



Reneau Review

Vol 2, Issue 2 March 2004

Greetings!

We hope that the *Reneau Review* finds each of you in good health and enjoying the change of seasons. Looking across the United States, some still have snow, others are in the midst of more rain, and still others are in the warm sunshine. Did you know that the *Reneau Review* is sent to Reneau descendants in 24 states? They are: AR, CA, CO, FL, GA, ID, IL, IN, KY, LA, MD, MI, MO, MS, NM, OH, OK, OR, PA, TN, TX, VA, WA, and WV!

This got me to thinking...how come we all ended up where we are? The first Reneaus (or Renos) came to this country mostly through Virginia. Do you know the reason that your ancestors moved? My grandfather, Eugene LaRue Reneau, (son of Barton Warren Stone Reneau, son of Isaac Tipton Reneau, son of John Reno, son of Charles Reno) came to Oregon in the late 1920's, after trying life on the frontier of New Mexico. We find him in Prairie Precinct, Lane Co., Oregon in the 1930 census, and then later moving to Portland to work for the Kaiser Company at the Swan Island Shipyard. This company played a vital role in building and repairing ships during WWII. I guess if things had turned out differently for Eugene, I could be writing this in New Mexico or Texas! But here I am, in Vancouver, WA—just across the river from Portland, OR, the town where I was born.

I'm sure there are some great stories out there, about how you landed where you are! Send us your story and we'll print it in the *Review*.

Anita Reneau Daniels

Thank You!

Thanks to you who sent contributions in to keep our newsletter going. We have asked for a \$5.00 contribution to receive the newsletter, and yet we want to continue to send to all of those on our mailing list, even if they are unable to contribute for one reason or another. Several have gone above and beyond the \$5.00, and we want to especially thank you, as it keeps this method of communication in

“Business.” When I say “business,” I mean it is a “labor of love.” We don't make any money from the *Review*, just the right amount to keep the issues coming to Reneau descendants! So, it is your newsletter, and we'll print an issue as often as we have the materials and the funds, which, so far, appears to work out sending an issue every other month.

Welcome New Readers!

This month we have increased our readership by two! Welcome to:

Leigh Reneau Wimberly of Leesville, LA. Leigh is a Reneau descendant of the William Tipton Reneau line. William was the son of Charles Reno and Alice Tipton. Leigh's line runs from Charles Reno, William Tipton Reneau, Charles Francis Reneau, George William Reneau, Thomas Tillman Reneau, and Woodrow Wilson Reneau.

Leigh is an experienced genealogist. Welcome, Leigh, to our group!

Caroline Reneau Shepler of Elkins, WV. Carolyn is the oldest daughter of Oren Neathery (Ned) and Florence Reneau. Her line then traces: Oren Neathery Reneau, Isaac Oren, Reuben James Shannon, Isaac Tipton, John Reno, Charles, John, Lewis, Louis Reynaud, Louis.

CORRECTION TO LAST ISSUE....

If you have your January 2004 issue of the *Reneau Review*, please go back to the article by Dollye Elliott to make a correction to the sentence: “These names were usually written by a court official; if a person could **not** write and sign his name that was usually the correct spelling.” (The word “**not**” should not be in there.)

The sentence should read: “These names were usually written by a court official; **if a person could write and sign his name, that was usually the correct spelling.**” Thank you, Dollye for catching that!

Book Report

The Reneau Reunion Book is beginning to take shape! Thank you to all who have sent in their family memories and pictures. We still have time for more! There are close to 60 pages now. The book is loaded with photos and snapshots, from the past and present! I hope to have the first draft completed in the next couple months, and then will ask for help from some to review for accuracy. I also return to the writer a copy of the first draft, so it can be reviewed and approved! Photos or snapshots can be scanned and emailed to me, or sent by regular mail. If you send the photos by mail, I will be sure to return them. Please think about getting your story in, and then taking the time to do it!! After the book is printed it will be too late, and we just don't want anyone to be disappointed that their family story and pictures were not included.

Churches in our Family History



Sinking Creek Baptist Church
Old and New Buildings

Gary and Brenda Payne Rose and family recently visited their son, Jonathan, and his family in Elizabethton, TN. They had the opportunity to visit the Sinking Creek Baptist Church near Elizabethton, where the Tiptons and Reneaus went to church. Since churches were often used as school, it is possible that Charles Reno taught school there, as the school was in the Sinking Creek area.

The sign on the old building reads: "Oldest Church in Tennessee, Sinking Creek Baptist Church, 1783-1924." Last year, Brenda and her family traveled to Albany, KY. They visited Betty Reneau, great-granddaughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau. As well as learning family history, there were visits to several churches which our ancestors attended, among them, Clear Fork Baptist Church, and the First Christian Church in Albany, KY. Brenda has sent in the pictures for our Reneau Book.

Are there special churches in your family history? Send us a picture, along with a short write up about it, who attended, etc. We will have a **special chapter** in the book, dedicated to churches we attend and/or our ancestors attended! I know that we have some ministers in our group. It would be wonderful to have a snapshot/drawing/photo of your church, and how you fit into the history.

Some years back, Mada Campbell Robertson (1904-2003) sent my father, Marion James Reneau a copy of a bulletin with a picture of the First United Methodist Church in Fort Smith AR. Mada wrote, that even after 21 years in Dallas, TX, the family still received the Church Bulletin. Mada and Pat's daughter, Erma Campbell Thomson, was married there, and the children were baptized there. Mada was the daughter of Laura Reneau Campbell, great-granddaughter of Isaac Tipton Reneau. In memory of Mada, we'll place the drawing of the church that is in the bulletin into the chapter of **Churches in our Family**.

When my father, Marion James Reneau, married my mother, a Danish girl, Phern Anna Hansen, he joined the Lutheran Church. Since then we have had three "Reneau" generations who have attended there. Of course, the Danes go back a long way!

There are so many churches that mean much to us. Please share yours! And, thank you, Brenda, for the great idea. By the way, Brenda's line is Charles, John, Isaac Tipton, Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings, Lula Belle Stillings Bennett, Martha Eunice Bennett Greene, Margie Kathleen Greene Payne.

WE ARE THINKING OF....

Janice Blake Anderson, of Stockton, CA, who recently had hip replacement surgery. We hope that you are well on your way to recovery, Janice. Janice traces her ancestors from Charles, John, Isaac Tipton, Mariba Elizabeth Reneau Depp, Mary Pitsey Depp Rowland, Marion Rowland Blake.

Vi Ellis Brandle, of Salem, OR, who is not feeling well due to a reaction to medication. We hope that the doctors have figured things out, Vi. Vi's husband was Edward Brandle, who passed away in 1999. Ed's Reneau line traces from Charles, John, Isaac Tipton, Barton Warren Stone, Eugene LaRue, Gladys Reneau Brandle.

HAPPY ANNIVERSARY!

Virgil and Gladys Commons will celebrate their 66th Wedding Anniversary on April 24, 2004.

Virgil Wallace Commons married Gladys Gilbert on April 24, 1938, in Oklahoma. They are members of the Church of Christ and live in DeSoto, TX. They have two sons: Michael Wayne and Earl Wallace. They have five grandchildren: Mike Jr. and Chris Commons, Wendy Horn, Lori Rutledge, and Chad Commons; nine great-grandchildren: Brandi, Trevor, Calab, Abigail, Lilli, Brennon, and Ryan Commons, Kaitlyn and Austin Horn; and two great-great-grandchildren: Aston Commons and Angel Rutledge. Congratulations, Virgil and Gladys!



Virgil and Gladys Commons
2000

CALLING ALL YOUNG INTERVIEWERS!

It happens fairly often. The kids bring home a school assignment to interview Grandma, Grandpa, or some older person to learn what life was like in their day. These are just cute little assignments to us, a learning experience for the interviewer, and the interviewee enjoys telling about back then. In later years these become precious memories and clues to the past! We would like to include these interviews in the Reneau Book. So if your budding writer had done an interview with a Reneau ancestor, send it in and we will include it in the book!

The following “junior interview” was done in 1994.

NOTES FROM SARAH COOK WHEN SHE

**INTEVIEWED 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 schoolhouse with all 8 grades in it. He went there for 4 years, a tole (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 granparents 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

CALLING MARIBA RENEAU DEPP

DESCENDANTS....

Dollye McAlister Elliott is looking for information about **Elizabeth Ann Hill**, who married Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, son of John and Elizabeth (Thurman) Reneau.

Since Hill is such a common name, it is difficult to make a connection with any particular Hill family. The Hills were apparently from the same area in Kentucky as the Reneaus. Elizabeth is buried on a farm near Tompkinsville, Monroe Co., KY. Please contact the *Review* or Dollye directly at DOLLYEMC@aol.com. Dollye is descended from John and Elizabeth (Thurman) Reneau, via their son Jonathan Mulkey Reneau, and Elizabeth Ann Hill; their youngest daughter was Eulissa Virginia ("Nattie") Reneau (who married William Henry Jackson, Barren Co., KY); Nattie's only daughter was Dove Cleo Jackson who married James Lanier McAlister (Sr.) in Bowling Green, Warren Co., KY, March 23, 1908.

Dollye's mother, Dove Cleo Jackson, lost both her parents, two baby brothers, and two half-sisters between 1892 and 1900. Cleo was 7 years old when her mother died, and 9 years old when her father died. She then went to live for a short time with her older Cousin, Mariba Reneau Depp and her family, until her half-brother, Clarence T. Jackson, took her to live with her older Half sister, Ada (Jackson) Mize in Bowling Green, KY.

Write to the Reneau Review!

To contact the *Reneau Review* by mail:

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Reneau Review

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Vancouver, WA 98683

or email at: apdaniels1@msn.com

Please consider sharing items that you think will interest other Reneaus, and don't forget articles for the Reneau Book!

CONTACT CORNER!

The following are names and contact information of those who would like to correspond with other Reneau Descendants:

Dorothy Reneau Mote

11307 Destiny Dr

San Antonio, TX 78216

Email: almote@msn.com

Dorothy is a descendant of Charles, John, Isaac Tipton Reneau, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Rex Raymond Reneau.

Robert E. Reneau

801 So Raritan St

Denver CO 80223

Robert writes that he has some of his grandfather's, Isaac Alexander Reneau, papers with family history, and he may be able to help someone out with lineage. Robert is a descendant of Charles, John, Isaac Tipton Reneau, Isaac Tipton Alexander Reneau, Meredith Thurman Reneau.

If you would like to have your name included for others as available to correspond with others about Reneau history, please let us know.

Reunion 2004

The Reunion Team: Ann Chandler, Jackie Mann, Linda Moore, and Terrell Perkins are planning our 2004 Reunion in Austin, Texas. Thoughts are to have the Reunion in one of the first three weeks of October. The way it works for large group reservations in the park facilities is to have a drawing for the various sites. The drawings will be held in late March. So, 2004 Reneau Reunion information will be available in our next issue. Go Reneaus!!!



Looking at photos

l-r: Patty Bates Reneau,
Mackie Lee Reneau Maples, and Douglas Maples
2003 Reneau Reunion
San Antonio, TX