

# Reno/Reneau Review

Vol 7, Issue 3, Nov/Dec 2009

## 5<sup>th</sup> All Reno/Reneau Reunion

What a wonderful time Reunion Attendees had! It was especially nice to see “old” cousins, and to meet many “new” ones! Thank you to Brenda and Gary Rose, Staunton, VA; Don and Mary Reno, South Riding, VA; Nancy Reno Seiler, Frederick, MD; Charlie and Linda Reneau, Russell, KY for hosting such a memorable event. Even with the economy there were about 90 attendees! While we don’t have the final figures in for the Silent Auction and Reunion expenses, we know that it was a successful event! We want to especially thank those who were unable to attend and still sent items for the Auction and Raffle: Among this group are several professionals who shared their products and artworks with us: **Dick Reno** of Chateau LaFayette Reneau Wines, Hector, NY for the many bottles of award winning wines ([www.clrwine.com](http://www.clrwine.com)); **Jamie Reno**, Singer and Songwriter and Guitarist, of Southern California, for his CD ([www.jamierenoreno.com](http://www.jamierenoreno.com)); **Jim and Pat Reno**, Mayville, NY, noted Pottery Artists for the beautiful pottery-ware ([www.renopottery.com](http://www.renopottery.com)); **Jill Reno**, Houston, TX, noted Jewelry Designer of exquisite jewelry and jewelry to the stars! ([www.jillrenocollection.com](http://www.jillrenocollection.com)); and **Ronnie Reno**, of Hendersonville, TN, popular Bluegrass Musician for CD’s and DVD’s ([www.ronniereeno.com](http://www.ronniereeno.com)). If your name and/or website is not listed, please let me know. We have so many talented Reno/Reneaus, I am thinking it would be a great series for the *Reno/Reneau Review*!

We will continue to focus on the Staunton Reunion in future issues...if you have photos to share, please send or email and I will include them.

At the business meeting it was decided to plan our next Reunion to be near the **Little Bighorn Battlefield National Memorial in June 2011** to coincide with the Reenactment of the Little Bighorn Battle. It will be exciting to have the reunion during the summer when more children and younger families will be able to attend. This is a perfect vacation spot with so much history within reach—such as Devils Tower National Monument in WY and Mt Rushmore in South Dakota...and many other areas of interest! Charlie and Linda Reneau, Russell, KY; Gene Reneau, Amarillo, TX; Charlie and Anita Daniels, Vancouver, WA are among those who will be hosting the event! If you would like to help, please contact the *Review*.

## General Jesse Lee Reno

by Anita Reneau Daniels

Since we drove from Vancouver, WA to Staunton, VA to attend the Reno/Reneau Reunion, we had the opportunity to stop along the way to visit various National Monuments, Parks, and other historic sites. On our list was to visit Gettysburg and other Civil War Sites. Being a Reno descendant, I was especially interested in going to South Mountain, MD to visit the area where Jesse Lee Reno, General in the Union Army was killed at the Battle of South Mountain in September 1862. This involved going on some of the back roads – We did find Reno Monument Rd, however, we didn’t find the Monument. The next best thing was, after we returned to Vancouver, I wrote to the Boonsboro Historical Society to learn more about the monument. George Messner answered my email and was kind enough to send photos and directions to the Monument, should we get back east again, or to share with others looking for the Monument. George Messner wrote: “...Indeed there is a monument in honor of him. The monument site is in Washington County only a few feet from the Frederick County line. From the town of Middletown, Main Street going North turns into the Old National Pike (Maryland Alternate Rt #40) toward Boonsboro. About 3-4 miles as you approach South Mountain you would turn left or west onto Fox Gap Road. Proceed until a stop sign comes to Reno Monument Road. Then turn right or North & proceed until you approach Lambs Knoll Road on the left. The Monument & other Civil Markers are located here.”



Mr Messner also sent along a photo of the Monument, which we are sharing here.

See related article about Jesse Lee Reno on page 2, as well as an article about his son, Jesse Wilford Reno on page 7.

JESSE LEE RENO  
by  
William F. McConnell  
presented at:  
Middletown, MD  
Redication of Reno Monument  
16 Sep 1989

At the outset, I would like to thank all of you who were involved in conceiving and carrying out the planning for this weekend to honor a true American hero – Jesse Lee Reno. I want to especially thank you for inviting me to be a part of these ceremonies. Truly, it is a sentimental time for me. I think any historian who tries to become the biographer of someone sooner or later, if he is doing his job, begins to feel a close affinity to that person. In the several years that I have been researching the life of this great man, I think I have learned to know something of his character. Certainly, I have developed a deep admiration for him.

Also, I have come to feel that, in so many ways, he has been overlooked by history – for whatever reasons I don't know. Perhaps it was because he was killed so early in the war and did not get the publicity that a lot of other Civil War leaders got. Maybe because it was because his death was overshadowed by the momentous events of three days later at Antietam. In any case, little other than brief biographical sketches have been written about him in succeeding years. Oh, it is true that at the close of the Civil War he had a few places named after him, but then he quickly faded into the misty past. In my area, in a somewhat haphazard manner, central pacific officials, including Leland Stanford, patriotically gave names of Civil War heroes to Railroad mileage posts across the desert. One of those posts grew into the city I'm proud to call home: Reno, Nevada.

So, who was the real Jesse Reno? He was born on June 20<sup>th</sup>, 1823, in what was then Wheeling, Virginia – now, of course, Wheeling, West Virginia. Jesse was a fifth generation American-born Reno. His ancestor, Lewis Reynaud came from France to America via London in the year 1700 and settled in Prince William County, Virginia. Virtually all written accounts I have seen state that the family name was originally “Renault”: spelled like the automobile firm.

However, thanks to the genealogy research of Mr. Roger Reno, here with us this weekend, there seems no doubt that the name was Reynaud, R E Y N A U D. Jesse was one of seven children born to Lewis Thomas Reno and Rebecca Quinby.

Around 1832, when Jesse was 9 years old, his family moved to Franklin in the western part of Pennsylvania, where his father was the proprietor of a hotel. Jesse lived in Franklin until he was nineteen and received a good education while growing up there. He was described then as having a “handsome countenance, medium stature and being brave in action”.

In 1842, Jesse received an appointment to West Point, entering the Military Academy on the 1<sup>st</sup> of July. His classmates were to become an illustrious group. They included George Pickett, of Gettysburg fame, and George McClellan, future commander of the Union Army and contender for the presidency against Lincoln's second term. There were a number of others who would achieve fame, most especially there was his good friend and fellow Western Virginian, Thomas Jonathan Jackson, whose fame would come later under the name of “Stonewall Jackson”. Tom Jackson and Jesse Reno's paths were destined to cross several times before they each died during the Civil War. Also, While at the Academy, Jesse would develop a close and lasting friendship with a lower classman named Ambrose Burnside. As a Cadet, Jesse was an excellent student and was described by one who knew him as: rather playful in disposition – he loved his jokes, his studies and his classmates”.

On July 1<sup>st</sup>, 1846, Jesse Lee Reno graduated from West Point, 8<sup>th</sup> in his class of 59 men. Almost immediately after graduation and commissioning, Lt. Reno was sent off to fight in the war with Mexico. There, he would be twice promoted for “gallant and meritorious service”. During this period, he served as an artillery officer commanding a battery of howitzers. Reno served in just about all of the actions in Mexico, starting with the siege of Vera Cruz and the Battle of Cerro Gordo. It was at Cerro Gordo that he received his first battlefield promotion to Brevet 1<sup>st</sup> Lt. He was to go on and participate in the fighting at Contreras, Churnabusco and Chapultepec, where he was again brevetted – this time to the rank of Captain. He also received a

***We Remember....***

***Alyce Jane DeWeese-Reneau  
Sep 7, 1931 –Jun 15, 2009***



Wilbur Eugene Jr., and  
Alyce Jane DeWeese  
Reneau

We send our love and prayers to the family of Alyce Jane DeWeese Reneau age 77 of Abilene, who passed away Monday, June 15, 2009 at Sears Mesa Springs Nursing Home in Abilene, TX.

A memorial service was held on Saturday, June 29 at Hawley Church of Christ.

Alyce DeWeese was born September 7, 1931 in Bonham, Texas to the late Burt Lee and Nora Gunn DeWeese. She was raised in Denison and graduated in 1949 from Denison High School. She attended Abilene Christian College the school years of 49--50.

On October 21, 1950 she married Wilbur Eugene Reneau, Jr in San Angelo. Mr. Reneau was employed by Core Laboratories and worked in the mid-west part of the United States for several years. They lived in Farmington, NM for several years and then to Casper, Wyoming during his employment with Core Lab. . In 1965 when her husband decided to enter the ministry, they moved back to Farmington, NM. Alyce assumed her role as a minister's wife in Farmington, then in El Paso and then in Carlsbad, NM. They retired and moved to Hawley in 2001.

Wilbur Eugene "Gene" Reneau passed away on December 12, 2006. Alyce continued to live in the family home until her health prevented her from doing so. She was also preceded in death by her granddaughter Melissa Lee Stricklin and 14 sisters and brothers of the Durbin and DeWeese families.

Alyce is survived by two daughters Lee Ann and husband Matt Stricklin of Hawley, Texas, Jean Marie and husband Tom Stover of Lone Tree, CO, son Tipton and wife Stephanie Reneau and their two daughters Morgan Rachel and Ashton Leigh Reneau of Fort Collins, CO.; sister-in-law Marie Reneau Knight (husband, Darrell) and sister-in-law Dorothy DeWeese; and numerous nieces and nephews and grand nieces and grand nephews.

Alyce's Reneau heritage was through her husband, Gene: Wilbur Eugene Reneau Sr., Tipton Moore, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

***We Remember....***

***Selma Marie Dahl Reneau  
Nov 8, 1917 –Jun 27, 2009***



Windell and Selma Reneau  
1948

Our condolences are sent to the family of Selma Marie Dahl Reneau, who passed away Saturday, June 27, 2009 in Amarillo, TX. She had been a resident of Seville Estate Assisted Living Center. Services were held June 30<sup>th</sup> at 10 AM at Faith Lutheran Church in

Spearman with the Rev. Charles Meyer, pastor of Beautiful Savior Lutheran

Church in Amarillo, officiating. Burial was in Hansford County Cemetery by Boxwell Brothers Funeral Home of Spearman. Selma was born on Nov 8, 1917 in the Oslo, TX community near Gruver, to John O. Dahl and Jensine K. Rasmussen Dahl. John and Jensine were immigrants from Norway and Denmark, respectively. Selma was baptized and confirmed at Oslo Lutheran Church. Services at that time were conducted in the Norwegian language. Selma attended public schools in Oslo and Gruver, then attended college at Clifton Junior College in Clifton and Amarillo Business College in Amarillo. During World War II, she worked at Hansford County ASCS office, and later was a carrier for the Amarillo Globe-News. Selma served as Hansford County treasurer for 12 years, retiring in 1978. Selma was also a charter member of Faith Lutheran Church in Spearman and served many positions on the church council over the years.

Selma married James Windell Reneau on Oct 12, 1948 in Spearman, TX at the Church of Christ. The couple had four children, Willie Preston, Windell Eugene "Gene", Linda Marie and John Raymond. James Windell Reneau passed away on Aug 1, 1965 in Spearman. Selma's Reneau heritage through her husband is: James Windell Reneau, James Garfield, John Mulkey, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Selma is survived by her three sons and daughter: Willie and wife Cindy their son Kenneth Windell of Tomball, TX; Gene his daughter Kristina Marie of Amarillo TX; John and wife Becca their son Ian Thomas and daughter Riley Jordan of Wichita Falls; Linda and husband Mike Short of White Deer, TX their two children James Michael and wife Brandi their son James Windell of Amarillo, TX; and daughter Jensine Kristine Short Baker and husband Cory Baker of Ft Worth, TX. She is also survived by three sisters, Ingeborg Sogn of Guymon, OK; Betsy Ward of Gruver, TX and Doris Schibler of El Dorado, AR.

*We Remember....*

**Randall Marvin Campbell**

**June 13, 1927 – June 22, 2009**

We send our condolences to the family of Marvin Emmett Campbell, who passed away June 22, 2009 in Brecksville, OH. Marvin was born in Ft. Smith Arkansas on June 13, 1927 to Marvin Emmett Campbell and Margaret Lillian Gallaher. Randall was the oldest in the family, with four additional siblings completing the family: Richard, John, Margaret and Cindy.

Randall joined the Merchant Marines near the end of WWII and made one trip with his father who had a Chief Engineer License and sailed all through the war.



On Sept 2, 1950 Randall married the love of his life, Florence. About a week later, on Sept 10, 1950, Randall was drafted into the Army. He served two years in the Korean War.

Randall, in the Reneau Book of Memories, shared that he grew up in Machine Shops

and at about age 26 he went to night school. He wrote, "Next thing I knew I spend the next 40 years in the Fluid Power Industry: Salesman, Sales Manager, and then VP of Sales." Randall retired at age 66, and noted he loved to play golf, mow the grass and go to casinos.

Randall is survived by his wife Florence "Tunney," daughter Allison J. Meinhold (Andrew) and Scott R. Campbell (Kimberly); grandchildren Stacy Girves, Rebecca Campbell and



Randall Campbell Family  
Scott, Randall, Florence, Allison

Jonathan and Benjamin Meinhold; great grandson Gus Girves; siblings Richard Campbell, John Campbell, Susan Cunningham. He was preceded in death by his sister, Cindy Greene.

A memorial service was held at Brecksville United Methodist Church on Monday, July 13, 2009 at 11:00 A.M. Rev. Karen Oehl officiating. The family suggests memorials to Seasons of Life Hospice, 9511 W. Pleasant Valley Rd., Parma, 44130.

Randall Marvin Campbell's Reneau heritage is: Marvin Emmett Campbell, Laura Alice Reneau Campbell, Barton Warren Stone Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

*We Remember....*

**Wayne Arnold Moad**

**Oct 14, 1934 – Sep 14, 2009**



We reach out in love to the family of Wayne Arnold Moad, who passed away Sept 14, 2009 in Odessa, TX after a long battle with diabetes. He went to be with the Lord at 4:45AM.

Wayne was born Oct. 24, 1934, in Clinton, OK to Fred and Lena Moad. He graduated from Clinton High School and was married in Cordell, OK on May 31, 1958, to his lifelong love, Koleta L. Bauman, daughter of William Wayne H. Bauman and Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman. Wayne attended college at Southwestern Oklahoma State where he received a Bachelor of Science in Mathematics and Industrial Arts. He served his country in the Army, attaining the rank of Staff Sergeant before receiving an Honorable Discharge. He attended Texas A&M where he received a certification for Vocational Industrial Education and Sul Ross State University where he received a Masters of Education, Mid-Management as well as certification in Supervision and Superintendency.

Wayne and Koleta moved to Odessa in 1959, where he later began his teaching career at Crockett Jr. High, teaching math. In 1967, he moved to Permian High School where he taught math for four years before finishing his 30-year career as the Industrial Cooperative Training Coordinator. Wayne's lifelong passion was to educate and inspire young people, especially the youth at his church and his students. His hobbies included photography, clock making, Permian Football, Jackalopes Hockey and travel. Wayne proudly worked alongside his son as a Police Volunteer from 1993 to 2007. He worked in church his entire life. He was a Sunday school superintendent for many years and served in the youth group of his church for most of his life. He served as a trustee and deacon of the church at Temple Baptist Church and most recently was a charter member of Life-Change Baptist Church, which he

attended until his passing.

The photo on the left, taken about 1973, shows Wayne, Koleta, and their children, Chuck and Traci.



Wayne Arnold Moad is survived by his bride of 51 years, Koleta Moad of Odessa; son, Chuck Moad and his wife Angie of Odessa; daughter, Traci and

her husband Major Jason Miller, M.D. (USAF) of San Antonio; grandchildren, Jennifer White and her husband

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*We Remember....*

**Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood**

**Apr 24, 1938 – Oct 3, 2009**

Our dear friend, and one of the original Reno/Reneau Family Reunion attendees, Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood, 71, of North Little Rock, died Saturday, October 3, 2009. Our love and prayers are with his family.



Bennett was born on Sunday, April 24, 1938 in Washington D.C. and was a resident of North Little Rock for 29 years. Bennett was preceded in death by his parents, Mr. and Mrs. Raleigh and Elberta Wood and a brother, Raleigh Edward Wood. He is survived by his devoted wife Margie of 49 years, son Clark and his wife Michelle of Sherwood, son Jon and his wife Lisa of North Canton, OH and daughter Carol (Percy) and her husband Bob of Texarkana, TX and by his 9 grandchildren whom he loved dearly, Meagan and Bennett Allen Wood, Avery, Merin, Jonathan Jacob, and Claire Wood and Morgan, Jay Bennett and Lillie Kate Percy. Mr. Wood is also survived his beloved nieces and nephews Raleigh, Joe, Andy and Marcus Wood and their mother Opal Wood, all of MS, along with Linda Branum of Sullivan, MO, Janice Trice of North Little Rock, Paul Bolls of Columbia, MO, Lisa Arterbury of El Paso, TX and Robin Vaughn of Los Cruces, NM.



Bennett & Margie  
2003 Reunion  
San Antonio, TX

Bennett's Reneau ancestry came through the maternal side of his family: Cynthia Elberta Bennett Wood, Lula Belle Stillings Bennett, Margaret Eunice Reneau Stillings, Isaac Tipton Reneau, John Reneau, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr.

Mr. Wood had many talents, was intelligent, smart, musical, artistic and athletic however, he was most talented at being a loving, generous, involved and fun husband, father, "Popsie" and "Uncle Bennett". He was a graduate of Harding University, where he met his wife, played on the first intercollegiate basketball team in 1957. He remained active at Harding, serving on the President's Council for many years. He had a great sense of humor and an infectious laugh, even when self directed. When his children were young, he coached youth football and baseball. He had such innovative ideas, along with an ability to make team sports fun and an affinity for motivating young boys that they begged to be on one of his teams. He teamed with Clark and Jon to play in Father/Son tennis tournaments, once winning the Arkansas Father/Son Championship.

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*We Remember....*

**Lorenzo Dow Day, Jr.**

**Feb 16, 1913 – Oct 12, 2009**

We have received news that Lorenzo Dow Day, well known "cousin" at our Reno/Reneau Reunions passed away Oct 12, 2009 at Highland Springs Retirement Community



Lorenzo Day  
2004 Reunion  
Austin, TX

in Dallas, TX. Services were held on Oct 15, 2009 at Cooper-Sorrells Chapel in Bonham, TX. Terry Maze officiated the service. Interment followed at Forest Grove Cemetery.

Lorenzo's Reneau lineage starts with his mother: Mary Reneau Day, Joseph Wickliffe Reneau, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles

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

Lorenzo Day was born on February 16, 1913 to Lorenzo Dow Day, Sr "L.D." and Mary Elizabeth Reneau Day near Floyd, Hunt County, Texas. He was educated at the Floyd School, Wesley College in Greenville, Texas and The University of Texas at Austin, where he graduated with a Bachelor of Science in Civil Engineering, June 1935. He married May Bell Lehman in 1933, now deceased. Two children were born to that union, son William Howard Day, now deceased, and daughter Mary Ellen (Day) Walker of Lewisville. He is survived by beloved wife Mattie of Dallas.

He served in the Navy from 1942 to 1946 and was discharged as a Lieutenant (jg) in the U.S. Naval Reserve. His entire professional life with the exception of one year teaching at Southern Methodist University and the time spent in the Military Service was spent in the design, fabrication and erection of structural steel.



He was a life long member of the Methodist Church, a member of the Lions Club, Texas and National Societies of Professional Engineers, Welding Society, Masonic Order, Scottish Rite, Hella Temple Shrine, Legion of Honor, Top of Dallas Shrine Club, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Disabled American Veterans and a life member of the University of Texas Ex-Students Association. He retired in 1975 as Chief Engineer for General Steel Company of Fort Worth, Texas. He spent his years of retirement in Telephone, TX and Dallas, TX.

Lorenzo is also survived by his brother Clyde W. Day of Kerrville, TX, Three grandchildren-- Valerie Walker Ralston of Carrollton, Daniel Day of Austin, and Diane Day Henke of San Antonio, 4 great grandchildren-Nora and Thomas Day of Austin, and Krystal and Mariah Henke of San Antonio, and step-daughter, Marcy Crites of Dallas.

In Lieu of flowers please send donations to: St. Michael's Hospice, 10214 Inwood Rd. Dallas, TX 75229, or charity of your choice.

***We Remember....***  
***Stanley Ewing Reneau***  
***Jun 3, 1918 – Dec 7, 2009***



We extend our sympathy to the family of Stanley Reneau, who passed away on Dec 7, 2009 at his home in Glasgow, KY. Stanley was born in Barren County, the son of the late Isaac Smith Reneau and Neva Moore Reneau.

Stanley's Reneau ancestry is: Isaac Smith Reneau; Joseph Wickliff, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Jr., Lewis Sr. He and many of his family attended the All Reno/Reneau Reunion in 2006 at Dale Hollow State Park near Burkesville, KY. A high point of the reunion was meeting the Glasgow branch of Reneaus.



2006 All Reno/Reneau Reunion

Stanley on the left is joined by l-r: grandson Jason, sons Fred and Larry; grandson Toby holding great-grandsons Alec and Isaac.

Stanley was a lifelong farmer. He met and married Edna Irene Bailey in Glasgow, KY. There were three sons born to the couple: Fred, Billy and Larry. Edna Reneau passed away on Feb 3, 2002. Stanley and Edna were members of the Columbia Avenue Church of Christ.

Stanley is survived by two sons: Larry Reneau and wife Debbie and Fred Reneau and wife Debbie, all of Glasgow; seven grandchildren: Jennifer Reneau Cardwell, Robin Reneau, Chase Reneau, Dusty Reneau, Jason Reneau, Jonathan Reneau and Julie Reneau Miller; and 10 great-grandchildren.

In addition to his parents and his wife, Edna, he was preceded in death by son, Billy Reneau; grandson, Toby Reneau; three brothers, Lawrence, Lance and Garlan Reneau; and three sisters, Margaret Alexander, Arnettie McGuire and Eldean Kingrey.

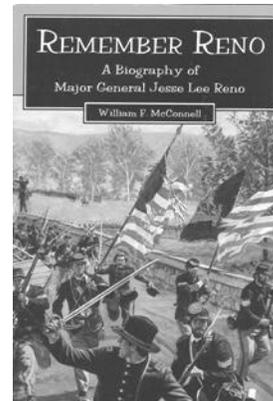
Funeral services were 2 p.m. Wednesday, Dec. 9, 2009, at A.F. Crow & Son Funeral Home with burial in Happy Valley Memorial Gardens.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of memorial contributions to Columbia Avenue Church of Christ Memorial Fund, PO Box 1793, Glasgow KY 42142.

***We Remember....***  
***William McConnell***  
***Jan 4, 1921 – Dec 1, 2009***

Historian, author, and retired military officer, William (Bill) McConnell passed away Dec 1, 2009 in Reno, NV after battling cancer for more than 25 years.

Bill used his 30-year experience as a military intelligence officer to bring



to life the exploits of Civil War hero, General Jesse Lee Reno in the book, Remember Reno. As there is no "blood lineage" to the Reno/Reneau family, Bill was proclaimed an "Honorary Reno/Reneau" and was presented with an "Adoption Certificate" to the Reno/Reneau family in America. The event took place during a Reno City Council Meeting on July 12,

2006, noting the city of Reno, NV was named for General Jesse Lee Reno. Bill's book was also cited as an inspiration for the erection of a statue of General Reno in Powning Park in 2006.

On Sept 16, 1989, Bill was a guest speaker at the Redication of the Jesse Lee Reno Monument at Fox's Gap at South Mountain, MD. We thank Bill's family for sharing his speech with us to be reprinted in the RenoReneau Review. (See page 2)

Bill and his wife, Louise, retired to Reno in April 1976 following Bill's 34 years of service in the United States Air Force.

Bill met his wife of 65 years, then Louise Teagarden, at a USO dance during World War II. They had two children together, Carley Ann McConnell and Timothy Scott McConnell, an airline pilot and retired Lt. Col. in the Air Force Reserve. Bill was also a proud grandfather of James Christopher Smith, Jennifer Louise Haak, William Paul Smith, Jenny McConnell Frederick and Christopher Scott McConnell and great-grandfather of Christopher Daniel Haak, Chyenne Mary Haak, Hailey Marie Haak, and Emily Louise Smith.

Funeral services were held at Walton's Sierra Chapel (Walton's Funeral Home), 875 W. Second Street on Monday the 7th of December at 3 p.m. Memorial donations may be made to Veterans Guest House at 880 Locust St., Reno, NV 89502 or [www.veteransguesthouseuse.org](http://www.veteransguesthouseuse.org).

## Jesse Wilford Reno—Inventor



Jesse Wilford Reno was born on Aug 4, 1861 to Jesse Lee Reno and Mary Bradley Beanes Cross Reno at Ft Leavenworth, KS. He joined two older brothers. Two other siblings had died in early childhood. Jesse Wilford received a degree of mining engineer from Lehigh University in 1883, and became noted in his career as an inventor. Jesse

married Marie Xenia Hagenah on January 15, 1901. The couple had no children. Jesse died Jan 2, 1947.

Let's fast forward to today to Akron, OH and The Inventors National Hall of Fame. This organization honors the women and men responsible for the great technological advances that make human, social and economic progress possible. One of those attending the Awards Program was Jonathan Frank Bennett Wood (a Reno/Reneau descendant). Looking at the Inductee list, he found that Jesse Wilford Reno was inducted posthumously in 2007. There were no descendants attending to receive the Award, so it remains at the Inventors Hall of Fame. More information about the Inventors Hall of Fame may be found at their Website: [www.invent.org](http://www.invent.org). Jesse's contribution to the invention of the "Endless Conveyor or Elevator is described."

The following is from Remember Reno: A Biography of Major General Jesse Lee Reno: "The youngest of Jesse Reno's children, Jesse Wilford, may have achieved the most fame of all. Born in 1861, he became a prominent engineer and inventor. In 1891 he perfected a plan for the construction of subways in New York City. Later he was to be known as "the man who saved New York City from the elevated." Jesse Wilford also had the distinction of being the first man to build an electric railroad in the South. He went on to invent other things, but in our present day society, we should likely honor him for inventing our energy saving device, the "inclined elevator" or escalator." It would be fitting to find a Reno/Reneau descendant who would be able to collect the Award...and since Jesse had no children, closest descendants would come from the lines of his siblings. If you would like more information about this, please contact the *RenoReneau Review*!

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**Charles Wayne Moad** cont from page 4  
Jimmy of Midland, Michael Moad of Odessa, Cheryl Moad of Midland, Jude Miller of San Antonio; great-grandchildren, Haylee Phillips and Hayden White of Midland; sister, Joy Agan and her husband Earl of Clinton, Okla.; brother, Harold Moad and his wife Sharon of Hobart, Okla.; cousins, Diane Rose and her husband Jimmy and Rowena Porter of Odessa.

He is preceded in death by his parents; and his older brother, Fred Jr.

Services were held on Thursday, Sept. 17, 2009, at 2 p.m. at Life-Change Baptist Church located at 10th and Texas in Odessa. A graveside service followed at Sunset Memorial Gardens at 6801 E. Business 20 in Odessa. The family requests memorial donations in lieu of flowers to Hospice House of Odessa.

Charles Wayne Moad's link to Reneau heritage is through his wife, Koleta LeeJeanne Bauman Maod: Esther LeeJeanne Reneau Bauman, Eugene LaRue Reneau, Barton Warren Stone, Isaac Tipton, John, Charles Reno/Reneau, John Reno, Lewis Reno, Jr., Lewis Reno, Sr.

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**Bennett Wood** cont from page 5

He never failed to stand up for what was right, no matter the circumstances or repercussions, which served him well in his career with the United States Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division. In retirement, he enjoyed golfing, painting and giving away much of his work to family, friends and charity auctions. He paintings were well sought after at the Reno/Reneau Family Reunion auctions which he donated to help raise funds for future events. Bennett also spent his time writing and performing volunteer work at North Little Rock Baptist Hospital and Pleasant Valley Church of Christ, where he served as an Elder. He was also a minister and presided over the weddings of many family and friends. He was a Godly man.

Visitation was held at Roller Chenal Funeral Home, Little Rock, AR from 6-8 P.M. on Monday, October 5, 2009. Funeral Services and a Celebration of Bennett Wood's life was held at Pleasant Valley Church of Christ at 1:00 P.M. on Tuesday, October 6, 2009, with interment at Pinecrest Memorial Park, Alexander, Arkansas.

For those who would like to contribute a memorial, the family requests that donations be made to the J.F. Bennett Wood Endowment, c/o Steve Lake, Harding University 915 E. Market Ave. Searcy, AR 72143.

### **Thank you!**

Many thanks to you for supporting this newsletter: 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 225 newsletters by mail, and 109 by email? The cost of printing a newsletter—8 to 10 pages—is about \$125.00, and the cost to mail is close to \$100.00 as well! We can only do this through your support!

We send special thanks to all those who made contributions at the Reno/Reneau Reunion in Staunton, VA to the Newsletter expense Many thanks to all who help make this possible!

## Jesse Lee Reno

Cont from page 2

wound at Chapultepec, but I have been unable to find any reference to the nature or severity of that wound.

At the close of the war, Reno reverted to his regular rank of 2<sup>nd</sup> Lt. and, on Sept. 13, 1848, was assigned to special duty at Erie, PA. I suspect that this special duty was in the form of recuperative leave with his family, some of whom had moved to Erie from Franklin that year.

In January of the following year, 1849, Lt. Reno returned to West Point – this time as Professor of Mathematics. He served in that capacity until the summer of that year, when he became secretary of a board which was to prepare a manual for heavy artillery. Reno was instrumental in preparing the new artillery manual and that occupied his time until October of 1850. Then, he was made Assistant to the Ordinance Board located at Washington Arsenal in the District of Columbia. It is likely that it was during this two-year tour of duty in the nation's capitol that Jesse met his future wife – Mary Cross.

In May of 1853, Jesse was ordered to survey a military road from the mouth of the Big Sioux River to Mendota, Minn. On today's map this would be from Sioux Falls, SD to Minneapolis. These surveying duties took until mid-September and, for the most part went smoothly and were not particularly noteworthy. I was amused by the fact that Lt. Reno took advantage of his position and named some of the lakes in that wilderness. One he called: Lake Mary, and another he named: Lake Cross – both after his future bride. Two other lakes were called Lake Belle and Lake Emily. I don't know the bases for these names and hope maybe someone here this weekend may be able to help me out. It could be that they were named for Jesse's two sisters, who I know only by their married names.

Not too long after his return back east, Jesse Mary Cross were married on November 1<sup>st</sup>, 1853. He as 30 and she was 25.

At this point, I'd like to take a little time to talk about his wife's family, because some of them were certainly illustrious in their own right. I learned a couple of stories about them that I feel are worth relating to you now:

Mary Reno's grandfather was a well known Maryland physician named: William Bradley Beanes. During the second war with England, in

1814, through a series of unique circumstances, the old doctor was taken prisoner and held on one of the British ships. A young neighbor and relative by marriage, by the name of Francis Scott Key, sought to get the Doctor released. But, he too was taken and held prisoner. The two Americans were subsequently transferred to another ship as the British began their bombardment of Fort McHenry. As the cannonading continued during the night, old Doctor Beanes, whose eyesight was failing kept asking: "Is the Flag yet there – does she still wave?" Not long before dawn the firing ended and our Americans feared that the fort had surrendered. But as you know, at daybreak, Francis Scott Key saw that our flag still waved above the ramparts. In joy, and before they were release, Francis Scott Key jotted down The Star Spangled Banner, which had been inspired by the questioning of Doctor Beanes. Later, upon publication, Key dedicated it to Dr. Beanes.

The second story deals with Jesse Reno's father-in-law – Colonel Truman Cross, a nationally renown soldier of the Mexican War. He was, in fact, the first officer killed in that conflict, though his death did not result from actual military combat. He was killed by a Mexican bandit just outside the American encampment. His murder is especially significant to westerners like myself, because it so greatly incensed settlers in the Southwestern and California Territories that it became an important influence in causing them to break away from Mexico and to seek admission to the Union.

Well, back to Jesse, himself. In mid-1854, he was assigned to be the Assistant Ordnance Officer at the Frankford Arsenal in Pennsylvania. He was t this post for three years. Likely it was one of the more pleasant and extended assignments they would have during their brief marriage.

From July, 1857 until June of 1859, Jesse was again stationed in the west as part of the large U.S. Army sent to Utah under Albert Sidney Johnston. Reno was in charge of ordnance for the so-called Utah Expedition, or the peace-keeping force sent by the government to keep down what they feared would be a Mormon revolt. Actually there was no revolt, but the Army stayed in Utah for two years and Reno stayed with them. cont next issue

Do you have an article or story you would like to share?

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