the meetings.

When they hit their 80's Clyde and Rachel curtailed their activities somewhat. Clyde still worked fixing clocks as his avocation with 200 or so clocks around the house and workshop, and Rachel, no longer driving, still turned out excellent cakes and cookies with great regularity and walked a mile each morning. They enjoyed visits from their four children and seven grandchildren and traveled to see family and friends, too. Their home out from Kerrville at the end of Paradise Avenue on the Guadalupe River was a beautiful, friendly place where usually there was a card game of some kind going on during the holidays and a challenging jigsaw puzzle being put together, and perhaps fishing or boating down at the river, depending on the visitors. Their great store of congenial fellowship and relaxed good will made this place, too, seem like home.



The seven grandchildren of Clyde & Rachel Day
l-r: Rachel, Jenniffer, Rebecca, Lars, May, Sam
and Geoffrey.



Rachel and Clyde Day
circa 1995

Following is a photo of a special memento that Clyde always has with him. It is a tintype

of his grandmother, Arimathea Smith Reneau, set in a beautiful case. Arimathea is sitting at her flax wheel. It is truly a treasured keepsake.



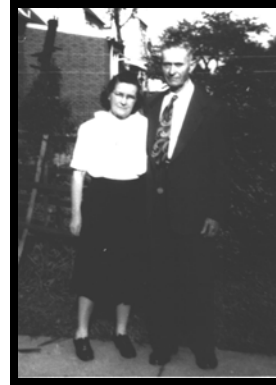
Arimathea Smith Reneau
1851 - 1918



Sharing Photos!
l-r: Al Mote, Janice Woods and Clyde Day
2003 San Antonio Reneau Reunion

Myrtie Reneau Clark
Arie Clark Curtis and descendants
Submitted by Peggy Wolff

My grandmother was Myrtie May Reneau. She was the daughter of Joseph Wickliffe Reneau and Nancy Arimetha Smith. She was born April 3, 1889 in Shaumute, Kentucky, and died on the 3rd of December 1968 in Anderson, Indiana. She is buried in Refuge Cemetery in Eighty-Eight, Kentucky. She married George Henry Clark on December 7, 1924 in Gilead, Kentucky. They had three daughters, Arie Jane Clark, Minnie Mae Clark, and Margaret Vessie Clark. Grandma and grandpa lived most of their entire lives in and around Glasgow, Kentucky where they raised their family. George was a preacher and trolley car driver in Glasgow. Around the early 1940's they moved to Louisville, Kentucky.



Myrtie Reneau Clark and George Clark

Grandma worked at Millers Cleaners in Glasgow doing alterations. When they moved to Louisville she went to work for Stewart's Department Store doing alterations. She was a supreme seamstress. How well I remember sitting on the front porch making hankies with her, although I did more ripping out than sewing in order to meet with her approval. Grandma always had either a quilt going or was making pot holders and doll clothes for us to peddle. My mother is Arie Jane Clark. She was born in Barren County, Kentucky, on October 18, 1925. She married a local farm boy, John Earl Curtis, on April 15, 1944. They lived with my father's parents and helped them on the farm. They followed Myrtie and George to Louisville and then ventured on north to Anderson, Indiana, in search of "better" jobs.



John Earl Curtis and Arie Jane Clark Curtis
50th Wedding Anniversary
April 15, 1994

John and Arie have two children, George Earl, and myself, Peggy Ann. Mom retired after 21 years of service with the Anderson City School Cafeteria. She enjoys bowling, bingo, and most importantly, her children, grand and great grandchildren.

George Earl married Evelyn Sue Roth in 1967 in Texas. George and Evelyn had two children: Ann Marie, born Jan 1, 1968 in Oxford, Ohio; and Jennifer Kay, born January 3, 1970 in Fayetteville, North Carolina. George and Evelyn divorced in 1977.

George and Evelyn's daughter, Amy, married Delbert Wright on June 10, 1995 in Anderson, Indiana. They have three children: Chelsie, born July 7, 1992; Holden William Earl, born April 1, 1997; and Carson Randall, born March 8, 2000. The children were all born in Anderson, Indiana.



The Wright Family
Front l-r: Carson, Amy
Back l-r: Delbert, Chelsie, and Holden

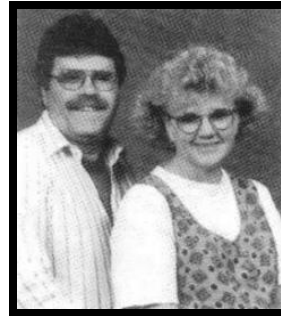
George and Evelyn's youngest daughter, Jennifer, first marriage was to Roy Keli Turney. They had two children: Thomas Michael, born Jan 26, 1989, in Anderson; and John Bruce, born August 21, 1990 in Anderson. Jennifer and Todd Morris Daniels also have two children: Amber Michelle Daniels, born July 16, 1993; and Jessica Lynn Daniels, born Aug 3, 1994. Both girls were born in Anderson, Indiana.



Jennifer and her children
l-r: Johnny, Amber, Jessica, and Thomas sitting in front

George Earl Curtis married Deborah Nichols on November 28, 1992 in Anderson, Indiana. Debbie has two sons, Patrick and Anthony, from

her previous marriage to Patrick Rice, and a son, Victor, from her marriage to Patrick Russell Green. Debbie works for the school district as a bus driver. George retired from Owens-Illinois Glass in February of 2004, with 33 years of service. George also served in the United States Air Force. George and Debbie attend the Methodist Church.



George Curtis and Debbie Nichols Curtis



Harold Wolff and Peggy Ann Curtis Wolff

Harold and I were married on October 10, 1981 in Anderson, Indiana. We both work for Owens-Illinois Glass. Harold is a Journeyman mold maker. We attend the Methodist Church.

Minnie Mae Clark Ottersbach
Information provided by Minnie Clark Ottersbach and Peggy Wolff

Minnie Mae Clark was born to Myrtie May Reneau Clark and George Henry Clark on April 23, 1927 in South Fork, Barren County, Kentucky. She joined her older sister, Arie Jane, and, in 1930, her parents had another daughter, named Margaret Vessie.

The family moved to Louisville, Kentucky in the early 1940's. This is where Minnie met and married Cecil Edward Ottersback. Minnie and Cecil were married on June 19, 1948. Cecil was born in Kentucky. The 1930 Federal Census

shows that Cecil's father, Jacob Ottersbach, was a painter and owned a Painting Company. Cecil's occupation followed in his father's footsteps as he was also a painter. He did carpentry work as well.

Cecil and Minnie lived in Louisville and raised their family there. They are the parents of eight children: Maria Darlene, born May 18, 1949; Cecilia Louise, born March 31, 1952; Edwin Neil, born January 9, 1954; Gloria Jean, born December 15, 1955; Gayle Ann, born September 30, 1956; David Wayne, born October 31, 1960, and, sadly for all, passed away when he was six months old on April 20, 1961; Gary Alan, born October 26, 1962; and Chris Andrew, born November 5, 1963.

On June 19, 1998, Minnie and Cecil celebrated their 50th Wedding Anniversary.



Minnie & Cecil Ottersbach and Children
50th Wedding Anniversary Celebration
l-r: Gloria, Darlene, Gayle, Cecilia, Edwin,
Gary, and Chris
June 19, 1998

Cecil passed away on February 16, 2002. Minnie, their children, grandchildren and great grandchildren survive him.

Minnie and Cecil's oldest daughter, Maria, has two children. From her marriage to George Kessler, she has a daughter, Kimberly Ann, who is married to Paul Leon Mathis. There are four children in Kimberly and Paul's family: Gary Thomas Graf Jr., Allison Marie Mathis, Paul Andrew Mathis, and Brandon David Mathis. From her marriage to Christopher Cox, Maria has a second daughter, Christina Marie, who is married to Christopher Michael Willsman. Maria married William E. Hayden on December 12, 1986.

Minnie and Cecil's second child, Cecilia, married Richard Alan Scherzer on December 13, 1969. The couple has two children. Their son, Michael Lee is married to Dawn Rene Eaton. Their daughter, Michelle Lynn is married to John Thomas Burkhardt. Michelle and Thomas have

two children: John Thomas Burkhardt III, and Aliyah Michelle Burkhardt.

Minnie and Cecil's oldest son, Edwin Neil married Teresa Renfrow on January 9, 1954 in Louisville, Kentucky. Edwin and Teresa have three children: Nigel David, Brandy Lynn, and Jason Michael. Nigel is married to Missy Danielle Haight. Brandy is married to Steven William Harris. Brandy and Steven have three children: Savannah Elizabeth, Brianna Lynn, and Seth Michael.

Gloria Jean, who is Minnie and Cecil's fourth child, married Marvin Earl Hedge on December 15, 1972 in Kentucky. Marvin and Gloria have three children: Cheri Ann, Amanda Marie, and Marvin Earl Jr. Cheri Ann is married to Harold Vernon Dunn, and the couple has two children: Keisha Ann, and Harold Vernon III. Amanda Marie married Rodney Jason Short Sr. and they have a son, Rodney Jason Short Jr. Marvin Earl Hedge Jr. is married to Kristen Michelle Short. They have one daughter, Sydney Michelle Hedge.

Gayle Ann, Minnie and Cecil's fifth child, married Jerry Lance Branum on October 12, 1974 in Kentucky. Gayle and Jerry have two children: Jeremy Lance, and Jason Lee. Jeremy married Erin Rae Smith, and they have a daughter, Laura Elaine, and a son, Justin Lance. Minnie and Cecil's son Gary Alan married Thesa Ann Britt on July 30 1988 in Kentucky.

The youngest child born to Minnie and Cecil, Chris Andrew, married Shelly Sue Swartz on January 26, 1984. A daughter, Amy Marie, was born to the couple. Chris is now married to Elaine Jeanette.

Margaret Vessie Clark Brown
Submitted by Margaret Clark Brown
and Peggy Curtis Wolff

This is the history of my family: I am the youngest daughter of Myrtie M. Reneau Clark. I married my husband, Kenneth L. Brown 52 years ago on May 29, 1952. We live in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania, where he retired from the Agriculture Department. We have on daughter, Donna Lee, not married, who lives with us.

I have two sisters: Arie Jane Clark Curtis of Anderson, Indiana: and Minnie Mae Clark Ottersbach of Louisville, Kentucky.



Donna Lee Brown

As far as grandparents, they were both gone before I was born. So, I remember nothing except things my mother told us about them. I have a book on my great grandfather, Raccoon John Smith, which I have read several times, and still read. I have no recent pictures, as my husband is camera shy, hard to get pictures of him!



Sisters

l-r: Arie Jane Clark Curtis, Margaret Vessie Clark Brown, and Minnie Mae Clark Ottersbach

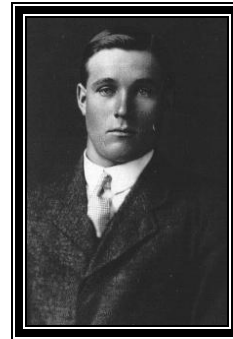


Margaret Clark Brown and Kenneth L. Brown

Isaac Smith Reneau and Descendants
Information provided by Betty Reneau,
Peggy Wolff
Neva Whitley
and Martha Harrison

Isaac Smith Reneau was the only son born to Joseph Wickliffe Reneau and his wife, Nancy

Arimetha Smith Reneau. He was born on October 4, 1886, in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky.



Isaac Smith Reneau

Isaac married Neva Ray Moore on December 25, 1909 in Clay County, Tennessee. Neva was born on September 4, 1893 in Kentucky.



Neva Ray Moore Reneau
Lawrence and William

Seven children, four boys and three girls, were born to the couple: Lawrence Sewell, born May 5, 1911; William Lance, born Jan 9, 1914; Arnettie, born March 10, 1916, Stanley Ewing, born June 3, 1918; Margaret, born April 24, 1920; George Garland, born September 18, 1922; and Myrtie Eldene, born November 1, 1924. All of the children were born in Barren County, Kentucky. Isaac Smith was a well known farmer in the area.



Neva, Lawrence and Isaac Reneau
circa 1913



Neva Moore Reneau and Isaac Smith Reneau
 l-r: Neva holding Stanley, Standing in back:
 Lawrence, Sitting in front: William, Isaac
 holding Arnettie

Lawrence Sewell married Edna M. Bradley. She was born June 2, 1915. Lawrence and Edna had two children: David Isaac and Wanda Joyce. Edna died December 1, 1986 and Lawrence passed away on March 27, 1996.

William Lance married Zella Froedge. William passed away in Glasgow, Barren County, Kentucky on November 25, 1987. Zella Reneau died September 28, 1997 in Glasgow.

Arnettie married Bennie McGuire. According to the Social Security Death Index, Arnettie died on April 1, 1999 in Bowling Green, Kentucky.

Stanley Ewing Reneau is living in Murphysboro, Michigan near his son and daughter-in-law, Fred and Deborah Reneau. Stanly married Edna Irene Bailey in Glasgow, Kentucky. The follow is the obituary for Edna Reneau from the Glasgow Daily Times, Monday, February 4, 2002:

“Name: Edna Irene Reneau. Residence: Glasgow, KY. Died: Sunday, 3 February 2002, T J Samson Community Hospital, age 80. Born: Kappa, IL. Daughter of the late Clem and Mae Bowles Bailey. Member Columbia Avenue Church of Christ, Glasgow. Survivors: Husband: Stanley Reneau, Sons: Billy Reneau and wife, Patty, of Glasgow; Larry Reneau and wife Debbie of Glasgow and Fred Reneau and wife Debbie of Murphysboro, IL, Brother: John Bailey, Danville, IL., Sister: Elizabeth Polson, Hoopston, IL, Eight grandchildren, two step-grandchildren, three step-great-grandchildren, one step-great-great-grandchild. Services: 2 pm Wednesday, 6 February 2002, A F Crow and Son Funeral Home, burial Happy Valley Memorial Gardens.”

Margaret Reneau married Arthur Bush Alexander Jr. Margaret and Arthur had a daughter, Neva. Neva is married to Charles Whitley, and they have two children, Amy and

Mark. Margaret Reneau Alexander passed away in 1993.

George Garland Reneau married Blanche Crabtree in Kentucky. George passed away in October of 2000.

The youngest child born to Isaac and Neva was Myrtie Eldene Reneau. She married William Russell Kingrey. Myrtie Eldene Reneau Kingrey died September 15, 1968 in Kentucky at 44 years old.



Neva Ray Moore Reneau
 September 4, 1893 – October 9, 1926

Isaac Smith Reneau’s wife Neva, succumbed to typhoid on October 9, 1926 in Barren County, Kentucky. She was buried in Poplar Log Cemetery in Barren County, Kentucky. Neva left her husband, Isaac, and her children ranging in age from fifteen to two years old.

Later, Isaac married Mary Jane Kennedy. She had a son, Henry, and a daughter, Ann, from a former marriage.

Isaac Smith and Mary Jane lived out their lives in Bowling Green, Kentucky. Isaac passed away on March 29, 1972, and is buried in Poplar Log Cemetery.



Isaac Smith Reneau Family
 l-r front: Stanley, Eldean, Isaac, Garland,
 Margaret
 l-r back: Arnettie, Lawrence, Lance

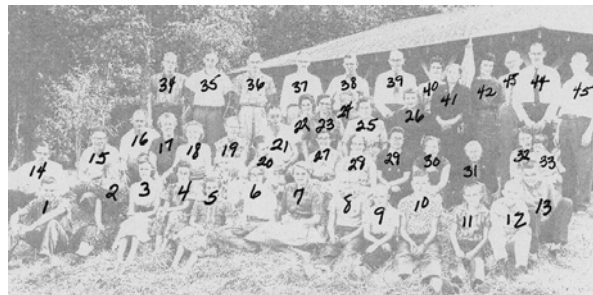
Following is Isaac Smith Reneau’s obituary published in the Park City Daily News in

Bowling Green: "Isaac Smith Reneau, 85, 1400 Kenton St., died at 6:20 a.m. today at his residence following a long illness. Services will be conducted at 10 a.m. Friday at J.C. Kirby Funeral Chapel with burial in Poplar Log Cemetery in Barren County. Survivors include his widow, Mrs. Mary Jane Reneau, city; two daughters, Mrs. Margaret Alexander, Barren County, and Mrs. Arnettie McQuire, city; one step-daughter, Mrs. Ann

Trickey, Clarksville, Tenn.; four sons, Lawrence, Lance, Stanley, and Garland Reneau, all of Barren County; one step-son, H. C. Kennedy, Middleton; three sisters, Mrs. Minnie Denham, Eighty-Eight, Mrs. Maggie Miller, Ivanhoe, Calif., and Mrs. Bert Harlan, city; 16 grandchildren, and 17 great-grandchildren." Mary Jane Reneau continued to live in their home at 1400 Kenton Street, until her death on May 15, 1979. Mary Jane Reneau is buried in Riverside Cemetery in Hopkinsville, Kentucky.



1959 Isaac Smith Reneau Family Reunion at J A Foster Park, Temple Hill, Kentucky



- | | | |
|--------------------------|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| 1. Harold McGuire | 16. Lawrence Reneau | 31. Nettie Moore* |
| 2. | 17. Edna Reneau | 32. Mary Jane Kennedy R**. |
| 3. Joyce Reneau | 18. Alma Harlan | 33. Mary Jane's gdtr |
| 4. Carol Reneau | 19. Alline Reneau | 34. Billy Moore |
| 5. Martha McGuire | 20. Gary Reneau | 35. Richard McGuire |
| 6. | 21. Lance Reneau | 36. Stanley Reneau |
| 7. Neva Alexander | 22. Minnie Denham's gdtr | 37. ? Moore |
| 8. Kenneth Alexander | 23. Eva Richardson | 38. Paul Richardson |
| 9. Larry Reneau | 24. Velma Moore | 39. A.B. Alexander |
| 10. Bennie Rex McGuire | 25. Lila Harlan | 40. Gayle Reneau |
| 11. | 26. Margaret Alexander | 41. Minnie Denham |
| 12. Freddie Wayne Reneau | 27. Clarissa Harlan | 42. Blanche Reneau |
| 13. | 28. Arnettie McGuire | 43. Bert Harlan |
| 14. ? Moore | 29. Edna Reneau | 44. Garland Reneau |
| 15. Ben McGuire | 30. Ella Moore | 45. Isaac Reneau |

*Isaac Smith Reneau's mother-in-law **Isaac Smith Reneau's wife, Mary Jane Kennedy Reneau

**Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau and
Descendants**

**Information provided by William Norris
Reneau, Robert E. Reneau,
Julienne Reneau Rodriguez
Anita Reneau Daniels
Pioneer Stories of Custer County, Nebraska**

Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau was the son of Isaac Tipton, son of John Reno, Son of Charles. He was born March 11, 1859 in Tompkinsville, KY, the second to youngest son of Isaac Tipton Reneau and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau.

It seems like Isaac Tipton Alexander was born with a drive to explore new lands in the United States. As he tells it in the book, Pioneer Stories of Custer County, Nebraska, "Ike" writes in the chapter "Reneau Tells of Early Days,"

"When a boy of ten or twelve years, probably about 1871-1872, sprawled on the floor of my southern Kentucky home, an old Smith's Atlas spread before me opened at a map of what was shown as 'The Great American Desert' and a subdivision of it designated 'Nebraska Territory,' I decided to go to Nebraska Territory as early in life as might be possible."

In April of 1881, Isaac "Ike" Tipton Alexander tells about leaving his Kentucky home, boarding a train "somewhat in the direction of Nebraska." Ike continues his story, "October 1882 found me in Burt County, Nebraska, and a year and a half later, in May 1884, I started by team and wagon for Broken Bow. It was a distance of 200 miles over largely unbroken prairie required ten days driving and plenty of maneuvering to cross streams and deep, broken canyons encountered along the way."

After exploring the region and talking to his good friend Dr. R. C. Talbot, Ike writes: I returned to Broken Bow and made filing before Wilson Hewitt, county clerk, upon NW ¼ of Section 2; Township 14; Range 20; as a Pre-emption.... My first house was made of sod, with walls two and one-half feet thick; one room with inside measurement 9x11 feet; wall on one side two feet higher than on the other side, making roof slant only one way. The roof covering was plum brush with a layer of sod and loose dirt over all to fill crevices between the sod layers. This made an excellent and satisfactory roof while there was no rainfall. An opening for door and one for window completed the building—floor of course was untouched sod."

In 1887 Ike moved to Ansley, NE. Here, he worked in the Ansley Banking Company as a

special loan examiner. And it was here in Ansley two years later, in 1889, that he married Clarissa May Blowers.



Clarissa May Blowers

In 1891, Ike opened a general real estate and abstract business in Broken Bow. He was also involved in the cattle industry and had a substantial amount of land in Custer County and Broken Bow.



Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau and wife,
Clarissa May Blowers Reneau

There were four children born to this couple. The first child, Vivienne Valerie Reneau, died in infancy. The next child, Meredith Thurman Reneau was born December 23, 1896 in Broken Bow, Nebraska. On May 27, 1897, a girl, Helen Thorne Reneau was born in Broken Bow. The last child, Thomas Wood Reneau, was born April 7, 1905 in Broken Bow.



Meredith Thurman Reneau
June 23, 1896



Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau
with children,
Helen Thorne and Meredith Thurman Reneau
April 23, 1899



Meredith Thurman Reneau
Age 9
1905



Clarissa Blowers Reneau
with
son, Thomas Henry Reneau

It is interesting to note that Thomas' middle name at birth was Henry. In 1942 Thomas changed his middle name to Wood because he wanted to identify himself with the Wood name.



l-r: Meredith Thurman, Helen Thorne, Thomas
Wood Reneau
1921

Meredith Thurman Reneau married Caroline Marie Johnson June 2, 1926 in Davenport, NE. They had three sons: Robert Earl of Denver, CO; William Norris of San Antonio, TX; and Meredith Thurman, who passed away at age 50 in 1946. They also had one daughter, Jeannine Helen Reneau.



Jeannine Helen Thorne Reneau
Age 15
Circa 1912

When a young lady, Jeannine Helen Thorne Reneau was sent east to college. It was in Boston where she met Harold B. Janes. She married Harold Janes June 17, 1921 in Nebraska City, NE. They had one son, Phillip R. Janes. Helen passed away November 27, 1967 in Waltham, MA. The 1930 Federal Census shows the family living in Waltham at that time. Harold's occupation was listed as a manager of a Chain Grocery Store.

Thomas Wood Reneau graduated from high school in 1926. His nephew, William Norris Reneau recalls that at one time he saw his Uncle Tom's yearbook. It was apt that Tom's motto was, "No one can take my dreams away." Tom first worked for Wood Brothers Construction Co., and then Peterson and Blair Construction Co. At first, he worked on the

Missouri River, and then, in the west, on reclamation projects during the Roosevelt era of the 30's. He worked at Fort Peck, Montana, for a number of years, on the big reclamation dam projects with positions in the administration and office area. It is probable that Thomas Wood met Frieda Miller, while he was living and working in Montana, as evidenced in an article in "The Helena Independent" Newspaper dated May 23, 1943, titled "Frieda Miller and Thomas Reneau Wed in Nebraska." The paper noted that "Miss Frieda Miller, well-known Helena resident of the past seven years...became the bride of Thomas W. Reneau of Blair, Neb., son of I. A. Reneau of Broken Bow, Neb., at quiet rites solemnized May 8, at St. Paul's Methodist Church in Omaha." The article continued, reporting that the new Mrs. Reneau "who resided in Helena prior to her marriage, organized and directed the Montana cripple children's program." The article also said that Mr. Reneau was associated with Peterson and Haecker, Ltd., of Blair, Neb., and attended the University of Nebraska. Frieda was a graduate of the Long Island College of Medicine, Brooklyn, NY and a member of Alpha Tau Delta nursing sorority. The couple lived in Blair, Nebraska. Later, Thomas went into insurance and became president of Equitable Life Insurance Companies of California. It is likely that Tom and Frieda moved to California due to job opportunity and her parents lived in the state, operating a chain of grocery stores.

Tom died at the Masonic Homes in Modesto, CA where, later in life, he and Frieda lived. In their retirement years they took passage on cabins of ocean vessels-freighters-etc, and managed to travel around the world, even to the Great Wall of China.



Isaac Tipton Alexander "Ike" Reneau in his favorite rocking chair
age 91
1950

Ike had an interest in the community where he lived, as evidenced by his involvement in various memberships: Board of Education for the Broken Bow District; member of the Broken Bow City Council; Central Nebraska Stock Growers Association, where he held the position of Secretary; Broken Bow Commercial Club, serving as President; and an interest in the political scene with active involvement.

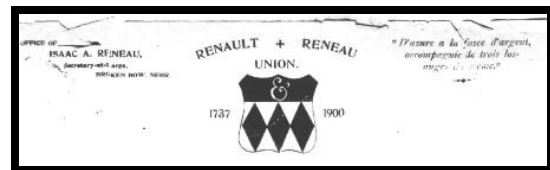
Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau was also involved in the Renault-Reneau Family Union Organization: An excerpt from the Houston, Texas newspaper follows:

"The Renault-Reneau family reunion which was organized in this city last Thursday, April 19, will attempt to recover for its members something like 165,000 acres of land, said to be worth \$200,000,000, and situated partly in Missouri and partly in Illinois.

The property was originally granted by the French government to Phillip Francis Renault-Reneau, and is now claimed by the members of the union formed here as his heirs....

The names of the officers of the union are: J. L. Reneau of Anthony, Kan., president; vice presidents, Dr. Waekman Ryno of Benton Harbor, Mich.; Mrs. Mary J. West of Jackson, La.; Thomas W. Reneau of Floyd, Texas; Berry J. Reneau of Amonett, Tenn.; Mrs. Lee A. Eison of Metropolis, Ill.; Louise Reneau of Carthage, Mo.; William N. Alman of Moulton Ala.; secretary at large, I. A. Reneau of Broken Bow, Neb....."

The group designed a "coat of arms" to use in their endeavor. The picture below shows the heading of the stationery used by Isaac Tipton Alexander in his official capacity as Secretary at Large.



Alas, history tells us that the group did not succeed in their challenge.



Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau
1912



Caroline Johnson Reneau
circa 1920

William received his BA from the University of Washington, and MA from University of Texas. He was a coastguardsman for 26 years



l-r: Brothers William Norris and Robert E Reneau and Robert's wife, Ruby Parker Reneau, at the location of the old sod house where they were raised in Custer County, near Broken Bow, NE.



Meridith and Caroline Reneau with their son, William Norris Reneau
September 1970

William Norris Reneau
Submitted by William N. Reneau

William N. Reneau, a great grandson of Isaac Tipton Reneau was born on his grandfather's (Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau) ranch on the Middle Loop River near Broken Bow, Custer County, Nebraska. William's parents were Meredith Thurman Reneau and Carolyn Johnson Reneau. Meredith Thurman was the oldest son of Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau.

After the Coastguard, William became a teacher and realtor. He is bilingual in Spanish and English. On May 6, 1958 William married O. Maria Menchaca, daughter of a prominent rancher in Ocampo, Coahuilla, Mexico. They have three daughters: Julienne, Helene and Adrienne. The following photo shows the family's emphasis on education. Maria, Helen, Julienne, and Adrienne all happened to be taking courses at St. Philips College at the same time.

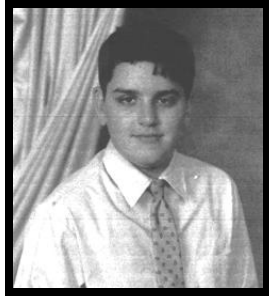


Meredith Thurman Reneau
circa 1920



l-r: Helen, Julienne, Adrienne and Maria Reneau
St. Philips College, San Antonio, TX
February 10, 1983

William and Maria also have five grandchildren. Helen Reneau Murphy has two children, Paul and Kelly. Julienne Reneau Rodriguez has three children, Isaac, Julie, and David.



Paul Reneau Murphy



Kelly Murphy

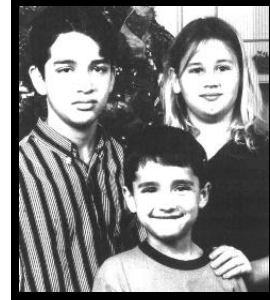


Julie's Birthday Celebration

l-r: Julie, David and Ike Rodriguez
October 2000



David Jacob Rodriguez
2002



l-r: Ike, David, and Julie Rodriguez

William and Maria are active in church affairs and prison ministry. For recreation and relaxation they go to property on the Guadalupe River southeast of Sequin, TX.



William Norris Reneau and family

l-r: Adrienne Reneau, Helene Reneau Murphy,
Julienne Reneau Rodriguez, and Olvida Maria
Menchaca Reneau

2003 Reneau Reunion pics in San Antonio:



l-r: William Reneau, Helene Reneau Murphy,
Anita Reneau Daniels looking at family pictures



l-r: Adrienne, and Maria Reneau with Betty
Reneau

Reuben James Shannon Reneau
Submitted by Betty Hadus Reneau

Reuben James Shannon Reneau is descended from Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles Reno, and John Reno.

Reuben James Shannon Reneau, to be known as “Shannon” or “Shan,” was the youngest of ten children—nine living to adulthood—of Reverend Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. Shan’s siblings were: Margaret Eunice, born July 12, 1839; Thomas Wood, born January 21, 1842; John Mulkey, born, June 26, 1844; Mariba Elizabeth, born April 14, 1846; Barton Warren Stone, born May 2, 1847; Mary Bayless, born July 17, 1850; Joseph Wickliffe, born July 9, 1853; and Isaac Tipton Alexander, born May 11, 1859. Reuben James Shannon was born October 4, 1861, in Monroe County, Kentucky, where the family was living, as his father was a Circuit-Riding Minister, working for the Kentucky Christian Missionary Society.



Mary Gipson Wood Reneau
and Isaac Tipton Reneau

Shannon was born at one of the most turbulent and fearsome times in the life of the United States, having a great impact on the area where they lived, as well as their family. The Civil War—the most costly conflict in loss of lives and property ever to take place within the borders of the nation—began on April 12, 1861, somewhat over five months before the birth of Shannon. It brought separation from and division within families; set friend against friend; dealt destruction to and loss of property and land; made rampant the murdering of many persons who might differ in beliefs with the Southern cause. This was done locally by the guerrillas, especially those led by Champion Ferguson who raided the area again and again. Ferguson had probably attended school taught by one or both of Shannon’s parents, as he called Mary Gipson Reneau, “Miss Polly.” Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, the brother just older than Shannon, wrote to Shannon many years later recalling the day when they were at the

Wood farm and Ferguson’s band rode up and demanded something to eat, and Ferguson pulling his gun and protecting the Reneaus when his men cursed and threw the fat boiled meat on the ground after being given all that was available to eat. However, Mary G. Reneau’s brother, Reuben Bayless Wood, was shot by Ferguson for sympathizing with the North, and died on December 4, 1861. Grandmother Mary Bayless Wood fell and broke her hip on December 3, 1861, when she went to see her son, resulting in Mary Gipson, Isaac Tipton, and family returning to the Wood farm in the southern end of the county on Hays Creek near the Tennessee line to care for her. Mary Bayless Wood died on October 18, 1863.



Thomas Wood, father of Mary Gipson Wood,
built the farmhouse before 1834.

It remained the home of his widow and daughters during the Civil War, when Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau moved there.

The family then moved back to stay in 1865, and bought portions inherited by Mary G.’s sisters, Margaret Wood Campbell and Mariba Wood Ewing, on March 7, 1885, and recorded on July 3, 1885 in Deed Book G, page 363 in the office of C.B. Parrigin, Clerk of Clinton County Court. Shannon lived on the farm throughout his childhood, adolescent, and adult years—the rest of his life.

Shannon was educated at home by his parents, especially his mother, as his father continued to travel and preach at the churches which he helped to get started. Shannon and his brother, Isaac Tipton Alexander, were very close. The older sisters and brothers were married by the end of 1867, except for Barton Warren Stone, Mary Bayless, and Joseph Wickliffe, and they married in 1872, 1874, and 1875 respectively. I. T. Alexander was just eight years old and Shannon was only six years old in 1867, and were sixteen and fourteen year old in 1875, the time when all the older siblings were married. Also, Joseph Wickliffe was almost six years older than I. T. Alexander and over eight years

older than Shannon. Thus, I.T. Alexander and Shannon turned to each other more and more, as seen by the words on the picture of them sent to Shannon by I. T. Alexander: “Compliments to Shannon from Isaac.”



l-r: I.T.A. and Shannon Reneau
Back and front of boyhood photo, sent to Shannon from I.T. Alexander

Also, William Norris Reneau, grandson of I. T. Alexander, told me at the Reneau Reunion in San Antonio, in October, 2003, that he could remember his grandfather talking about Shannon.

All of the sisters and brothers left home including I. T. Alexander and moved outside of Clinton County, except Mary Bayless, who had married William D. Beard on December 22, 1834. Some of her descendants remained here in Albany, and were active in the First Christian Church of which her father, Isaac Tipton Reneau, was a founding member and spiritual leader. John Mulkey Reneau did return after a time and served as Deputy County Clerk. He is buried in the Irwin Cemetery. Thus, Shannon was left at home and saw to the farm and cared for his parents until their deaths. A very prized possession kept by Shannon, and still in the family, is an 1843 pocket sized English version Polyglott Bible, inscribed: “R.J.S. Reneau, presented by I.T. Reneau on his death bed, August, 1885.”



1843 Polyglott English Translation Bible

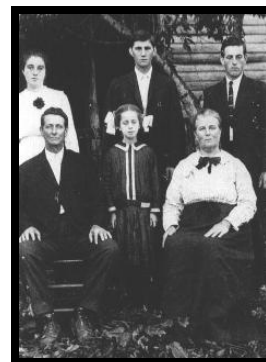
After the deaths of Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson, Shannon bought out some of the other siblings’ parts of the Wood Farm. The farm then became known as “The Shannon Reneau Farm” and thus Shannon became a farmer for the rest of his life.

Shannon married Elvira Catherine “Kate” Sheffield on December 5, 1889, with his brother, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau performing the ceremony. Joseph Wickliffe had entered the ministry a few years earlier, following in the steps of his father, Isaac Tipton Reneau.



Reuben James Shannon Reneau Family
Back l-r: Granville Oscar, Isaac Oren, and Mariba Eva
Front l-r: Shannon, Nettie, and Kate
circa: 1912

Five children were born to Shannon and Kate: Mary Elizabeth, August 24, 1892 – January 30, 1895, living only a few months; Isaac Oren, November 28, 1895 – July 22, 1965; Granville Oscar, September 3, 1897 – June 5, 1971; Mariba Eva, July 8, 1902 – January 7, 1976; Nettie Lee, May 22, 1909 – June 26, 1932, dying of Typhoid Fever.



Reuben James Shannon Reneau Family
Back l-r: Mariba Eva, Isaac Oren, and Granville Oscar Front l-r: Shannon, Nettie and Kate
circa 1917

Uncle Oscar had meningitis when he was eight years old, leaving him somewhat physically and mentally handicapped, but very happy, agreeable, and easy to get along with. He lived with Grandfather and Grandmother Reneau, (Grandmother “Kate,”) Aunt Eva, and finally in a nursing home, but cared for by all family members and loved by all who knew him.

Aunt Eva married twice. Her first marriage was to William McKinley Dowell on March 26, 1922. William Doweel died on November 26, 1946. Later, she married William Porter Johnson, who died November 5, 1964. She did not have children.

Grandfather Shannon had cancer, which resulted in the removal of one of his eyes, sometime in 1936. He died on June 27, 1937. Grandmother “Kate” lived a little over eight years longer. She and Uncle Oscar moved to Aunt Eva’s house, as she could not keep up the farm.



Granville Oscar Reneau and Eva Reneau Johnson



Eva Reneau Johnson with Flax Wheel used by Mary Gipson Wood Reneau

Grandmother Kate had a stroke in early 1946 and died a few days later on January 21, 1946. Uncle Oscar lived a few years more and died on June 5, 1971. Aunt Eva was the last of the family. She died on January 7, 1976.

Isaac Oren Reneau

Submitted by Betty Hadus Reneau

Isaac Oren Reneau is descended from Reuben James Shannon Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, and Charles Reno. The name “Oren” comes from the Bible, First Chronicles 2:25. Thus he was named two Biblical names, one being also his Grandfather Isaac Tipton Reneau’s name, and another name “Oren” added to it.

Isaac Oren Reneau was the oldest son and the oldest surviving child of Reuben James Shannon and Elvira Catherine Sheffield Reneau—Shan and Kate, as they were called. Oren, as he was called, was born on November 28, 1895, at the Wood/Reneau Family farm near Hays Creek. (His Grandparents, Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau had moved to the farm in 1865, and his father, Shan, had grown up and remained on it.) Oren attended school and a Methodist Church at Maupin, as the closest one to where he lived was close to the Tennessee state line.



Reuben James Shannon and Elvira “Kate” Reneau with sons 1-r: Oscar and Isaac Oren. Circa 1900

Oren worked on the farm with his father from the time he was big enough and as long as he remained at home, as his brother, Oscar, was unable to do any work after having meningitis when he was eight years old. Having the same abilities, interests, and dreams that his grandfather, Isaac T. Reneau had, he desired first to get an education and teach school. Thus, after completing grammar school, he attended the Boarding School at Seventy-six, Kentucky, in the northern part of Clinton County. He also attended the various Teachers’ Training Institutes and took the exams necessary to get a Teacher’s Certificate and to complete the requirements for finishing High School. He

taught in several one-room county schools having all eight grades including Maupin, Shipley, and Hopkins. It is most likely that the Boarding School is where he met Hadus Lou Neathery from the Caney Gap area on the Northern side of the county as she too was preparing to be a teacher.



Seventy-Six Boarding House
Isaac Oren is sitting on roof, first right
Hadus is standing in front of porch second from right.
Pauline Reneau, daughter of Ulysses Simpson Reneau is sitting on stump.

However, war would again interrupt the Reneau family life. The United States was drawn into World War I with Germany and a national draft system was put into action for the duration of the war. Oren was called-up and entered the Army in February, 1918.

Efforts were thought of and made to get him an exemption as he was needed on the farm to help his father. His father wrote him as least a couple of times that he was working on getting him discharged as shown in the papers found among all of the others kept by his own family.

When going through training, Isaac Oren suffered a break in the left elbow resulting in a shorter left arm. He also had the terrible influenza which killed so many with resulting lung damage.



Isaac Oren Reneau
World War I
1918

While on furlough he either attended one of the Teachers' Institutes being held at the First Christian Church to complete some work on his Teaching Certificate or was courting as he is in his uniform and present in the picture made of the group.



Group in front of the
First Christian Church, Albany, Kentucky
Oren is in uniform, first row,
seated, 2nd from right
Hadus is standing in first row, 5th from right.
1918

Oren served his term in the Army stateside and was discharged in Dec. 1918, with a disability that would affect him for the rest of his life.

Oren returned home to his educational work, attending school, teacher training sessions, and teaching. Once more he was around Hadus Neathery and they began to see more and more of each other. Hadus graduated from Clinton County High School in May, 1920, in a class of three and the fourth class in the school's history. Then on August 14, 1920, Hadus Lou Neathery and Isaac Oren Reneau were married at the home of Mrs. Nannie Littrell by Bro. W. L. Smith (Grandson of Elder "Raccoon" John Smith and a Minister in the Christian Church.) They were attended by Mr. and Mrs. W. M. Watkins, he being the High School Principal, and she being one of Hadus' classmates graduating with her.



Isaac Oren and Hadus Neathery Reneau
Wedding Day, August 14, 1920

The newlyweds set up housekeeping and built a house on the North side of Albany. On June 8, 1921, their first child, a son, was born: Oren Neathery Reneau. Hadus' brother, Ed Neathery, said what a name to give a child, and he nicknamed him "Ned," the name by which he goes except in official matters.

But things would bring about changes and moves in their lives. Oren was given help by the U. S. Government as they made it possible for him to attend Louisville College of Pharmacy (now the University Of Kentucky College Of Pharmacy.) He would go through the two year program and eventually become a licensed pharmacist.

So Hadus and Oren, along with their son, Ned, moved to Louisville, Kentucky, in 1921, where they would stay for fourteen years, away from their parents, Albany, and Clinton County. They would be away for sixteen years in all, living in Campbellsville and Jamestown for two years total. Not too long after they left Albany, grandfather Lewis Fulton Neathery died in 1923. Oren and Hadus had four children in all, three more being born in Louisville: The next child, a boy, was stillborn on September 20, 1924, being given the name, Lewis; James Fulton Reneau, born September 9, 1925; Betty Hadus Reneau born May 22, 1933, the only girl and the youngest child. Mom and Dad, as they were called, now had their family.

Dad graduated from the pharmacy school and worked in various stores in Louisville, and even went into a partnership in a store of his own.



Isaac Oren Reneau
Graduation Photo
Louisville College of Pharmacy
1923

But the Depression years were hard on businesses. In 1937, when I was four years old, we moved to Albany, which became all that I ever really knew, and was their hometown. Dad bought a store of his own.



First Location of
Reneau's Drug Store
1937 – 1945

Dad needed to be back near his family as Grandmother Kate needed help in caring for Grandfather Shannon who had become ill with cancer, as well as caring for Uncle Oscar. Grandfather Shannon died on June 27, 1937, only a few weeks after we moved back to Albany,

The first location of the Drug Store was on the north side of the Main Square across the street from the courthouse.



Isaac Oren Reneau Family
l-r: Fulton, Betty, Hadus, Oren, and Ned
circa 1944

Mom had to go work at the store. We children helped her as we became old enough to do so. The store had a Soda Fountain as well as the Prescription Department and the over-the-counter products, etc. It became a family run store. Ned went to his last two years of High School, graduating in 1939. Fulton went to two years of Junior High and four years of High School, graduating in 1943. Both began attending Transylvania University following their High School graduations—Ned in the fall, 1939, and Fulton in the summer, 1943.

Wherever we lived, the Church was a vital part of our lives. We belonged to the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ) ending up at the First Christian Church at Albany, which was the successor of the Church at Paoli, where Great-Grandfather Isaac Tipton Reneau was one of the

original sixteen members. Both Mom and Dad held various offices, taught Sunday School, and attended all the services. Dad was Sunday School Superintendent, an Elder, and actually could and did give the Morning Message sometimes when needed. Mom taught Vacation Bible School, was in CWF, cooked for Lion's Club, was Church World Outreach Chairman and Church Historian, etc. They freely gave of their time, talents, money, and themselves.

When in High School we took part in the various activities and clubs in addition to doing our regular homework and requirements. Ned was on the Debating Team and went to the State Finals. He also had a darkroom in the back of the Drug Store where he and another schoolmate developed film. Ned worked at the store and decorated the windows even after going to college when he would be home on breaks. Fulton was in all of his class activities including the Junior Play and was manager of the High School Basketball Team. He, too, worked in the store after school and on other days and breaks. I began working in 1943 at the age of ten, when Fulton left home. This was the end of my playing about town.

The Reneau Drug Store had moved to a new location closer to the courthouse.



Isaac Oren and Hadus
in front of Reneau Drug Store
Albany, Kentucky, circa: 1960



Isaac Oren Reneau in the Pharmacy



Isaac Oren and Hadus at the Soda Fountain

War would still again interrupt the life of the Reneau Family. The years of World War II -- December, 1941 to August, 1945 -- were some of the most difficult and trying times in our lives. Fulton, who had finished High School in May of 1943 was 18 years old on September 10th and had to register for the draft as had Ned already. He received his notice to be examined in December, 1943, passing and being taken into the Army in January, 1944.



Fulton Reneau
1944

Ned was already in the Ministry and was in Seminary in 1943 through 1946, and was not called up. Fulton went through Basic Training and then specialized training as an X-Ray Technician, put in the 91st Field Hospital unit, and sent to the Philippine Islands. He remained overseas for about eight months. He contracted malaria and "jungle rot," a severe case of sores on his legs. The war was over on August 14, 1945, and he was discharged on January 12, 1946.

During World War II things at home were very hard, too. Foods of certain kinds were rationed, as was gasoline, and even shoes. We got so much ice cream and sodas (Coca-Colas) each week and it was up to us as to how fast we sold them or to stretch them out for the week. Dad became the volunteer American Red Cross Field Representative in Clinton County, which involved taking the casualty messages for those wounded, missing-in-action, prisoner of war, and killed in action, or whatever way of death as some died of illness. Dad also sent messages if

there was a death or critical illness in the families and where the persons were and how they could be reached. He did this by phone at the store, taking calls from and to the nearest Red Cross Telegraph Offices as needed. He then had to get someone to take the message and/or him to deliver it as he did not have a car (never learned to drive). Needless to say, there were some at home who tried to take advantage of the system and get someone home or an extension of furlough without any reason as stated in the rules. It was a tough job.

Dad also tried to get people to go and give blood every so often which meant going out of the county. It was during this time that, having bought the Reneau-Wood Farm that he finally had to sell it because he couldn't get anyone dependable to stay there and raise the crops. This eventually resulted in the big log, brick and plank siding house to be torn down and someone else building a new modern house on the farm.

Also, in 1945, the store was moved from Cumberland Street to a new location further from the courthouse square due to the owner of the first building wanting it. So Dad bought a building on Washington Street.

Ned graduated from Transylvania University in 1943 and entered The College of the Bible (Lexington Theological Seminary), graduating in 1946 with a B.D. Degree. He had been serving a student pastorate at the Buckner Christian Church near Louisville where he was ordained by both the Buckner Church and his home church, First Christian Church at Albany, with our Dad as Elder and Reverend J. Ryan Nevius, Minister, participating in the service. He was called and took the position of Minister at the Louisa First Christian Church where he stayed for not too long a ministry. He had become interested in the Institutional Chaplaincy which was just beginning to get real emphasis. So he left Louisa and took the training to be fully certified in any kind of institution. Following this he took a position with the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys (Reform School) and served the boys there for thirty-two plus years. He lived on the farm at the school for a short time and then moved into Grafton where he still lives. On June 16, 1946 he was married to Florence Hamilton Sherrod of Birmingham, Alabama.

They have nine children: Carolyn Neathery Reneau Shepler (Mrs. Stephen); Susan Eileen Reneau Westfall (Mrs. Edward R.); Dorothy Ray Reneau Garton (Mrs. Rock); Mary Frederick Reneau Smith (Mrs. Robert); Joyce Ann Reneau

Okes (Mrs. Leon); James McLemore Reneau; Thomas Oren Reneau, William Frank Reneau, and Paul David Reneau. They have twenty-three grandchildren, with one married – Gwen Marie Westfall Davis (Mrs. Paul) – and one great-grandchild. All of the children attended and graduated from West Virginia Wesleyan College and live in West Virginia. The married Granddaughter lives in Virginia.



Oren Neathery and Florence Sherrod Reneau
July, 2001

Fulton went back to school, but transferred to Eastern State University and graduated in May, 1950, having finished in January, 1950. He got a job with the Internal Revenue Department in November, 1950, and began working in London, Kentucky. Here he met Billie Lee Elliott, and they were married June 8, 1951.



James Fulton and Billie Elliott Reneau
June 8, 1951

They had two sons: James McLemore Reneau and William Frank Reneau. They later moved to Tampa, Florida. After Fulton died on November 7, 1960, and Billie died thirteen months later on December 7, 1961, the boys went to live with Ned and Florence. It was at this time that James and William were adopted and became sons of Ned and Florence.

Mom and Dad stuck with it through the good times and the hard times. They retired in June of 1962. Mom was very content to be at home where she could read, study her Bible, work in her flower and vegetable gardens, can vegetables and fruit, sew, and rest when needed to do so. Dad was soon ready to go back to work which he did, working for others as a Pharmacist. He worked the day he died. On July 22, 1965, in the

evening after supper, he suddenly became quite ill and died just after he was taken to the hospital here in Albany. Mom lived for six more years, dying of colon cancer on June 20, 1971. They are buried at Irwin Cemetery with the other Reneau and Wood Family members.



Hadus and Oren Reneau
in their front yard
Late 1950's



Betty Hadus Reneau and Oren Neathery "Ned"
Reneau
1997

Oren Neathery Reneau
Submitted by Oren Neathery "Ned" Reneau

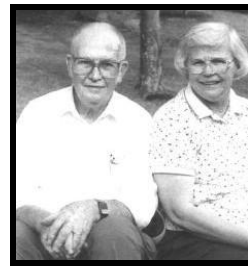
I am Oren Neathery Reneau, son of Isaac Oren and Hadus Neathery Reneau. Isaac Oren was the son of Reuben James Shannon Reneau, the son of Isaac Tipton Reneau. I was born in Albany Kentucky on June 8, 1921. I graduated from Clinton County High School in 1939, from Transylvania University, Lexington, KY in 1943, and Lexington Theological Seminary in 1946. I married Florence Sherrod of Birmingham, Alabama, June 16, 1946. We have 9 children, (5 girls and 4 boys) 23 grandchildren (12 girls and 11 boys) and one great grandson.

I served student churches in Kentucky while in school, then the Louisa Christian Church, Louisa, Kentucky from 1946 to 1949. After a year of Pastoral Clinical Training, I came to Grafton as the Chaplain of the West Virginia Industrial School for

Boys. This was a state Juvenile Delinquent facility. I served in that position from 1950 until retirement in 1983. Since then I have served as interim minister in some churches nearby.



Isaac Oren Reneau and Hadus Neathery Reneau
circa 1945



Ned and Florence Reneau
1999



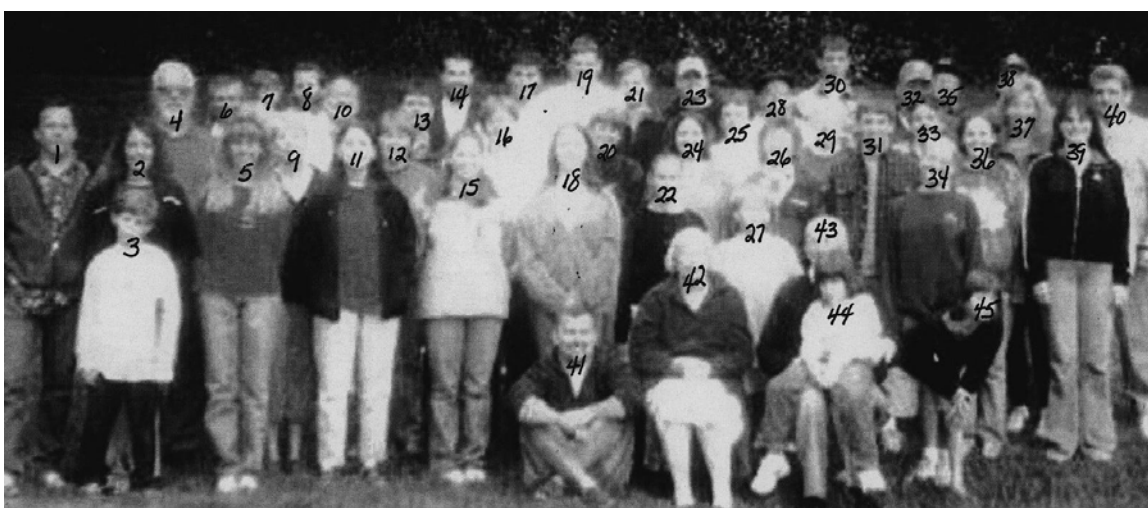
Daughters of Ned and Florence Reneau
Front l-r: Dorothy Ray Reneau Garton, Susan Eileen Reneau Westfall, and Mary Frederick Reneau Smith. Standing l-r: Joyce and Reneau Okes and Carolyn Neathery Reneau Shepler
Early 1980s



Sons of Ned and Florence Reneau
Front l-r: James McLemore Reneau, Thomas Oren Reneau Standing l-r: Paul David Reneau, William Frank Reneau
Early 1980s



Ned, Florence with children and their families



- | | | |
|------------------------------|----------------------------------|------------------------------|
| 1--Tom Reneau | 16-Joyce Reneau Okes | 31-Christopher Garton |
| 2--Deneane Reneau (Mrs. Tom) | 17-Jarad Reneau | 32-William Reneau |
| 3--Tristan Reneau | 18-Katie Smith | 33-Pam Reneau (Mrs. William) |
| 4--Bob Smith | 19-Bobby Smith | 34-Andrea Garton |
| 5--Sara Shepler | 20-Nancy Reneau (Mrs. James) | 35- Jim Reneau |
| 6--Rock Garton | 21-Paul Davis (grand son-in-law) | 36-Shelia Westfall |
| 7--Sarah Reneau | 22-Elena Garton | 37-Julie Reneau (Mrs. Paul) |
| 8--Paul Reneau | 23-Jeremy Reneau | 38-Jason Reneau |
| 9--Carolyn Reneau Shepler | 24-Gwen Westfall Davis | 39-Jill Okes |
| 10--Steve Shepler | 25-Susan Reneau Westfall | 40-Ed Westfall |
| 11--Emily Okes | 26-Dorothy Reneau Garton | 41-Ben Shepler |
| 12--Mary Reneau Smith | 27-Paul Garton | 42-Florence Reneau (Granny) |
| 13--Leon Okes | 28-David Mays (a friend) | 43-Ned Reneau(Gramps) |
| 14--Bryan Shepler | 29-Pat Mays (a friend) | 44-Rachael Reneau |
| 15--Kelly Reneau | 30-Jeb Smith | 45-Kirsten Reneau |

Since this picture was taken, there are two additions,
Patrick Reneau, 18 months old, and Jacob Davis, 12 months old.

Reverend Oren Reneau interview about his years as Chaplain at West Virginia Industrial School for Boys.

**Interview by Jo Ellen Markley
November 9, 2000**

[The West Virginia High Technology Consortium (WVHTC) Foundation participated in an oral history project focused on Grafton in Taylor County, West Virginia. Partnering with Vandalia Heritage Foundation and the National Technology Transfer Center (NTTC), the WVHTC Foundation worked to capture Taylor County chronicles not found in history books, before the stories were lost.]

Reverend Oren Reneau and Florence Reneau were one of over 55 interviews conducted:

JEM: What is your full name?

OR: Oren. Middle name is Neathery. Reneau.

JEM: By what name are you usually called?

OR: I go by the name of Ned.

JEM: Where were you born?

OR: In Albany, Kentucky.

JEM: What is your birthdate?

OR: June 8, 1921.

JEM: 1921. This is your wife?

OR: Yes. Florence.

JEM: Do you have any children?

OR: We have nine.

JEM: Are they all around here?

OR: There are three here in town. They're all in West Virginia except one. He's teaching at Tennessee Wesleyan in Athens, Tennessee.

JEM: You were born in Kentucky. How did you come here?

OR: I came here for the position of Chaplain at the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys.

JEM: How long have you been a resident of Grafton?

OR: We came here in 1950.

JEM: It's been several years. Can you tell me a little bit about Grafton and different memories you have of the town from 50 years ago compared to now?

OR: The night we came in to see about the position, we drove into Grafton. It had been a rainy day. They were running steam engines then. The fog or smog, or whatever it was, was very low and we wondered what the town was going to be like.

JEM: What do you know about the B&O station?

FR: There were 32 passenger trains when we came.

JEM: Coming through. Was that daily?

FR: Yeah. 32.

JEM: I'm sure with the freight there were a lot more than that. Have you always lived out here?

OR: No. We lived at Pruntytown for a while.

JEM: When you were at Pruntytown as the chaplain, did you live on campus?

OR: We did for eight years.

JEM: What about your children, did they grow up here?

OR: Oh, yeah.

JEM: What kind of activities did they do or participate in?

OR: Regular school activities.



Reverend Oren Neathery Reneau
November 9, 2000

JEM: I didn't know what the recreation was for Grafton. Did they have movies or theater?

OR: There wasn't much of the theater. Much of what they did was with the school, the band, and football.

JEM: Do you participate in anything that goes on with the National Cemeteries?

OR: Only if I would have a funeral there.

JEM: Do you know anything about the different factories and major employers that were here?

OR: Carr China was operating when we came here. It closed soon after that. The glass plant was operating and it closed. I really wasn't involved in any of them. I just know that it happened.

JEM: Did that make a major difference in the community?

OR: Oh, yeah.

JEM: Did a lot of people move out?

OR: I think a lot of them moved out. I don't know with Carr China, but with the glass plant several of them moved. The company offered them, as I remember, something somewhere else. Of course, the most recent thing that's happened with that is when the railroad moved, a lot of

their operations to Florida. They took several people down there with that.

JEM: I want to know about the West Virginia Industrial School for Boys. When you came, was that a new position?

OR: No. It was a joint operation between the State of West Virginia and the West Virginia Council of Churches. The position was worked that way. It involved counseling. There were no counselors at that time. I became one of the counselors.

JEM: How many students were there when you were there?

OR: It was averaging about 200-250.

JEM: That's a lot. Were they from all throughout the state?

OR: Yes. It was the only facility in the state.

JEM: Just boys?

OR: Just white boys.

OR: There was a colored school. When it started out, they had both of them here, according to what I can find in the history. Then they built a school for the colored boys. Then following the desegregation order by the Supreme Court, they were brought back and it became one school. They did away with the other school.

JEM: Were you there any of that time?

OR: Yeah. I was there from 1950 to 1983.

JEM: When you first got there, how was it? Were you nervous or scared?

OR: No. I wasn't particularly scared. I had just finished a training program in a federal correctional facility, so when I got there I thought the place was wide open. I was used to double fences and going through the gates. I thought that it was wide open. It was more of a school than it was a correctional facility.

JEM: Most of the kids that were there had committed some crime?

OR: The time I was there, most of the boys had committed some kind of an offense.

JEM: Was it a sentence that they served?

OR: Yeah. It was a sentence.

JEM: It wasn't that if a parent didn't want to be a parent anymore, they just dropped you off?

OR: There was a time they could have done that. At the time I was there, it had to be court order. It had to be a court commitment.

JEM: Did the boys run away?

OR: They tried to keep them in groups. There would be some that would escape.

JEM: Did they get very far?

OR: Some of them did, some of them didn't.

JEM: They were already serving a sentence. Were they punished or did it add on to their sentence?

OR: It would just add on.

JEM: What were the ages? Were they older children?

OR: We weren't supposed to get boys below the age of 12 and they weren't supposed to send them to us if they were 18. At 18, they became an adult.

JEM: Did they not have any children over 18 there?

OR: Not while I was there.

JEM: Just 12 to 18. That's a pretty big span.

OR: They were in age groups.

JEM: I've heard it was a self-sufficient facility.

OR: At one time it was. They had 2,000 acres of farmland. Some of the boys did not go to school. They worked. There again, that would be the older group. Most of them were in a academic school. Then in the summer, they would work on the farm.

JEM: Were the products produced from the farm just for the school or did they sell them?

OR: If they had an excess of what was needed at the school, it would be supplied to other state facilities. They did have a dairy barn that produced A grade milk, homogenized, pasteurized. If they had an excess of that, they sold it to a dairy or a milk collection situation. I don't know the year, but the legislature decided to take all of the State farms and put them under the State Farm Commission. That took the farm away from the Industrial School.

JEM: They weren't able to work on it or reap the benefits from it.

OR: No. They might have a few boys that would work, but they worked for the State Farm Commission.

JEM: When did it change from the Boys' School to the men and women's correctional facility?

OR: In 1983, they closed the Boys' School completely and took what boys were left to Salem.

JEM: So, they made that a co-ed facility?

OR: Salem became a co-educational facility. As I understand, that is still the situation.

FR: Did they always have prisoners at the Industrial School?

OR: We had some trustees at times that did certain work. The boys were not allowed to work in the mines, because they were not old enough. They would have trustees who were kept off by themselves. They were not to associate with the boys. They would work the

mine for the coal to operate the boilers at the school. Some of the trustees would operate the boilers. The trustees were from Huttonsville.

JEM: You were there 33 years?

OR: 32 ½ years

JEM: Did you have your children when you first went there?

OR: We had some.

JEM: Do they still have the property? Is it just a couple hundred acres or does the state have the thousands?

OR: The State Farm Commission took over all except what was considered the immediate campus. That immediate campus is now the Pruntytown Correctional Center. Part of the State farm was then deeded to the Veteran's Administration and became the National Cemetery that is out there. All of that was part of the Industrial School property. There were also some properties at the junction of 50 and 250 where you go to Clarksburg and Fairmont. That field belongs to the State. The houses on the left at the junction belong to the State. As you go through Pruntytown, Beulah Baptist Church is on the right. There is a road there that goes to another farm. They called it the Jones Farm. That was the school in the beginning. That's where they kept the pigs and where they had the slaughter house.

JEM: They raised their own beef and everything?

OR: Yeah. They had a first class slaughter house. When they did slaughter, either beef or pork, an inspector from the State Agriculture Department or the Health Department, whichever had the inspectors, was there to see that it was done properly. They had a certified butcher.

JEM: That was just like a business.

OR: Yeah.

JEM: They went to school. Did they learn a trade while they were there? How did that work?

OR: We tried it. They tried it. They had a wood shop. Annie Gray's husband, Ray, taught school. He also ran a print shop. Later, they had an autobody shop, a welding shop, and an electrical shop. The thing they got into though was that most of the boys when they left were not able to move into some of those jobs because of their age and the child labor laws. We could teach a boy how to butcher, but when he got out, unless he was 18, that was considered a hazardous occupation and he couldn't do it. Later they closed the print shop and sent the stuff to Moundsville. They established a machine shop and a brick and block laying situation.

JEM: Would that have been something they could do?

OR: When they got out, that was something they could have done. The shops were all part of the school, the academic school program.

JEM: Is it like vo-tech centers with the high schools?

OT: Yeah. The school was established by the legislature in 1889 and it was brought to Taylor County in the old courthouse, jail and what we called the Sheriff's residence. I've heard several different stories, but the county gave those, as I understand it, to the State to establish the school here. Are you aware that Pruntytown was the first county seat for Taylor County?

JEM: That's one of the things I've learned.

OR: The institution actually started in the courthouse. There is a picture of that courthouse. I'm sure several people probably have them, but Nancy Fowler has one. She has a picture hanging in the office of the original courthouse with the boys standing in front of it. Then, they began to acquire property. They bought up the farms in the area.

JEM: The school itself?

OR: The institution. They used some of the farm houses to house the boys. I understand during the Depression there were as many as 400 boys out there. Some of the houses were on these outside farms that we were talking about. They would house some of the boys out there. They began to build the buildings and I think the next building was probably the administration building, then probably the school building, and then what we called the shop building. This is going over years. Number two was AB. That was part of the administration building. Number three cottage was one of the farm houses.

JEM: One that was acquired with property?

OR: That was acquired with the property. People used to tell me about going over there for Christmas dances before the school was there. It was one of the outstanding houses in the area. Then I guess they built two cottages up on the hill about 1946-1947 somewhere along there.

JEM: When you say cottages, are those dormitories where the boys stayed? Was that for different age groups?

OR: They had two kinds of housing. One was dormitory, strictly dormitory. Those boys were fed in the central dining hall. Then they had three cottages. The cottages consisted of a set of cottage parents and about 35-36 boys. This became a family unit type thing. Those boys were housed and fed in the cottage.

JEM: It would be like your home.

OR: It was a big family.

JEM: Was that based on age or was it mixed?

OR: Yes. That was based on age. Number three cottage was for the little boys. Those were the smallest. I forgot the dining hall somewhere along in there. The central dining hall. Since then, three of the original houses have been torn down. I don't know what else, but three that I know of. One of them was where the women's section is now.

FR: That was number three cottage.

JEM: Number three cottage is where the women are right now?

OR: The house was there. The one Annie Gray lived in was down by the gymnasium and it's gone. It was Number one cottage. When they built these other facilities, they moved the boys out of some of those houses and they became staff housing. In the process, the gymnasium was built with a heated, indoor swimming pool.

We had a basketball team. We had a football team. The football field was across the road. There were several coaches, but the last coach of the football team was Frank Gatsky. Frank was there a good many years. He had a lot of effect on the boys. He was good to them.

JEM: What kind of activities and holidays did they celebrate?

OR: We had two dormitories for the older boys. Each cottage and each dormitory had their own Christmas tree and had their own Christmas decorations. A big thing was made about that. It was the chaplain's responsibility to see that every boy got something for Christmas, which turned into a tremendous task at times.

JEM: Especially with 200-250 boys. What kind of gifts were they allowed to have?

OR: The parents were allowed to send certain things. We'd send them a list of what was acceptable. The boys could have gloves, caps, games, puzzles. I can't remember all the things. One of the things we had to steer clear of was glue that could be sniffed. We would tell them not to send any glue at all. They could send models that could be put together and we would purchase non-toxic glue for them to use to put them together. We had groups that would fix packages for the boys that didn't get anything from home. It was my responsibility to see that all of those packages were taken care of.

A lot of the boys would say that they were there because they skipped school. If you went back and looked through their records, you'd see that they probably had stole a car or broken into someplace and were put on probation. One of the requirements of probation was to go to

school. That's what they'd say. I asked several of them when they got put on probation if they felt they beat the rap and they said they felt they did. I don't know what the development has been since 1983. I understand there is a different class of problems. The drug problem has come in much heavier and I understand the residents they have now are quite different that what we had. We were able to get along real well with the boys.

JEM: How long were some of them there, a couple months or years?

OR: As a general rule, there was a program of grading behavior. The average stay was about 9 to 12 months. The majority of them would go out on parole with supervision. At one time, it was under the Department of Welfare. Later, they put it under corrections, but there was supervision for them afterward.

JEM: You would have to check in with your parole officer?

OR: A lot of it was an attempt to get them into a situation where they could function. We had returnees. We had boys that got into more trouble. We had a few that came back intentionally because it was better there that it was at home or on the outside. If the boy behaved himself, he could have a pretty good situation. Some of them just went out and got into more trouble because they were that kind. Of course, some of them went on.

JEM: Were the different levels or credits they received based on good behavior? If the sentence was 12 months, would they get to visit their parents or would they get to come and visit you?

OR: Oh yes. We had visitation every weekend. At one time, if a boy earned it, he would be allowed to go home on vacation. Some of them were allowed to go home with their parents for Christmas. Some of them probably were not as well off as if they would have stayed with us, but some of them would take advantage of things.

JEM: After you finished there, what kind of things did you do throughout the community?

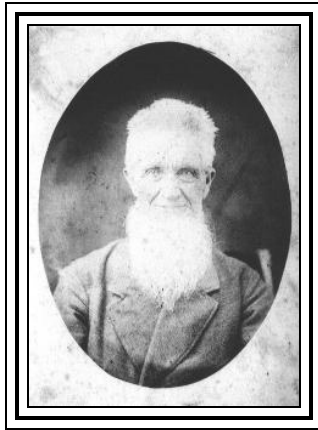
OR: I'm retired. I retired at that time. I've done some part-time interim work in churches, but only the ones that were close enough so that I could stay here.

Thank you to WVHTC Foundation for allowing us to reprint this interview.

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Betty Hadus Reneau
Submitted by Betty Hadus Reneau

I am Betty Hadus Reneau (Isaac Oren Reneau, Reuben James Shannon Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reno, Charles Reno) the only direct descendant of Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau, living still in Clinton County, Albany, Kentucky area near where the Reneau/Wood Farm is and where the big house once stood and the Irwin Cemetery is located where so many of the Reneau and Wood Family members are buried.



Isaac Tipton Reneau

I am the youngest child and the only granddaughter of Reuben James Shannon and Elvira Catherine “Kate” Sheffield Reneau. I was born on May 22, 1933, in Louisville, Kentucky, and was only 4 years old when Mom and Dad returned to Clinton County. My Grandmother Neathery, Betty Wells Neathery, came to our house and stayed with me for 2 years as Mom had to begin working away from home for the first time at the Drug Store which Dad had bought having sole ownership of a store for the first time since becoming a Pharmacist. It was during these 2 years that Joseph W. Wells, Grandmother’s brother, was gathering material for his book, History of Cumberland County, as Clinton had been made out of a part of Cumberland County along with a part from Wayne County in 1836. He would come and visit with Grandmother Neathery and have her tell him of all that she knew and could remember hearing about the Neathery, Wells, Grider and other families and with Dad telling about the Reneau and Wood families. I didn’t listen too well little knowing that someday I would help in various history projects and try to help preserve

the materials and pictures and help family members discover things about both lines, but especially the Reneaus.



Betty Hadus Reneau with Grandfather Shannon early 1936

In the photo above I am wearing Grandfather Shannon’s dress. Ned later told me that all the grandchildren had to have a picture made wearing his dress.

During these first years I went out to stay with Grandmother Kate and Uncle Oscar one time when Grandmother Neathery was very ill. I was both fearful and fascinated by the huge three-story house made of brick on the inside of the first floor and the rest of logs and covered on the outside with wide wood planking. Extending out from it on the right facing the front was a porch or “dog trot” as it was called which led to the one-story kitchen when I knew it. It may have been the slave dwelling as well when the Wood family had it.

There were slaves—Ellen and Dicey—in the Wood Family, whom Mary G. Wood Reneau evidently inherited. But grandfather, Isaac Tipton Reneau, would not sell Ellen one time when Jess Ewing (his brother-in-law) wanted to do so for his wife’s (Mariba Wood Ewing) portion of the Wood inheritance. They remained with the Reneau family and were finally freed. Ellen joined the church with Mary Bayless and Barton (two of Isaac Tipton and Mary Wood Reneau’s children) on December 25, 1865 and was baptized. Ellen later married a Thomas Stockton, apparently also a freed slave, on May 28, 1868.

The house gave an appearance of a rectangle. It had one door in the center of the first floor and one door above it on the second floor. It was later changed and more windows put in it on the first floor. Inside the house were all kinds of things kept from one generation to the next: furniture, papers, Bibles, and family pictures. Also, there was a Record Book beginning with the founding of the “Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli” which was taken to the First Christian

Church at Albany when it moved into town and continued until after the frame church burned in 1926, having in it the list of donors to help rebuild using brick in 1927. This is now the present church building, but is presently undergoing renovation and redecorating.

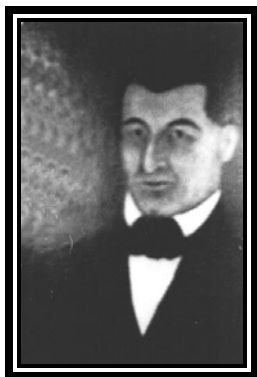


The Reneau Farmhouse in Clinton County, Kentucky

l-r: Isaac Oren, Granville Oscar, R J Shannon, Elvira "Kate", Mariba Eva.

Two children in front l-r: Oren Neathery "Ned" and Nettie Reneau

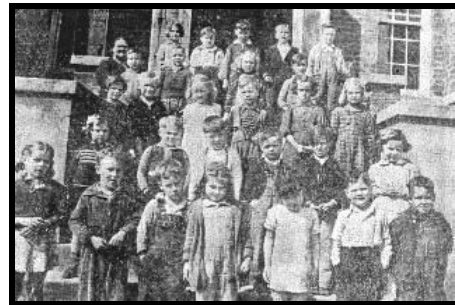
I didn't know about the importance of all of this until later. My brother, Ned, would go out and Grandmother Kate would let him go through and have anything he wanted. She gave him the painted portrait of Isaac T. Reneau when he was a young man, his desk, and some of his papers, which were later microfilmed in West Virginia and are available for research., etc at West Virginia University at Morgantown, West Virginia. Most of the other items were brought to our home in Albany when Grandmother ceased to live on the farm where Mom could go through them and preserve them for the future.



Painting of young Isaac Tipton Reneau

I went to two private kindergartens in the late 1930's. One was held by the daughter of the lady who ran the telephone office. It was

wonderful that Vallie Ross (later Vallie Ross married a Smith,) our teacher, would let us watch her mother, Mrs. Fannie Ross work the old fashioned telephone board ringing each number by hand and plugging in all of the lines. This was the beginning of my life of playing on the streets and in town for a few years after starting to school. The other kindergarten was run by Arlee Speck. (Later, Arlee married a Mackey. She recently died in Norfolk, Virginia.) Both of these ladies attended and belonged to First Christian Church. I entered Albany Elementary School in September, 1939, going through the 8th grade.



Albany Elementary School
Miss Eula Mackey's Room, 1st Grade

The school class photo was the primary 1st grade class of 1939-40. I am on the 3rd Row, 3rd from left A classmate of mine is George P. Nolan. He is on the 3rd Row, 4th from left. George was the son of Lillian Cole Nolan, grandson of Lizzie Beard Cole, great grandson of Mary Bayless Reneau Beard, and great great grandson of Isaac Tipton Reneau.

I went into High School in September, 1946, which was the Clinton County High School, but in the same building—making me go 12 years to school in the same place and building.

I completed High School in May, 1951, and entered Transylvania University in Lexington in September, 1951. I graduated in June 1955, with a major in Social Work. I, too, had planned to make the Ministry my life work. Thus, I entered the College of the Bible (Lexington Theological Seminary) in the fall of 1955. I stayed for three years to get the Bachelor of Divinity (now Master of Divinity) degree. Most of the women then stayed just two years and got a Master of Religious Education. But I wanted that extra year of study so that I could take more courses, especially Homiletics and Clinical Training.

I graduated on June 6, 1958, and was ordained on June 15, 1958, at The First Christian Church in Albany, which is the successor of the church

at Paoli, begun in 1834 where Isaac Tipton Reneau was one of the original sixteen members and one of the first Elders. This is my home church and where I grew up; made my Profession of Faith (but was baptized in the baptistery at First Christian Church in Monticello in Wayne County as we did not yet have one built in the church); where I had attended since I was four years old.



Ordination into the Ministry
Albany First Christian Church

Front Row l-r: Tommy Bouchard, Assoc. Minister Christian Churches in Kentucky, Rev. Betty Reneau, Rev. Oren Neathery Reneau
Back Row l-r: Dr Charles Manaker Jr. (Betty's advisor and Professor of Christian Education at Seminary,) Rev. Richard McLean, pastor at First Christian Church Albany, and author of the Thesis on Isaac Tipton Reneau, Go Tell it on the Mountain, Dr. George V. Moore, Director of Placement at Seminary.

My first full-time position in the Ministry was at El Dorado, Arkansas. Later I served churches in Joplin, Independence, and Mexico, Missouri, being home between placements. I was the Director of Christian Education in all of these churches. It was while I was in Joplin that my brother, Fulton, died in 1960. I was home in 1961 when his wife, Billie, died, but went back to Missouri for my last works. Mom and Dad retired in June, 1962, and I came home in 1963 to stay and see to them.

I had always said that I would never teach school and my Mother had always tried to tell me that I might need to do so and God directs us to what He wants us to do. I didn't know as much as I thought I did. Thus, my main ministry has been in teaching school after all, especially in Speech Therapy. I had to go back to school to get my Education courses and what else it took to get a Teaching Certificate. I went to the University of Kentucky. I completed my work in December, 1964, and began teaching in January, 1965, in Wayne County, having classes in Health and Social Studies.

Dad died quite suddenly that summer, July 22, 1965. I am so thankful that I was home to be here with Mom. I didn't get a position in the 1965-1966 year until in April, 1965, when I went back to help begin the Remedial Reading Program at Wayne County High School and taught through Summer School. In 1966-1967 I taught World History and then back to Remedial Reading in 1967-1968. In 1968-1969 I went to Gallatin County in Northern Kentucky where I taught 7th and 8th grade math. But I came back home so I could be with Mom each night and got into the Cumberland County School System, which is only nineteen miles from Albany. I taught Government; Sociology and Psychology one semester each; regular Freshman English; and a Remedial Freshman English class. They asked me if I would go and take the courses to teach Speech Therapy. So, off to Summer School I went in 1970 to take 9 hours and teach the next year. It was necessary to take 27 hours to be fully certified and scholarships were being given to those who would do this. I began teaching Speech Therapy in the fall of 1970, having three elementary and one secondary school with two of the elementary schools being outside of Burkesville.

Mom became ill in the fall of 1970, and was diagnosed with colon cancer. She had had cancer eighteen years earlier in 1952, and had surgery, removing the cancer growth. However, she produced another one, and she had surgery the week of Christmas, 1970, and lived six months—until June 20, 1971. She made me go to teach every day and made Ned promise to make me go to summer school. She died three weeks after school was out. I did go and finish up the requirements for that certificate. I completed the requirements for my Master of Arts in Special Education by going back still another summer and taking one course from Western Kentucky University which was transferred. I did get my M. A. in August, 1973. Later, I would get my Rank I (30 hours above the M.A.). I taught Speech Therapy for 21 years, the last three being at the Burkesville Elementary as the Marrowbone and Kettle Schools were closed. I then was put into Homebound Teaching which I did for two years, cutting down the number in it and bringing about a reduction in the allotment from a full unit to 3/10 of one.

I had 27 plus years in so I decided to retire. I did retire as of Jun 30, 1993. I have seen many of my students go far and do well and am very proud of them, especially the ones who at one

time thought they couldn't do anything. Since then I have done some Substitute Teaching, especially in Speech Therapy at the Elementary School here in Albany.

I have always been active in the church and in various community activities. I have supplied the pulpit here many times; taught a Sunday School class; taught Vacation Bible School; worked in youth camps and conferences until I got to where I couldn't keep up with them; attended and have been an officer in Christian Women's Fellowship locally and at the district level; served on the Board of the Christian Church in Kentucky; am an Elder; serve as World Outreach Treasurer; was Church Treasurer for a short time; and member of the Clinton County Ministerial Association. I was especially happy to type the Thesis written about Isaac Tipton Reneau some years ago by our student minister, Richard J. McLean. It is now in book form titled; Go Tell it on the Mountain. In the community I have worked as a volunteer at the hospital, working in the Gift Shop and doing the bulletin board in the front hall, and worked in the American Cancer Society with its Relay for Life. I also belong to the Ministerial Association and am the Secretary/Treasurer at the present.



Betty Hadus Reneau
June, 1997

I am a member of the Clinton County Historical Society, which has completed three Pictorial Histories, a Military Book, and Marriage Record Book. Here is where my years of paying better attention would have helped so much, especially as important as Oral History is. However, the family did save so much of the materials and pictures and did pass on the Oral History that it has helped in my becoming the "Family Historian." Materials continue to be found in the strangest places at times. Members of the family write, call, and come to find out all they can about the area and family.

There is a Wood Family Reunion here every first Saturday of August and it is wonderful to have some of the Mary Gipson Wood Reneau/Isaac Tipton Reneau to come and be with me. (I didn't used to pay any attention to it or go, but I do now!)



2003 Wood Family Reunion
Albany, Kentucky

l-r: Charles Reneau, Jonathan Bennett Wood,
Betty Reneau, Oren Neathery (Ned) Reneau

I will try to help anyone who contacts me. The Reneau memorabilia will continue to be cared for by my brother, Ned's children, as I have no children and there will be a void here when I am gone. The printing of both the thesis on Isaac Tipton Reneau done some years ago, the Family Reunions, and the publishing of this Reneau Family Book are all so important!



Betty Hadus Reneau
at 2003 Reunion in San Antonio



Betty Reneau and Pat Bowers Madis
looking at photos at 2003 Reneau Reunion

John Pleasant Thurman (Reno) Reneau and his issue

**Submitted by Linda L. Crawford Adams,
great great granddaughter of J. P. T. Reneau
July 15, 2004**

John Pleasant Thurman Reneau, hereafter referred to as J.P.T., was born October 10, 1809, the third child, and third son of John Reneau and Elizabeth Thurman Reneau in Cumberland County, Kentucky near the Wolf Creek and Cumberland River. These streams have since been dammed, and much of the area is under Dale Hollow Lake, one of the premiere fishing lakes of the Southeast. The area lies along the Kentucky and Tennessee border. For anyone doing detailed research on this area it may be hard to determine exactly which state was involved in the 1700's, and even part of the 1800's as the state line was moved approximately 25 miles north sometime during this timeframe. The state line movement involved what history now calls the Walker Line. Another note for researchers. Part of the northern area of Overton County, Tennessee as it was in the lifetime of J.P.T. is now Clay County, Tennessee.

On October 27, 1838, J.P.T. married Susan Elizabeth Watson, daughter of Abner Younger Watson in Caswell County, North Carolina. The marriage license is on file in the North Carolina records. In the newspaper article he is listed as Dr. J.P.T. Reneau of Texas, but in fact it should read Tennessee. Other written documentation that we have seen indicates that he received his medical training under a Dr. Jourdan of Overton County, Tennessee. J.P.T. and Susan Elizabeth Watson Reneau were the parents of at least nine children. The children were:

1. Mary Elizabeth Reneau Clark, born in Lynchburg, Virginia in 1838, died in Paducah, Kentucky October 26, 1925. She married Samuel H. Clark of Virginia, and they moved to Paducah at the time of their marriage in 1860. Their children were:
 - a. Eugenia E. Clark Cleugh, born 1870, died April 19, 1925. Married Lord Horace Cleugh, a soldier in the Canadian Army. He was killed in Russia during World War I.
 - b. Augustin A. Clark, born 1869, died as a teenager.
 - c. Flora Mae Clark Young, born 1874, died January 28, 1909.

- d. Henri Eola Clark Lancaster. Her first married name was Wolkwitz.

As noted, Mary Clark died on October 26, 1925. Her obituary follows:

“Funeral services for Mrs. Mary Clark, 86 years old, who died Tuesday morning in her home, 901 Clay street, were held at 2:30 o'clock yesterday afternoon from the Grace Episcopal church with the Rev. Curtis Fletcher officiating. Mrs. Clark is survived by one daughter, Mrs. Aimee Lancaster, of St. Louis; and by one sister, Mrs. Lee A. Eison, of Carbondale, Ill. She was the mother of Lady Eugenia Cleugh, who died last April.

Pneumonia was the immediate cause of death, but she had been in ill health for three years.

Mrs. Clark was a native of Lynchburg, Va. And before her marriage to S. H. Clark in 1860 was Miss Mary Reneau. She had been a resident of Paducah since her marriage.

The pallbearers were: Floyd Brummett, S. A. Thompson, A. J. Martin, Rankin Kirkland, Roy McKinney, and George Kolb.

Burial was in Oak Grove cemetery.”

2. Lee Ann Reneau Eison, born 1842 in Burkesville, Cumberland County, Kentucky, died in 1930, in Carbondale, Illinois. Married James Oliver Eison, I, (born 1842, died 1925—he and his sister-in-law, Mary Clark, died the same day) in Pope County, Illinois on 02-06-1870. He had been a Union Army soldier in the 48th Regiment of Illinois Company A. During the Civil War she taught school in Paducah, Kentucky. They lived in Bay City, Metropolis, and Carbondale, Illinois, and are buried in the Eison plot in Hamlettsburgh, Illinois. An interesting note on the move to Metropolis: The family moved to Metropolis so their only son, Courtney Royal (Rall) could attend high school, as there was no high school in Pope County. He later went on to attend Southern Illinois University in Carbondale. The children of Lee Ann Reneau Eison and James Oliver Eison were:
 - a. Lillie B. Eison, born 1870, died 1935.
 - b. Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison, born 12-01-1872, died 12-29-1961. He married Lucy Henry Vick (The Vicks were one of the oldest

families in Livingston County, Kentucky) on 01-09-1909.

- c. Cora B. Eison, died at age 5.
- d. Susan E. Eison Weaver, born 12-22-1878, died 1983. YES, she was 105! She married Rafe Weaver on 12-05-1902. Their children were:
 1. Alice Weaver, married Fletcher Robinson. Their children were:
 - a. Mary Robinson
 - b. Betty June Robinson
 2. Daisy Weaver, married Henry Simson. Their child was:
 - a. Louise Simson
 3. Helen Weaver was married and divorced, but we have no information about her otherwise.
- e. Daisy Lee Eison, was born 12-22-78, and married A. Porter Golden on 08-15-1903. She died 07-11-1904 in childbirth, along with the child.
- f. Annie Eison, died in infancy.
- g. Carrie Eison Neftzger, born 12-04-1883, died 1988,—YES she too lived to be 105. She married Harmon Neftzger, and they were divorced. Their children were:
 1. Aline Neftzger, born in 1904, died in 2000. Married Joseph VanNatta, and they lived in Carbondale, Illinois where they owned and operated a funeral home until Joe's retirement. They had no children.
 2. Virginia Neftzger, married Glenn Ayres, and they lived in Macomb, Illinois where he was a math professor at the local university. They had no children.
3. Amanda Reneau. Stayed in the area of Cumberland County, Kentucky and Oveton County, Tennessee.
4. Sallie Reneau, born 1845, died 1862.
5. Mattie Reneau, born 1849, died in Memphis, Tennessee in 1879 of Yellow Fever.
6. William H. (Will) Reneau, born 1851, no record of death.
7. Abner Younger (Young) Reneau, born 1854. Named after maternal grandfather, Abner Younger Watson. There is some reason to believe that he lived in Memphis,

Tennessee, and worked for what later came to be known as the Illinois Central Railroad, now the Canadian/Illinois Central.

8. Corrine Reneau, Born 1859.
9. T. Reneau, infant buried with parents.

**Mary Elizabeth Reno/Reneau Clark
Lee Ann Reno/Reneau Eison
Submitted by Linda Adams**

The letter in this article from Mary Reneau Clark to her uncle Isaac Tipton Reneau was sent to me by Dollye McAlister Elliott. The original letter is in the West Virginia University Charles C. Wise Library, among the papers of Isaac Tipton Reneau that were donated to the University by Reverend Oren Neathery Reneau. Mary E. Clark was my great grandmother's sister. My great grandmother was Lee Ann Reneau Eison. There were other siblings in the family who came to live with Aunt Mary on the death of their parents. Those parents were John Pleasant Thurman Reneau and Susan Elizabeth Watson Reneau. They were married in Caswell County, North Carolina on October 27, 1838 and were the parents of at least nine children. According to the best information we can get they died in 1864 (two days apart, and an infant died the same day as she did) and their tombstones are in Oak Grove Cemetery in Paducah, Kentucky, near where we live. There is an interesting mystery about their deaths. According to one Reneau family who live in Clay County, Tennessee, they died in an accident, and were buried in Cumberland County, Kentucky. If that is the case, then their graves would be under a very large lake that has been formed in the 20th century. If this is true, we suppose these tombstones were put there as a memorial. An interesting clause in a will of a brother of John Pleasant Thurman Reneau and Isaac Tipton Reneau is that if any of his relatives' grave did not have a tombstone money would be provided to purchase a stone. That brother was Nathaniel Smith Reneau, who died a wealthy silver investor. We suspect these tombstones were purchased in this manner. There is also a headstone for another daughter of J.P.T. and Susan Reneau. Her name was Sallie. A listing of the children of J.P.T. and Susan Reneau is: 1. Mary Elizabeth Reneau Clark, 2. Lee Ann Reneau Eison, 3. Amanda Reneau 4. Sallie Reneau 5. William H. Reneau 6. Mattie Reneau 7. Abner Younger Reneau 8. Corinne Reneau, and 9 the baby, the only name we can find on the tombstone is T.

Lee Ann Reneau married James Oliver Eison on February 2, 1870 in Pope County, Illinois. Their

second child, and only son was Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison, who married Lucy Henry Vick of Livingston County, Kentucky in 1908. Their first child, and only daughter, Anna Lee Eison Crawford, was my mother.

Aunt Mary, in the letter mentioned by Dollye Elliott, and written to Isaac Tipton Reneau, mentioned the Washington connection through the Thurman side of the family. We have never been able to discover any more about this, however my uncle, C. R. Eison, Jr. remembered a great deal about his great aunt Mary, and the elegance of her lifestyle. Her home was in an area around Fort Anderson in Paducah, a Union Army fortification. You may remember that in the letter she makes reference to a fire destroying the information about the Washington family connection. We know, from the history of the Paducah area that all two story houses within a certain distance from Fort Anderson were ordered burned by General U. S. Grant to prevent snipers from using the second floor as vantage points to shoot Union soldiers. Knowing the exact location of their home during the war, we assume this was the case with the destruction of their home.

Aunt Mary's husband, Samuel Clark, evidently died about 1900 as we lost trace of him between 1898 and 1904. She, on the other hand, lived at their home in Paducah until October 26, 1925. My mother and my uncle remember the funeral and subsequent sale of her antiques which brought dealers from across the country. Lee Ann Reneau Eison, my great grandmother, was born in Burkesville (Cumberland County), Kentucky on March 16, 1842, and died on March 8, 1930. She was a school teacher in Paducah during the Civil War. My grandfather was a teacher as was my mother, and I.

We know that upon the death of their parents the younger children lived with Mary, the older sister, but to date have never been able to find where they went with the exception of Mattie who died of Yellow Fever in Memphis. Mary's only son died as a youth, and two daughters preceded her in death. One daughter lived in Saint Louis, and we have no information about her.

You may have noticed that we have spelled the name Reneau and Reno in this letter. In this area Reno was the more common spelling except when the family was referring to itself. The tombstone of J. P. T. Reno and Susan Watson Reno is a case in point, while their daughter, my great grandmother, had Reneau put on her tombstone.

The Reneau ancestry of sisters Mary Elizabeth and Lee Ann Reno was John Pleasant Thurman Reno, John, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis Reno/Reynard. Mary and Lee were two of nine children born to John Pleasant Thurman Reno and Susan Elizabeth Watson Reno.

The letter was dated January 26, 1883, and provides some interesting information, giving a vivid picture of life during her time. Especially interesting is her comment about a Washington connection to the Reneau line.

It will also help a bit to understand the letter with the following information:

Polly was a favorite name of Mary Gipson Wood Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau's wife.

Mary and Samuel Clark had four children: Flora Mae (Clark) Young, Eugenia (Clark) Cleugh, Henri Eola Clark, and Augustin Clark.

John Pleasant Thurman Reneau and Susan Elizabeth Watson Reneau were parents of nine children: Mary Elizabeth (author of this letter), Lee Ann, Amanda, Sallie, Mattie, William, Abner, Corrine and an infant who died young. Mary Clark refers to some of her siblings in the letter.

The following are excerpts of the letter, telling her Uncle Isaac news of various members of the family in 1883.

"We have had a great deal of sickness in the family; until this summer and winter I have not known hardly a well day. I was in miserable health for four or five years until I went to Hot Springs five years ago, that improved me so much that I felt a new person two years. . . . But since then I have gradually fallen back until I am almost as bad as before I went. *** Tell Aunt Polly that Gussie is the largest boy to his age she ever saw.

He will be fourteen the last day of March and is as large as most boys of 16 or 17. Eugenie, my eldest, is in her nineteenth year. She graduated in June '81, is not going to school now, but I would send her off to boarding school if I was able. I have two other children, Henrietta Eola, eleven years of age, and Maie, my baby, four. She is the very image of Gussie, as you saw him, same skin, hair, and eyes. *** Tell Aunt Polly that I say please send me a piece of the silk dress she made.

And tell me just how long she was in raising the worms, spinning, weaving, making, and all. And how long ago it was. I think it was the first silk dress, made under the circumstances, in America.

***** Uncle Isaac, I want to ask a favor of you.

Tell me all you know about our family connections. Write it in the shape of a chart. I know that our connection is illustrious & that

Grandma Reneau [Elizabeth (Thurman) Reneau] was Washington's cousin. On what side, I do not know. As Washington's kinsmen we are allied to the Duke of Buckingham and Lord Sulgrave, Earl of Southampton, the latter being [Col. John Washington's Grandfather. Such a connection should never be forgotten, but handed down from father to son, through generations. I would be more obliged than I can tell if you will be so kind as to do as I have asked. You know we once had a chart of the family, but it was destroyed during the [Civil] War. *** Give my love to all. I got a letter from Cousin Eunice in the fall, was very glad to hear from her but sorry to hear of her ill health. I addressed the letter to Horse Cave [KY]. They had been gone from there ten years. I wonder at its ever reaching her. *** What has become of Cousin Mary? has she ever married? Give her my love. How is Mrs. Harrison's family. I have not heard from them in a long time. Give them my love also. Could any of you come to Paducah I would be most happy to see you. *** Lee was over just before Christmas. She has four children.

Their eldest girl Lillie is eleven years of age. She spent Christmas week with [?Heinri.] She looks very much like Lee. [?Young] is running a train.

Will is not doing any thing at present. He has not been doing any thing regular since he went out of the Grocery business. Matt is dead. She died in Memphis with the Yellow fever four years ago. Cousin Sallie [Sarah Eola Reneau], Uncle Nat's daughter, I suppose you know, is dead. Died in "78 of Yellow fever. [The 1878 Yellow Fever Epidemic hit the country and destroyed hundreds of thousands of people. DME has a copy of a letter Sallie, in Germantown, TN, during Epidemic wrote to her father, Nathaniel Smith Reneau in Washington D.C., as well as a newspaper clipping telling about Nat, en route to her bedside, finding that Sallie had died.]

Corinne is still living with me; she is not married yet. She is in her 24th year [age 23]. She could have married several times, but she did not care to. She is perfectly satisfied to remain as she is. She says when the right one comes along, maybe she will have him. ***

Give my love to all. Your Affectionate Niece, Mary E. Clark.

Address to Mrs. S. H. Clark, Box 68, Paducah, Ky.

**Lee Ann Reneau Eison
Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison, Sr.
Submitted by Linda L. Crawford Adams**

Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison, Sr. was the second child and only son of James Oliver Eison, I, and

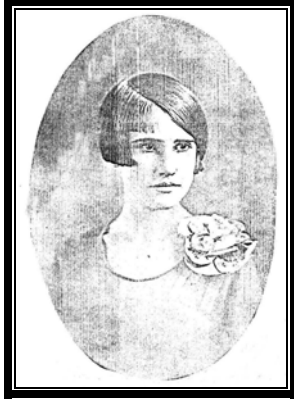
Lee Ann Reneau Eison. He married Lucy Henry Vick on March 19, 1909 in Paducah, Kentucky.



Courtney Royal Eison
Graduation photo
age 18, (1893)

By the time of their marriage Rall's mother, Lee Ann, who evidently was quite a business woman, had a substantial sized farm in Livingston County, Kentucky, across the river from Paducah. Records indicate however that she and her family continued to live in Pope County, Illinois. (Researchers note: Pope County, Illinois and upper Livingston County, Kentucky are separated only by the Ohio River, and it was much easier for the Upper Livingston County residence to cross the Ohio than to travel overland to the Livingston County seat of Smithland.) Rall and his wife, Lucy, lived on the Livingston County farm all of their lives. The deed showed it passed from his parents to Rall, Sr. Rall Sr. was a well known peach farmer, known for growing some of the best and largest peaches in the country. The orchard was adjacent to the Ohio River, allowing for irrigation, in the hot dry summers of Western Kentucky. His son, Rall Jr. continued in the orchard business until the 1980's. Rall Sr. served as magistrate, representing lower Livingston County, and was an ardent Republican, something he inherited from his parents who were Lincoln Republicans. Until very late in his life Rall Sr. enjoyed going to Paducah on Saturdays to talk to anyone available. Their children were:

1. Anna Lee Eison Crawford, was born 11-04-1909, and died March 26, 1995.



Anna Lee Eison Crawford

Anna Lee married George Edward Crawford of Smithland, Livingston County, Kentucky. She was a lifelong school teacher in Livingston County, and Paducah City Public Schools, and was an excellent musician, having started music lessons at age four. She attended Southern Illinois University and Murray State (Kentucky) University. They had one child:

- a. Linda Lee Crawford Adams, born 04-16-1941. Married James B. Adams of Melber, McCracken County, Kentucky on 07-17-1961. Linda attended David Lipscomb University in Nashville, Tennessee and Murray State University. She, like her mother, was a career teacher, having retired from teaching in 1999, to join James in his vocational consulting business. They are the parents of a son and a daughter:
 1. Amy Lee Adams Mills, born 02-03-1966, married to SSG Timothy James Mills. Amy is a full time mother to her two sons, Randal Jordan Ray, born 07-09-1988, and James Evan Burnett, born 07-29-1992. She is the President of the Family Readiness Group of the Kentucky National Guard Transportation Unit 2113.
 2. James Robert (Rob) Adams, born 11-10-1970, married Jenny Linn Wyatt Adams. Rob is a salesman for Aramark in the Western Kentucky region. They have three children, Tyler Chet Adams, born 03-26-1991, Kelsy Taylor Adams, born 05-27-1992, and Caleb Wyatt Adams, born 01-26-1999.



James and Linda Crawford Adams
1990

2. Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison, Jr., was born 12-16-1913, died on 04-29-2004. He married Linda Frances Doran on 05-04-1941. Rall was a lifelong peach grower and cattle farmer. He, like his father, was known as one of the finest peach growers in the country. He was a master orchard man, remaining in the peach growing business until the mid 1980's. They had one son, David.
 - a. David Doran Eison, Born 01-02-1947. He married Melinda Crutchfield on 06-26-1974, and they have one son Courtney Lee Eison, born 07-23-1983. David attended Murray State University, and taught Vocational Agriculture at Livingston County High School until his retirement. Upon his retirement from teaching David became a full time farmer.
3. James Oliver Eison II, was born 11-16-1915, and died July 1981. He married Glenna Jewell Matheny in 1940. Oliver farmed with his father and brother for many years, always tending to the mechanical side of the farm. After many years of farming, he left the farm to work as an engineer in the river transportation business. He was very gifted mechanically. Oliver and Jewell had two children:
 - a. James Oliver (Jimmy) Eison III, born 08-07-1941. He married Marsha Neikert and they had two children:
 1. Marissa Ann Eison, born 1967.
 2. Kelly Jean Eison, born 1969.
 - b. Mary Ann Eison Fecteau, born 08-02-1947. Married Richard Fecteau in 1986, and they had no children. Mary Ann was a software engineer and lived most of her adult life in Raleigh, North Carolina. She died

a premature death in 2003 due to a brain tumor.

The Livingston County, Kentucky farm, located on the lower Ohio River, first owned by Lee Ann Reneau Eison, passed on to her only son Courtney Royal (Rall) Eison Sr., and is now being farmed by Lee Ann's great grandson, David Eison. The peaches from this farm have been gone for several years, but the phone still rings occasionally in the Eison household from people across the nation who once bought peaches there, and would like some more while visiting in Western Kentucky. They, like those of us who grew up eating them every summer, can't forget Eison peaches.

One thing seems to run through all generations of the descendants of J.P.T. Reneau and his wife Susan Elizabeth Watson Reneau. School teaching is a predominant vocation for many from every generation. One branch of the family seems to have a large number of lawyers. Higher education was prized by a substantial number of the children from every generation we have researched.

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Carrie Eison Neftzger
Newspaper articles provided by Linda Crawford Adams

Carrie Eison was the youngest child of James Oliver Eison and Lee Ann Reneau Eison. The following two articles appeared in the local newspapers on the occasion of Carrie's 100th birthday and her 101st birthday.



Carrie Neftzger
1983

Sprightly Centenarian Recalls Past, but Looks Forward to the Future

The immaculately groomed and coifed grey-haired woman sitting upright in her comfortable chair belied her century of living. Her eyes sparkled behind her glasses as she related some of her experiences.

Carrie Neftzger reached back to memories of her early school years as she told how she resented being teased about being a country girl. "I attended elementary schools in Metropolis, and one day another girl greeted me with 'hello, country.' But later on that girl became my best friend.

Mrs. Neftzger and her two daughters moved from Ledbetter, Ky., to Carbondale in November 1909, so that those daughters could be educated at Southern Illinois Normal University (now SIU-C). They did not come as strangers; her parents Mr. and Mrs. J. O. Eison and her sister were already living in Carbondale and were able to help her and the girls get settled in the community which was to be their home, at 813 S. Normal Ave., now University Avenue; later they moved to West Pecan Street.

In order to finance the girls' education, Mrs. Neftzger rented rooms with kitchen privileges to other college students, as was the custom in those days before dormitories were prevalent.

Recalling some of her experiences in those days, she noted that students' activities were for more restricted than they are today. She said "those girls had to be in by 10 p.m. I always sat up until they came home, and then locked the door."

But even in those early days, some girls found ways to circumvent house rules, Mrs. Neftzger said "my windows extended down to the baseboard. One room occupied by two girls had the screens nailed down to hold them tight; but one of the girls removed the nails and was crawling out that window to meet her boy friend. I found out what she was doing, and refused to allow her to return after that term ended. I told her I wasn't running a reformatory.

Mrs. Neftzger and her daughters were members of the First Methodist Episcopal Church (now known as the United Methodist Church). She was very active in the Ladies' Guild (now the United Methodist District Women), the Foreign Missionary Society of the church and is still active in the Miriam Circle.

She was a member of the Carbondale Chapter 462 of the Order of the Eastern Star, and became a Past Matron of the order in 1965. She was also active in the Women's Christian Temperance Union, and was a charter member of the Garden

Study Club of Carbondale. She is a lifelong member of the Republican Women's Club.

Everyone with whom Mrs. Neftzger came in contact recalls her careful attention to her appearance. She was always dressed in good taste, with matching gloves, shoes and hats, even during recent years when styles became more casual.

Mrs. Neftzger is glad that hats and gloves are again being worn more often.

She celebrated her 100th birthday on Dec. 4, 1983, at an open house given by her son-in-law and daughter, Mr. and Mrs. Joe VanNatta, at their home in Carbondale. She is now looking forward to her second hundred years of zestful living.

Carrie Neftzger will Note 101st Birthday

Carrie Neftzger of Macomb will be 101 years old Tuesday.

Born Dec. 4, 1883, in New Liberty, Ill., she was the baby of the family and is the last of six, a brother and five sisters.

"I was raised on a grain and livestock farm consisting of a lot of bottom ground. I didn't have to help with the farming operations, just carry corn cobs and kindling for the cookstove," she said.

The rural school she attended was located five miles from their home. Her sister and brother rode one horse and carried the lunch buckets. Mrs. Neftzger rode on another sister's lap in a sidesaddle while another sister rode behind.

When she was six-years-old the family moved to Metropolis, Ill., so her brother could attend high school. "We moved to town in a horse drawn wagon. There were kids playing in the street and one little girl said to me 'hello country when did you come to town' I was very insulted," Mrs. Neftzger said, "When I started school the same girl was sitting next to me, we became the best of friends.

Mrs. Neftzger attended school until she was a sophomore. "I didn't like the teachers and really all I wanted was to get married, live in a little white house with a white picket fence and grow hollyhocks," she said.

She was married in Metropolis at the age of 18. Unfortunately it was not her dream marriage and ended in divorce. She had two girls, Aline and Virginia. "I moved to Carbondale and ran a rooming house for female college students to support myself and put the girls through school," she said. "I had no strict rules for the roomers to follow in their light housekeeping rooms. The university made a ruling that doors were to be

locked at 10 p. m. but I didn't abide by those rules. One night one of the girls slipped out a window."

After her two daughters were raised she sold the big house and moved into an apartment in Carbondale and lived by herself until she was 98. As a young girl she liked to lie on the floor and exercise along with radio instructions, she walked to town to shop and used a stationery bicycle for exercise as she watched soap operas on television.

"One of my favorite movie stars was Shirley Temple. I think I probably saw every movie she made," Mrs. Neftzger said. She has voted in every presidential election since women were given the right to vote in 1920.

Mrs. Neftzger liked to raise outdoor flowers, now reads the newspapers, Readers Digest and loves The Inquirer. Her favorite television programs are soap operas, "As The World Turns," Dallas" and Dynasty."

She is a member of the First Methodist Church of Carbondale, a Past Matron of Order of Easter Star, and once belonged to the Garden Club, WCTU and Republican Women's Organization.

For her 100th birthday her daughter and son-in-law, Mr. and Mrs. Joe VanNatta hosted an open house for her in Carbondale. "More than 100 people came and I didn't tell anyone about it except at church and club meetings. It was a good thing or we would have been overrun with people," Mrs. Neftzger said.

She has lived with her daughter in Macomb, Mrs. Glenn Ayre, since spring. "I consider this home now," she said.



Corrie Eison Neftzger

Youngest daughter of James Oliver and Lee Ann
Reno/Reneau Eison

Granddaughter of John Pleasant Thurman Reno

Mrs. Ayre said she took her to church on Mother's Day and the Rev. Edward Hoffman, knowing her mother's age, asked mothers a 100 years old to stand, "the congregation thought it was a joke until mother stood up."

Mrs. Neftzger has never smoked cigarettes or drank alcohol. She didn't allow her roomers to do so either." She eats and sleeps good and takes only the amount of medication considered normal for anyone her age.

No special celebration is planned, "its just another day," Mrs. Neftzger said.

[Carrie Eison Neftzger lived to be 105 years of age. She passed away in August of 1988.]

Flora Clark Young
Submitted by Linda L. Crawford Adams

Flora Mae Clark was the daughter of Samuel H. Clark and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Clark of Paducah, Kentucky. She was born in 1874. Flora's maternal grandparents were John Pleasant Thurman Reneau and Susan Elizabeth Watson Reneau. She became an actress, well known in Paducah.



Flora Clark Young

The following are obituaries of Flora Mae Clark Young, which appeared in the two Paducah newspapers, *The Paducah Sun* and the *Paducah Evening News*. Incidentally, the papers still exist under the name, *The Paducah Sun*. The obituaries appeared on January 28, 1909.

DEATH ENDS HER CAREER

Mrs. Flora Mae Clark Young, Paducah Actress is Dead

YOUNG LIFE GOES OUT AT FULL TIDE OF PROMISE AND HAPPINESS

WILL BE BROUGHT HOME FOR BURIAL

Mrs. Young Goes West For Her Health and

Seemed to be Improving Until Day Before Her Death

Paducah was shocked by a message received Thursday announcing the death of Mrs. Flora Mae Clark Young, known under the stage name, Lillian Lancaster, a popular young actress of this city. Mrs. Young died Thursday morning at Denver, Colorado of diabetes, after an illness of two months. She was thought to be improving until Wednesday, when she began to grow worse, and she sank rapidly until the end came. Few of Mrs. Young's friends here knew of the change in her condition, and so were unprepared for her death.

Mrs. Young was a native of Paducah. She was the youngest daughter of Mrs. S. H. Clark, 901 Clay Street, and spent her vacations here ever since going on the stage eight years ago. She was a dainty blonde beauty and possessed unusual dramatic ability. When compelled to leave the stage on account of her health she was playing with Normal Hackett in "Classmates". She retired from the company at Thanksgiving in Buffalo and went to Denver hoping to get well and resume her stage career. She appeared with a number of good companies, playing one season with Louis James in Shakespeare repertoire. She was married December 23, 1902 to James A. Young, a young actor of much talent, now with the Louis James Company. Her sister Mrs. H. H. Cleugh, of Regina, B. C. was with her when she died. Her husband had just left her much improved, and probably did not reach her bedside before she died.

The body will be brought to this city. Funeral arrangements will be made later. She will be laid to rest at Oak Grove Cemetery beside her father, and a brother, Gus Clark, who died a few years ago.

She leaves beside her husband, her mother, Mrs. S.H. Clark of this city, and two sisters, Mrs. J.E. Wolkewitz of Saint Louis, and Mrs. H.H. Cleugh of Regina, B.C. One child died in infancy.

Mrs. Young had a sweet disposition and winning manner, which endeared her to many friends. Her beautiful blonde hair, which curled luxuriantly, gave a piquant childish expression to her face, that was peculiarly appealing. And yet her quiet womanly dignity spoke of a rare force of character.

Her native city was proud of her success and her friends and admirers here are deeply grieved by her untimely death.

A follow-up obituary, probably in the next morning's paper reads as follows:

Flora Clark Young

WILL BE BURIED TUESDAY IN OAK GROVE

FUNERAL OF YOUNG ACTRESS WILL TAKE

PLACE IN THE GRACE EPISCOPAL CHURCH

Mrs. Flora Clark Young, who died suddenly at Denver Thursday morning will be brought to this city tomorrow evening at 7:35 o'clock. The body will be taken to the home of her mother, Mrs. S.H. Clark, 901 Clay Street. The exact time of the funeral has not been set, and will not till after tomorrow evening. The funeral will be held at the Grace Episcopal Church Tuesday. The Rev. David C. Wright, rector of the church will have charge of the funeral services. The burial will be in Oak Grove cemetery.

A telegram has been received from Mr. James A. Young from Winnipeg, Manitoba saying he has started for Paducah. It is not known when he will reach here.

Mrs. H.H. Cleugh of Regina, B.C. has telegraphed that he was on his way, but was snow bound in North Dakota. It will be Monday night before he can get here. Nothing further has been received from Mrs. Cleugh, but there are grave fears that her train may be detained somewhere in the blizzard now raging.

This has been transcribed exactly as it was printed in the two Paducah newspapers. As a footnote to this, Oak Grove Cemetery is still a very active cemetery in Paducah, and Grace Episcopal Church still stands in downtown Paducah, just as it did in 1906. It is one of the most beautiful buildings in Paducah, a city full of beautiful buildings.

A further note on the burial plot in Oak Grove Cemetery. In the cemetery records it shows that Mrs. S. H. Clark purchased and owned the lot. The only tombstones in the lot however are for her parents, a sister who preceded them in death and an unknown woman. No reference is made anywhere in the cemetery records of the burial of S.H.Clark, Flora Clark Young, or Augustin Clark, the young son of S. H. Clark and Mary Reneau Clark. The house at 901 Clay Street has been gone several years, and the lot had remained vacant until a few months ago. Their original house in Paducah seems to have been just a block away at 800 Clay Street. We think that is the house lost in the fire referenced by Mary Reneau Clark in her letter to her uncle Isaac Tipton Reneau. My mother and her brother, who died only a few weeks ago at age of 90, remembered well visits to their aunt's house, and my uncle has told many times of the large crowd of antique dealers who came from far and near to the sale after Mary Reneau Clark's death. Just recently James Adams, my husband, was in a new downtown business in Paducah and noticed a picture on the wall he thought I must see. I went inside to see "the find", which was a picture of a grocery store at Second and Kentucky Avenue. The large sign on the store front read "Clark's Grocer". We had known for years that Samuel and Mary Reneau Clark owned a grocery store at this spot, but this was the first pictorial evidence we had seen. We learned that the original picture is in one of the city museums, but have not checked it out yet. Some other interesting facts about this branch of the family. We know that Mary Reneau Clark outlived all three of her children. Augustin, the only son, died young, probably before his teens. Flora Mae's death is told here, and her sister, Lady Eugenia Clark Cleugh died in Paducah in April 1925. Mary Reneau Clark died at her home in Paducah in October, 1925, just six months later. None of the family lived to see the great Ohio River Valley flood that covered Paducah in January, 1937, and would have covered their grocery store (a block from the river) to the second floor, and the first floor of their house by several feet, despite the house being nine blocks from the Ohio River.

**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, born July 10, 1814, in Cumberland County, Kentucky,¹ 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 1st 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,² 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 letter³ 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 13th 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.⁴

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,

³ 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.

⁴ 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.

¹ Cumberland County was later split and the part the Reneaus lived in became Clinton County.

² He would be 33 in July, 1847.

with E.C. Penn. The entry also mentions N.S. Reneau's son, Edward.⁵

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 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, 17th Tennessee Cavalry.⁶ By March 5, 1864, he was a Captain and assistant-inspector-general on the Staff of General Richardson, stationed at Yazoo City, Mississippi.⁷

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.)⁸

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.

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

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

⁷ See Battle of Vicksburg, Mississippi.

⁸ *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.

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.

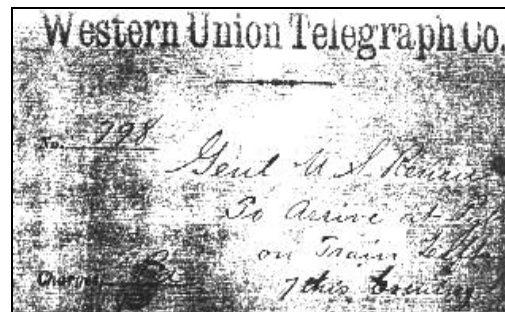
I have a copy of the last letter Sallie wrote to her father, dated September 28, 1878. It is in Sallie's handwriting (she was apparently left-handed). Excerpts here can show something of the great tragedy of the epidemic in only one small town, but this was repeated in thousands of towns and cities of 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 frost⁹ and be rid of all this dreadful excitement. 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

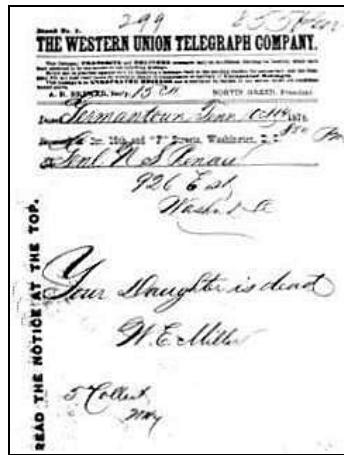
An article from an Ohio newspaper, probably Cincinnati, reads:

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 15th 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.'"



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



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 14th 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 18th 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.¹⁰ 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”,¹¹ 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 down before then”; otherwise, the property would be lost,

¹⁰ 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.

¹¹ The telegram had been returned to Mr. Butler; Isaac Tipton Reneau had died.

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. Stillings¹² 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

¹² 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.

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".

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.

In 1929, in honor of Sallie Eola Reneau, 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 Program for which tells about 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



Sarah "Sallie" Eola Reneau

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 1st 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 its erection in honor of Miss Sallie Eola Reneau, 1929.

Jonathan Mulkey Reneau
Information provided by Louise Wisener
Dollye McAllister Elliott

Jonathan Mulkey Reneau was the eighth child born to John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno on July 9, 1822 in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky. He was named after the Reverend Jonathan Mulkey who began preaching in South Carolina, and in 1780, he, William Reneau, [eldest son of John Reno and Susanna Thorn Reno] and others from Carolina and Virginia migrated to East Tennessee and organized a church on Boones Creek, subsequently known as Buffalo Ridge.

Jonathan Mulkey Reneau joined older siblings: Isaac Tipton Reneau, born December 9, 1805; Joseph Wright Reneau, born August 28, 1807; John Pleasant Thurman Reno, born October 3, 1809; Nathan Washington Reneau, born December 19, 1812; Nathaniel Smith Reneau, born July 10, 1814; Elizabeth Wakefield Reneau, born November 30, 1816; and Sarah A. "Sallie" Reneau, born May 1, 1819.

Jonathan was also an older brother to two siblings: William T. Reneau, born June 11, 1824; and Berry Jordan Reneau, born December 5, 1827.

Jonathan Reneau married Elizabeth Ann Hill on April 4, 1844. Elizabeth Ann was born June 10, 1826 in Tennessee. The following children were born to the union: Sarah Eola, born January 11, 1845; John White, born April 12, 1846; Annie Elizabeth, born November 8, 1847; Nathaniel Scott, born March 10, 1849; Lavina, born April 23, 1851; Nancy S., born February 22, 1853; Isabel A., born December 20, 1854; Millard Filmore, born July 20, 1857; Permelia Caroline, born January 21, 1859; Mary Catherine, born March 11, 1861; Joseph Granville, born February 28, 1863; J. T. Reneau, born May 18, 1864, died July 22, 1864; Eunice Leanne, born March 29, 1866; Caleb F. born March 26, 1868, died August 13, 1870; Infant, born and died in 1870; and Eulissa Virginia "Nattie," born, February 4, 1872.

It has been noted that Elizabeth Ann Hill Reneau passed away May 31, 1876 in Monroe County, Tennessee, and is buried in Combs Family Cemetery near Hestand, Kentucky. Curiously, the 1880 U.S. Federal Census shows Jonathan Reneau, age 59; wife Elizabeth, age 54; children: Sarah, age 36; Fillmore, age 22; Permelia C., age 21; Mary, age 19; Joseph G.,

age 16; Lea H., (Eunice Leanne) age 14; Ulissus (sic, Eulissa) V. age 9.

Sometime after the death of Elizabeth Ann Hill Reneau, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau married Molly Gatewood. Three children were born to this union: Fletcher Gatewood, born April 9, 1883; Francis Mulkey, born April 4, 1885; and Polly Eola, born January, 1887.



Jonathan Mulkey Reneau
Jonathan sold beautiful Family Bibles like the one he has in the photo.

SARAH EOLA was born January 11, 1845 in Clinton Co., KY, and died February 09, 1892 in Pickett Co., TN. She married JOHN LITTLE. He was born September 14, 1823 in TN, and died May 02, 1901 in Pickett Co., TN.

Child of SARAH RENEAU and JOHN LITTLE is: MARTHA E. LITTLE, b. December 12, 1885; d. August 19, 1964, Picket Co., KY.

JOHN WHITE RENEAU was born April 12, 1846 in Clinton Co., KY, and died October 19, 1909 in Monroe Co., KY. He married MARY T. WHITE. She was born January 02, 1841 in Macon Co., TN, and died November 06, 1925.

Children of JOHN RENEAU and MARY WHITE are: FANNIE M., b. 1869; ISAAC NEWTON, b. June 28, 1872, Monroe Co., KY; d. September 28, 1960, Barren Co., KY.; MINNIE J, b. August 28, 1874, Monroe Co., KY.; IDA, b. November 13, 1878, Monroe Co., KY.; THOMAS M., b. September 1880, KY; d. February 05, 1915, Logan Co., KY.

NATHANIAL SCOTT RENEAU was born March 10, 1849 in Clinton Co., KY, and died April 20, 1930 in Clay Co., TN. He married VIRGIA MCMURTREY. She was born December 24, 1855 in KY, and died March 01,

1940 in Clay Co., TN. Nathaniel Reneau lived in Moss, Tenn., was a teacher and justice of peace. He had a farm on Line Creek. Children of NATHANIAL RENEAU and VIRGIA MCMURTREY are: LAURA DOVEY, b. August 1869, TN.; FLOYD, b. December 1880, KY.; LORA, b. September 06, 1882, KY.; DONA, b. September 1885, KY.; KIRK O., b. November 07, 1889, Boles, KY.

ISABEL A. RENEAU was born December 20, 1854 in KY, and died January 15, 1924 in West McLennan Co., TX. She married WILLIAM COMPTON January 06, 1876 in Tompkinsville, Monroe Co., KY, son of NORRIS COMPTON and SARAH DUNLAP. He was born October 24, 1854 in KY, and died August 17, 1906 in Fannin Co., TX. Children of ISABEL RENEAU and WILLIAM COMPTON are: LUCY

ANNE, b. July 10, 1878; d. November 1964;

JAMES EVERETT, b. 1880; LISSIE MAY, b. March 31, 1880, Bowling Green, Warren Co., KY; d. December 06, 1959, Leonard, Fannin Co., TX.

MARY MELVINA, b. March 15, 1882, Monroe Co., KY; d. January 04, 1961, Sherman, TX, Medical & Surgical Hospital: ISAAC, b. April 11, 1884; d. February 21, 1971; RICE VIVIAN, b. April 08, 1886, KY; d. July 08, 1954, Bonham, Fannin Co., TX.; LUTHER SAVAGE, b. January 22, 1888, Bowling Green, Warren Co., KY; d. December 30, 1935, Waco, McLennan Co., TX.; Lizzie May, born March 31, 1890, Bowling Green, KY, died, December 6, 1959, Leonard, Fannin Co., TX; ONA PEARL COMPTON, b. June 11, 1892, Clay Co., TN; d. October 23, 1980, Dallas, Dallas Co., TX.

OVA BELLE, b. June 11, 1892, Clay Co., TN; d. April 29, 1967, Sherman, Grayson Co., TX.; Wilson N. Jones Hospital REBECCA THELMA b. March 31, 1895, KY; d. November 10, 1976, Sherman, TX, Chapel of Care Nursing Home; ANDREW LEE, b. October 16, 1897, KY; d. May 28, 1972, Seagoville, TX, Dallas Osteo. Hospital.

MILLARD FILLMORE RENEAU was born July 20, 1857 in Near Albany, Clinton Co., KY, and died January 21, 1944 in Barren Co., KY. He married (1) NANCY MARGARET MATTHEWS, daughter of GEORGE MATTHEWS and CORDELIA. She was born June 08, 1861 in KY, and died October 08, 1907 in Barren Co., KY. He married (2) AMANDA DAVIS 1908 in Barren Co., KY. She was born 1874 in KY, and died in Barren Co., KY.

Children of MILLARD RENEAU and NANCY MATTHEWS are: MULKEY, b. 1884; JOSEPH OTTO, b. March 15, 1884, KY; d. January 26, 1982, Bowling Green, Warren Co., KY.; MARY PEARL, b. February 08, 1890, KY.

Child of MILLARD RENEAU and AMANDA DAVIS is: BETTY, b. 1908, KY.

NEWSPAPER OBITUARY

Father of Local Man Succumbs

Millard F. Reneau Dies In Barren County

Funeral services for Millard Fillmore Reneau, 86, Haywood, Barren County, father of J. O. Reneau, 1015 Covington Avenue, who died yesterday following a several months illness, will be conducted at 2 o'clock tomorrow afternoon at the Crowe funeral home, Glasgow. Burial will be beside his wife's grave in the Barbour cemetery near Morrison Park. Services will be conducted by the Rev. J. Lewis Piercy.

Mr. Reneau was a son of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, farmer and minister, who migrated from Virginia and settled in Clinton County and Elizabeth Hill Reneau. He was born near Albany, Ky, July 20, 1857. In 1880 he moved to Barren County where he became a teacher in the Barren county schools, and where he has since resided except for four years spent in Texas.

For the past 16 years he engaged in farming at Haywood.

Surviving in addition to his son, a daughter, Mrs. J. B. Bybee, Portage, O.

MARY CATHERINE⁸ RENEAU was born March 11, 1861 in Monroe Co., KY, and died 1906 in Oklahoma City, OK. She married JOHN THOMAS MOSS February 21, 1883 in Barren Co., KY. He was born Abt. 1840, and died 1906 in Bonham, Fannin Co., TX.

Children of MARY RENEAU and JOHN MOSS are: VASSIE FRANCES; BESSIE EULA b. November 14, 1883, Barren Co., KY.; CASSIE MCBETH, b. 1887; MINNIE VERNON, b. March 09, 1889; m. CLARENCE T JACKSON; b. 1881; JONATHAN HILL, b. 1896; JOSEPH GRANVILLE, died at one month old; GRANVILLE TRAVIS, b. January 30, 1901, Bonham, Fannin Co., TX; d. March 12, 1962, TX.

JOSEPH GRANVILLE RENEAU was born February 28, 1863 in Monroe Co., KY, and died in Paris, TN. He married LAURA. She was born 1866 in MS.

Children of JOSEPH RENEAU and LAURA are: HENRY J., b. 1893, Oklahoma City, OK; d.

May 11, 1912, Lamar Co., TX. Burial at Prairie Ridge Cemetery; .JOE C., b. 1897, OK; VERA, b. 1901, OK; d. 1948, Lamar Co., TX buried Prairie Ridge Cemetery.

EUNICE LEANN RENEAU was born March 29, 1866 in Tompkinsville, Monroe Co., KY, and died December 14, 1931 in Bonham, Fannin Co., TX. She married REUBEN CAIN JR. ATRIP July 21, 1886 in Barren Co., KY. He was born March 16, 1862 in McMinnville, Warren Co., TN, and died June 03, 1939 in Tarrant Co., TX.

Children of EUNICE RENEAU and REUBEN ATRIP are: JONATHAN PITSFORD b. July 01, 1887, Glasgow, Barren Co., KY; d. September 08, 1949; m. WILLIE MEREDITH, b. September 13, 1900; d. June 1984. RUBY GERTRUDE, , b. February 08, 1889, Glasgow, KY; m. GEORGE D. MCNEELY; ELIZABETH JANE, b. November 18, 1890, Glasgow, Barren Co., KY; d. June 1972. HERSHEL BRANSFORD SR., b. September 30, 1894, Glasgow, Barren Co., KY; d. August 1955; SCHUYLER RENEAU, b. March 07, 1899, Bonham, TX; d. November 12, 1968.

EULISSA VIRGINIA RENEAU was born February 04, 1872 in Barren Co., KY, and died October 18, 1898 in Barren Co., KY. She married WILLIAM HENRY JACKSON December 19, 1889 in Barren Co., KY. He was born May 19, 1848 in Rockfield, Warren Co., KY, and died January 21, 1901 in Barren Co., KY.

Children of EULISSA RENEAU and WILLIAM JACKSON are: CLEO D., b. March 04, 1891, Barren Co., KY; d. June 13, 1936, Paris, TN.; ARRINGTON, b. September 24, 1896, Barren Co., KY; d. July 03, 1898.; WILLIAM BARIE, b. June 17, 1898, Barren Co., KY; d. July 25, 1900.

FLETCHER GATEWOOD RENEAU was born April 19, 1883 in Allen Co., KY, and died November 01, 1960 in Bewleytown, Barren Co., KY. He married ELIZABETH BEAM.

Child of FLETCHER RENEAU and ELIZABETH BEAM is: ETHEL, b. Abt. 1925. Following is a newspaper obituary for Ethel Reneau who married James Arnett Cole, Sr.

Glasgow Daily Times,

Friday, 11 January 2002, p. 2.

Name: Ethel Reneau Cole Residence: Bowling Green, KY Died: Thursday, 10 January 2002, Medical Center at Bowling Green, age 77. Born: Allen Co KY Retired employee of Bell South,

member Park City Chapter #128 OES. Daughter of the late Fletcher Gatewood Reneau and Elizabeth Beam Reneau. Widow of: James Arnett Cole, Sr. Survivors: Sons: Michael R. Hall, Bowling Green and James A. Cole, Jr. of Stafford, VA. Brothers: Jim Tom Reneau of Fountain Run, KY and John Reneau of Smithville, TN. Sisters: Nettie Proffitt of Scottsville, KY and Maggie Eola Thomas of Fountain Run. Grandchildren: Kristy Julian, Scott Hall, Katie Cole and Jackie Cole Great-granddaughter: Madison Michelle Julian. Preceded in death also by sisters: Mary Jones and Annie Laura Cook. Services: 11 am Monday, 14 January 2002, Goad Funeral Home, burial Fairview Cemetery.

Several descendants of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau were at the 2003 Reneau Reunion in San Antonio:



Barbara and Jerry Telford
October 25, 2003

Barbara May Henson Telford is the daughter of John Issac Henson, granddaughter of Lissie May Compton, great granddaughter of Isabelle A. Reneau Compton, and great great granddaughter of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau.

Jerry Clyde Telford is the son of Clara Bell Henson, grandson of Lissie May Compton Henson, great grandson of Isabelle Reneau Compton, and great great grandson of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau.



Fred and Louise Wisener
October 25, 2003

Helen Louise Compton Wisener is the daughter of Louie Henry Compton, granddaughter of Luther Savage Compton, great grand daughter of Isabel A. Reneau Compton, and great great granddaughter of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau.



George and Pat Madis
October 25, 2003

Patricia Gail Bowers Madis is the daughter of Harry Henry Bowers II, the granddaughter of Ona Pearl Compton Bowers, great granddaughter of Isabel A. Reneau Compton, and great great granddaughter of Jonathan Mulkey Reneau. We are saddened to note that since the Reunion that George Madis passed away on December 22, 2003. We all treasure meeting George in October 2003 at the Reneau Reunion.

Isabel A. Reneau Compton
Information provided by Louise Compton Wisener

Isabel A. Reneau was born December 20, 1854 in Kentucky. She was the seventh child of Jonathan Reneau and Elizabeth Hill Reneau. "Belle's" Reneau line was: Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis Reno



Early family photo of
William M. Compton & Isabel Reneau Compton

On July 6, 1876 Belle married William M. Compton in Tompkinsville, Monroe County, KY. The couple had eleven children. The first seven children were born in Kentucky: Lucy

Ann, born July 10, 1878; James Everett, born 1880, Mary Melvina, born March 15, 1882; Isaac Ray, born April 11, 1884; Rice Vivian, born April 8, 1886; Luther Savage, born January 22, 1888; and Lizzie May, born March 31, 1890. The family lived for a while in Tennessee, as the twins, Ona Pearl and Ova Belle were born June 11, 1892 in Clay County, TN. The last two children were born in Kentucky: Rebecca Thelma, born March 31, 1895; and Andrew Lee, born October 16, 1897.

Lucy Ann Compton married Jeremiah M. Park on February 20, 1896 in Clay County, TN. They had six children: George Cloy, born 1897; Lillie, born, 1899; Herman, born 1902; Homer, born 1905; Raymond, born January 25, 1908; and Jody, born November 1, 1910. Jeremiah Park passed away May 13, 1921 in Sherman, Grayson County, TX, and is buried at Van Alstyne, Grayson County, TX.

Lucy Ann's second marriage was to Ben Moss. They were married on December 27, 1918. Ben Moss was the son of John Moss and stepson of Mary Catherine Reneau Moss. They had one child, Lorene. Lucy Compton Park Moss passed away in November, 1964.



Lucy Anne Compton Park Moss

James Everett Compton was the oldest son of William and Isabel Compton. He had one daughter, Jody Compton.

Mary Melvina Compton married Robert Lee Park on April 2, 1899, in Franklin, KY. He was born April 20, 1877 in Monroe County, KY. Mary and Robert Park had five children: Willie Robert, born May 20, 1901 in Richlieu, KY and died August 23, 1976 in Garland, TX; Annie Bell, born October 30, 1902 in Russellville, KY and passed away November 5, 2001 in Greenville, TX; Sidney Lee, born March 3, 1904 in Van Alstyne, Grayson County, TX and died on July 25, 1989 in Garland, TX; Walter Derling, born January 31 1914 in Gober, Fannin County, TX; and Dorothy Mae, born November 27, 1924 in Sherman, Grayson County, TX.



Robert Park and Mary Melvina Compton Park

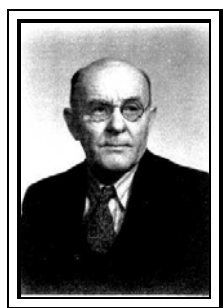
Robert Lee Park passed away April 11, 1957 in Bonham, Fannin County, TX. Mary Melvina passed away January 4, 1961 in Sherman, TX.

Isaac Ray Compton married Mary Henson. Mary was born on January 3, 1889. The couple had eight children: Angie; Clara; Marie; Ruth; Viola Bernice, Ruby, born February 12, 1907 and passed away on December 18, 1984; Opal, born in 1908 and died at age 22 in 1930; and J.R., born May 4, 1913 and died on April 4, 1973.



Isaac Ray Compton and Mary Henson Compton

Rice Vivian Compton married Eva Ethel Henry. She was born September 10, 1888 in Texas, and died March 7, 1928 in Bonham, Fannin County, TX.



Rice Vivian Compton

Rice and Eva had five children: Beatrice, born October 19, 1923 in Gober, Texas; Edna; Euna Mae, born October 24, 1915 in Bonham, Fannin County, TX; Earl; and Christine.

Rice Vivian Compton died July 8, 1954 in Bonham, TX. Both he and his wife, Eva, are buried in Bonham, TX.

Luther Savage Compton, the sixth child of William Compton and Belle Reneau Compton, married Sallie Elizabeth Bowers on April 10, 1910 in Sherman, Grayson County, TX. Sallie was the daughter of Harry Bowers and Lucinda Robbins Bowers. Luther and Sallie had two children: Bonnie Eloise Compton, born February 15, 1911 in Sherman, TX; and Louie Henry, born January 25, 1917 in West, Meclennan County, TX.



Luther Savage Compton

Lizzie May Compton married Isaac Martin Henson in February of 1906 in Bonham, TX. Isaac Henson was born June 6, 1884 in Edhulie, TX. Isaac Henson and Lizzie Compton Henson had twelve children: Velma, born August 8, 1907; Vernie Lucille, born August 23, 1908; Ethel Mae, born January 1, 1910; Frankie William, born September 10, 1911 in Gober, TX; James Henry, born January 5, 1913; Clara Bell, born January 19, 1916; Vera Myrtle, born February 2, 1918; Edward, born May 2, 1919; John Isaac, born June 19, 1921; Angie Elizabeth, born August 21, 1924; Clyde Lee, born September 29, 1926 in Bonham, TX; and Violet Etoy, born March 17, 1928.

Ona Pearl and Ova Belle were twin daughters of William and Isabel Compton.

Ona married Harry Allen Bowers in Sherman, TX. He was born Jan 5, 1889 in Yoakum, TX. They had six children: Harry Henry Bowers II born March 26, 1911 in Sherman, died November 24 1987 in Hillsboro, TX; Raymond R., born December 26, 1912 in West, TX, died February 15, 1977 in Hillsboro, TX; Mamie Pearl, born June 11, 1918; Ona Eloise; born September 11, 1922; Francis Lucinda, born October 17, 1926; and Robert Odell, born July 17, 1928.

Ona Pearl Compton Bowers passed away October 23, 1980 in Dallas, TX. She is buried in Waco, TX. Her husband, Harry, passed away August 11, 1945, at age 56.



Ona Pearl Compton Bowers

Ona's twin sister, Ova Belle Compton, married Walter B. Lewis on December 24, 1911 in Sherman, TX. Ova and Walter had two children: Lloya A. and Hazel C. Hazel passed away June 9, 1997 and is buried in Denison, TX. Ova lived 75 years, passing away on April 29, 1967 in Sherman, TX.



Ova Belle Compton Lewis

Rebecca Thelma Compton was the youngest daughter of Isabel and William Compton. Her married name was Carmen. The couple had one son, Earl J. Rebecca died at age 81, on November 10, 1976 in Sherman, TX,



Andrew Lee Compton

The youngest son of Isabel and William Compton was Andrew Lee. Andrew was born October 16, 1897 in Kentucky. He served in the Marine Corp and was a retired Marine.

Andrew Compton's photo was taken with a backdrop of the US Capitol Building. He is wearing a World War I uniform, showing the shoulder patch of the 1st Marine Division



Isabel A. Reneau Compton

Isabel's husband, William passed away at age 52 on August 17, 1906 in Bonham, TX. Isabel died at age 69, passing away in West, TX on January 15, 1925.

**Luther Savage Compton and Descendants
Submitted by Louise Compton Wisener**

My grandfather, Luther Savage Compton, was born on January 22, 1888 in Bowling Green, Kentucky to Isabel A. Reneau Compton and William Compton. I never knew my grandfather as he died nine months prior to my birth. The only thing that I know about him is that on December 16, 1935 he scraped his right knee while working at Waco Cotton Mill. The abrasion became infected and he died on December 30, 1935 from Streptococcus. He was buried on December 31 at Oakwood Cemetery in Waco, Texas.



Luther Savage Compton
son of William Compton & Isabel A. Reneau
Compton.

My cousin, Dorothy Park Taylor, told me that she had seen my grandfather a couple times when she was a child. One time, at Christmas, he came to see her family and he played Santa Claus. She was also at the house with the family just hours before his death.



Sallie Elizabeth Bowers Compton
Wife of Luther Savage Compton

My father, Louie Henry Compton, was born on January 25, 1917 in West, Texas. When he was 16 years old, he married Rena Bell Keenum on October 14, 1933. This marriage was annulled. On April 27, 1934, he married my mother, Helen Mildred Dodge.

Daddy was a hard worker and did well with only an eighth grade education. Although we moved frequently, he provided well for his family. He was an avid fisherman. He became ill in 1970 with cancer and died May 16, 1978 in Waco, Texas.



Louie Henry Compton and
Helen Mildred Dodge Compton

There were four children born to Louie and Helen Compton. The first was Earl Wayne Compton born February 25, 1935 in Waco, Texas. He died February 27, 1935.

The second child born to this union was myself, Helen Louise Compton. I was born September 6, 1936 in Waco. Although we moved frequently, most of my school years were in Waco. I graduated from Waco Senior High School in 1954 and then graduated with a BS degree in Nursing from Texas Womans' University in Denton, Texas in 1958. The third child was Patsy Janene Compton. She was born on August 25, 1939. The fourth child was Gary Lynn Compton born on October 29, 1946.



Louie and Helen Compton with children
L-R: Gary Lynn, Patsy Janene, & Helen Louise.
circa 1948

I married Fred Darrell Wisener on September 25, 1958 in Dallas, Texas. We are blessed with three children.

Julia Diane Wisener Anderson was born on April 16, 1960 in Waco, Texas while Fred was finishing his BA degree at Baylor University. She has two children: Joshua born September 22, 1982 in Plano, Texas, and Jordan Elizabeth born February 23, 1989 in Dallas, Texas.



Anderson Family
Standing back row: Josh Miller, Gary Anderson
Kneeling: Tim Anderson
Sitting: Jordan Miller, Julie Wisener Anderson

Jana Lynn Wisener Wojenski was born December 14, 1962 in Fort Worth, Texas. She is a graduate of Texas A & M. She has two children: Hailey Ellyn born October 14, 1993 in Atlanta, Georgia and Matthew Griffin born October 1997 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Jeffrey Lane Wisener was born December 16, 1967 in Fort Worth, Texas. He, also, is a graduate of Texas A & M. He has two children: Zane Matthew was born March 5, 1996 in Grapevine, Texas, and Britt Cameron born August 7, 1997 in Grapevine, Texas.



July 2002

l-r back row: Kelli Wisener, Jeff Wisener, Jana Wisener Wojenski, Louise and Fred Wisener
l-r front row: Britt Wisener, Zane Wisener, Matthew Munger, and Hailey Munger

My husband, Fred, and I retired four years ago. We live in Hot Springs Village, Arkansas. Fred plays a lot of golf and I do a lot of volunteering and teach computer classes to Seniors. We both enjoy genealogy and meeting and visiting with newly-found cousins.



l-r: Anita Reneau Daniels, Dorothy Reneau Mote visit with Fred and Louise Wisener
2003 Reneau Family Reunion
October 25, 2003

Fred and Louise Wisener's newest grandbaby was born Tuesday, March 2, 2004 in Houston, TX. Her name is Sarah Grace Wisener. She weighed in at 8 lb. 5 oz and 19 inches long. Sarah Grace's parents are Jeff and Kelli

Wisener. She joined her two older brothers, Zane and Britt.



Sarah Grace Wisener

Walter Derling Park

Submitted by Walter Park

My name is Walter D. Park. I am a grandson of Belle Reneau. I was born in Fannin County, Texas, January 1914. 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. We have 2 sons, Jerry and Dennis. Both are married. We have 2 granddaughters who are married and have blessed us with great-grandchildren.



Walter and Rosalee Park

I wish we all could have attended the Reneau Reunion, but, I have cancer and am unable to travel. I will be 90 next January. Perhaps, we will meet sometime in the near future. Would like to hear from all the Reneau Cousins.

**From news clipping in the Herald Democrat,
Sunday, November 23, 2003
Submitted by Dorothy Park Taylor**

Park -- 70th

Bonham—Walter D. and Mary Rosalee Park were recently honored with a surprise party in celebration of their 70th wedding anniversary. The party was held at the Pottsboro home of their son, Jerry Park.

The couple married Oct. 21, 1933 in Bonham at the home of the late Rev. Milam.

Mary Rosalee Park was born in Leonard, the daughter of Ben and Geneva Victory. She worked at the Bonham Cotton Mill, the Bonham Free Kindergarten, and the Fannin County Hospital.

Walter Park was born in Gober, the son of Robert Lee and Mary Park. He worked at the Bonham Cotton Mill then at Southwest Pump, retiring after 30 years of service.

The Parks have two sons, Jerry Park of Pottsboro and Dennis Park of Hurst, four granddaughters and one great granddaughter. They are members of Calvary Baptist Church.

**Dorothy Park Taylor
Submitted by Dorothy Park Taylor
and Kathy Ann Taylor O'Donnell**

My name is Dorothy Park Taylor. I was born in Sherman, Grayson County, Texas on Thanksgiving Day, November 27, 1924. My family moved to Bonham, Texas when I was six weeks old. I graduated from High School there in 1943.

I met my husband, Kenneth G. Taylor, in Bonham, when he and his family moved next door to the Methodist Church that I attended. We were both baptized when we were 13 years old.

Kenneth went into the Army in 1943. When he came home on leave, we were married on September 27, 1943. I worked at a defense factory making mortar shells until the war ended. We then moved to Sherman, Texas and made our home. On July 8, 1951, we were blessed with the birth of our daughter, Kathy Ann Taylor. She brought much joy to our life.

After college, Kathy moved to Dallas where she worked as an accountant for a large apparel manufacturer.

My husband, Kenneth, was killed in a plane crash in 1978. He was training to be a pilot.



Dorothy and Kenneth Taylor
May 1944

In 1979, Kathy met and married a native New Englander, from the state of Rhode Island. He is an engineer and is employed by Raytheon. Robert "Bob" O'Donnell helps to develop some of the missiles that are used in combat

Bob and Kathy have a daughter, Michelle O'Donnell, who has reached the age of 22, and is presently in college. Kathy and Bob will celebrate their 25th Wedding Anniversary on September 15, 2004.



Sitting: Dorothy Park Taylor
Standing l-r: Robert O'Donnell, Michelle
O'Donnell and Kathy Ann Taylor O'Donnell
November 27, 2003

My family has brought much happiness to my life. My lineage is Mary Compton Park, Isabelle "Belle" Reneau Compton, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reno, Charles John , Lewis, and Lewis.

**Anita Morris Seat and family
Submitted by Anita Morris Seat**

My name is Anita Maureen Morris Seat. My Reneau history is: My mother was Bonnie Eloise Compton Morris; her mother was Sallie Elizabeth Bowers Compton; her father was Luther Savage Compton; Luther was a son of

Isabelle Reneau Compton; Isabelle was the daughter of Jonathan Mulkey; Jonathan Mulkey Reneau was the son of John Reno; John was the son of Charles.

My husband and I live in China Spring, TX, which is near Waco. My husband, Gordon, has worked in maintenance for 24 years at the country club that is about a mile from our house. I am retired now and thought that I might get a part time job after the holidays--My thoughts changed somehow!

We have a son Randy Clennon Seat who was born April 24, 1954 and a daughter Pamela Eloise Tull, born June 4, 1957, on my 22nd birthday. We have 3 grandsons and one granddaughter. Pam has Brandon Scott Tull and Toby Tull and Melanie Maureen Tull. Randy has one son Randy Clennon Seat Jr. Our oldest grandson just turned 26 and the youngest is our granddaughter who will be 17 in April. They all live in Waco. Pam works for Baylor University in Waco and Randy works for Robinson City Dept. a suburb of Waco.

**Toni Jean Houser Matula and family
Information provided by Toni Matula**

Toni Jean Houser Matula is the daughter of Mary Luella Rogers Houser, and the granddaughter of Annie Bell Park Rogers. Toni's Reneau lineage continues through Mary Melvina Compton Park, Isabel "Belle" A. Reneau Compton, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

Toni is married to Matthew Matula. Two sons were born to them: Matthew E. and Anthony. Matthew joined the U.S. Marines September 24, 2001 in service to our county. We all share in the family grief when Matthew died on April 9, 2004 from hostile fire in Iraq.



The Matula Family
l-r: Anthony, Matthew, Toni, Matt, and Matt's mother, Alice Macalik
Trinity Episcopal Church
Marble Falls, Texas
circa 2000

Matthew and Julie were married on July 22, 2003. Julie is expecting their daughter, Mackenzie Marie, due August 17, 2004.



Matt and Julie Matula
July 2003



Julie Matula with her father-in-law, Matt Matula
December, 2003

The following is the obituary for Matthew, which was published in the Austin American-Statesman on 4/18/2004:

Matt was born on July 7, 1983, and killed in action on April 9, 2004, in Iraq, defending our freedom. He earned the Purple Heart, Combat Action Ribbon (in lieu of 2nd star), Presidential Unit Citation, National Defense Service Medal, Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal, Operation Iraqi Freedom Expeditionary Medal, Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, and Sea Service Deployment Ribbon. Matt is survived by his wife, Julie; their unborn daughter, Mackenzie Marie; brother and best friend, Anthony; parents, Toni and Matt; grandmother, Alice Macalik; and many special aunts, uncles and cousins. Matt joined the Marines on Sept. 24, 2001, and proudly served his Country. He was a field radio operator assigned to the H & S Company, 2nd Battalion, 1st Marine Division. "Greater love has no one than this, that he lay down his life for his friends." John 15:13 NIV The Matula family requests that memorials be given to Trinity Episcopal Church, P.O. Box 633, Marble Falls, Texas 78654-0633 for the Matthew E. Matula

Memorial Fund. Visitation will begin on Monday evening April 19, 2004, from 5:00 p.m. to 9:00 p.m. at Sunset Funeral Home. Funeral Service will be conducted on Tuesday April, 20, 2004, at 12:00 Noon in Sunset Funeral Home Chapel follow by Interment at Ft. Sam Houston National Cemetery in San Antonio, TX, with full military honors. Sunset Funeral Home, 1701 Austin Hwy., San Antonio, TX. 78218



CPL Matthew E. Matula
July 7, 1983 – April 9, 2004

The Matula family awaits the birth of Mackenzie Marie. They are thankful that Matthew knew about the coming birth.



Anthony Matula
June 2004

The birth of Mackenzie will be very special to Julie, Anthony, Matt Sr. and Toni.



Matt and Toni Matula
June, 2004

This very special little one has arrived--Mackenzie Marie Matula was born August 12, 2004, weighing 7lbs 9 ozs, and 18 inches long., at Camp Pendleton, California. She is beautiful!



Mackenzie Marie Matula
August 12, 2004

Mary Catherine Reneau Moss
Information provided by Mary Catherine Moss Mabry

Mary Catherine Reneau was the tenth child born to Jonathan Mulkey Reneau and Elizabeth Hill Reneau. She was born on March 11, 1861 in Monroe County, KY. Mary Catherine was part of a large family, as her parents, Jonathan and Elizabeth, had sixteen children.

Mary Catherine Reneau's line was: Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

Mary Catherine married John Thomas Moss. He was 21 years older than Mary. Their first child, Bessie Eula was born November 14, 1883, in Barren County, KY. Additional children soon followed: Vassie Francis; Cassie McBeth, born in 1887; and Minnie Vernon, born March 9, 1889. Mary Catherine and John Thomas were separated when John went to Texas. About 1893, Mary gathered the children together, and with her brother, Joseph Granville Reneau, they went by horse and wagon to Texas. Mary and the children joined John, while Joseph Granville Reneau went on to settle in Blossom, Texas. Blossom was just outside Paris, Texas, and is now called Reno, Texas.

Needless to say, the life in Texas was a hard one. Mary had grown up in a household that was fairly well to do by the standards of the day. In Texas, she was destined to help make a living by taking in washing, while John sold bananas as a street vendor. All the while though, Mary Catherine remained a strong and gracious woman. She was described as such by those who remembered her, as she shared her values with her descendants.

More children were added to the family, and there was both joy and sorrow. Jonathan Hill was born in 1896. The next baby, Joseph Granville lived only one month. Granville Travis was the next child. Mary decided to name him Granville, in memory of Joseph Granville. Mary had a daughter named Eulissa Virginia. Sadly, the little girl was struck with a cancerous growth on her cheek. She died at a age 8, and was buried in Bonham at the Willow Wild Cemetery.



Mary Catherine Reneau Moss

The Moss children grew up. Bessie Eula married John C. Moore on November 14, 1897. She passed away in 1910 and is buried in Waurika, OK. Vassie, Cassie, and Minnie each married: Vassie Francis Moss became Vassie Francis Sikes; Cassie McBeth Moss became Cassie McBeth Smith; and Minnie Vernon Moss became Minnie Vernon Jackson. Minnie and her husband moved to Oklahoma, later to Fort Worth, Texas.



Three Sisters

Top to bottom: Vassie Francis Sikes, Cassie McBeth Moss Smith, and Minnie Vernon Moss Jackson.

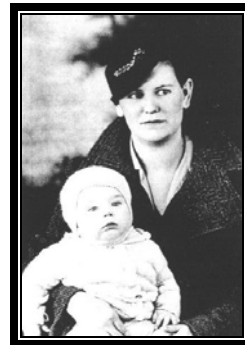
Jonathan Hill Moss married Eva Greenleaf. They had two daughters, Mary Ann and Martha Jane, and a son, John Wesley.



Jonathan Hill Moss Family

l-r: Jonathan, Mary Ann, Martha Jane, Eva

Granville Travis Moss married Ruby Culbertson. They had two children: Ben Travis Moss, born in 1936.



Ruby Culbertson Moss and son Ben Travis Moss at age 6 months.
1936

Granville and Ruby had a daughter, Mary Catherine, born in 1939. She was named after her grandmother. Two of little Mary Catherine's aunts, Cassie and Minnie, did not have any children. Of course, they loved to show their love and affection to their little nephew and niece, Travis and Mary.

Mary Catherine Reneau Moss passed away in 1936 while in Oklahoma City, OK with her daughter and family, Minnie Vernon Moss Jackson. She was buried in Bonham, TX, Willow Wild Cemetery. Her grandson, Ben Travis was two months old at the time

The children of Granville and Ruby remained very close as they grew up. Mary Catherine married Richard Michael Mabry on January 21, 1980 in Dallas, TX. Ben Travis never married. He suffered from diabetes for years. When he was 49 years old he passed away from a

embolism after surgery. His sister was at his side.



The Granville Travis Moss Family
l-r: Mary Catherine, Granville Travis, Ben
Travis, and Ruby Culbertson Moss
Petty, Texas
1950



Mary Catherine Reneau Moss
Early 1930's
In the yard by her home in Bonham, TX

Eulissa Virginia Reneau Jackson

Cleo D. Jackson McAlister

Submitted by Dollye McAlister Elliott

Photos provided by Mary Catherine Mabry

Dove Cleo Jackson was born March 4, 1891 in Barron County, Kentucky to William Henry Jackson and Eulissa Virginia "Nattie" Reneau Jackson. Eulissa was so fond of her uncle Nathaniel Smith Reneau that her siblings teased her about it and called her "Nattie"; Nattie she remained to the end of her life.

Dove Jackson hated her first name, as everyone called her "Dovey". When she married, she began using her middle name, Cleo. Her Reneau descent was: Eulissa Virginia "Nattie" Reneau, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reneau, Charles Reneau, Lewis Reno, Lewis Reno/"Reynaud".

The first wife of W.H. Jackson, Cleo's father, was Frances Bailey, by whom he had five

daughters and one son, Clarence Taylor Jackson. At the time of his marriage to Nattie Reneau, all the children except the two younger daughters had married and/or left home.

The children of W.H. and Nattie Reneau Jackson were: Dove Cleo, born March 4, 1891, son Arrington, born September 24, 1896, and Willie Barie Jackson, Born June 17, 1898. Then tragedy struck the Jackson family: a 21 year-old daughter, a new bride, died of "consumption", Arrington died July 3, 1898, Nattie died October 18, 1898, Willie Barie died July 25, 1900, and William Henry Jackson died January 24, 1901, all of "consumption". After the death of her father, when Cleo was 9 years old, she went to live for a short time with a first cousin, once removed, Cousin Mariba Reneau Depp in Barren Co., Kentucky. Later, Cleo's half-brother, Clarence T. Jackson and brother-in-law, Hurston Mize took her to live in Bowling Green, Kentucky, with her half-sister Ada Mize and her family, where she lived until her marriage, March 23, 1908, to James Lanier McAlister of Paris, Tennessee. "Jim" was the son of Professor James Alexander McAlister and Sarah Henry (Carter) McAlister, born November 22, 1874. The couple settled into Jim's home in Paris.

Jim McAlister had graduated in law in 1898 from Southwester Baptist University and had practiced law in Paris with his uncle, William Leftwich Carter, Jr., until "Uncle Billy" moved to Alamagorda, New Mexico, and turned the practice over to young Jim. A great many of the people in Henry County were kin to Jim and, in the South, even a 52nd cousin was "kinfolks". The kinfolks felt they should have free legal services, particularly as Jim was, at that time, a young bachelor; consequently, Jim worked "in the red" for several years until the L&N Railroad built a terminal Round House in Paris. Jim took his losses and signed on as a fast freight conductor, which he did until he retired, when he became a Judge in Henry County.

Cleo D. Jackson McAlister became a member of the First Baptist Church in Paris and was active in the choir and church affairs until her death. She and Jim had three children: James Lanier McAlister, born Jun 26, 1909, Reneau Sessum McAlister, born June 13, 1910, and Dollye Cleo McAlister, born June 9, 1920. Dollye has received questions about the spelling of "Dollye", but this is how it happened: "Dolly" was Jim's pet name for Cleo. He explained that Dolly, as a pet name or nick-name was spelled Dolly; if it was your real name, it was spelled Dollie; since it was my real name but named for

Mother's pet name, it is Dollye. A lawyer's over-thinking!



Capitol grounds in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
l-r: Mary Catherine Reneau Moss, Dollye Cleo D. McAlister, and Cleo Jackson McAlister
circa 1926



l-r standing: Granville Moss, Minnie Moss Jackson, Ada Jackson Mize.
l-r seated: Horace Mize, Hurston Mize, Dolly Cleo McAlister, Clarence Taylor Jackson.
circa 1926



Capitol grounds in Oklahoma City, Oklahoma
l-r: Cleo D. Jackson McAlister, Mary Catherine Reneau Moss, and Dollye Cleo McAlister
circa 1926

The Mize family and Clarence T. Jackson, with his wife, Minnie Moss, daughter of Mary Catherine Reneau Moss, moved to Oklahoma City, Oklahoma, where Cleo and daughter Dollye used to visit almost every other summer, as did sons Reneau and James from time to time. One summer, after school term, Reneau went and worked for his Uncle Hurston Mize in one of his uncle's grocery stores there.



l-r: Ada Jackson Moss, Cleo D. Jackson McAlister, and Granville Moss (son of Mary Catherine Reneau Moss).
circa 1926

Cleo, a beautiful woman, was much loved in Paris. She died at the age of 45 on June 13, 1936, the birthday of her son Reneau, after an appendectomy. The large First Baptist Church was packed at her funeral, even the balcony, which was seldom used at the time.

Son James was a Major in World War II, going into Normandy on D-Day plus 4 or 5 days as a casualty replacement for a company commander, killed or wounded. He was commander of a Reconnaissance Company that was through Paris, France, before even the Free French arrived, but his company could not stop as they were heading on to the Siegfried Line, the Front. After the War, James joined the Border Patrol as an officer and helped in Cuba in the evacuation of refugees there. Reneau was a lieutenant Colonel in World War II, and was one of the first commanders of the then new Paratrooper battalions. He served in France and Germany, the Philippines, Japan. In Japan, an old football injury required surgery on his knee, there being no military surgeon in Japan to perform the operation, he was transferred from Paratroops to command the Japanese police, the Japanese military police and the U.S. Military Police in occupied Hokkaido, Japan; after four years there, he was sent to Vienna, Austria, when it was under the command of the Four Powers: U.S.S.R, Britain, U.S. and France. After the Four Powers left Vienna, Reneau was in command of a unit in Italy. Both brothers and their wives, Lucille and Nell, retired to Florida and are buried in adjoining plots in Sarasota, Florida.

James Lanier McAlister, Sr., died 20 years after Cleo's death, never having married again, on September 17, 1956. Both he and Cleo are buried in Maplewood Cemetery, Paris, Tennessee

Dollye Cleo McAlister Elliott
Information provided by Dollye McAlister Elliott and Anita Reneau Daniels

Dollye Cleo McAlister was the youngest child born to James Lanier McAlister and Cleo D. Jackson McAlister on June 9, 1920. She joined two brothers in the family: James Lanier McAlister, Jr, born June 26, 1909; and Reneau Sessum McAlister, born June 13, 1910. Dollye's Reneau lineage is: Cleo D. Jackson McAlister, Eulissa Virginia "Nattie" Reneau Jackson, Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Lewis.

Dollye grew up in Paris, Tennessee, and then attended Murray State University in Murray, Kentucky where she majored in pre-law. She was elected twice as one of four "Campus Favorites" and was College Junior Prom Queen. Dollye graduated from Murray State University in June, 1942.

On April 11, 1943, Dollye married Virgil I. Elliott. They had four sons: Virgil Jr., born August 30, 1944; James McAlister Elliott, born July 22, 1947; Lee Reneau Elliott born January 11, 1950; and William Leftwich Carter Elliott, born January 3, 1954.



Dollye Cleo McAlister
1941

Dollye is an accomplished genealogist. Her writings have been published in *The Colonial Genealogist*, *The French Genealogist*, *The English Genealogist*, *The Augustan*, *The Omnibus*, *The West Tennessee Genealogical Journal*, and in *Historical Southern Families*, Vol. XX, edited by Mary Boddie (Baltimore: Gen. Pub. Co., 1975.) Additionally, her articles on the Reneau, the Tipton, and the McAlister families were published in *The History of Washington County, Tennessee*.

Dollye was made a Fellow, *honorem causam* of The Augustan Society for her article on "The Lineage of Raoul de Gael."



Dollye McAlister Elliott
1966

Dollye's descriptions of her "Genealogy Field Trips" are a book in itself! Following is just one of her excursions to research the past:

"My youngest son and I visited the Reneau area there in Old Prince William County, and there were no houses standing that we could find. I scared my teen-age son, following directions to some of the Reneau land which is now on the FBI firing range of the FBI Proving Grounds at Quantico there. The gate said "No Entry", but it was open and I drove through. So much for genealogy compulsion! My son was yelling, "**Mother, it says firing range**", but I had checked before going in and there was no one anywhere around and no guns firing. Needless to say, I stayed only a minute. I was also looking for the Reneau graveyard on the other side of the road. One of the deeds in the record book deeds land of Lewis Reneau, "excepting one-quarter acre which is the family burying ground". This area is really mountainous back country. There was an old wooden country general store, with a rail and about 6 men sitting there, feet on the rail, spitting tobacco juice watching us. I asked questions and they acted as though they had not seen a human woman in years - no information, like proverbial deer caught in headlights - so we drove around the mountains and left, not much the wiser. I believe part of the Reneau land was near or on part of the battlefield for the first Battle of Manassas (Bull Run) in the Civil War."

Dollye has also traveled to Angouleme, the capital of Angoumois, home of the Reneaus, and several trips to France and to Paris, partly genealogical, partly visiting. She notes, "Few records of Huguenots from 1685 exist in France."

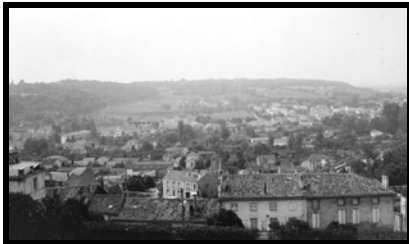
The following photos are from Dollye's trip to Angouleme in 1984. The black and white photos do not do justice to the beauty of this area!



The Charente River runs all through Angoumois



View from the motor coach window to show the countryside, like where the Reneaus probably lived.



The town and outskirts of Angouleme, the capital of Angoumois.



Angouleme is located in Southwestern France between Limoges and Bordeaux

William T. Reneau
Information provided by Betty Reneau,
Sue Damewood, and Anita Daniels

William T. Reneau was the ninth child of John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno. He was born June 11, 1824 in Clinton County, Kentucky. He joined his siblings, Isaac Tipton, Joseph Wright, John Pleasant Thurman, Nathan Washington, Nathaniel Smith, Elizabeth Wakefield, Sarah S., and Jonathan Mulkey. The last child to be born into the family was William's younger brother, Berry Jordan. It is interesting to note that the children changed the spelling of their last name from Reno to Reneau.

The 1850 Census finds William living with his mother, Joseph, Nathan, Elizabeth, Sarah, and Berry in Overton County, Tennessee. Joseph's employment is a physician, and William, along with Nathan, and Berry are working as farmers. William is 26 years old.

On June 25, 1862 William married Sarah V. Lowhone in Clinton County, Kentucky. The record of the Marriage Bond between William and Sarah is accompanied by a written statement:

"This is the Certify that on the 27th day of July 1862, The Rites of Marriage were legally Solemnized by me between Mr. William T. Reneau aged 38 years, born in Cumberland Co., Ky, son of John Reneau and Elizabeth Thurman and Miss Sarah V. Lowhone aged 18 years, born in Clinton County, Ky Daughter of Mary Lowhorn—On the Big Road in the County of Clinton, Ky, in the presence of P.P. Wood and Jesse Ewing.

Signed Wm Vaum P.J.C.C.C.

The union bore three children: Elizabeth. Born 1863 in Tennessee; Richard Thurman, born 1865 in Tennessee, and Evans Alexander, born May 1868 in Clinton County, Kentucky.

The 1870 census in Overton County, Tennessee, lists James Miller, age 20; William T. Reneau age 46; Elizabeth, age 7; and Richard, age 5; all living on the same property next to Elijah and Sally Stover. Sarah "Sally" Stover is William's sister. So far, research for Evans Alexander and his mother, Sarah Lowhone Reneau, in the 1870 Census have not been successful.

In the 1880 Census we find that William and Sarah's children, Elizabeth Ann and Richard Thurman are living their aunt and uncle, "Sally" and Elijah Stover in Overton County, Tennessee. And the 1880 Census in Clinton County, Kentucky, records that Alexander Reneau,, age

12, is living with his grandmother, Mary J. Lowhone. The 1900 Census continues to show that Evans Alexander is living with his grandmother.

Since Eliza Ann (Elizabeth) and Richard Thurman lived with Elijah and Sarah Stover, and then became wards of Isaac Tipton Reneau, it is probable that Eliza and Richard were orphaned. Additionally, the youngest child of William and Sarah, Evans Alexander Reneau, went to live with his maternal grandmother, Mary J. Lowhone. There is no record of Sarah Lowhone Reneau in the 1880 or 1900 Census living with her mother or with the Stovers. A statement signed by Elijah and Sarah Stover dated, June 23, 1884, notes that W. T. Reneau had been dead for fourteen years. This would indicate that William T. Reneau died in 1870.

Records from Isaac Tipton Reneau show that he became the guardian of Elizabeth Ann and Richard Thurman in 1869.

Court Records state that:

“I Isaac T. Reneau guardian to Eliza Ann and Richard Thurman Reneau minor heirs of Wm T. Reneau-respectfully report that I have received nothing with my hands belonging to said wards.

Respectfully reported this 26 Feby 1869

Isaac T. Reneau gdn
for Eliza Ann & Richard Thurman Reneau”

The second entry in the court record:

State of Kentucky

Clinton County

I J. M Briston clerk of the Clinton County Court within & for said county & state do certify that at the April Term 1869 of said court the foregoing report of Isaac T Reneau guardian to the minor heirs of Wm T Reneau was filed and ordered to record.

Therefore I have duly recorded it together with this certificate in my office.

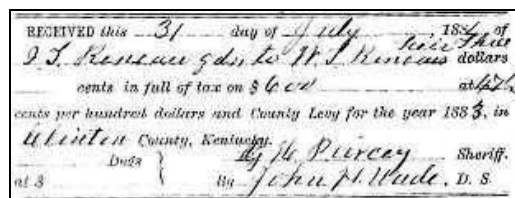
Given under my hand this 17 day of Sept 1869

J M Briston Clerk

By A E Sang DC

Also on the 26th of February 1869, Isaac T Reneau noted for the court records items of furniture that he received for his wards. Included in the list is 100 acres of land in Clinton County Kentucky by the wolf river mouth, valued at \$500.

A note about Eliza Ann’s name: In the paperwork that was found about the family, she is called Eliza Ann. On the census records that were found, her name is noted as Elizabeth.



The note states: Received this 31 day of July 1884 of I.T. Reneau gdn to W.T. Reneau’s heir three dollars in full of tax on \$6.00 at 47 ½ cents per hundred dollars and County Levy for the year 1883, in Clinton County, Kentucky.

By H Piercey Sheriff
By John H Wade, D. S.

Another note that was kept by Isaac Tipton Reneau was a statement from Elijah and Sarah Stover:

June 23, 1884

“We certify that Isaac T. Reneau has satisfied us for keeping and taking care of Eliza Ann, Reneau and Richard T. Reneau, heirs of W. T. Reneau, dead fourteen years.

Signed
Elijah Stover
Sarah Stover

We have not found any Census Records after 1880 listing Eliza Ann and Richard Thurman. Isaac Tipton passed away in 1885, Mary Gipson passed on in 1889. Sarah Stover lived until 1902, however, we have not found any Census Records for her after 1880. Isaac Tipton Reneau, his wife, Mary Gipson Wood Reneau, and his sister, Sarah Reneau Stover are all buried in Irwin Cemetery, Clinton County, Kentucky.

Hopefully through marriage records we may still learn about Eliza Ann Reneau and Richard Thurman Reneau.

Evans Alexander Reneau
Information provided by Betty Reneau,
Sue Damewood and Anita Daniels

Evans Alexander Reneau was the youngest child of William T. and Sara V. Reneau. He was born May 12, 1868 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Evans’ grandparents were John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno. Census records show that Evans Alexander was reared by his maternal grandmother, Mary J. Lowhorn. Evans’ father died in 1874 and we do not have much information on his mother. It is probable that she died sometime after Evans’ was born, since her name is not with her mother or any of her extended Reneau family in any of the Census

Records in 1870 or beyond. In the 1880 Evans is living with his grandmother.

On April 4, 1890, Evans Alexander Reneau married Martha E. Thrasher. The marriage took place at S.P. Shelly's (home), and in the presence of S.P. Shelly and L.P. Shelly.

Evans and Martha had one child, Granville Artie Reneau, who was born May 12, 1891, in Clinton County, Kentucky.

In the 1900 Census, Evans is listed as living with his grandmother, and in 1910, he is living with the William P. Rilt family, working as a laborer for Mr. Rilt, doing odd jobs.

On August 13, 1910, Evans married Mertie M. Hutchinson. The marriage took place at Miller Mill in Clinton County, with W. E. Beard County Clerk attesting the marriage.

Evans Alexander and Mertie had seven children: John William, born December 4, 1911; Robert A., born October 31, 1913; Reed Preston, born in 1917; Quinten Beaty, born May 29, 1919; twins Myrtle M. and Maggie V., born October 5, 1921; Yamon, born in 1925; and George Wesley, born April 26, 1928. Evans was a farmer. He passed away March 15, 1944.

The oldest son of Evans and Mertie, John William, married Wilma Hatfield on October 5, 1932 in Clinton County, Kentucky. John and Wilma had one child, Alva Lucille Reneau, who was born October 13, 1933 in Wayne County, Kentucky. She married Dall Q. Lunsford on October 29, 1952. John William Reneau died April 21, 1978.

Evans and Mertie's second son was Robert A. Reneau. He married Edna Melton August 23, 1933 in Clinton County, Kentucky. His second marriage was to Marie Criswell, on August 14, 1937 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Robert passed away July 2, 1988.

The next child, a son, Reed Reneau was living in Clinton County, Kentucky in 1930.

Quinten Reneau, the fourth son of Evans and Mertie, married Jean Dishman on October 18, 1938 in Clinton County, Kentucky.

The twins, Maggie and Myrtle were the next children born to Evans and Mertie. Myrtle married Virgil Hancock on March 28, 1937. Maggie married Daryl Dishman on December 17, 1937 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Maggie and Daryl had three children: William D., born December 15, 1940; Margaret A, born January 29, 1943; and Anna L, born January 12, 1945. The three children were born in Wayne County, Kentucky. The Social Security Death Index notes that Maggie V. Dishman of Wayne County, Kentucky, died on August 21, 1948.

As noted on the 1930 Census, Evans and Mertie had a son, Yamon, born in 1925, born in Kentucky. The youngest child born to Evans and Mertie was George Wesley. As of this date, we do not have any additional information about Yamon and George.

Granville Artie passed away on November 15, 1968 in Clinton County, Kentucky. The following photos were taken at Granville's funeral service.



Back row l-r: Robert Reneau, Luther Ozell Reneau, William Reneau, Quinten Reneau.
Front row l-r: Reed Reneau, Arnold Reneau, Paul Thrasher (half brother of Ozell, Eartle, and Arnold), and Eartle Reneau.



Sons of Evans Alexander Reneau
Brothers of Granville Artie Reneau
l-r: William, Robert, Reed and Quinten

Granville Artie Reneau
Information provided by Betty Reneau

Granville Artie Reneau was born May 12, 1891 to Evans Alexander Reneau and Martha Thrasher Reneau. His paternal grandparents were William T. Reneau and Sarah Lowhone Reneau. Granville's paternal great grandparents were John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno. The 1910 Census notes that Evans' first son, Granville Artie, lives with his mother, Martha, and stepfather John W. Sidwell in Clinton County.

Granville married Sarah Elizabeth “Lizzie” McGill on September 29, 1916, in Clinton County, Kentucky. Lizzie has a son, Paul Thrasher, who lives with Granville and his mother. Granville and Lizzie have four children: Arnold, born, March 19, 1917; Jesse Oakley, born, November 20, 1918; Eartle B., born June 18, 1922, and Luther Ozell, born January 2, 1925. All of their children are born in Clinton, County, Kentucky, where Granville was a farmer.



Granville Artie Reneau and Sarah Elizabeth McGill Reneau

Granville and Lizzie’s oldest son, Arnold Reneau, married Lavel “Jane” Cooper on October 31, 1941. Arnold and Jane become the parents of three children: Guindaline “Gwen,” born August 28, 1942; Roger, born February 14, 1949; and Ruby, born June 08, 1945. Arnold passed away on December 25, 1990 in Camdon, Indiana, and Lavel died in June 30, 2002 in Indiana.

Gwen married Johnnie Bob Dicken on December 13, 1961. They have three children: Kathy, J., born August 15, 1960, and married to James Alfred DiRenna, Jr. on September 20, 1974: Jerry, born September 27, 1962; and Jennifer, born January 14, 1978. Jennifer married Anthony Hasara, and they have two children, Merissa Nicole and Blaine Geoffrey. Johnnie Bob Dicken died February 10, 1995 in Kokomo, Indiana.

Ruby, Arnold and Jane’s youngest daughter, married Wendell Stearns. The couple later divorced. They had three children: Jimmy, Ricky, and Kelly Jane. Ricky is currently Deputy Sheriff in Clinton County. Kelly married Raymond Clarence Brown on September 14, 2001. There are three grandchildren in the family: Tina and Amber Stearns, and Katlyn

Brown. Wendell Stearns died in 1999. Ruby’s second marriage was to Ed Brown on September 16, 1987. Ruby passed away, at age 58, on January 5, 2004 and is buried in Fairland Cemetery.

Roger Reneau, son of Arnold and Jane, currently lives in Burlington, Indiana.

Jesse Oakley Reneau, second son born to Granville and Lizzie, died at age 9, on September 12, 1927.

Eartle Reneau was the next child born to Granville and Lizzie. Eartle served in World War II, from June 18, 1922 to September 13, 1946.



Eartle B. Reneau

After the war, Eartle returned to Clinton County, Kentucky. He married Dorothy Spears on May 05, 1950. Eartle worked as a farmer. He and Dorothy have two children: Danny K., born May 25, 1951, and Janice D., born December 31, 1952. Both children were born in Clinton County, Kentucky. Janice first married Jackie Roberts. The couple had four children: Tony, Tracy L, Andy D, and Tabitha J. After Janice’s divorce from Jackie, she married James Vaughn. He later died from cancer.

Danny is now divorced. He has a daughter, Germaine. Danny also takes care of his own daughter and her half sister (from his former wife’s second marriage) when they both come to stay with him.



l-r: standing: Dorothy Reneau, Dannie Reneau, Janice Reneau Vaughn
sitting: Eartle B. Reneau

The youngest child born to Granville and Lizzie is Luther Ozell Reneau, who goes by the name "Ozell." He served in World War II in the U.S. Army from Jan.2, 1945 to Feb. 14, 1945.



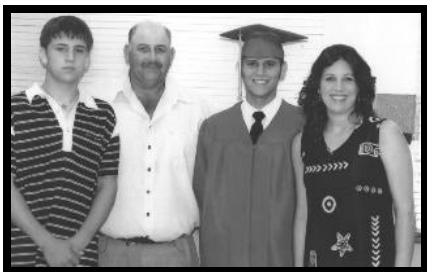
Luther Ozell Reneau

Ozell married Rose Marie Asberry. He works as a barber in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky. Rose worked in the garment factory and for the past few years in the Dietary Department of the Clinton County Hospital until becoming ill with cancer. She put up a fight and was able to return to work for three hours, three days per week until becoming worse. Rose sang in the choir of the Highway Church of the Nazarene, where the family has their church membership. Rose attended church up to and including the Sunday before she passed away on Saturday, August 7, 2004. Ozell and Rose had been married 53 years. The funeral service was held on Tuesday, August 10, 2004.



Rose and Ozell Reneau

Ozell and Rose's son, Bobby Rural, was born September 22, 1956. He has three children, Kelly Jo, Joshua and Tyler. It was Rose's joy to care for her grandchildren.

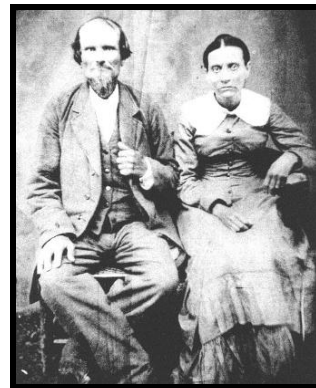


Bobby Rural Reneau and his children
l-r: Tyler, Bobby Rural, Joshua, and Kelly Jo

Berry Jordan Reneau
Information provided by Betty Reneau, Judy Reneau and Anita Reneau Daniels

Berry Jordan Reneau was the youngest child born to John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno, the grandson of Charles Reno and Alice Tipton Reno, and great-grandson of John Reno, and Susanna Thorn Reno. Berry Jordan was born December 5, 1927, in Albany, Clinton County, Kentucky. He joined his older siblings: Isaac Tipton, born December 9, 1805; Joseph Wright, born August 28, 1807; John Pleasant Thurman, born October 3, 1809; Nathan Washington, born December 19, 1812; Nathaniel Smith, born July 10, 1814; Elizabeth Wakefield, born November 30, 1816; Sarah A. "Sallie," born May 1, 1819; Jonathan Mulkey, born July 9, 1822; and William T., born June 11, 1824.

Berry Jordan married Lorina Jane Boring on January 29, 1861 in Clinton Co., Kentucky. Lorina Jane Boring was the daughter of Isaac Boring and Catherine Connor. She was born April 18, 1839. The couple settled in Overton County, Tennessee where each of their ten children was born.



Berry Jordan Reneau and Lorina Boring Reneau

Berry Jordan was known for his avid Union support during the Civil War. While his first son was named after his brother, Isaac Tipton Reneau, a noted preacher of the time, his other sons were named after famous men of the Union.: Landon Carter of Tennessee; Schuyler Colfax, Vice President under U. S. Grant; Ulysses Simpson Grant, Civil War General and two term President; and Rutherford Burchard Hays, Civil War Union Army Veteran and elected President in 1876.

Berry Jordan and Lorina Boring Reneau's oldest child, Isaac Tipton Reneau was born March 15, 1861. The other children were: Ellen Bradley, born August 4, 1863; Landon Carter, born April 26, 1865; Mary Eliston, born July 14, 1868; Schuyler Colfax, born 1870, Ulysses Simpson Grant, born July 2, 1873; Myrtle Starling, born May 8, 1875; Rutherford Burchard Hayes, born April 27, 1876; Edith Varne, born August 12, 1877, and Lorina Jane, born September 13, 1880.



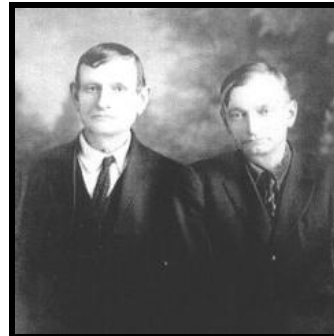
Isaac Tipton Reneau
Son of Berry Jordan Reneau

Isaac Tipton Reneau never married.

Ellen Brady married Isaac Woosie Smith in 1895. Ellen Smith died December 12, 1918 in Clinton Co., Kentucky. She is buried in the Smith-Kroger Cemetery in Pickett Co., Tennessee.

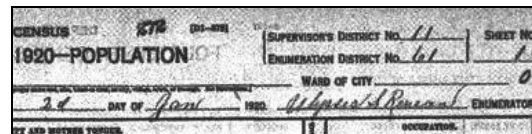
Landon Carter Reneau's cousin, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, had traveled west and was living in Broken Bow, Nebraska. In 1886, Landon went to Broken Bow to see him, and a few months later traveled on to western Nebraska. He married Lillian May Newberry on Dec 2, 1896 in Lincoln Co., Nebraska. The 1900 Census shows Landon and Lillian living in McPherson Co., Nebraska. They have three children: Orley Vincent, age 2; Jennie May, age 1; and Floyd Irvin, 4 months. Landon is employed as a County Clerk. In the 1910 Census, Landon and Lillian have two more children: Arthur, age 8; and Margie (Margaret), age 3. This completed the young family. Landon is listed as Proprietor, postmaster and store. Twenty years later, in the 1930 Census, Landon is 64 years old, and Lillian is 53. Landon works as a watchman for a School Building. Landon passed away on April 12, 1953 in Denver, Colorado. He is buried in Rose Hill Cemetery, Lamoni, Iowa. His wife, Lillian is also buried there, as well as their son, Orly, who died in 1921 (drowning).

Mary Eliston married Alfred Pittman. She died January 17, 1943 in Pickett County, Tennessee. Schuyler Colfax Reneau traveled to Nebraska. He never married.



Granville and Schuyler Colfax Reneau

Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau married Cora Luttrell on September 14, 1898 in Clinton County, Kentucky. There were six children in the family: Richard Carvin, Elizabeth Pauline, Edward J., Beulah, Raymond B, and Robert Maurice. U. S. Reneau was the Enumerator for the 1920 Census in Clinton County, Neathery No. 7 district.



1920 Census Sheet
Ulysses S. Reneau, enumerator

It is a real bonus to be able to see Ulysses' handwriting on the Census sheet. His penmanship is very clear and readable. He notes that he and Cora have five children at home on their farm: Carvin, age 20; Pauline, age 17; Eddie, age 13; Beulah, age 9; and Raymond, age 2. US and his son, Carvin list as employment: manager of the farm. Ulysses S. Reneau died on December 5, 1925, from injuries received in a sawmill accident.

Myrtle Starling Reneau married Arthur Ransome Leonard on November 14, 1894 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Myrtle and Arthur had six children: Velera, born after 1894; Lena, born Sept 29 1895; Ellen Brady, born August 11, 1898; Arthur Ransome, born Jan 24, 1902; and Ineta E., born August 11, 1907. Myrtle passed away on October 15, 1908, when her youngest child was just over a year old.

Rutherford Burchard Hays Reneau married Sarah Jayne Upchurch sometime before 1902. Rutherford and Sarah had five children: Ethel,

born 1902; Rubie, born September 18, 1903, Webster J. born November 23, 1905; Beffie Ellen, born June 5, 1907; and Burchard, born 1908. The 1930 Census shows that Ruby, her husband Harry Earnest Darrow, along with Webster, his wife Alice, and son Webster Junior, are living in Detroit, Michigan. Both Harry and Webster work in an Auto Factory.

The youngest two daughters of Berry Jordan and Lorina Jane Reneau never married. Edith Varne Reneau died August 16, 1908 in Clinton Co., Kentucky at the age of 31. Lorina Jane Reneau also died in Clinton County, Kentucky. She died on June 20, 1911 at the age of 31.

Berry Jordan Reneau died on March 24, 1902 in Amonette Ridge, Pickett County, Tennessee, about eight miles from Albany, Kentucky. His widow, Lorina Jane Boring Reneau died on February 24, 1924 in Pickett County, Tennessee.

The Means/Boring Families Connection to the Reneau Family
Submitted by Patricia Means Chevalier

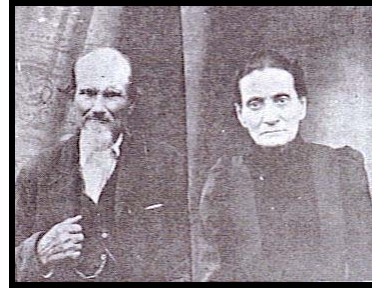
Got your invitation to the Reunion. Was proud to get it. Sounds like it will be great. But we are not going to be able to come this time. But maybe another year.

I sure wish my brother, Jennings was here. He would love to be present. Genealogy was what he loved. Dennis Means (his son) fixed up the material with the computer. I have the pictures. Dennis has the Jennings' genealogy. Jennings has over 32,000 names in his file. He helped write the Meanses of America book. There were 5 persons that wrote the book. He wrote our line. It is a large book. Just before he died he had just completed a Boring Book. His son, Dennis, I believe has published it. Our mother, my sisters, Gaylian, Debra, and I did a lot of research for him. We got our start from Louvirna Kathrine Boring Amonette, our great grandmother. Jennings died 29 Oct 2001. We sure miss him.

As you can see we are tied to Charles Reneau not just once but more than once. Through two Boring lines and some of the Meanses married Reneaus.

Azel Means had a daughter, Eleanor Ann Means who married John Mulkey Reneau. He was the son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, who was the son of John Reneau and Elizabeth Thurman, who was the son of Charles Reneau.

Then Berry Jordan Reneau, son of John Reneau, married Lorina Jane Boring, daughter of Isaac Boring and Catherine Cobb Conner.



Berry Jordan Reneau and Lorina Jane Boring Reneau

Berry Jordan and Lorina Jane had a son named Rutherford Burchard Hayes Reneau. Included is a picture of he and part of his family. He married Sarah Jane Upchurch.



Rutherford Burchard Hays Reneau, wife Sarah, Children: Bessie, Ethel, Webster and Rubie

We have a line that goes through Mary Reneau, daughter of Charles. Louvirna Katherine Boring who married John Louis Amonette was the daughter of Elijah James Boring and Orrie Elizabeth Boring. Orrie Elizabeth Boring was the daughter of Catherine Cobb Conner, daughter of Mary Reneau. Elizah James Boring's father was Abraham Heiter Boring, whose mother was Sarah Reneau. So, we have two Boring lines that go back to Charles Reneau.

Included is a picture of the Boring Cemetery. About 30 years ago, Louvirnia Katherine Amonette's son, James Edgar, took Jennings back to Tennessee. He showed Jennings all the family places. He took him over into Clinton Co., Ky., out of Albany in the country and showed him some burial spots. About five years ago we went back there and put up this marker.

James Edgar told Jennings who was buried there and who the family thought was buried there. We had gone back over the years and decided to put some kind of marker there. Jennings ordered

this marker out of San Antonio. Went down and picked it up and here we go to Tennessee. This marker is on the fence line so he got permission to put it there. He got the permission from the highway department and the owner of the property. There is a grove of trees out in the pasture next to the highway with twelve or thirteen rocks in it. Kind of on a little hill. But I can't remember what road it is on. And I sure couldn't go back there. I think it is between Albany and Tennessee.



Boring Cemetery Sign

Following is inscribed on the sign:

BORING CEMETERY

The following people are buried here:

Isaac Boring, Born 27 May 1792, Washington Co., TN, died 7 Feb 1874, son of Elijah Boring and Sarah Reneau (daughter of Charles Reneau and Elizabeth Tipton); married 17 Nov. 1821 in Carter Co., TN to Catherine Cobb Connor, born 25 Nov. 1803, Washington Co., TN, died 15 Dec 1878, daughter of Mary Reneau (daughter of Charles Reneau and Elizabeth Tipton).

The following were children of Isaac and Catherine Boring:

Sarah Ann Boring, born 1 Nov 1822, died 24 Jun 1824.

Charles Tipton Boring, born 27 Feb 1824, died 28 Feb 1824.

William Jordan Boring, born 24 Feb 1827, died 1848.

Isaac Campbell Boring, born 28 Nov 1832, died 1880.

Lydia Clementine Boring, born 4 Jan 1845, died 17 Sep 1849.

William Campbell Boring, born Jul 1864, died Nov 1873, son of Elijah James Boring and Orrie Elizabeth Boring, who was the daughter of Isaac and Catherine Boring. Elijah James Boring was the son of Abraham Helter Boring (brother of Isaac) and Sarah Robinson or

Headrick. Official primary source records list both surnames. It is not known which is correct.

The following people are probably buried here:

Charles Reneau, born 14 March 1764, Fauquier Co., VA, died 4 Aug 1828, son of John Reneau and Susannah Thorn; married 8 Aug 1771 to Elizabeth Tipton, born 1754, Fredrick, Co., VA, died after 1640, daughter of Jonathan Tipton, JR and Mary Adams.

Major Jonathan Tipton, III, born 23 Oct 1750, Fredrick Co., VA, died 18 Jan 1833 while visiting his sister Elizabeth Tipton Reneau.

Catherine Cobb Conner was an orphan child raised by her grandparents, Charles and Elizabeth Tipton Reneau, and was sometimes known as Catherine Reneau. Charles and Elizabeth Tipton Reneau and Isaac and Catherine Connor Boring came to Clinton County, Kentucky together in 1823. Elizabeth Tipton Reneau lived with Isaac and Catherine Boring after Charles Reneau's death.

Well I hope you can get something out of this. Hope you have a good reunion. Would like to hear from you. I just live about 1/2 mile from Dennis Means so if you want to email him, he will see that I get it.

By the way, Jennings had 9 children. His children and wife couldn't distract him from his genealogy.



The Jennings Means Family
l-r seated: Jennings, Betty, Donald
l-r standing: Dennis, Julie, Victor, Alana,
Rhema, Damon, Carla, Eileen
January 1993

I have three children: Charlotte, David Lynn, and Michael Dewayne; seven grandchildren: Stanley Kipper, Shelby Lyle, and Lindsey Brook Overstreet; Amy Nicole, Dillon Keith, Tiffany Brianne Chevalier. Gaylia has four girls and eleven grandchildren. Debra has two adopted children and five grandchildren.

Thanks for inviting us.
Patricia Means Chevalier and family

Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau
Information provided by Judy Reneau
and Betty Reneau

Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau was the sixth child of Berry Jordan Reneau and Lorina Boring Reneau, and the grandson of John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reno. Ulysses was born July 2, 1873 in Overton County, Tennessee. He married Cora Luttrell on September 14, 1898 in Clinton Co., Kentucky. Cora was the daughter of Edwin Luttrell and Francese Agee, and was born June 18, 1881 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Ulysses Simpson Reneau was a farmer. He and Cora had six children: Richard Carvin, born June 18, 1899; Elizabeth Pauline, born January 6, 1902; Edward J., born September 22, 1906; Beulah, born April 6, 1910; Raymond B., born August 21, 1917; and Robert Maurice, born March 29, 1920.



Cora Luttrell and Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau
On their Wedding Day
September 14, 1898
Clinton County, Kentucky



Pauline, Carvin, and Edward Reneau
circa 1909

Tragically, Ulysses Simpson suffered a sawmill accident and died on December 5, 1925, in Clinton County, Kentucky. He was 52 years old. In the 1930 Census, Cora is living at home with four of her five children. Richard Carvin is 30 years old, and is a teacher at the High School.



Richard Carvin Reneau

Other family members at home are Beulah, age 20, attending school; Robert, age 10, attending school; and Eddie, age 23, working as a laborer in an auto factory. Eddie had married Bessie Wade, and she, age 19, is also living in the household. Raymond, age 12 is going to school and living with his grandparents, Edwin and Francese Luttrell.

Elizabeth Pauline married John Floyd Vickery. In the book, Rocks of Ages by Gary Denton Norris, it is noted that John Floyd Vickery, born August 28, 1893, the son of William M. Vickery and Nancy Belle Boanett Vickery. Floyd died March 15, 1959. Norris also recorded that John was the father of Eula Mae, and Eileen Rogers. John Floyd Vickery is buried at Piercy Cemetery in Clinton County, Kentucky. Eula Mae lives in Atlanta. She graduated from Clinton County High School in 1939, and taught school.

Clinton County Schools were a focal point for several of the Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau's descendents.



Clinton County High School
Albany Elementary School
Built in 1921
Photo from 1950 School Year Book

Richard Carvin married Audrey Esther Maupin around 1957. She was an English Teacher at the High School during the time that he was the School Superintendent and Supervisor of Schools, the one room schools that were across the county, the Albany Graded School, and the High School.

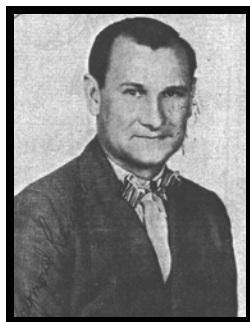


Audrey Maupin
1950 Year Book Photo
Clinton County High School
Feb. 16, 1901 – Sept. 10, 1956

Audrey and Carvin went together for many years, but had been married only eight years when she was killed in an auto accident in 1956.



Richard Carvin Reneau
1950 Year Book Photo
Clinton County High School
June 18, 1899 – March 28, 1959



Raymond B. Reneau
1950 Year Book Photo
Clinton County High School

Raymond B. Reneau also was an educator, and taught at Clinton County High School. He first was a Science Teacher and Coach, and then taught Agriculture for many years.



Coach Raymond B. Reneau
and the First Team Basketball Squad
1950 Year Book Photo



l-r: R.L. Piercey, Eddie Reneau, Pauline Vickery, Beulah Piercey, Raymond Reneau, Robert Reneau, girl unknown.

Beulah Reneau married R. L. Piercy and lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee. She is 94 years old. Raymond Reneau married Ruth Ferguson on December 28, 1940.

Robert Maurice Reneau, the youngest child born to Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau and Cora Luttrell Reneau, was elected Clinton County Clerk, serving seven terms of four years each -- twenty-seven years. He married Lorene Choate. She was born March 23, 1921 and passed away December 25, 2001.

Cora Luttrell Reneau, widow of Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau, lived out her life in Clinton County, Kentucky, where she was near children and grandchildren. Cora Reneau passed away on June 3, 1963, at age 82, in Clinton County, Kentucky.

Raymond Borhing Reneau
Submitted by Judy Reneau

Raymond B. Reneau is the fifth child born to Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau and Cora Luttrell Reneau. He was born on August 21, 1917. His

grandfather was Berry Jordan Reneau, who was the son John Reno.

Raymond married Ruth Ferguson on December 28, 1940 in Scottsville, Kentucky.



Raymond and Ruth Reneau

He served in World War II, enlisting in the U. S. Army on November 17, 1942 and was discharged on October 19, 1945. He served in Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. Raymond is a graduate of Lindsey Wilson College, Western Kentucky University, and received his teaching certificate from the University of Kentucky. He was employed as an agriculture teacher until he retired in 1975 after teaching 37.2 years.



Raymond B. Reneau
Circa 1942

He and his wife, Ruth, have raised their children in Albany, Kentucky, where he farmed and taught. They have six children: Raymond B. (Ray), Ulysses Simpson, (U.S.), Barbara Faye, Cora Sue, Richard Harold, and Rosalie Ruth.

Ray and his wife, Nancy, live in Blacksburg, Virginia. Ray is retired from Virginia Tech where he taught agriculture. He continues to work part time with the college. Nancy is a youth director at a local church. They have one son, Allen, who is a graduate of Virginia Tech, and is employed as a golf instructor.



Raymond Reneau Jr., Nancy Reneau and son
Raymond Allen Reneau

Raymond Sr. and Ruth's second son is U.S. Reneau. He married Judy Carol Groce. U.S. graduated from Berea College and the University of Kentucky with a degree in agriculture. He taught agriculture for 27 years and retired in 1999 from Clinton County High School. U.S. died November 23, 2001 from liver Cancer. His wife Judy is a graduate of Berea College and Western Kentucky University. She taught math and German at Clinton County High School and retired in 1997 after 31 years. U.S. and Judy have three children: Charles, Kathleen, and Jason.



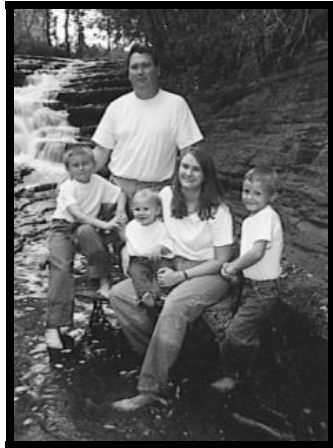
U.S. and Judy Reneau



The Charles Reneau Family
l-r: Jacob, Patricia, Charles, and Stephen
Son, daughter-in-law and grandchildren of U.S.
and Judy Reneau

U.S. and Judy's oldest son is Charles Edward Reneau. He married Patricia Elaine Barnett.

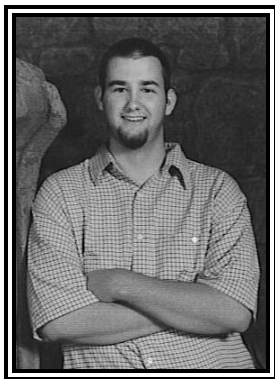
Charles is a graduate of DeVry Institute of Technology in Columbus, Ohio and Luther Rice Seminary in Atlanta, Georgia. He currently lives in Murfreesboro, Tennessee, where he works as an engineer for Norvar Control Industries. He has two children: Jacob, age 11; and Stephen, age 8.



l-r: Travis Franklin Gregory, Frank D. Gregory Jr. (JR), Dalton Woodrow Gregory, Kathleen Reneau Gregory, and Noah Simpson Gregory Daughter, son-in-law and grandchildren of U.S. and Judy Reneau

Kathleen Reneau Gregory, U.S. and Judy's, daughter, is a graduate of Western Kentucky University. She lives in Albany where she teaches 2nd grade at Albany Elementary. Her husband, JR, is a school bus driver and operates Gregory Performance where he buys and sells race car parts and also makes magnetic signs. They have three children: Travis, age 9; Noah, age 7; and Dalton, age 3.

U.S. and Judy's youngest son is Jason Allen Reneau. He is a junior at Western Kentucky University where he is pursuing a degree in psychology with a minor in criminology.



Jason Allen Reneau
Son of U.S. and Judy Reneau

Barbara, the third child born to Raymond and Ruth Reneau, is married to Tom Scott. The Scotts operate a farm in Burkesville, Kentucky. They have one son, Tommy, who plans to attend Somerset Community College this fall.



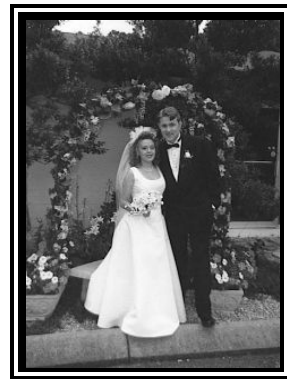
l-r: Barbara, son, Tommy, and Tom Scott

Ruth and Raymond's second daughter is Sue Reneau Charnock. She is the wife of John R. Charnock and lives in Burkesville, Kentucky. Sue attended Berea College and Eastern Kentucky University. She is a nurse, and has two children; Seth and Aliea.



Sue Reneau Charnock

Seth Reneau and his wife Shauna live in Glasgow, Kentucky, where Seth is employed as a welder. They have two children, Gavin and Presley.



Seth Reneau & Shauna Richards Reneau
son & daughter-in-law of Sue Reneau Charnock

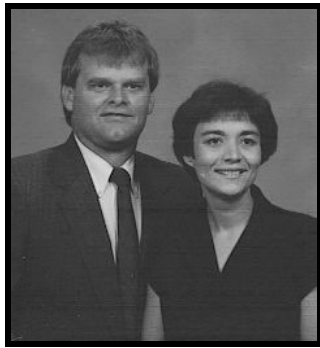
Sue Reneau Charnock's daughter Aliea is married to Barry Joe Garner. The couple has one

child, Zane. Aliea and Barry Joe work for A & C Communications, Inc. The family lives in Albany, Kentucky.



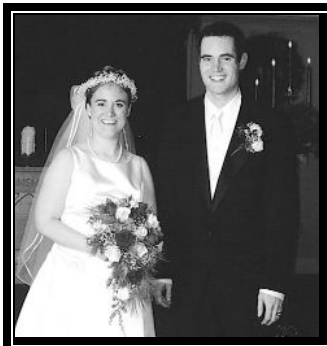
Barry Joe, Aliea, with son, Zane
Sue Reneau Charnock's daughter and family

Richard Reneau (youngest son of Ruth and Raymond) and his wife Judy both attended Eastern Kentucky University. Richard taught agriculture in Harrison County, Kentucky until his death in November of 1995. Judy is a nurse with the Harrison County School System. They have two children, Kristen and Kara.



Richard and Judy Reneau

Kristen is a graduate of Transylvania University in Lexington, Kentucky with a degree in psychology. She and her husband Nathan Harrington are expecting their first child in November. Kristen and Nathan live in Lexington, Kentucky.



Nathan and Kristen Reneau Harrington
Richard and Judy's daughter and son-in-law

Kara will be a freshman at Georgetown University in Lexington, Kentucky this fall.

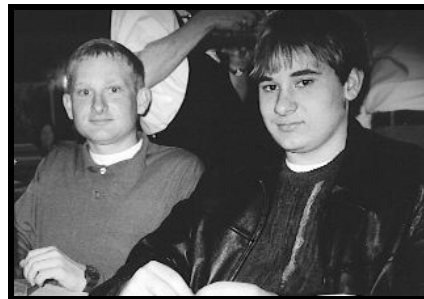


Kara Reneau
Daughter of Richard and Judy Reneau

Rosalie Ruth Reneau Ramsey is Raymond and Ruth's youngest daughter. She is married to Larry Ramsey. Rosalie and Larry both attended Eastern Kentucky University. They live in Sparta, Kentucky, where Larry manages a farm, and Rosalie is employed by a bank in Warsaw, Kentucky. They have three children: Stuart, Emily, and Kevin. Stuart is a senior at the University of Kentucky majoring in Agribusiness. Emily is a junior at the University of Kentucky. She lives in Lexington, Kentucky and works at Sam's. Kevin is a sophomore in high school in Sparta.



Emily Ruth Ramsey
Daughter of Rosalie and Larry Ramsey



Stuart and Kevin Ramsey
Sons of Rosalie and Larry Ramsey



Rosalie and Larry Ramsey

The grandchildren remember special times with their Grandpa Raymond and Grandma Ruth.



Charles, Grandpa, and Kathleen
And the Big Fish they caught!
circa 1976

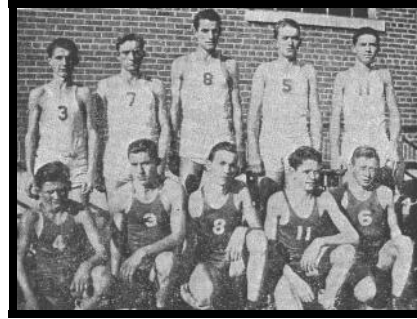
**Robert Maurice Reneau and Family
Information provided by Betty Reneau
and Nannie Reneau**

Robert Reneau is the youngest child born to Ulysses Simpson Grant Reneau and Cora Luttrell Reneau. He was born on March 29, 1920 in Clinton County, Kentucky. Robert's paternal grandparents were Berry Jordan Reneau and Lorina Boring Reneau, and his paternal great grandparents were John Reno and Elizabeth Thurman Reneau.

Robert attended Clinton County High School, and was part of the School Basketball Team.



Robert M. Reneau
1940



Clinton County High School
Basketball Team
Standing in center: Robert Reneau, #8
1940

Robert served in the U.S. Army during World War II. His tour of duty took him to Northern France, Rhineland, and Central Europe. He fought in The Battle of the Bulge. He was discharged on November 14, 1945 with the rank of Tech 4th Class.



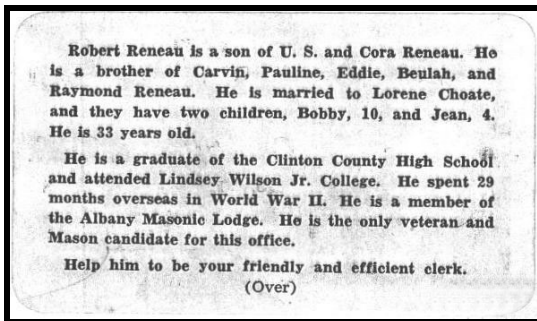
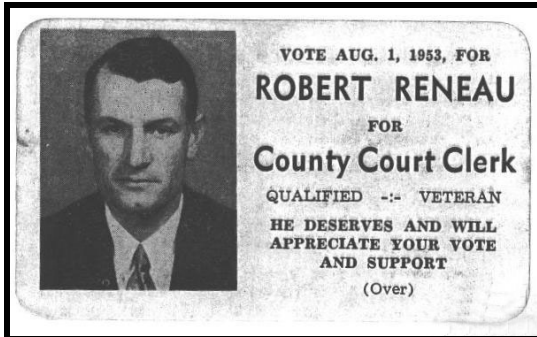
Robert M. Reneau
U.S. Army
circa 1944

Robert married Lorene Choate. Lorene was born March 23, 1921. Two children were born to Robert and Lorene: Robert M. Jr., born February 19, 1943, and Loretta Jean "Jeannie," born September 26, 1948.



Robert and Lorene Reneau with their children
Bob and Jeannie
Late 1950's

Robert was elected to four terms, seven years each, serving as Clinton County Clerk for twenty-eight years, from January 1954 until 1981.



Front and Back of Campaign Card
1954

Robert M. Jr. married Nannie Lee Grider on June 22, 1963. The couple has four daughters: Deborah Elaine, born March 24, 1964, Amy Michelle, born May 7, 1967; and twins, Bobbie Carol and Billie Anne, born June 7, 1971.



Robert M. Reneau Jr. Family
l-r standing: Debbie, Amy, Bobbie
l-r sitting: Robert, Nannie, Billie



l-r: Nannie Grider Reneau, Jeannie Reneau, and Robert M. Reneau Jr.

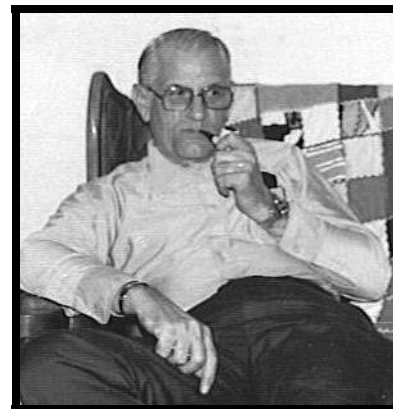
Robert and Nannie are also grandparents: Deborah married Thomas Jones, and they have three daughters: Sarah J, Amanda G. and Melanie E. Thomas' family owns and operates two Jones Restaurants, one in Albany and one in Burkesville. Deborah, who used to work as a nurse, now works with her husband in the family restaurants.

Amy married Tony Denny, and three children were born to this couple: Matthew R., Megan R., and Beverly M. Amy's second marriage is to Ronald Albertson.

Bobbie's first marriage was to Eric Latham, and they have one child, Egan R. Bobbie's second marriage is to Steve Dicken, and they have one son, Elijah.

Billie Ann is married to Eugene Frye, and they have two children: William L, and Emily B. Both Bobbie and Billie work as nurses for one of the Home Health agencies in Clinton County.

Robert's wife, Lorene, passed away on December 25, 2001. Their daughter, Jeannie, lives at home.



Robert Maurice Reneau Sr.