



# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 6, Issue 2 ,May/Jul 2008

## 29<sup>TH</sup> ANNUAL RENEAU REUNION Russell & Barbara Burchfiel Reneau Descendents Wakita, OK

contributed by Joe Reneau

**Hear ye, hear ye ... from close and afar; it's time again** to gather and celebrate our rich family heritage. Our 29<sup>th</sup> Annual Samuel Russell and Barbara Burchfiel Reneau Reunion will be held this coming Labor Day weekend, on Sunday, August 31, 2008, at the Bi-Centennial Building in Wakita, Oklahoma.



The photo at the left is a restoration from an 1877 tin photograph: Samuel and Barbara Reneau with their first four children: Mary Jane (behind Samuel), Louvenia, Thomas (on Samuel's lap), and Jacob. Samuel and Barbara had 9 more children: John Michael, Sarah, Rachel Laurel, Margaret Gallion, James Christopher, Amanda Frances, Nellie Coleman, and Jesse Robert.

Mark your calendar, get your tickets, make your reservations, and start your plans now for a GREAT time of fellowship with your cousins, aunts, uncles and friends. The doors to the Bi-Centennial Building will again open at 10:00 a.m. to allow for setting up the tables, chairs, laying out your favorite pictures, memorabilia, family heirlooms or whatever you might want to share and display. It's also a great time for some one-on-one private conversations. Now write this down, because it represents a monstrous CHANGE. Since CHANGE is the keyword in the current political climate, our family could also use a CHANGE. The CHANGE is that dinner will start at 1:00 p.m., not at 12:15 p.m. as in the past.

Since I like reunions, and as your authoritarian reunion chairman, I have unilaterally and on my own accord decided to initiate yet ANOTHER reunion. This will be a CHURCH reunion. Be sure to go to CHURCH somewhere that Sunday morning.

Since many of us  
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A "Family" Trip

contributed by May Sparks Comfort

(May's Reneau lineage is Ruby Jewell Claborn Sparks, Susan Mary Reneau Claborn, John Mulkey Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.)

I made a decision last fall, as a celebration of my 70th Birthday, to take a trip to the South and Southwest to see as many of my cousins as possible. After depositing my precious Westy, Heather, in the capable hands of my daughter **Susan and husband Tony Estrada** on April 1st, I loaded my car from bumper to bumper and I was ready. Leaving San Diego, CA, April 2, my route was via Flagstaff, AZ., and the Grand Canyon. I was amazed at the crowds in the lodge areas of the Grand Canyon. Because daylight was quickly fading, I gave up on finding parking, electing instead to drive the rim highway, taking pictures along the way. A flying picture trip. Arrival in Flagstaff was quite late. My trusty GPS system, that I asked for on my Christmas wish list, took me right to the motel.

Leaving Flagstaff for Amarillo, TX the next morning, meant another long day of driving to **Gene Reneau's** home. Again my GPS worked like a charm putting me in Gene's driveway after "I" first missed by one house. He graciously invited me to spend the night. We originally met at the Fort Worth RenoReneau reunion in October 2006. Gene introduced me to his beautiful daughter Kristina, who is planning to attend college next year at Pacific Lutheran University in Tacoma, WA. Gene is a half second cousin once removed. (???? Got that). We share a Great Grandfather, John Mulkey Reneau. We were up until the early hours of the next day looking/comparing pictures, gabbing and having a good time. Since Gene generally goes to work at the awful hour of 5:00 AM, he decided to take the day off. We spent the day visiting, copying papers and pictures 'til afternoon. I decided to stay another night rather than driving to Dalhart, TX late in the day.



Leaving the next morning for my cousin **Tom Claborn and wife Norma's** home in Dalhart, the trip was short compared to the first two days on the road. The photo on the

left is Tom Claborn and me! I spent three days with Tom and Norma, having a wonderful, and fun visit at their lovely home. I was unable to visit another cousin, Bonnie Brown and husband Bob. They were busy helping their daughter move all weekend.

The next leg of the trip took me to Oklahoma City, to meet with Peggy Claborn Wheeler. I planned to go to her home in

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### Reneau Reunion Wakita OK con't

attended one of four churches in Wakita, why not move back dinner a bit, and relish the memories of our childhood by attending church together. It's not important that you were a member or not; just come and worship together. Pray for restoration of families and family values. Now we can really get bold and carried away by helping that local church with our tithes and offerings. Moving back the starting time at the food trough a bit will also allow family members from the surrounding communities more time to attend their church and still make it to the reunion on time.

Now if that is not enough for you, we also have a "Saturday Night" reunion special. As in the past, and since Aunt Ruth is unable to attend the "biggie" on Sunday, we gather between 6:00 and 8:00 p.m. at the Anthony Community Care Center to fellowship with her and to rehearse our stories, lies, solo's, etc. for the Sunday event. We will provide some light refreshments. So ....., if you have other commitments Sunday, you can still come Saturday night and we will punch your reunion attendance ticket. What I'm saying is, we would really like to see you.

Now it's not too early to be thinking ahead to 2009 and our 30<sup>th</sup> or HIGH ATTENDANCE reunion. As you already know, it's past time to can your obnoxious, outdated and stale reunion chairman. This will be a grand opportunity for someone with a fresh vision and new ideas to step forward and assume this gloriously rewarding position of honor. Come prepared with your dreams, visions and grandiose ideas and plans.

Now for some bad news. Word has gotten out about the grand times being enjoyed in Anthony and Wakita during the Labor Day weekend. Now some nationwide aspiring rocket scientists have decided to converge on Harper County (Anthony) for some gigantic festival the same weekend to demonstrate their rocketry skills. The ramifications are: you need to confirm (notice I did not say "make") your reservations at the Anthony Motel (620) 842-5185, or the nicely refurbished Trade Winds (620) 842-9195. A close alternate motel is at Medford (580) 395-2326.

There are also two nice motels about 37 miles east of Wakita at the I-35 and Highway 11 junction (Blackwell). The Comfort Inn (580) 363-7000 has double-bed rooms for \$74, plus taxes, and the Blackwell Best Western (580) 363-1300, similar accommodations from \$70 to \$72, depending upon the appropriate AARP, Triple A or military discount.

One parting thought ... last year, Marlene Michael suggested we bring prepared dishes from our favorite recipes or those from our ancestor's favorites. Marlene has really done a marvelous job on the family cookbook. If you wish to add to her collection of recipes or to obtain a book, she can be reached at: (270) 521-7669 or email: [michael\\_m@bellsouth.net](mailto:michael_m@bellsouth.net).

Last year, we had 49 attend our reunion; pretty close to our 28-year average. We can do better than that this year, so PLEASE give it serious consideration and join us on Sunday, August 31, in Wakita.

Should you not be able to attend, please send us an email/letter updating us on what's happening in your life.

We'd love to hear from you!

SEE YOU AT THE REUNION!

Joe Reneau

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### A Family Trip con't

Woodward, OK, until finding out she would be in Oklahoma City. We met at her and husband, Norris' condo, spending a few hours together, talking and watching the NCAA playoff basketball game. We both like college ball games. They were giving updates during the game of the tornado warnings around the city. Fortunately none formed there that night. It was something I would be totally aware of the rest of my trip through the south. My daughter kept calling, asking if I was aware of the weather facing me on the way to Kentucky.

The next morning it was off again to the next stop. I arrived in Memphis, TN the next evening to spend the night. I was off early the next morning for Albany, Kentucky. After calling **Betty Reneau** in Albany, KY to warn her of my impending surprise arrival, she said she would be happy to see me. After visiting a few hours, I went to my motel to check in.



May, Andrew York, Betty Reneau

The next day Betty and I met for breakfast, then we went visiting cemeteries. We visited the cemetery where Great, Great Grandfather Isaac Tipton Reneau, and Great Grandfather John Mulkey Reneau,

their wives and other Reneau's are interred. I did not locate my Great Great Grandmother Nellie Means Reneau grave site. We then went to what is left of the Boring Cemetery, where it is thought Charles Reneau is buried.

Betty asked if I would like to visit the home/museum of Sergeant York, the WWI war hero buried just across the state line in Tennessee. Who could say no to an invitation to see a War Hero's home? When we arrived, I started taking pictures of the farm structures. Then we entered the home, signed the guest book, then Betty started talking with **Andrew Jackson York**, the son of Sergeant York, and **Margaret York**, who was manning the desk in front. It turned out she was a Reneau descendant! Her mother was Maggie Vaughn Reneau Dishman, daughter of Evans Alexander Reneau and Maggie Hutchinson Reneau. Betty got all her information, to get her on the mailing list. Small world! We toured the home, spent some more time speaking to Andrew, took pictures with him, he signed my brochures, then we took our leave. We had lunch, went to Betty's home, where I took many photos of the items Betty has from the Isaac Tipton Reneau homestead. We talked about "Reneaus" of course. We visited the land where the

## We Salute You!

Thank you to William Norris Reneau for information on his service.

My name is William Norris Reneau. I am the grandson of Isaac Alexander Reneau. The photo on the right was taken in 1970 with my parents, Meridith and Caroline Reneau. The following is a brief account of my U.S. Coast Guard career 1949 – 1971.



I enlisted in the Coast Guard September 16, 1949. I was trained as a radioman and assigned to a Coast Guard Buoy Tender based at

Kodiak, Alaska. The ship took care of navigational aids in the bays and inlets along the coast of Alaska and served as a search and rescue vessel when needed.

After a three year tour on this vessel I transferred to a Coast Guard Radio Station at Ketchikan, Alaska. After a time here I went to a Coast Radio Station in Long Island, New York.

Back to Alaska in "55" this time on a Coast Guard Cutter that delivered fuel and supplies to Light Stations and Loran Stations from Seattle to the end of the Aleutian chain of islands.

From duty in Alaska I was sent to the USCGC Bibb, a Coast Guard Ocean Station vessel out of Boston, Mass. This ship was assigned to Station Bravo off the coast of Greenland in the North Atlantic. The Coast Guard Cutter Bibb served as a navigational aid and a safety net for ships and planes transiting the North Atlantic. It also had weather reporting duties.

While on this ship I was asked if I wanted to volunteer to go to an isolated Loran Station above the Arctic Circle. This station was at Cape Christian on Baffin Island across Davis Strait from Thule, Greenland.

Here in addition to my station duties I maintained amateur radio Ve8SL which served as a lifeline for the crew who had no other way to contact their families. I transmitted their mail to a ham operator named Stan Surber in Peru, Indiana. He then typed up the messages and mailed them to the different families.

Returning to the states from this solitary experience I was sent to a CG Radio Station on the Great Lakes. This station was located at Northbrook, Ill, on Lake Michigan and served shipping on the Great Lakes.

After a rather short time at the CG Ninth District Communication Center my family and I made the long hop to Rhodes Greece on the army transport vessel Franklin Pace. Here I was a radio operator on the Voice of America

ship Courier. This converted cargo ship contained powerful transmitters that were used to broadcast Voice of America programs to locations behind the Iron Curtain. The ship was crewed by the U.S. Coast Guard. When not on duty on the ship I operated a radio amateur station SV0WQ. I kept busy with this station because it was the only amateur station in the Dodecanese Islands. We returned to the USZ in the summer of 1964. I picked the CG Radio Station at Paolos Verdes Estates, California. My family lived in a cottage at the base of a Light House which was nearby the Radio Station. On foggy days the house shook with the thunder of the fog horn.

My next assignment was at a CG Radio Station at San Juan, Puerto Rico. My family lived on old Fort Buchanan. The Radio Station was located on a strip of land jutting out from Old San Juan. While serving here I attended the University of Puerto Rico and InterAmerican University.

My last duty station was the 13<sup>th</sup> Coast Guard District Communication Center at Seattle, Washington. While here I attended the University of Washington and received a BA in Spanish/English and teaching certification grades 9-12.

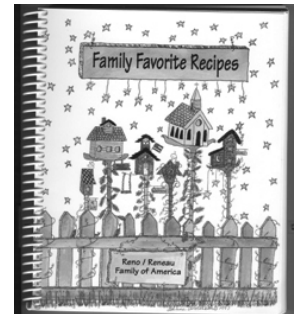
I retired in San Antonio, Texas where I received an MA in Bilingual/Bicultural studies from the University of Texas and teaching certification at Trinity University grades kinder through 12.

Now I occupy myself painting and gardening. I also have a sort of wild life refuge on my property southeast of Sequin, Texas on the Guadalupe River.

My Coast Guard career was interesting and rewarding. I sometimes miss the ocean and the Coast Guard.

## Reno/Reneau Cookbook A Great Gift

We have copies of the Reno/Reneau Cookbook available. The book makes a great gift. I wish the photo at the right was in color! It would really show how colorful and bright this cookbook is! There are 232 pages of delicious recipes from Reno/Reneau descendants across the United States. The deluxe wire binding allows you to easily open the book to lay flat.



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

To order, please use order form below:

### Nationwide Reno/Reneau Cookbook

\$18.00 per book, including postage

# \_\_\_\_\_ Books @ \$18.00 ea. = \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

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

Check to: Anita Reneau Daniels, Reno/Reneau Family Acct

Mail to: Anita Daniels 17617 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Cir Vancouver, WA 98683

## Congratulations!



**Sarah Jean Cook** (granddaughter of Charles Daniels and Anita Reneau Daniels of Vancouver, WA) graduated *Summa Cum Laude* from Arizona State University in Tempe, AZ on May 9, 2008, with a Bachelor of Science Degree in Health Promotion. Sarah's parents, Gary Cook and Laurie Daniels Cook, West Linn, OR, attended her graduation. Sarah is also a

member of The National Society of Collegiate Scholars. She will continue her schooling back home in Oregon, to become a dental hygienist, and was accepted into the Dental Hygiene program at Mt. Hood Community College. Sarah was one of 18 students accepted into the program! Congratulations to Sarah on all of her academic achievements!!

Sarah's Reno/Reneau lineage is: Laurie Jean Daniels Cook, Anita Phern Reneau Daniels, Marion James Reneau, Eugene LaRue, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

## Happy Anniversary!



**Jackie Reneau Mann and Wayne Mann**, Austin, TX, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary on March 28, 2008 at a reception hosted by Jackie's sister and husband, Anna Reneau Chandler and Toby Chandler. Jackie is from the Maynard Loren Reneau, David Allen, Francis Marion Reneau line. To celebrate their anniversary, Jackie and

Wayne traveled to Greece, where they did some sight seeing and island "hopping."

Jackie and Wayne were married in Austin, TX on March 15, 1958. They have two sons: Lance and Mickey. Lance has four children and Mickey has two. Lance's two oldest daughters have blessed the Mann family with three great grandchildren, the sweetest little girls: Faith is four, Grace is three and Shelby is one. Faith lives with her mother Kristen. Grace and Shelby live in Gainsville, TX with parents Jimmy and Ashlie Hamilton.

### A Perfect Trip!

Anna Reneau Chandler and husband, Toby, recently took a trip to South Africa, where they attended the wedding of their friends, Juan and Carol Arreola's daughter, Jessica. Jessica and Michael were married in Stellenbosch, South Africa. Anna said the wedding was perfect, the weather was

lovely, and the countryside was stunning—the middle of wine country. Toby and Anna also went on a Safari to Inverdoom, north of Capetown, where they saw Robbins Island where Mandela was imprisoned for so many years. They also saw a lot of wild life! It was a Perfect Trip!

Anna is from the Maynard Loren Reneau, David Allen, Francis Marion Reneau line.

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## Happy Anniversary!

**Donald Alan Reno and**

**Mary Tea Reno**, South Riding, VA, celebrated their 50<sup>th</sup> Golden Anniversary on May 31, 2008. Their son, Doug, and daughter, Carlyne and family hosted a dinner at a beautiful restaurant. Don's sister, Nancy enjoyed the festivities; however, bad weather prevented Don's brother, John and family from attending the celebration. The photo above was taken at the 2007 All Reno/Reneau Family Reunion in Fort Worth, TX. Don and Mary are part of the Reunion Team for Oct 2009 in Virginia. Don's Reno line: John Sherman Reno, Harry, Elias, William, William, Benjamin, John, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.



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## Thank you!

Many thanks to the following Reno/Reneau descendants for their recent contributions supporting this newsletter: Ann Chandler, Austin, TX; Betty Jo Rossier, Elkhart, IN; William Reneau, San Antonio, TX; and May Comfort, San Diego, CA. **It is by your contributions that we are able to send the Reno/Reneau Review to so many Reno/Reneau descendants!**

**Did you know that we send out 220 newsletters by mail, and 90 by email? The cost of printing a newsletter—usually 8 pages—is about \$125.00, and the cost to mail is close to \$100.00 as well! The funds from the sale of the Reneau Book of Memories has also been used to finance the newsletter. I have not used the funds from the All Reno/Reneau Cookbook, as these have been dedicated funds toward a project (scholarship, cemetery stone preservation, etc.,) that will be decided upon at our Reunion in Oct 2009.**

**So, please support your newsletter by your contributions as well as sending in information to share!!**

## REMEMBER!

The next All Reno/Reneau Reunion will be held in Virginia in October 2009 on Columbus Day weekend. The 2009 Reunion Team has been busy looking at venues in the area near Washington D.C.

Do you have a suggestion of places to see that would be of interest to Reno/Reneau Descendants. Let us know and we'll pass along the word. One place I would like to visit is Oak Hill Cemetery, Washington D.C. where General Jesse Reno, his wife and children are buried. Let us know your suggestions. Maybe we can hire a bus to take us different places...

“A Family Trip” con’t homestead was located, and the Church in Albany, where Isaac T. Reneau preached. We finally, after the long day, went to dinner. After dinner, I bid Betty goodbye, went to the motel to pack up for the next leg of my journey. I really enjoyed traveling all over the area with Betty, and I hope she enjoyed it as well. She is very knowledgeable about family history and the local area. I had a wonderful visit.

The next morning I woke up to a very wet landscape. The storm had caught up with me. As I packed the car and prepared to head to Byrdstown, TN, to look for Claborn grave sites, the skies were black indeed. I drove into Byrdstown stopping at a small cemetery to see if any Claborn's were buried there, finding none. There were a lot of Flowers buried there and, although the name sounded familiar to me, I did not realize at the time, it was my Great Grandmother's maiden name on the Claborn side of the family. I went into town looking for the Hall of Records, I finally spotted the Library. I stopped there with the idea they could direct me to it. They had a nice Genealogy section at the Library so I began looking at a book with all the local cemeteries listings. I could not locate a James Claborn in the book. I began looking at Tennessee tax rolls during the time he should have been listed, again without success. Then the real rains hit. The rain was a lot harder and heavier than any I ever experienced, even while on Guam during the monsoons in the 1950's/1960's, when my husband was stationed there with the Navy. I decided to head back west, to see more cousins of course.



My next stop is Crossett, AR, where my cousin **Mary Claborn Davis** lives with her husband CR Davis. Mary, (pictured on left) is the daughter of John Branch Claborn, and granddaughter of Mary Reneau Claborn. On my way, I saw the flooded Mississippi, Arkansas, and White

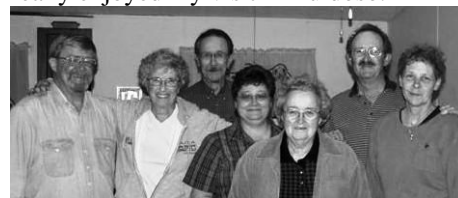
Rivers. Many homes were flooded, and the farms that had flooded fields were too numerous to count. Very sad to see, especially for someone from the desert west. That amount of water would surely benefit many in the west and southwest, if there were some delivery tool to get it out here. It was so wonderful to see Mary, daughter, and grandchildren. CR was off traveling for his company. I spent a couple of days with Mary and we had a nice visit talking, looking at pictures. Sheila, Mary's daughter is the genealogy person in their family. I had carried all the genealogy information I had with me, for her to look through. She took numerous notes. I left Mary's to head to Grapevine, TX to visit my cousin **Bob and wife Geraldine Norris**. We visited, looked at pictures, took pictures, and had a good time. Grapevine is a pretty town, with a lovely old downtown. I next drove over to McKinney, TX to visit with Bob's sister **Ruby Norris Crump and husband Bill**. While there **Cecil Norris, Betty Norris Phipps, Charlsie Norris Gracy, Anita Norris Kelly and husband Gordon Kelly** as well as **Bob and Geraldine Norris**, came by to see me. Bill and Ruby (she's named after my Mom) made me very comfortable in their beautiful home, fed me, and

showed me a great time. Texas was a lot of fun.



l-r: Bob and Geraldine Norris, Ruby Norris Crump and husband Bill Crump, and Cecil Norris. Bob, Ruby, and Cecil are the children of Willie Claborn Norris and grandchildren of Mary Reneau Claborn.

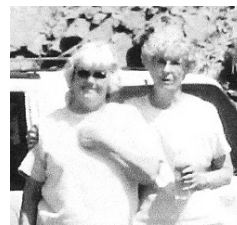
My next stop was Ruidoso, New Mexico, at yet another Claborn cousin, **Verna Claborn and Bill Allen** in their fantastic Log Home that Bill built. Ruidoso is a very nice, albeit dry area. The area is pine covered mountains in the lower part of NM. We drove to the White Sands testing range, where I climbed up a dune, whew! That was tough. You definitely need sun glasses to visit the White Sands dunes. We visited a rocket museum, in the town. Bill showed me his cast iron cooking pots, what a collection, some over 100 years old. He and Verna do chuckwagon cookouts for different service clubs in New Mexico. Knowing I love rocks, Bill showed me some rocks behind their log home that were full of sea fossils. He let me take two large rocks, which made my day. We had dinners with their sons, **Roger and Mike Allen, and their families**. One night at **Roger and Phyllis Allen's** home, then one at **Mike and Martha Allen's** home, the dinners were delicious. I really enjoyed my visit in Ruidoso.



Back: Bill Allen (Verna Claborn Allen's husband) 2<sup>nd</sup> row: Mike Allen, May Comfort, Martha Allen (Mike's wife), Roger Allen,

Phyllis Allen (Roger's wife). Front: Verna Claborn Allen. Mike and Roger are the children of Bill and Verna Allen. Verna is the daughter of Edgar Elmore Claborn, and granddaughter of Mary Reneau Claborn.

On my last leg of the trip I drove northwest to an old Mission/Indian village. It was very impressive, larger than I imagined. I again stayed in Flagstaff overnight, made a few rock collection stops the next day, and drove to Barstow, California to visit yet another cousin, **Marion Pinkerton Shipley and husband Bob Shipley**. We drove up into the



high desert around Barstow (which is already high desert) and did some rock and old wood hounding. Marion and I are pictured on the left.

The desert has many, many weird rocks, and I found a lot of them to lug back home. After a nice two day visit at Bob and Marion's, I headed back to Beautiful San Diego, and my little Heather. She was very happy to see me when I arrived. That was my fun filled journey to Kentucky, Tennessee, Oklahoma, Arkansas, Texas, New Mexico, Arizona, and California. Everyone I visited was accommodating, gracious, loving, and fun. I could not have asked for more luxurious accommodations and good food than I had at everyone's home. That no one had a problem fitting me into their home, feeding and entertaining me, was fantastic. I hope someday I can return their hospitality.

*We extend our sympathy...*



Our love reaches out to the family of **Mildred Tommie Rye Kirby Reneau**, Goodlettsville, TN, who passed away on April 10, 2008 at age 93. She was preceded in death by her husband, Virgil T. Reneau and sons Thomas Neal, Mark Alden and Robert Frederick. She was born in Hartsville to the late

Thomas Rye Kirby and Pearl Pharris Kirby. She is survived by son, Joseph Donald Reneau and wife Joyce; daughter, Bettye Freudenthal and husband, Glen and niece Billie Ruth Foster. She was "Granniemommie" to six grandchildren; Kathy Groves (Wade) Bobbie Marie Groves, Susan Morgan (Stanley), Laura Ragan (Larry), Matt Freudenthal (Angie), John Reneau (Leslie), seventeen great-grandchildren and three great-great grandchildren. A sixty-year resident of the Woodbine community, she was a long-time member of Woodbine Cumberland Presbyterian Church, a charter member of the Woodbine Community Organization, a former member of the Tennessee Legal Aid Society. She enjoyed employment and friendships made at Weight Watchers and Sears. Following an illness in 2000, she moved to live her last years in Goodlettsville with her devoted daughter and son-in-law. Exhibiting grace, humor, generosity, and concern for the downtrodden made her the cornerstone of her family. Services were held at Spring Hill Funeral Home in Nashville with Pastor Raymond DeVries officiating and grandsons and great-grandsons serving as pallbearers, with burial in Woodlawn Memorial Gardens. Tommie's Reneau link was through her husband, Virgil Tipton Reneau, (Jan 1, 1906 – July 28, 1989). Virgil's Reneau line: Isaac Newton Reneau, John White, Jonathan Mulkey, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

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**The History of First Christian Church  
(Disciples of Christ)  
Albany, Kentucky**

contributed by Betty Hadus Reneau  
con't from last issue

On November 6, 1927, the first services were held in the Church with Rev. Kirby Smith holding the first service, both morning and night. It is stated in some histories that Bro. W. L. Smith held the first service, but he died on Feb. 11, 1927 before the church was completed. J.P. Perkins had died on Nov. 18, 1926, and Bro. Reuben A. Smith died on Nov. 27, 1927, only three weeks after the first service. Three of the main influences had now passed away.

Throughout the years, just as the memberships and ministers changed, so did the building as work was done. Improvements were needed for its upkeep and/or programs. In the 1940's when J. Ryan Nevius was Minister, a Baptistry

was built in the floor of the Chancel area. A partition was built across the back of the Sanctuary, making for a vestibule or entrance hall before entering the Church proper with large entry doors for the two aisles. Over this was built a balcony with the stairway over the basement stairway. At the Water Street side, was built a small room for a classroom, study/office, or library. It presently has been fixed for a library with a comfortable chair for sitting and reading. The Sanctuary was left with four windows on each side. The original bubble glass of each was replaced with painted colored glass. The glass was given by Miss Jennie Mae Talbott in the 1940s, a member of the Church. All but one had to later be replaced with other painted stained glass. Restrooms were built under the porch in the basement. In the beginning, the Sanctuary was heated with a wood/coal stove vented into the top of the inset chimney on the right side facing the Chancel area in front of the side row of pews. As time went on, the necessary upkeep was completed, such as painting, cleaning the entire building, replacement of hymnbooks, etc. Christian Worship hymnals were bought in the 1940s only to be destroyed later by one of the Independent ministers who finally caused a split in the Church in the late 1950s. The first carpet installed was up the two aisles, across the Chancel area, and across the vestibule. Drapes were hung from the archway to separate the back of the Chancel area from the rest of the Church when it was needed. The original lights dropped down with chains from the ceiling with a large, single bulb covered by a large, gold-decorated white globe. In the 1970s, one of the Ministers replaced these with a cheap type of light that held several small bulbs that were a bother to replace when needed. The coal furnace had to be replaced eventually, and two gas furnaces were installed; one was for the basement so that the upstairs would not have to be heated when not in use. The upstairs was also air-conditioned. In the early 1990s, redecorating of the Church was done with the color of the walls, carpet, and other accessories being changed to green. The pews were padded and a New Communion and offering ware and new organ was bought. A new grand piano was given to the Church. A set of the paraments with the four colors was also given, and Bibles and the new Chalice hymnals were bought. Then in 2002, the decision was made to completely re-do the Church, both inside and outside. A committee was formed consisting of Mrs. Deanie Dyer Williams, Mrs Lola Dyer Sloan, and Dr. William C. Powell. Mr. Joe Martin of Martin, Durr, and Caldwell, and a design associate for the National Trust for Historic Preservation, was contacted and came to help with advice about what needed to be done. He made the plans for a complete renovation inside and outside of the facilities. Local contractors did the work, the main one being Shelton Brothers' Builders. The Sanctuary was done first, with the Church services being held in the basement. Re-wiring of the entire building was completed. New chandeliers were installed in the Sanctuary, with the pews, Communion Table, pulpit, lectern, and other furniture being re-finished. The missing decorative pieces of the pews were replace. The floor was sanded and refinished. A framework was built over the inset chimney with additional ones built and placed between the windows to match.

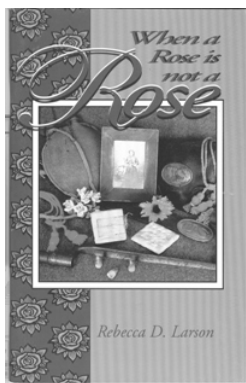
con't next issue

**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 300 Reno/Reneau descendants who receive the Review! **Do you have an article or story you would like to share? Would you like to receive the Review by Email?**

Contact the *Reno/Reneau Review*:  
 Anita Reneau Daniels, 17617 SE 34<sup>th</sup> Circle  
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## When a Rose is not a Rose

contributed by William McConnell  
 and Leigh Reneau Wimberly



When a Rose is not a Rose is a book written by Dr. Rebecca D. Larson published in 2001. The subject is about women who served in the ranks during the Civil War. Guess what? On page 35 is an article about Ella Reno:

“Journal entries of Daniel Reed Larned, private secretary to General Ambrose Burnside, recorded in detail on May 14, 1863, the discovery of a cavalryman in the 5<sup>th</sup>

Kentucky. He was a she, named Ella Reno, the niece of General Jesse Lee Reno. Larned indicated Reno served eighteen months and that she was noted for her bravery and daring. Ella Reno was dressed in feminine attire to be sent home. Reno stated that she had been sent home on three different occasions, but that she had returned and she would do so again.

His entry for the following day, state that he could not understand how Ella had passed for a man. He also recounted her military career:

‘ She served four months as a private in the 5<sup>th</sup> Kentucky Cavalry—was then transferred by her own request to the 8<sup>th</sup> Michigan Infantry and has done all the duties of ordinary private; made long marches, been in hot battles, stood guard, been out on picket duty, and was admonished for telling her superior officer that “if he were not more loyal he had better take off his stripes, throw up his commission and go home,”—was put in prison and did prison duty for two weeks, went out foraging on a mule, was ordered to take a train of wagons around a river at night which she accomplished.’

“He reiterated Reno’s commitment to rejoin the troops but personally doubted her ability to do so, and wrote that Burnside had procured Reno a position in a Louisville hospital.”

On page 7 in the Introduction, another “Reno/Reneau” descendant is noted:

“Some women tried to organize entire regiments of soldiers. Sallie Reneau of Mississippi petitioned Governor Pettus to allow her to raise a regiment of armed uniformed female soldiers to be called the ‘Mississippi Nightingales.’ Her petition was denied.

Thank you to Bill McConnell and Leigh Wimberly for information! Bill is an “Honorary Reno/Reneau,” and is the author of the book, **Remember Reno** about the life of General Jesse Lee Reno. Leigh Reneau Wimberly is an accomplished genealogist. Her Reneau ancestry is: Woodrow Wilson Reneau, Thomas Tillman, George William, Charles Francis, William Tipton, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

## **Reneau Book of Memories**

We have recently reprinted 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

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## **Tombstone Vocabulary:**

Have you come across the words, “Consort, and/or Relic(t) in your genealogical research or when visiting old cemeteries? I recently indexed some of the cemeteries in North Carolina for my local Clark County Genealogy Society, and found these “mystery words.” Meanings may be found in a good Genealogical Dictionary:

**Consort:** companion; a wife or husband; spouse or mate.

**Relict:** a widow or widower; the surviving spouse. **Relicta:** widow. **Relictus:** widower.