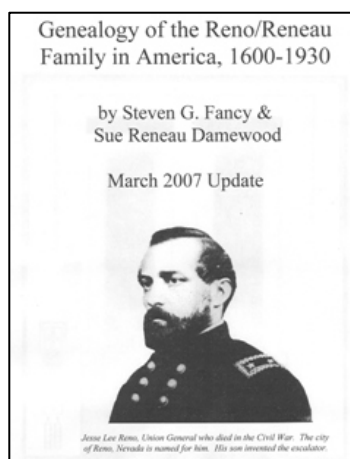


Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 5 Issue 2, Mar/Apr 2007

GENEALOGY OF THE **Reno/Reneau Family** **in America,** **1600-1930**



Many of our readers have been wondering when the next update of this popular genealogy book about the Reno/Reneau Family will be available. Great news, as **Sue Damewood** and **Steve Fancy** have made their 680-page

book '**Genealogy of the Reno/Reneau Family in America, 1600-1930**' available for free download on the internet at the internet address below. Recent updates to the family database as of March 2007 are included in the book, which you will need to download over the internet and print out yourself. The free 5.3 MB file is identical to the book that Steve would have printed and bound and ship to people at cost, but for now the book is only available by having you download the file and print and bind it yourself. The file is posted at the following url:

<http://users.frii.com/sfancy/Reno.pdf>

The book includes information on descendents of Louis Reynaud, Richard D. Reno, Moses Reno (Alabama), Zela Reno, German Renos, Michigan Renos, and Peter Reno, and includes an index of all individuals, as well as sources (endnotes). There is also a history of land parcels, and various documents and photos that will be of interest to all Reno/Reneaus.

Any additions and/or corrections should be sent to Sue Damewood at sdamewood@netzero.net and/or Steve Fancy at sfancy@verinet.net for future updates.

We are sure that you will find this book to be very interesting!

2007

All Reno/Reneau Reunion *Fort Worth, Texas*

The time seems to pass so quickly! We hope you will keep in mind the **2007 National Reno/Reneau Reunion** to be held in **Ft Worth, TX** over **Columbus Day weekend (Oct 5-8)!** 2007 Reunion Team Member **Sally Reno Eastwood**, Haslet, TX, plans to have details in the next issue of the *Reno/Reneau Review* ...in the meantime, please note the Reunion on your 2007 calendar! We know this will be an exciting time to gather and meet other Reno/Reneau lines, and well as find some in your own line! Reno/Reneaus' settled in Texas, and it will be fun to explore and learn about our Texas kin.

If you would like to be involved in helping at the Reunion, please contact Sally Eastwood by mail: 216 Berry Dr. Haslett, TX 76052; tel 817.439.2222; or by email at woodsonberry@aol.com. Or, you may contact the *Reno/Reneau Review* at apdaniels1@comcast.net.

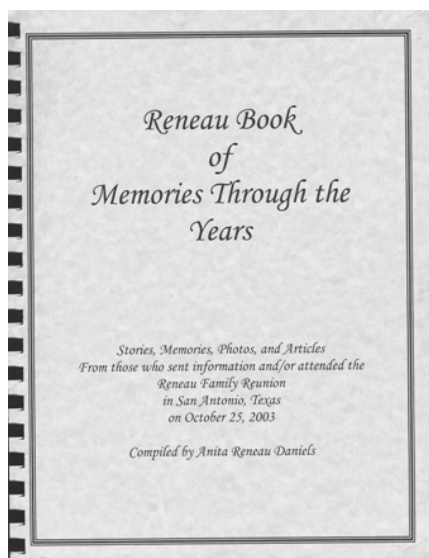
The Reno/Reneau Review **Depends on You!**

The only way we can send out the newsletter is for its readers to send in information to put in it!! So, if you have family events and/or stories you would like to share, please send it in. We welcome photos and writings about our Reno/Reneau ancestors as well! If you would rather not compose an article yourself, just send me copies of newspaper clippings, photos, etc., and I will call you so that we can write what you would like to have printed in the *Review*. Please consider being an active part of making the *Reno/Reneau Review* a success.

Contact the *Reno/Reneau Review*:

Anita Reneau Daniels. 17617 SE 34th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683 By Tel: 360.944.7831
By Email: apdaniels1@comcast.net

Reneau Book of Memories Through the Years.



We have enough pre-orders to print more copies of the Reneau Book of Memories Through the Years. The book contains stories, memories, photos and articles from those who sent information and/or attended the Reneau Family Reunion in San Antonio, TX on Oct. 25, 2003. (This Reunion was the beginning of the "National Reno/Reneau Family Reunions," as there were several branches of Reneau families attending (or sending information). The 251 page soft cover book contains information on Hezekiah, Samuel Russell, William Tipton, Charles Frances, Isaac Tipton, John Pleasant Thurman (Reno), Nathaniel Smith, Jonathan Mulkey, William T, and Berry Jordan, and their descendants.

If you would like to purchase a copy of the book, please complete the form below:

Reneau Book of Memories

\$25.00 per book, including postage

Enclosed is \$25.00 per copy to reserve
_____ books @ \$25.00 ea. = _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check payable to: Anita Daniels, Reno/Reneau Family Acct
Anita Reneau Daniels. 17617 SE 34th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683

RECEIVE THE 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 at apdaniels1@comcast.net. **When you consider postage and paper, sending the newsletter by email would create a BIG SAVINGS!**

Reno/Reneau Cookbook

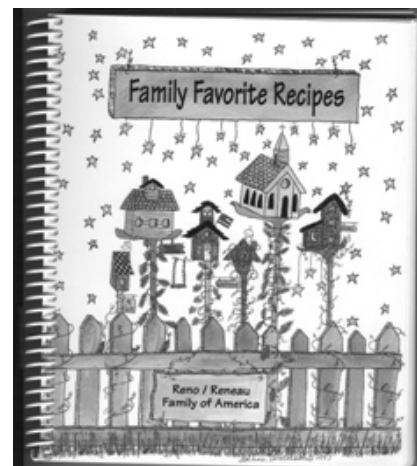
We received more copies of this great Cookbook due to the printer overrun, so **we still have copies available!** A color photo of the Reno/Reneau

Family Favorite Recipe Cookbook would really show how colorful and bright this cookbook is! There are 232 pages of delicious recipes

from Reno/Reneau descendants across the United States. The deluxe wire binding allows you to easily open the book to lay flat.

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

If you would like a cookbook (or several for gifts!) please complete the order form below.



Nationwide Reno/Reneau Cookbook

\$18.00 per book, including postage

_____ Books @ \$18.00 ea. = _____

Name: _____

Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip _____

Check payable to: Anita Daniels, Reno/Reneau Family
Acct Anita Reneau Daniels 17617 SE 34th Circle
Vancouver, WA 98683

In the Jan/Feb 2007 issue of the Reno/Reneau Review, the article about **"George Reneau, the Blind Musician of the Smokey Mountains,"** we asked our readers for information about the life and times of George. The following is provided by **Sue Reneau Damewood**, Powell, TN:

I received the newsletter today. My Dad (John Clyde Reneau) and my cousin, Charles,' Dad (George Harris



Reneau) knew George personally. Dad said that George came to see his family on several occasions and he (Dad) would take him to the bus station to go back to Knoxville. Dad bought several of his records. They were in an old photograph cabinet at

our Grandmothers. When she died, Charles got the photograph, the cabinet and all its contents. I asked Charles about the records so he brought them to the 2006 All Reno/Reneau Reunion in KY (and gave me a couple of them). I had never seen any of them until then. My records of George McKinney Reneau follow:

Descendants of George McKinney Reneau

1. GEORGE MCKINNEY¹¹ RENEAU (JOSEPH RUSSELL¹⁰, SILAS⁹, WILLIAM BROWNLOW⁸, WILLIAM⁷, HEZEKIAH⁶, JOHN DAVID⁵ RENO, JOHN⁴, LEWIS³, LOUIS² REYNAUD, LOUIS¹) was born May 18, 1902 in Tennessee¹, and died June 05, 1938 in Knoxville, TN of pneumonia². He married ELSIE GREEN April 06, 1925 in Knoxville, TN, by H. L. Johnson, J.P.³. She was born 1900 in Tennessee⁴.

Notes for GEORGE MCKINNEY RENEAU:

There was a George Reneau, age 7, b. TN, listed as an inmate at the Tennessee School for the Blind in Nashville, TN in 1910. It is possible it was George McKinney.

The 1930 Knoxville, Knox County, Tennessee, census (Knoxville, ED4, p. 1A) lists George M. Reneau, 27 b. TN, age 22 at first marriage, parents b. TN, musician, entertainer; Elsa J., wife, 31 b. TN, age 26 at first marriage, parents b. TN; Lawrence K., son, 12 b. TN; and Luese K., daughter, 10 b. TN [Lawrence K. and Luese K. were stepchildren and did not carry the Reneau name.]

He was originally buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Jefferson County but was moved to Hills Union Cemetery when Douglas Dam and lake were built. His nickname was "Blind George."

The following is a portion of an article written by Jack Neely which appeared in Metro Pulse (Knoxville, Tennessee) on March 18, 1999, entitled "George Reneau on Guitar - The blind street musician who almost hit the big time"

"For years I've run across stray mentions of a Knoxville musician named George Reneau: put together, the fragments tell an intriguing, if incomplete story about one of those ghosts from the foggy dawn of country music.

"Just after World War I, this blind busker came from Jefferson County to make a living on downtown Knoxville

streets, playing guitar and harmonica, singing his songs for whomever would stop to listen. One who stopped was a man named Gus Nennsteil. He worked for Sterchi Brothers Furniture--regional purveyors of phonographs, and one of the most influential recording promoters in the South. Sterchi's sent Reneau to New York in spring, 1924, to make a record.

"On that trip Reneau became one of country music's first recording artists. As much as the Vocalion people liked Reneau's guitar playing and songwriting, however, they found his voice too rough. Vocalion got pop crooner Gene Austin--later famous for his smooth hit "My Blue Heaven"--to ghost Reneau's country-style vocals on these earliest recordings.

"At the time of that seminal trip, a George Reno lived at Maggie Guinn's boarding house up above the Army Bargain Store on Wall Avenue near Market Square. The city directory features four different spellings of his name, including Renaud; uncorrected misspellings must be a distinct hazard for the blind.

"Vocalion later let Reneau sing, himself, and he enjoyed a vogue as one of early country music's most prolific talents. Some of his songs became minor classics: "Wild Bill Jones," "Here, Rattler, Here," "Rovin' Gambler," "Wild and Reckless Hobo." Over a period of three years, he cut maybe 70 singles--but he didn't get rich. By 1926, confident enough to list himself as a "musician," and with his name spelled correctly, Reneau was living with his wife Elsie on Charles Place, an alley between State and Central that ended at the Presbyterian graveyard. He remained in Knoxville, living in cheap walkups with one-half addresses, still playing the streets.

"The Jazz Age didn't bode well for what Reneau did best. It was the era of the crooner, like Gene Austin. By the time he turned 27, George Reneau's day as a recording artist had come and gone. George Reneau's national career was over just before the recording sessions that gave Bristol its Congressionally sanctioned "Birthplace of Country Music" status.

"Without a record contract, George and Elsie Reneau moved frequently, living for a time in South Knoxville, then above a grocery beside the Gay Street Bridge, then on the east side. The directories suggest that George and Elsie separated in the early '30s. They say he took his guitar to the streets every day until December, 1933, (sic) [The death date on George McKinney is June 5, 1938. I took it from his tombstone in Hills Union Cemetery.] when he came down with a bad cough and died days later, of pneumonia. He was 32."

More About GEORGE MCKINNEY RENEAU:

Burial: Hills Union Cemetery in Jefferson Co., TN⁵

Notes for ELSIE GREEN:

She was living in Knoxville, TN in 1939. She had 2 children: Louise and Kenneth Green by a previous marriage.

Endnotes

1. *Stories in Stone, Jefferson County Cemeteries, Vol. I.*
2. *Knox County, Tennessee, death records, #27187..*
3. *Knox County, Tennessee, marriage records.*
4. *Blount County, Tennessee, marriage records..*
5. *Stories in Stone, Jefferson County Cemeteries, Vol. I.*

We Remember. . . Virgil and Annie Laura Reneau

Virgil Caruso Reneau was born to David Allen Reneau and Anna Lee Roberts Reneau on June 14, 1893 in Milan Co., TX. He was the second of twelve children born into the family. His Reneau lineage was: David Allen Reneau, Francis Marion, William Bailey, William Tipton, Charles Reno, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. The photo at the right shows Virgil with his family circa 1910. l-r back: Virgil Caruso, William Howard, Ruthie Ladean, Horace Greely. l-r front: Ralph Augustus, M. B., David Allen Reneau, Mattie Lee, Anna Roberts Reneau holding Jeannie Camillia.



Virgil married Annie Laura Erconbrock in 1913 in TX. Annie was born Nov. 19, 1892 in TX. The couple had six children: Val C., Corrine, Juanita, Azalea, Douglas "Bill", and Kitty Ruth. The 1930 Federal Census records Virgil and Laura living in Carter Co., OK. Virgil worked as a machinist, and the family lived in OK, LA, and TX while the children were growing up.



Virgil and Annie Reneau
50th Wedding Anniversary Photo
1963

To the right is a photo of the Virgil and Annie Reneau family taken at the couple's 50th Wedding Anniversary celebration. L-R back: Val C., Azalea, Kitty Ruth, Juanita and Bill. L-R front: Virgil and Annie Laura.



Virgil Reneau passed away in 1974 in Falls Co., TX. His wife, Annie, passed away in 1975. Later, Azalia wrote a tribute to her mother, describing the wonderful influence that this wonderful lady had on her children:

My Mother's Laughter *Annie Laura Ercanbrach Reneau* *October 2, 1898 to February 22, 1975*

contributed by Azalea Reneau Roos

I read with amusement recently that a psychiatrist has come forward with the "New" approach of learning to laugh at ourselves. He had used the deeply serious approach to his patients and therefore they took their problems imagined and real) too seriously, and therefore sank deeper into their neuroses. Then when he took to jollying them a bit, they responded in a like manner.

I did a bit of figuring on the amount of time and effort he took in arriving at this new approach to psycho-analysis. (pre-med training, medical school, years of psycho-analysis, practicing as a full fledged doctor, etc.) I guess he arrived at this startling concept after more than 20 years of education and practice.

Too bad he didn't have a mother like mine. This little woman, daughter of a sharecropper, who pick cotton and worked in the fields as a child and growing up, and who performed many other menial jobs during her marriage to supplement an inadequate income to maintain a home and raise six children. She only had six years of schooling, but she raised six children with love and discipline and laughed at hardships and problems. She prayed for guidance during the most difficult times (like during the Depression when there was too little to eat and she was too proud to apply for welfare.) But we all survived and grew up to become law abiding citizens and learned through her example to look at ourselves and see when we were taking our problems too seriously. Many times problems were serious and they were treated as such, but then, when they too passed, we could laugh again.

She never claimed the world, or her children, owed her anything. She never complained that life had treated her badly because she had to work hard for many years. She told, and enjoyed hearing funny stories about people and situations, and they frequently taught a lesson in humanity and humility, or the greatest was to just enjoy a good, rousing, roaring laugh for the sheer joy of living.

We lost our darling recently. We were not ready to give her up, however we were fortunate to have her until she was past 75 years of age and we shall miss her the rest of our lives. At her funeral service she had six grandsons as pall bearers, and as they deposited the casket on the bier at the graveside—each kissed his lapel flower and placed it gently on the casket as a last farewell gesture to their beloved "Granny".

The minister spoke a few last words of sympathy for us and reminded us that we had so much to remember. A young cousin stepped forward with tears streaming down her face, placed her hand on the casket and faced us all, but directed her words to the minister, and said, "Mr. Edwards, the one thing you don't know and what all of us will be remembering long after the other memories have faded, will be her laughter. And that laughter will be echoed in each home her presence has blest."

Our condolences to...



the family of **Loyce Marie Commons Mangrum**, who passed away March 25, 2007 in Durant, OK. After suffering a stroke, Loyce moved from her home in Dallas, TX to Durant to be near her daughter and husband, Barbara and Steve Summers.

Loyce was born April 17, 1920 in McKinney, TX to A.J. Commons and Hettie Ann Reneau Commons. A.J. was a produce merchant. Loyce was the youngest of seven children born to the couple. One sibling, Ruby Wilson Commons died before Loyce was born: Ruby Wilson Commons was born Oct. 30, 1912 and passed away on Feb. 28, 1914. Loyce's other five siblings lived to adulthood, all predeceasing Loyce: Carroll Barton Commons (Jul 16, 1909 – Aug 3, 1985); Fannie Lee Commons Hutton (Sep 3, 1911 – Oct 8, 1999); John Wesley Common (May 6, 1914 – Nov. 9, 1994); Howell E. Commons (Oct. 14, 1916 – April 19, 1975); and Virgil Wallace Commons (Jul 10, 1918 – Mar 9, 2006).

Loyce married J. C. Mangrum in 1944. J.C. passed away on May 5, 1995. He was a Church of Christ minister.

Surviving are Loyce and J. C. 's daughter, Barbara Mangrum Summers and husband Steven Summers; granddaughters Bobbie Marie Summers Granbill and husband John Granbill, Christie Ann Summers Moses and husband Will Moses; great grandchildren Joh-Calab Alexander Gambill, Julie Marie Gambill, and Joshua Christian Moses.

Loyce enjoyed learning about her Reneau heritage, and contributed to the Reneau Book of Memories. In an article about her mother, Hettie Ann Reneau Commons, Loyce wrote that her mother "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."

Loyce's Reneau line is Hettie Ann Reneau Commons, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Thank you!

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

Dollye McAlister Elliott, Troy, MO; R lineage: Cleo D. Jackson Elliott, Eulissa Virginia Reneau Jackson, Jonathan

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

Azalea Reneau Roos, Holiday, FL; R lineage: Virgil Caruso Reneau, David Allen, Francis Marion, William Bailey, William Tipton, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Carroll Kemp Reneau, (widow of Ellis Leon Reneau) Round Rock, TX and son, **Roger G. Reneau**, Irving, TX; R lineage: Ellis Leon Reneau, Samuel Craig, John Michael Eagleton, Samuel Russel, William Michael, John Reno, John David, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Tom and Beverly Bailey, Xenia, OH; R lineage: Edna Reno Bailey, Marion Hastings Reno, Volday Wassen, William Henry, Thomas, Thomas, Thomas, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr..

Tom and Jeanie Johnson, Midland, TX; Tom's R lineage: Mary Dean Reneau Johnson, William Elbert Reneau, John Mulkey, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Brenda Payne Rose, Staunton, VA; R lineage: Margie Kathleen Greene Payne, Martha Eunice Bennett Greene, Lula Bennett Stillings Bennett; Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings; Isaac Tipton Reneau; John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Ottie Reno, Lucasville, OH; R lineage: Eli Enos Reno, John William, William Henry, Thomas, Thomas, Thomas, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

William Norris Reneau, San Antonio, TX; R lineage: Meredith Thurman Reneau, Isaac Tipton Alexander, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Ed Vickery, Huntington Beach, CA; R lineage: Elizabeth Pauline Reneau Vickery, Ulysses Simspon Grant Reneau, Berry Jordan, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

We are thinking of...

Eartle Reneau, Albany, KY, who was in the hospital with pneumonia. We hope you are feeling better, Eartle. Eartle's Reneau line: Granville Artie Reneau, Evans Alexander, William T., John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. Eartle's wife, **Dorothy Spears Reneau**, has been dealing with a stroke, and we want to keep her in our thoughts and prayers.

Gerald Wilbert Reneau, Eagle Creek, OR, who is recovering from recent knee replacement surgery. Gerald's Reneau line is Marion James Reneau, Eugene LaRue, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Our love and sympathy reach out to **Luther Ozell Reneau**, Albany, KY, whose sister-in-law, **Betty Ruth Tuggle** was killed in an automobile accident Feb 3, 2007. Betty's husband **James Tuggle** was seriously injured in the accident. Ozell's R line is Granville Artie Reneau, Evans Alexander, William T., John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

We Remember...

The following is an excerpt from the Reneau Family Book of Memories that was compiled at the 2003 Reunion in San Antonio, TX. The article was submitted by Jack Evans Blake, Midland, TX.

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.