

# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 4, Issue 3, May/June 2006

## Reunion News!

We hope that you are making plans to attend the **All Reno/Reneau Reunion** at Dale Hollow State Park near Burkesville and Albany, KY on June 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup>.

It is not necessary to stay at the Lodge during the Reunion. If you live within driving distance or plan to stay at a nearby motel, you may want to come **Friday evening between 7 and 9 PM for the "Get Acquainted and Registration Event," or Saturday morning from 9 to 10:30 AM to register.** During these times you may pick up T-Shirts and Tote Bags that were pre-ordered. A few will be available for sale. **Turn in your item for the Silent Auction. Turn in Family Favorite Recipes for the Nationwide Reno/Reneau Cookbook.**

**In addition to registration, Saturday events will include:**  
From **10:30 - 11:30 AM**, Dr. Jack Early will present Brief History of the Huguenots who came to America. Then the next hour from **11:30 - 12:30** there will be a Business meeting. Discussion of when and how often to hold a National Reno/Reneau Reunion. Who will offer to be Host & Hostess for the next reunion? Where do you want to meet? Should we become an Association?

**12:30 - 2:00:** Buffet Luncheon (**reservations required, see order form, page 4.**)

**2:00 - 5:00:** Visit and exchange information on extended family members.

**5:00:** Silent Auction will close. Time to pick up and pay for items if you were a bidding winner.

Drawing for Raffle Winner: **To purchase tickets early, see order form, page 4.** Tickets on sale until drawing June 10.

Some items available for the silent auction:

14K Gold Huguenot Cross furnished by the Reunion Team and 36 Bottles of Chateau LaFayette Reneau Wine from New York furnished by Dick Reno. We know that this will be a fun event for everyone!

## Places to Go and Things to See Going To and From the Reunion!

Submitted by Brenda Rose  
2006 Reunion Team Member

If you will be driving to the Reno/Reneau Reunion this summer, you might want to stop along the way and see some places where our ancestors lived. Some of these places are only a few miles from the reunion site at Dale Hollow State Park, while others would involve an extended trip. But all of them may be of interest to those wanting to know more about our Reno/Reneau family history. I know there are many sites throughout the south, but these are just a few

suggestions that will hopefully be of interest to most of our attendees.

### In and Around Albany (especially for the Charles Reneau, John Reneau line)

*John Reneau, born abt. 1772, "left Carter Co., TN in 1799 and settled on the Wolf River in Cumberland Co., KY" [present-day Clinton Co.] (Fancy&Damewood, 2003, p.51) His father Charles moved there later. Charles is said to have died in 1828 and John in 1845.*

**Clear Fork Baptist Church:** There is a large modern building, a parsonage, a cemetery, and an old log cabin on the property. The creek runs close by the church. Rev. Isaac Denton is buried there and a state historic marker is on the spot. Charter members include some of the Wood family, uncles of Mary Gipson Wood who was Isaac Tipton Reneau's wife. Mary Gipson's parents, Thomas and Mary Wood joined this church in February 1804. Thomas was an active leader in the church for many years. The church is located about 1 mile from the Albany Courthouse. From 127-S take Peola Rd. (Hwy 738), then at the intersection go up Clear Fork Rd. Watch for the sign!

**Paoli** - formerly a small community along the Clear Fork Creek, where the Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli was first established. There is a cemetery there now with some Reneau relatives. From the Clear Fork Rd. go back to Peola Rd (Hwy 738). Go about 1/4 mile west and you will see the cemetery on the left. If you drive through the cemetery you will see woods and the creek down the hill. This is the area where the Paoli community was located. Paoli was named for the place in PA where the "Paoli Massacre" took place during the Revolutionary War. Were some of our Reno boys there at the battle? Probably! Isaac Tipton Reneau was a charter member and early elder of the church.

**Boring Cemetery** (This information was found on-line; I have not been there, but it's very close to the Paoli Cemetery): "I am placing during October 1998 a Historical Marker on the Boring Cemetery in Clinton County. It only has a bunch of fieldstones, but in 1961 my grand-uncle James Edgar Amonette took me there and told me who was buried there. There are about 13 graves there, including... probably Charles and Elizabeth Tipton Reneau. It is on the south side of Hwy 738, just past Lee's Chapel [the United Methodist Church]. J. D. Means"

**First Christian Church of Albany:** This church began as the Church of Jesus Christ at Paoli, later moved into the town of Albany and still is active today. An unbroken chain of Reneau descendants have worshiped here. Betty Reneau is currently a member.

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## Is Your Name Here?

The **Reno/Reneau Family Favorite Cookbook** is off to a good start. But in order for it to be complete before it goes to the publisher in August, we need your recipes!

Thank you to those who have submitted recipes: **CeCe Al-Ansari**; **Mary Welsh Bauman**, Tigard, OR; **Melissa Reneau Chambers**, Cypress, TX; **Ann Reneau Chandler**, Austin, TX; **Laurie Daniels Cook**, West Linn, OR; **Sarah Jean Cook**, Scottsdale, AZ; **Robin Reneau Dahmer**, Houston, TX; **Sue Reneau Damewood**, Powell, TN; **Anita Reneau Daniels**, Vancouver, WA; **Susan Lynn Daniels**, Portland, OR; **T.J. Dolotina**, San Antonio, TX; **Dollye McAlister Elliott**, St. Louis, MO; **Amber Dixon Gonzalez**, San Antonio, TX; **Frances Reneau Kemp**, Henderson, KY; **Jannetta Mote Lambert**, San Antonio, TX; **Jackie Reneau Mann**, Santa Fe, TX; **Linda Reneau Moore**, Austin, TX; **Dorothy Reneau Mote**, San Antonio, TX; **Joyce Reneau Pugh**, Santa Fe, TX; **John Ralston**, Carrollton, TX; **Valerie Walker Ralston**, Carrollton, TX; **Alice Frerich Reneau**, College Station, TX; **Bill Boyd Reneau**, Wolfe City, TX; **Carroll Kemp Reneau**, Irving, TX; **Helen Owens Reneau**, Denton, TX; **Jean Burkett Reneau**, College Station, TX; **Linda Reneau**, Russell, KY; **Maria Reneau**, San Antonio, TX; **JaeJae Reneau Watson**, College Station, TX; **Charlene Daniels Welch**, Vancouver, WA; and **Louise Compton Wisener**, Hot Springs Village, AR.

Recipes from all branches of Reno and Reneau descendants and their families are welcome! **Please, if you know of other Reno/Reneau descendants who do not receive this newsletter, pass the information along!**

Please email or mail your recipes to the Reno/Reneau Review at [apdaniels1@msn.com](mailto:apdaniels1@msn.com) or 17617 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Circle, Vancouver WA 98683. Thank you so much for your support and help in this project.

### **We are thinking of....**

**Ann Reneau Chandler** of Austin, TX, who recently had surgery. Ann's Reneau lineage is Maynard Loren Reneau, David Allen, Francis Marion, William Bailey, William Tipton, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. Also, **Benton "BG" Reneau** of Ferris, TX is going into the hospital for tests. BG's Reneau ancestry is Benton G. Reneau Sr., Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

We hope a speedy recovery to both Ann and BG.

### **OTHER ORGANIZATIONS**

Do you belong to an organization such as the DAR, SAR, Huguenot Soc., etc., which requires proof of lineage, and you joined through a Reno/Reneau Ancestor? If you would like to share your Ancestor info, contact the Review!

### **RECEIVE THE RENO/RENEAU REVIEW BY EMAIL!**

I now have the ability to reformat our Newsletter in Adobe Acrobat "pdf" format. All you need to open the newsletter would be an Adobe Reader that is available for free download from Adobe. If you would like to receive the *Reno/Reneau Review* by email, please send me your email address! **When you consider the postage and paper to mail the newsletter, sending by email would create a BIG SAVINGS!**

## **Welcome Little One!**



Congratulations to the Winsett family on the birth of **Zoe Anease Winsett**, who was born March 12, 2006 at 1:58 pm. She weighed 6 lbs 12 oz and was 18 1/2" long. She is their third daughter. Older sisters **Elissa Michelle** and **Kailee Winter** were

very excited to welcome her home! Elissa is 5 years old, and Kailee is 22 months. The girls' proud parents are **Michelle Mote Winsett** and **Richard Winsett** of Fort Worth, TX. Baby Zoe's Reneau heritage is Michelle Mote Winsett, John Dale Mote, Dorothy Reneau Mote, Rex Raymond Reneau, Eugene LaRue, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.



Kailee, Elissa, and Zoe Winsett

## **Youth News**



Congratulations are in order for **Jennifer Anne Reneau** of Plano, TX. Jennifer started as a Senior Tech at Walgreens in Lancaster, TX, and has been promoted to District Pharmacy Training Coordinator of Dallas East. Jennifer, who is now 22 years old, has the responsibility of hiring and training Pharmacy Technicians in over thirty different Walgreens, stretching from South Dallas to Texarkana. She travels to about three stores a day to help the

technicians with their daily tasks or answer any questions they might have. As part of her job of finding, interviewing, and hiring Pharmacy Technicians, Jennifer works very close with colleges such as Remington and Plat Technical School in coordinating the placements of externs.

In addition to her new job responsibilities, Jennifer is still making time for college. Some days she works, then will go to school, and other days she goes to school and then to work! She plans to earn an Associate in Science within the next year from Cedar Valley College in Lancaster.

Jennifer's Reneau heritage is Russell Keith Reneau, Benton G. Jr., Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

3<sup>rd</sup> National Reno/Reneau Family Reunion  
June 9 & 10, 2006  
Dale Hollow State Park  
Burkesville, Kentucky  
near Albany, Kentucky



All Reno/Reneaus and Reno/Reneau Descendants are invited. We have a block of rooms set aside at Dale Hollow State Park Lodge.

Call 1-800-325-2282 for reservations & say you are with the Reneau Reunion Group (all other rooms are taken!)

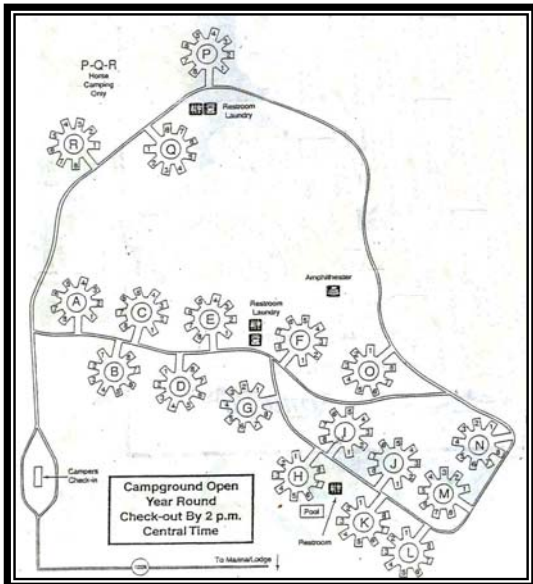
Reservations must be made by May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2006!!

There are a limited number of rooms, so get your reservation in ASAP!

Motels nearby are:

Best Western Albany Garden Inn, 866-387-2667 or 606-387-7238, [www.bwagi.cjb.net](http://www.bwagi.cjb.net),  
Royal Inn, Albany, 606-387-6853, [borichardson@email.nbc.edu](mailto:borichardson@email.nbc.edu), [www.albanyroyalinn.com](http://www.albanyroyalinn.com),  
Riverfront Inn, Burkesville, KY 270-864-3300.

Camping at Dale Hollow State Park Lodge



Beautiful Dale Hollow Campground includes 144 spacious paved sites with electric and water hookups.

There are rest rooms, showers and laundry facilities in three central service buildings. The camp is located two miles from the lodge. There are already two “Reneau” reservations in “Site G!” If you plan to camp during the Reunion, call 1-888-459-7275 for information and reservations.

### **MENU FOR SATURDAY BUFFET LUNCH**

Roast Turkey and Dressing, Fried Catfish and Hushpuppies, Roast Pork Loin  
Tossed Garden Salad with Dressing or Creamy Cole Slaw  
Hot Rolls and Butter  
Roasted Red New Potatoes, Country Green Beans, Buttered Corn  
Fruit Cobbler  
Water, Iced Tea, and Coffee

Luncheon Reservation for Saturday, June 10, 2006, 12:30 PM at Dale Hollow Lodge

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ ST\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

# of Adults at \$20.00 per person \_\_\_\_\_ X \$20.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

# of Children (ages- 6 to 12 ) at \$10.00 per person\_\_\_\_ X \$10.00 = \_\_\_\_\_

# Children age 5 and below Free\_\_\_\_\_ Total encl osed: \_\_\_\_\_

Mail to: A. L. Mote

Reservation and money due by: **May 5, 2006**

11307 Destiny Drive

San Antonio, TX 78216

Make check to Al Mote/Reunion 2006



**RAFFLE TICKETS FOR: 14 k gold Huguenot Cross**

**NEED NOT BE PRESENT TO WIN**

Tickets cost \$1.00 ea or six for \$5.00

**Purchase at the Reunion or by mail**

Drawing to be held during Business Meeting on June 10<sup>th</sup>, 2006

To purchase tickets by mail, send check payable to "Al Mote/Reunion 2006."

Mail to A.L. Mote, 11307 Destiny Drive, San Antonio, TX 78216

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number or Email \_\_\_\_\_

Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

Number of tickets purchased:\_\_\_\_\_ Amt enclosed: \_\_\_\_\_

### **2006 Reunion Shirts and Bags - Order Form - Due by May 10!**

**See Shirt and Tote Bag descriptions on page 1.**

Please put the size and number of items ordered, circle the cost and then write the total.

Pick up items at the Reunion or have them shipped - \$3.00 for 1<sup>st</sup> item, then \$1.00 more per item.

Choose from sizes: YXS, YS, YM, YL, AS, AM, AL, XL, 2XL, 3XL, 4XL, 5XL.

**Tote Bags, Shirts sizes YXS – 2XL are \$10. each. Shirts sizes 3XL – 5XL are \$13.00 each.**

<u>ITEM</u>	<u>SIZE</u>	<u>NUMBER</u>	<u>COST</u>	<u>TOTAL</u>
Tote Bags	////////	_____	\$10.00	_____
Shirt	_____	_____	10. / 13.	_____
Shirt	_____	_____	10. / 13.	_____
Shirt	_____	_____	10. / 13.	_____

SHIPPING \_\_\_\_\_

GRAND TOTAL \_\_\_\_\_

Name\_\_\_\_\_ Telephone Number or Email \_\_\_\_\_

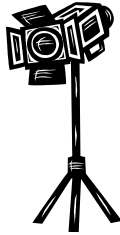
Address\_\_\_\_\_ City\_\_\_\_\_ State\_\_\_\_\_ ZIP\_\_\_\_\_

Mail order with check made out to Brenda Rose/Reunion 2006 to: Brenda Rose, 512 Locust St., Staunton, VA 24401

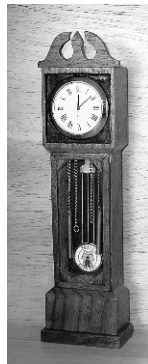
QUESTIONS? (540)885-9618 or [rosebl@adelphia.net](mailto:rosebl@adelphia.net)



## RENEAU in the SPOTLIGHT



Prior to retiring to The Villages, FL, **Ken Claborn** and his wife, Lorraine, lived in Maryland. For many years they were both volunteers at the Domestic Violence Program. Lorraine would answer the hotline and sub as a Resident Assistant. Ken was the Center's "Everything" guy, including handyman, male victim advocate, and did just about anything that needed to be done. Ken and Lorraine have lived in Florida for four years now, and they are still missed. They remain in contact with the Center through emails, letters and stopping by whenever they were in town. Ken learned that the Domestic Violence Program in Maryland needed a dollhouse and furniture to use in their children's therapy sessions. Just for the Center to buy an average dollhouse was very expensive. So, Ken made one, and when the dollhouse and furniture arrived in Maryland, it was an instant hit! Made entirely by hand, the house and pieces are so detailed, it is amazing!



Handmade Doll House and Furniture

Ken Claborn's Reneau connection is his grandmother, Susan Mary Reneau Claborn, who was the daughter of John Mulkey Reneau and his first wife, Nellie A. Means. Nellie died in 1873 when Susan was three years and eight months old. Beside her husband and daughter, Susan, Nellie left two additional children: Alice Thurman Reneau, five years and nine months old; and Azel Tipton Reneau, one year and eight months old. On July 12, 1874, John Mulkey married Mary Dillon Mullins. Eight children were born to the couple: Elmore, Thomas Henry, John Bryant, James Garfield, Margaret Rebecca, Elizabeth Anna, William Elbert, and Selina Olive. There was a wide range of time between the oldest and youngest child of John Mulkey Reneau: Alice Tipton, the oldest, was 26 years old when her youngest sibling, Selina Olive, was born on May 17, 1894.

In 1890, Susan Mary Reneau married Richard Samuel Claborn in Albany, KY. Samuel was from Tennessee, and the couple lived there before moving to Texas. The couple's first four children were born in TN, including Ken Claborn's father, Leonard Azel Claborn. Susan and Samuel (who was called "Dock") later homesteaded in New Mexico.



l-r bk row:  
John Branch,  
Permilia Pearl,  
Minnie Ethel,  
Leonard Azel,  
Bessie Ann  
Claborn  
Dabbs.

l-r middle row:  
Quincy Martin,  
Edgar Elmore.

l-r front row: Stella Elizabeth, Dock Samuel, Ruby Jewel, Susan Mary holding Floy Alma, Willie Mayme. (Missing part of this photo on far right would be John Dabbs, spouse of Bessie Ann)

Ken recalls visiting his Grandpa and Grandma Claborn (photo at right) as a young boy. Ken's parents, Leonard Azel Claborn and Oleta Lucille Staffer Claborn, along with his sisters, Margaret and Mary, would visit the Claborn farm. Ken remembers sitting and watching Grandmother brushing out her long hair. With her sitting in a chair, her hair was all the way down to the floor. What she was doing was brushing out the corn meal and oat meal she had worked into her hair. Like many people at that time, she would never wash her hair, according to Ken's Aunt Minnie, because she was afraid of catching cold. After brushing for a long time, she would finally work it into a large top knot, as is evident in the above photo.



Ken and Lorraine are the parents of three sons. The photo of Ken and his sons and grandson at the right was taken in 2001 at a "Claborn Family Reunion." l-r is: David, Ken, George, Matthew (David's son) and Doug.



## In Memory of

Lillian Maude Hazelip Reneau

Dec 3, 1900 – Jul 25, 2001



**Lillian Hazelip Reneau** married **Joseph Otto Reneau** on May 22, 1924 in Barron Co., KY. Joseph Otto's Reneau lineage was Millard Filmore Reneau, Jonathan Mulkey, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. Lillian and Joseph had one son, Joseph Otto Reneau Jr. Joseph Jr. married Alice Smith. The couple had four

daughters, and, of course, Joseph Sr. and Lillian were very proud grandparents. The family faced sorrow when Joseph Jr. passed away in 1968, and again in 1982, when Joseph Otto Reneau Sr. passed away. Lillian was able to watch her granddaughters, Carroll, Alison, Jo, and Nan grow up, marry and present Alice with grandchildren and Lillian with great-grandchildren!

A party was held at the Christian Health Center where Lillian celebrated her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday on Dec. 3, 2000. She was interviewed by Alyssa Harvey for *The Daily News* in Bowling Green:

For the past 100 years, history has raced by.

Lillian Reneau has been there to watch it all – from women's and civil rights movements to the advent of television, cars and computers.

"I don't remember when I first saw (a television), but I loved it," she said. "It was a long time ago."

But Reneau, who turned 100 on Sunday, chooses not to focus on the past. She prefers to talk about her life now as a resident of Christian Health Center, where she has lived for the four years.

"She always says we have kept her alive, but I think her attitude has kept her alive," charge nurse Rebecca Essler said. "She's very pleasant, smiles a lot and always has something pleasant to say."

Reneau recalled vividly growing up with her parents.

Her father studied law but left the field because he wouldn't defend anyone he thought was guilty and opened a business with her school-teacher mother.

She helped her parents run their general store in Glasgow Junction, which is now Park City.

"The train ran nine miles to Mammoth Cave. People would come to the soda fountain (at the store)," she said. "We met people from all over the world."

Just as strongly she recalls her only child, lost to heart problems in

1968, and her husband, who died in the 1980s.

But any pains from the memories seem erased when she gazes at the pictures of her great-grandchildren that line her window sill.

"I think they're perfect," she said with a chuckle. "My daughter-in-law says I'm prejudiced toward them. I told her she thinks the same thing I do."

Alice Simon believes her mother-in-law is remarkable for her age and loves listening to tales about her younger days.

"She spent a summer in Cuba before she was married," she said. "She sewed beautifully. She made beautiful clothes for the grandchildren. She's always a lady. She likes to look nice."

Sewing was one of her favorite things to do while she was a house wife and her husband, Joseph, worked on the railway, Reneau said.

"I made most of my own clothes," she said. "One of my favorite outfits was a dress with a coat and hat all made out of the same material."

Reneau also loves music.

"I played the piano and loved to dance, but I don't play anymore," she said. "I'm all out of practice."

Reneau spends her days watching basketball, football and other games on television and socializing.

"I do so much for myself. I need help getting out of bed, but I get around in this chair," she said, patting her wheelchair.

"I think the secret to living to be 100 is taking care of myself."

The photo at the right was taken on Lillian's 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. She is surrounded by granddaughters: Nan, Carroll, Allison and Jo.



The photo on the left is taken in Dec, 1995 on the occasion of the Bowling Green Catillion. Joseph Otto Reneau Sr. is escorting his granddaughter, Jo Reneau.

Thank you to **Alice Smith Reneau Simpson** for sharing the newsarticle and photos!

### Thank you...

Thank you to the following Reno/Reneau Descendants who contributed funds to the *Reno/Reneau Review* in March and April: **Robert E. Reneau**, Denver CO; **Curtis and Sally Slaton**, Ashland KS; **Martha Harrison**, Fountain Run, KY; **Ruth Reneau**, Albany, KY; **Carroll Reneau**, Irving, TX; **Roger G. Reneau**, Round Rock, TX; **Clyde Day**, Kerrville, TX; **Benton G. Reneau**, Ferris, TX.

Please feel free to share the *Reno/Reneau Review* with others who are interested in their Reneau heritage.

**Old letters, Old Photos, Old/NewStories...** Please send to the *Reno/Reneau Review* to share with other Reno/Reneaus. Have you read a book written by a Reno or Reneau? Send us your review! Please feel free to send any information ancestors or family members that we may share with other Renos and Reneaus! It is fun to learn about one another, our ancestors, and our common heritage! We have over 225 Reno/Reneau descendants who receive the Review!

**Irwin Cemetery** - Go out of Albany south on 127. Turn left on St. Rt. 696 and go about 3.2 miles. The cemetery is on the right. Park on the side road, then enter the cemetery by the steps. From there go left and you will be close to many Reneau graves. The tall obelisk monuments are for Isaac Tipton and Mary Gipson Wood Reneau. Close to them there is a series of raised flat crypts. Buried here are Thomas and Mary Wood, the parents of Mary Gipson Wood Reneau.

**Wood-Reneau Homestead Site:** From Rt. 696 turn on Rt. 1076. Drive until you see a rock house high on the hill to the left. This is the location where Thomas Wood built his house. Later Isaac Reneau and his family moved in to care for his mother-in-law Mary Wood. The house was owned by their youngest son Shannon and his descendants for many years.

### **Nearby Towns Where Isaac Tipton Reneau Preached**

*Isaac Tipton Reneau was a circuit-riding preacher for the early churches of Christ in this area of Ky and nearby TN. He visited and helped found many churches in the area, a number of which still meet today. He also taught school in several of the communities.*

*It is possible to travel through the towns and villages of the area and imagine Isaac Tipton Reneau riding through the same countryside on horseback.*

Pleasant Hill Church of Christ - Randolph, KY

Gamaliel, KY - preached and taught school

Glasgow, KY

Liberty Christian Church, Liberty, KY

Tompkinsville, KY (also where the Old Mulkey Meeting House is located)

Hopkinsville, KY

Old Bethel Church, Jackson Co., TN

Visit the Alvin York home in nearby Georgetown, TN. - (watch the movie *Sergeant York* before you come!)

### **Elizabethton, TN area (especially for all descendants of John Reno, born 1715)**

Elizabethton is about a 4.5-5 hour drive from Dale Hollow State Park. A visit to this area could easily take more than a day. There are many motels in Johnson City, just a 10 minute drive from Elizabethton. Jonesborough is about a 10-15 minute drive from Johnson City in the other direction.

*John Reno, son of Lewis, was born near present-day Manassas, VA. He married Susannah Thorn and they lived in what is now Frederick Co., VA and Hampshire Co., WV. After Susannah's death, sons George and Thomas remained in Hampshire Co. John and the rest of the children moved to an area that is now western PA. Later, sons Benjamin and Francis stayed in PA, but John and the rest of the family moved to the area that is now Carter Co., TN (Fancy & Damewood, 2003, p. 13).*

**Sycamore Shoals State Park:** John Reno lived very close to this area. The book *Annals of Tennessee* includes this quote: "I hereby give Publick Notice, that there will be an election held...at John Rennoe's, near the Sickamore Sholes where Charles Robertson formerly lived...1786" This was to elect representatives to the NC legislature at the time some people were holding an election for a new state they called Franklin. The "State of Franklin" controversy is interesting to research as some of the Reno/Reneau family were

involved. But even if you aren't interested in all of that, it's still nice to see the area where they lived!

The park literature calls this "perhaps the most historically significant site in Tennessee."

Sycamore Shoals is located in Elizabethton along the Watauga River. From I-81, exit on I-181 into Johnson City to Exit 31. Follow Hwy 321/67 approximately 6 miles. The park is on the left.

**Sinking Creek Baptist Church:** The Reno family was attending there at least as early as 1785. Early church records have listed members John Reno, William and Catherine Reno, Charles Reno, Samuel Tipton, and Elizabeth Tipton. William and Charles were sons of John. Charles was married to an Elizabeth Tipton, but it is unclear where she was at this time. William began preaching in PA, then in VA, and later here and in other places in TN. The Sinking Creek Baptist Church has two buildings, one modern and the other the original log cabin. According to a sign on the log cabin, this is the "Oldest church in Tennessee Sinking Creek Baptist church 1783-1924." I think 1924 must be when they built the new building or stopped using the log church for regular services.

From I-81, exit on I-181 into Johnson City to Exit 31. Follow Hwy 321/67 approximately 4.5 miles. Turn left at the traffic light at the intersection of Elk Ave. and G St.. The church is on the right 2.2 miles out this road.

**Old Town Elizabethton** - If you travel on the highway past the Sycamore Shoals State Park you will come to the Doe River. When you cross the river you can turn right to see the oldest section of the town. The courthouse is in this area and a log jail building. When the town was laid out by Samuel Tipton the lots were sold for \$10.00 each. Once a person paid, they drew numbers for which lot they got. Charles Reneau, son of John Reno, drew lot number 25. Charles was married to an Elizabeth Tipton and was cousin to Samuel's wife Susannah Reneau Tipton. Notice the streets here are numbered, and I believe it is the original numbering. Charles had a lot on 4<sup>th</sup> St.

If you go in the courthouse you will find many deeds to and from Charles, as well as other Reno/Reneaus and Tiptons. A copy of John Reno's will is also here.

While in this area you can walk along the river paths, cross the covered bridge (built after the Renos left the area), or go into the old downtown and see the dedication plaques to the Tiptons.

**Tipton-Haynes State Historic Site** - This was the home of Col. John Tipton, probably an uncle of Elizabeth Tipton Reneau, wife of Charles. It is the site where the State of Franklin controversy actually erupted into a gun battle. From the descriptions of that day, it is highly possible that Charles Reneau was present at the time. Tours are given of the 11 buildings, cave, and wooded area. There is an admission fee. Take Exit 31 off of I-181, but turn left at the end of the ramp (toward Johnson City, not Elizabethton). You will see signs to the site. It is located at 2620 South Roan St. Johnson City, TN.

**Other things to see in the area** - On Hwy 321/67 (Elk Ave) at the corner of W. Mill St. There is a historic marker for the Green Hill Cemetery. It is the family cemetery of the Tipton family. Samuel Tipton and his wife Susannah Reneau Tipton are buried here. If Charles' wife Elizabeth died in

**Continued Page 8**



died in Carter Co., it is possible she is buried in this cemetery. The cemetery is one block off the road, on Riverside Dr., and is open to walk through.

As you go into Elizabethton on Hwy 321/67, when you get to the traffic light at G St. and Elk Ave. turn right instead of left toward Sinking Creek Church. On the hill immediately to your right you will see a large old house. You can drive up the driveway and look at the house, which was the home of Nathaniel Taylor. This is the person who bought John Reno's property after his death. If you drive around to the rear of the house you will see that it is unpainted and probably looks much as it did when Charles Reneau was in the area.

If you travel farther along this road (G St.) to the corner of Monument Pl., you will see a stone monument. It is to commemorate the Watauga Association and the events that occurred there. This is said to be the actual area of the original Fort Watauga, on higher ground and just a short distance from the river, not where the State Park and reconstructed Fort is located.

If you travel on 321/67 through Elizabethton to the far east edge, then go straight through the traffic light, you will come to the Carter Mansion, the oldest mansion in Tennessee. It was built between 1775 and 1781, so was already standing when the Reno family moved into the area. Built by John Carter, a Virginian who moved to this area when King George forbid settlement west of the Appalachians! Call (615) 543-6140 to arrange a tour.

#### **North Into Virginia**

*Lewis Reno arrived in Stafford Co., VA in 1688 with his parents and cousins. He bought 100 acres of land in 1700 in the Acquia District of Stafford Co. Over the next several years he purchased several more tracts of land in the area. In 1711 he received a land grant for property that was on Cedar Run, located east of present-day Brentsville and south of Manassas. He remained in this area and all of his children were born in Stafford or Prince William Co. He died before November 27, 1754, at which time his will was probated.*

**Stafford County Courthouse:** Here you can see the original documents from 1688 when the Reynaud family first came to Stafford Co. You can also find many of the early deeds. Travel on I-95 North to the Stafford exit. The Courthouse is located on Rt.1

**Moor Green:** This is a house that sits on the 1711 foundation of the home which Lewis Reno built. There are currently two buildings with 120 acres. The Federal Style home was built between 1800 and 1824. It is in Prince William Co., VA, 1.3 miles north of Brentsville, off of Rt. 692. From Brentsville travel north on Lucasville Rd., then turn left on Moor Green Drive. I don't know if the cemetery is still marked but I have been told that it is. Lewis Reno and other family members would have been buried on this property.

**Old Frederick Co:** John Reno, son of Lewis, moved to "Frederick Co." That area now comprises 11 counties, 4 in VA and 7 in WV. They lived in Shenandoah Co., Hampshire Co. and on Patterson's Creek. That Creek now runs through Grant and Mineral County, WV. I have not been to the various courthouses to know what is available,

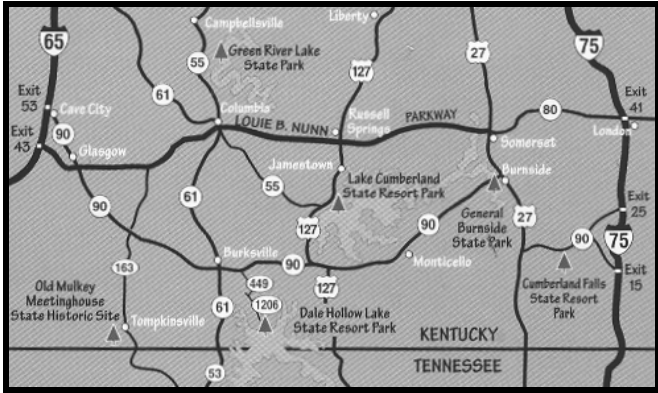
but this area of the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia is a beautiful drive, with much American history to be found.

I have found many references to Renos in Prince William and Fauquier Co. Records. Some of the Prince William Co. records are available on-line.

*I am stopping my tour here, as we are getting far from Dale Hollow State Park, KY, but I know that there are many exciting places to see as you travel northward from Virginia. Don Reno, a descendant of Benjamin Reno, son of the John Reno mentioned above, can share about interesting places in Maryland and Pennsylvania. I'm sure other descendants can tell us of wonderful Reno/Reneau sites across America. After this reunion, where will we go for the next one?*

## Directions To Dale Hollow State Park

**6371 State Park Road  
Burkesville, KY 42717-9728  
Phone: 270-433-7431**



From I-65, take the Louie B. Nunn Pkwy (exit 43) to KY 90 east of Glasgow. From I-75, take KY 80/Louie B. Nunn Pkwy at London (exit 41) to US 27 at Somerset to KY 90. From KY 90, take KY 449 south to KY 1206 to the park.

Our Reunion Advertisement as shown in  
**"Kentucky Explorer Magazine"**  
 Volume 20, No.10 – April 2006

**The Reneau/Reno  
Family Reunion** will be held  
 June 9-10, 2006, at Dale Hol-  
 low State Resort Park, near  
 Albany, Kentucky. For more  
 information, contact: Charles  
 Reneau, 317 Riverside Drive,  
 Russell, KY 41169; 606/833-  
 8233; or  
[charles@reneauagency.com](mailto:charles@reneauagency.com)

**We hope to see YOU at the Reunion!**