<u>A Historical Compilation</u> <u>of the Ancestors</u> <u>of Billy Edward Renfrow</u>

<u>1613 AD - Present</u>

This book is dedicated to the future generations, so that they may never forget where they came from.

Table of Contents

Introduction:	Renfrow
Section 1:	<u>1613 - 1861</u>
Section 2:	Stephen Henderson Renfrow
Section 3:	Isaac Henderson Renfrow
Section 4:	Billy Edward Renfrow
Section 5:	Renfrow Photographs
Section 6:	Renfrow Cemetery Photographs
Section 7:	Renfrow Death Certificates
Section 8:	References and Acknowledgements

page 3 page 4 page 6 page 8 page 10 page 12 page 19 page 21 page 23

Renfrow



The Renfrow name is an off-branch of the alternate spelling Renfro. This was the common spelling until the mid 1800's, when several of Mark Renfro's children were christened with a "W" added to the end of the surname. Less common spellings have been Renfrew, Reynfru, Roufe, Renfe, and Rentfree.

The name Renfro and all its spellings are of Scottish heritage. Surnames were not used in Scotland during the early Celtic rule; often people had a given name and told where they were from, i.e. James of Renfrewshire. Immigrants from the area began to use their home area names as surnames when arriving in their new homes.

The following is a short paragraph on each generation leading up to Stephen Henderson Renfrow in 1861. Not much is known about each person other than what is here, so I have tried to make each part as complete as possible.

<u>1613 - 1861</u>

Our branch of Renfro starts with Symon Renfro, who was born in 1613 in Scotland. Before that stories vary too greatly to call any of them truth. It is not even certain who his parents were. Legend is that his father was Baron James Stuart of Renfrew, Earl of Moray, who had changed his surname to Renfrew in the late 1500's after an assassination attempt. Most history books say that he was killed in this attempt. There are stories that he survived and fled to France, where he had vast political and religious connections. He became wealthy and settled in France, but was reported to have later returned to Scotland. Symon Renfrew is said to be the illegitimate son of Baron James Renfrew and a young Scottish maid. However, this version of the story would make James Renfrew in his early 70's when Symon was born. Not impossible, but very unlikely in my opinion.

Symon immigrated to the American colonies on May 6 1638, landing in James City, Virginia. Upon arrival, he received a land grant of 500 acres in James City County, Virginia. He had a son the next year, Robert. Sometime around 1650, Symon and his son moved to Barbados. Shortly after arriving, Symon fathered two children, Simon and Hester. Hester was born Jan 4, 1651 and Simon was born Feb. 14, 1652. Symon left Barbados, but when is unknown, and he died in Virginia about 1690.

Robert Renfro was born in Virginia in 1638. His mother is unknown. He moved to Barbados with his father around 1650 and married a woman named Susan Holmes on Apr. 1, 1662. The couple moved to Chester Co, PA, where they had one child, John, in 1665. Susan died shortly after and Robert returned to Barbados, where he married Mary Evans in 1667. By 1678, he had moved to New Castle, DE where his son William was born. By 1680, he had returned to Virginia. It is not known when he died.

William Renfro was born in 1678 in New Castle, DE to Robert and Mary Renfro. By 1680, he had moved with his parents to Virginia. He married a woman named Jane in 1702 in James City, VA. The couple had four children: William, James, Peter, and Stephen. Between 1705 and 1749, he is shown living between Orange, Fredericks, and Lunenburg counties in Virginia. He passed away in 1749 in Edgecomb Co., NC.

Peter Renfro, Sr. was the third son of William and Jane Renfro. He was born in Orange Co, VA in 1705 and married Elizabeth Hollingsworth around 1733. They had five children, Judith, George, Tinker, Peter Jr., and William. On April 24, 1752, Peter received a land grant near Batesville, SC from King George. He was killed in an Indian attack between Freeland's Station and French Lick, TN in 1781.

Peter Renfro, Jr. was the fourth child of Peter and Elizabeth Renfro. He was born in 1734 in Orange or Augusta Co., VA. In 1772, Peter married Mary McIlroy in Union Co. SC. The couple had ten children: William, Abigail, Elizabeth, Mary, James, Peter, Mark, John, Moses, and Joseph. Peter is listed as Revolutionary War Veteran and his paperwork is on file in Raleigh, NC. He died in 1799 in Montgomery Co., TN.

James Renfro was the son of Peter Renfro, Jr. He was born in 1780 in South Carolina. He moved to Georgia and married a woman named Hannah before 1804 and they had six children: Mark, James, Nancy, Polly, Ruth, and Peter. James is shown on the 1850 census as being 70 years old, living in Hinds Co., MS; however he died before 1852.

Mark Thomas Renfro was the eldest son of James and Hannah Renfro. He was born in 1804 in Georgia. He married Susannah Hawthorne on August 21, 1826 in Jefferson Co., Mississippi, the same day his brother Peter married her sister Margaret. The couple had ten children: Alfred, Susan, William, Mary Jane, Moses, Mark, Samantha, Elizabeth, James, and Silena. He died sometime between 1850 and 1852, in Hinds Co, MS. His wife Susannah passed away in 1896 in MS. Several of his children were given the surname spelling "Renfrow", while others were not. The reason is not known why, probably due to phonetical spelling habits of the time.

William James Renfrow was the second child of Mark and Susannah Renfro. He was born in 1832 in Copiah Co., MS and married Emaline Jackson on August 3, 1852. The couple had six children: William, Mark, Susan, Stephen, Samantha, and Brantley. By 1880, William had abandoned Emaline and the children. Records show he lived in Tennessee, South Carolina, and Kentucky and was married twice more, fathering an additional nine children. William passed away in Kentucky in 1910.

Stephen Henderson Renfrow

Stephen Henderson Renfrow was born on June 13, 1861, in Wesson, Copiah Co., MS, the fourth child of William and Emaline Renfro. The 1870 census shows the entire family living in Louisiana, however, the families surname is spelled "Renfraw." By 1880, William and Emaline had divorced (or equivalent for the times, no legal documents of separation are found) and William had moved elsewhere, leaving Stephen to provide for his mother and three youngest siblings still at home. The family is listed in the census for that year in Rapides, Rapides Parish, LA. A few years later, he met Alzenith Medora Powell.

Alzenith, or "Zenni" as she was known, was the daughter of Henry Clay and Nancy Alice Ward Powell. She was born on September 8, 1867 in Lake Charles, Caleasieu Parish, LA. The two were married on September 1, 1882 in Caleasieu Parish, LA.

Stephen and Alzenith had ten children, seven of which lived to adulthood. Their first child was named W.H.G. Renfrow. He was born on April 8, 1884 in Caleasieu Parish and passed away on August 11, 1887 in Jena, La Salle Parish, LA at the age of three. He is buried in Pleasant Hill Cemetery in Jena, LA; however the stone has been destroyed by vandals and weather.

Their second child was a boy, born April 3, 1886 in Aimwell, LA. They named him Stephen Decatur. Stephen Decatur went on to have a large family. His granddaughter is novelist Nina Renfrow-Stone.

Samuel A. was the next one born to the couple, on March 12, 1888, presumably in LA. He was married twice, to Lillie Bloodsworth and Laura Taylor, and had several children. Samuel passed away on May 27, 1934.

A daughter was fourth for them, whom they named Alice Medora, born February 5, 1890, in LA. Little is known about her other than she married a man named Walter Magnum on February 23, 1905 and died August 18, 1920.

Isaac Henderson was born on April 3, 1892 in Jena, La Salle Parish, LA. He married Edna Mae Blair on August 15, 1915 in Blue, OK. The couple had 7 children, 6 of which survived to adulthood. He passed away in Dallas, TX, on December 4, 1940.

Lillie Mae, born April 10, 1895, was their next born. She married a man named Sol Harmon. Their descendants are spread throughout the southwest are today. Lillie died on January 20, 1933.

Lewis M. was the next born to Stephen and Zenni who died before adulthood, on May 22, 1897 in Jena, La Salle Parish, LA. He passed away on September 26, 1905. Brantley M was born on September 2, 1899 in Jena, La Salle Parish, LA, but passed away less than a year later on August 19, 1900.

Stephen and Zenni had a daughter named Henrietta but whom they called "Ida". It is not known when she was born, but it was probably sometime between 1900 and 1903. This is based upon pictures of her and George photographed together, where she is obviously older, but how much is indeterminable. She married a man named Dewey Skinner on March 3, 1918 in Texarkana, Bowie Co, TX. She was at a family reunion in 1929 and it is believed her mother lived with her until 1945, but her death date is unknown.

George Washington was the last child born to the couple, on March 25, 1904 in Caleasieu Parish, LA. He passed away on December 16, 1978 somewhere in Oklahoma.

Stephen and Zenni owned a large tract of wooded land in La Salle Parish, however its exact size is not known. Stephen and his brother and his brother ran a sawmill and timber yard on this land, however a natural disaster of some kind destroyed most of the forest sometime between 1899 and 1900 and the family left the land shortly after.

The family next appears on the 1900 census living in Harrisonburg village, Catahoula Parish, LA. Living with them at this time was a boarder named John E. Walker. No other records show the family in Catahoula Parish again.

By 1904, the family had left Harrisburg and moved to Caleasieu Parish, probably with one of Zenni's siblings, who still lived in the area. By 1910, census records show the family had moved to Justice Precinct 1 in Bowie Co., TX, near Texarkana.

Sometime after all the children had married and moved away, Stephen and Zenni moved back to Louisiana. They had a small homestead in Quitman, Bienville Parish, with some of Stephen's cousins living nearby. It was here that he passed away on May 18, 1929. He was buried the following day in Union Baptist Cemetery.

Shortly after, Zenni moved back to Bowie Co., TX. It is believed she stayed with her daughter Ida in Texarkana until her death on July 10, 1945. It is unknown at this time where she is interred.

Isaac Henderson Renfrow

Isaac Henderson Renfrow was born on April 3, 1892 in Jena, La Salle Parish, LA. He was the fifth child and fourth son of Stephen H. and Alzenith Renfrow. He moved throughout Louisiana and into Texas with his family, settling around Texarkana, TX around 1910. He met Edna Mae Blair in 1915.

Edna Mae Blair was the oldest of five girls born to E.E. and Annie Mae Hurst Blair. She was born on June 18, 1897 in Telephone, Fannin Co., TX. The family resided mostly in the Fannin Co. area, however, by 1915 they had moved to Moyers, OK. It was here that she met Isaac, who also lived in Moyers. The two were married on August 18, 1915 in Antlers, OK.

The couple has their first child, Lester Henderson, on April 16, 1917. Lester married a woman named Patty Mae and had two children, but later divorced. He married Bobbie and they had three children: Denise, Brenda Lee, and James Royce. He died Aug. 13, 1998 in McKinney, Collin Co., TX and is probably buried in the area.

Homer Lee was their second child, born June 20, 1920. He married Beulah Mae Bercham, but when is not known. The couple had at least two daughters, Linda Ann and Edna Faye. Homer died on June 24, 1988 in Dallas, TX. He is buried next to his wife at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas, TX.

Next was a boy they named Junior, born in 1922. In the 1940's, Junior enlisted in the Army to fight in WWII. During his induction, he was informed that Junior was a suffix, not a proper name. His name was subsequently legally changed to Isaac Henderson Renfrow, Jr. He was married several times, once to a woman named Christine, with whom he had a daughter Rachel. His last marriage was to Ida, with whom he had 2 boys, Steve and Stanley Don. He also raised a boy named Jimmy Archer as his own son. Ike Jr. died in 2001.

The fourth child of Ike and Edna Renfrow was their first daughter and also the only child that did not live to adulthood. Dorothy Mae was born September 5, 1926 in Ft. Worth, TX. Her family moved to Big Sandy, Upshur Co., TX in 1929. She contracted malaria early in 1930 and passed away on July 7 of that year. She was buried in Mings Cemetery in Big Sandy, TX. Her original grave marker was cardboard and deteriorated quickly. Cemetery records from that time are lost and her exact plot location in the cemetery is unknown and unmarked.

Billy Edward was born on April 19, 1929 in Red Springs, Bowie Co., TX. He was the only child of Ike and Edna's born in a hospital. Billy married Patricia Long in 1962 and had two children: Billy Byron and Barbara Jean. He called Wood Co., TX home and passed away on April 2, 2005 in Jacksonville, Cherokee Co., TX. He is interred in Perryville Cemetery in Perryville, Wood Co., TX. Juliette was born in 1933, in Dallas, TX. Her entire life she was known as "Judy". She married a man named Michael Sandback and had a son, Michael Jr. She and Michael later divorced and she married a man named Harold MaGee. After a divorce and remarriage, the couple settled in Deerpark, TX, near Houston. Judy passed away on Aug. 4, 1997 in Deerpark, TX.

Barbara Ann was born March 23, 1938 in Dallas, TX and was the couple's last child. She married twice and lived in North Texas most of her life. She worked as a secretary in Irving for many years before retiring. She moved to Winnsboro in 1999 and passed away on October 13, 2000. She is interred next to her brother Billy in Perryville, TX.

The family moved a lot, was extremely poor, and did without most things. After moving to East Texas in 1929, they moved to the Dallas area sometime before 1933. Ike worked as a deliveryman for a bakery for a while until the bakery went under and he lost his job. He went to work on the WPA project building Fair Park in Dallas, where he worked until his death.

The family lived in a very small one room shack during this time. It was most likely located in the present location of the US Postal Service Distribution Center in West Dallas. This area was known as Shantyville during the Depression and is the former location of Paxaho St., the street they lived on.

Ike made several sacrifices for his family. A bus ride was only 2 cents each way from his house to Fair Park, however, he walked the 8 mile trip in nearly soleless boots everyday no matter the weather, saving the four cents a day for food for his family. Sometime in 1938, he contracted tuberculosis. After this, he began sleeping in a non working vehicle in front of the house to keep from spreading the disease to anyone else. In October of 1940, Ike was admitted to the Woodlawn Hospital, where tuberculosis was mainly treated and quarantined in Dallas Co. He stayed there until he passed away on Dec. 4, 1940. He was buried in Coldtharpe Cemetery in Dallas, TX. His grave is unmarked; however the plot location is on file in Dallas County Archives. At the time of his interment, the cemetery was being used for pauper's burials. Bonnie Parker was originally buried here. It is now over-grown and un-maintained.

Edna Blair remarried twice and lived in Dallas for the rest of her life. She passed away on Feb. 14, 1967 in Rapides, Rapides Parish, LA., while visiting a relative. She is buried in Restland Memorial Park in Dallas, TX.

Billy Edward Renfrow

Billy Edward Renfrow was born on April 19, 1929 in Red Springs, Bowie Co., TX. He was the youngest son of Ike and Edna Renfrow and the only one born in a hospital. Shortly after his birth, his family moved to Big Sandy, Upshur Co., TX. Here, his sister Dorothy contracted malaria and died that July. Sometime before 1933, the family moved to Dallas, where they remained for several years.

Three weeks before Christmas in 1940, Ike Henderson died from tuberculosis. Billy quit school at the age of eleven and went to work selling apples on a street corner to help support his family. During this job, he was hit by a newspaper truck. The accident almost killed him and he was left missing four front teeth.

In 1945, just after his sixteenth birthday, Billy enlisted in the Army. He completed basic training but not before WWII was over. He was disqualified from service due to flat feet shortly after VJ Day. This was around the time he was arrested and spent a brief time in Leavenworth Federal Penitentiary. The crime is unknown, but rumored to be grand theft auto.

Billy moved throughout North Texas, Southern Oklahoma, and Louisiana for the rest of the 40's and 50's. He found work mostly with railroad or trucking companies during this time and developed a love for driving tractor/trailers and hauling heavy equipment that lasted his entire life.

In 1961, Billy met Patricia Mae Long. She had been previously married and had four children from that marriage: Chuck, Debbie, John, and Ginny. The two were married in 1962 and had a son that same year, who they named Billy Byron. Billy married Janette Wisenhunt in 1981 and they had two children: Russell and Wade. They have settled in Paris, TX.

On February 1, 1965 the couple had their second child, a girl they named Barbara Jean, in Mabank, TX. The doctor's office where she was delivered was in the back of a drugstore downtown. Barbara married Benjamin Brookes in 1983 and they also had two children: Seth and Micah. Barbara and Benjamin later divorced and she married Allen Jolly. They settled in Athens, TX.

On Valentine's Day 1967, Billy's mother Edna Mae died in Rapides, Louisiana. She was buried in Dallas, TX five days later, under her final married named, Giles. For the next twenty years, the couple lived in various parts of North and East Texas, including Balch Springs, Grand Prairie, Eustace, finally settling in Perryville, Wood Co., TX.

Billy worked most of his life as a truck driver, driving for several different companies in the 70's into the early 80's. In 1975, he was arrested for conspiracy and spent four years at the Federal Penitentiary in Seagoville, TX. He was

released in 1979 and returned to his family. Around this time they moved to Perryville, where they later established a nursery. He drove for Kilgore Ceramics for most of the 80's and retired in 1990.

The couple closed the nursery around 1995 and began to travel. They were on site caretakers for Sam Rayburn state Park in Angelina Co., TX from 1996-1998. Pat was diagnosed with cancer that fall and they returned home to Perryville, where she recovered.

In mid 2001, Billy was diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. He mostly stayed at home with his wife in Perryville until 2002. His health had deteriorated badly and he moved to Park Highland Nursing Center in Athens, TX to receive specialized treatment.

His wife Pat had a house built in Athens next to the couple's daughter Barbara early in 2003, so that she could be close to Billy. Shortly after this house was completed, the house in Perryville burned down. The property was sold to their neighbor and dear friend, Martin, to accommodate his growing family.

Billy's health showed signs of improvement through 2003, but in 2004, it began to fail again. He passed away quietly at a hospital in Jacksonville, TX on April 2, 2005 and was buried in Perryville Cemetery in Perryville, TX, the place he always loved and called home.

Patricia lives full time at the home she had built next to her daughter in Athens. Many of the plants and trees that she and Billy planted on the Perryville property are still there today; a reminder of the nursery that once thrived.

Renfrow Pictures



Mark Renfrow and wife Celia Jackson, sister of Emaline, with their three children. Mark was the son of William J. Renfrow and Stephen H. Renfrow's uncle. Taken around 1870.



Mark and Celia Renfrow, around 1900



"Zenni" Powell, with her children Ida and George. Taken around 1912.



Stephen H. and Zenni Renfrow. Taken between 1917 and 1918 at a family reunion.



Taken between 1917 and 1918 at the Renfrow Family Reunion. Back Row: Ike Renfrow, Lillie Bloodsworth Renfrow, Sopha Mangram, unknown girl, George W. Renfrow, Ida Mae Renfrow, Henrietta "Ida" Renfrow, Albert Renfrow, and Soleman Harmon holding Henry Harmon Front Row: Edna Blair Renfrow holding Lester Renfrow, Sam A Renfrow, unknown boy, Alice Renfrow Mangram holding Ethyl Mangram, Stephen H. Renfrow holding an unknown child, Zenni Powell Renfrow, Eva Mae Renfrow, Stephen D. Renfrow holding Lorene Renfrow, Jessie Renfrow, Lillie Renfrow Harmon holding Wilman Harmon.



Ike and Edna Renfrow. Lester is standing between them and Edna is holding Homer. Taken about 1920.



Taken 1929, probably at Stephen H. Renfrow's wake. Mort Clark is the maternal grandfather of Ida Mae Renfrow. He is pictured here at almost 100 years old.



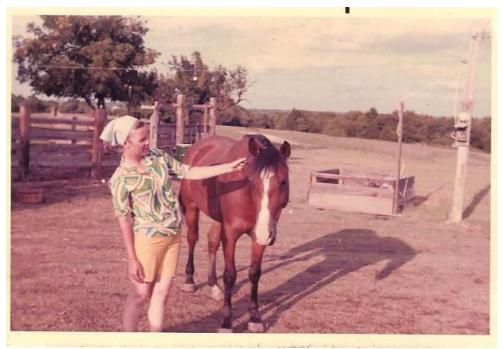
Stephen D. Renfrow and his mother, Zenni, taken same day as previous picture.



Only known picture of Dorothy Mae Renfrow. Pictured with her brother Billy Edward, probably 1930 in Upshur Co., TX.



Billy Edward Renfrow Army Photo, 1945



Barbara Ann Renfrow Flowers about 1976.



Billy Renfrow, with his grandson, Russell Edward, son of Billy Byron

Renfrow Cemetery Photos



Stephen Henderson Renfrow Union Baptist Cemetery Bienville Parish, LA



Edna Mae Blair Renfrow Peavler Giles Highland Gardens, Lot 37, Block D, Space 6 Restland Memorial Park Dallas, TX



Barbara Ann Renfrow Flowers Hopkins Perryville Cemetery Perryville, Wood Co., TX



Billy Edward Renfrow Perryville Cemetery Perryville, Wood Co., TX

Renfrow Death Certificates

IPLACE OF DEATH TEXAS STATE BOARD OF HEALTH	
County Within BUREAU OF VITAL STATISTICS	
STANDARD CERTIFICATE OF DEATH Registered No.	
City Big Fairay (No	
Duff Sha P 1	
(If nonresident give city or town and Statics) (4 h A	
blongth of residence in city or town where death occurred	ds. How long in U. S., if of foreign birth ?
PERSONAL AND STATISTICAL PARTICULARS	MEDICAL PARTICULARS
3 SEX 4 COLOR OR 5 SINGLE, MARRIED, WIDOWED RACE OR DIVORCED (write the word)	
sent while	(Month) (Day) 1957 D
6 DATE OF BIRTH	
Kel 5 1926 3	July 7, 1930, to July 7, 1930
(Month) (Day) (Year)	1 0 0 A 10 A
7 AGE Mos2ds.	that I last saw h.&. alive on furty , 19.30
If less than 2 years state if breast fed If less than 1 day	and that death occurred, on the date stated above, atm.
B OCCUPATION	The CAUSE OF DEATH* was as follows:
(a) Trade, profession or particular kind of work	- angarenna q towels
(b) General nature of industry,	01
business or establishment in which employed (or employer)	
9 BIRTHPLACE (Sinte or country) 7 L 7 + +Q	Contributory Vor alaria
At. Warth	(Secondary)
10 NAME OF ALO	(duration)
Annaw Legos	18 Where was disease contracted
OF PATHER	if not at place of death? ress clame
(State or country) Anishing. In.	Did an operation precede death? 20 Date of
OF MOTHER E THE REAL	Was there an autopsy? 23.0
IS BIRTHPLACE OF	What test confirmed diagnosis? Lord
(State or country) Selephony Han Co Ly	(Signed) M. D.
THE ABOVE IS TRUE	Thele 26 1830 (union Hawking)
(Informant) John Movyuy	State Disease Causing Death, or in deaths from Violent Causes, state (1) Means and Nature of Injury, and (2) whether Accidental, Suicidal, or Homicidal. (See reverse side for State Statures.)
1 2	
// (Address) Natinuts Jr	19 PLACE OF BURIAL OR REMOVAL DATE OF BURIAL
15 Tel 20 D Rullad	may ble spring fully 8 1930
Filed - 10 - 190 C WOOD	DIALS Minorth & A. I. A.
	In come milliger the vertices in
Con	CL (9-219-100M

Dorothy Mae Renfrow. Mother incorrectly listed as Edna Blanton. Undertaker area is also incorrect. W. Clyde was the undertaker and she was interred at Mings Cemetery in Maple Springs on July 8, 1930. Maple Springs is now an unincorporated part of Big Sandy.

534 1. PLACE OF DEATH BUREAU OF VITA 54258 STATE OF TEXAS CITY OR None nown alla ICIII AR T. DATE OF 8.1 HEREBY 10 1040 AUT 44 DURATION 13a 6. 中国。南非 CONTRIBUTORY CAL (14) owell DECENTED IAN 10 1941 TEXAS to 0.5

Isaac Henderson Renfrow. Cemetery listed as Fishtrap in Dallas. Coldtharpe Cemetery had had five different names, one of them being Fishtrap. Burial plot location information available at Dallas Archives.

References and Acknowledgements

First off, thank you to John and Darlyn Calvey. Without their help, I would not have most of this information. Special thanks to Nina Renfrow Stone who did a good amount of the research also and provided many of the pictures.

References

- 1. Descendants of Symon Renfrow http://www.murlin.com/users/renfrosk/Symon%20Renfro.htm
- 2. Seth Brookes' Online Family Cemetery on findagrave.com http://www.findagrave.com/cgi-bin/fg.cgi?page=vcsr&GSvcid=62513
- 3. FamilySearch.org Census, Birth, Death, and Marriage Records https://familysearch.org/
- 4. Nina Stone's Genealogy Page <u>http://www.ninastone.net/genealogy/</u>
- 5. U.S. GenWebs Archive http://files.usgwarchives.net/