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A Biographical Sketch of Sallie Eola Reneau
By Dr. David Sansing*

“Universal love to all mankind.”
Sallie Reneau

On January 9, 1856 Governor John J. McRae presented to the Mississippi legislature what can only be considered a startling recommendation by an exceptional young woman named Sallie Eola Reneau. Governor McRae described Sallie Reneau as “a young lady of accomplishment, intelligence, and talent, educated in this State, a resident of Grenada, engaged in the business of female instruction, and devoted to the intellectual advancement of her sex.” Governor McRae, who was himself a man of learning and letters, endorsed Reneau’s proposal for a state-supported female college and passed along to the legislature an erudite and sophisticated document that she had drafted detailing an organizational plan for the institution. When Reneau presented her proposal to the legislature there were no state supported female colleges in the United States.(1)

“The present era is propitious to woman,” she wrote. “Our State. . .is rapidly advancing on the great road of human progress” and the “time has arrived when daughters and sisters may claim the right to have their minds as fully enlightened as sons and brothers; and when man shall

*Dr. Sansing is Emeritus Professor of History at The University of Mississippi where he taught Mississippi History, Old South, and New South for twenty-five years. He is the author of several books including *Mississippi, Its People and Culture; A History of the Mississippi Governor’s Mansion* (with Carroll Waller); *Natchez, An Illustrated History* (with Sim Callon and Carolyn Vance Smith); *Making Haste Slowly, The Troubled History of Higher Education in Mississippi*; and *The University of Mississippi, A Sesquicentennial History*. He also edited a book of essays on the emancipation of American slavery entitled, *What Was Freedom’s Price?*

cheerfully concede that his own interest and the welfare of the whole human family are promoted by the . . . intellectual improvement of woman. . . . History attests, and everyday observation confirms, that woman is capable of receiving the highest order of intellectual culture” and “wielding a powerful influence in the ‘republic of letters.’” (2)

Sallie Reneau did not envision a female college for just the southern elite. One of the most significant benefits to be derived from a public female college, she said, would be that both “the indigent and the opulent” would receive from this institution “the imperishable riches of a well cultivated mind.” (3)

She assured the Mississippi lawmakers that a state female college would be a worthy and enduring legacy. And then she appealed to their pride of place and their sense of destiny: “If you now charter and liberally endow the proposed College, the enlightened public sentiment at home and abroad will hail your action, with pleasure and pride, and your noble example will soon be followed throughout the South and West.” (4)

Sallie Reneau was 18 years old and an 1854 graduate of Holly Springs Female Academy when she wrote this seminal document that “sent an influence upward to the higher social strata and downward to the lowest.” This remarkable young woman was born May 21, 1837 in Somerville, Tennessee. Her family moved to Mississippi when she was about five years old. (5)

Sallie was born into the southern white middle class and was among the 74% of white southerners in 1860 who did not live in slave owning families. In Mississippi more than 50% of the white population in 1860, which included Sallie’s family, did not belong to the slave holding class. In 1860 her father was not a slave holder, nor was the uncle she lived with, or the uncle her little brother lived with. Her father was an entrepreneur of varied interests that would include

merchandising, railroading, and silver mining. In 1860 her brother was a store clerk, and Sallie was a school teacher. (6)

Teaching was something of an old and honored tradition among Sallie Reneau's forebears. In the late 1790s her great grandfather was "one of the 'schoolmasters' of Hughes School in the Sinking Creek Community" in what is now Carter County, Tennessee. Her father's brother, Isaac Tipton Reneau, was a teacher and was considered by some as "the best English scholar in southern Kentucky" in the early 1830s. For a while he "boarded at the home of John M. Clemens, the father of Samuel L. Clemens," better known as Mark Twain. Isaac Reneau later "became one of the foremost preachers in that part of the country." (7)

Sallie Reneau's mother was Eliza Darwin Rawlings, who was born in North Carolina January 27, 1819. Eliza Reneau died in Grenada on January 19, 1841, soon after giving birth to her second child, William Edward Reneau. Sallie and her younger brother were semi-orphans and mostly fended for themselves, living with various relatives, because their father was often gone in search of his fortune. (8)

According to the 1850 census William Edward Reneau was living in Panola County with an aunt, Mrs. Anderson D. Patton, who was his mother's sister. Sallie does not appear in the 1850 census, but in 1860 she was also living in Panola County with another aunt, Mrs. Lawson G. Taylor. (9)

Sallie's father was the adventuresome Nathaniel Smith Reneau, a veteran of both the Mexican War and the Civil War. Nathaniel Reneau is interred in the American Cemetery in Mexico City. He was born in Kentucky in 1814 and moved, by way of Tennessee, to Grenada, Mississippi prior to 1840, where he was engaged in some business enterprise. He is listed in the

1850 census in Marshall County as a thirty-two year old merchant, born in Kentucky. In 1856 he was back in Grenada, but he does not appear in any Mississippi census records after 1850. He did, however, maintain his residence in Mississippi. In 1856 he was named a trustee of the State Female College in Yalobusha County, and again when Reneau Female University was established at Oxford, and then later at Sardis.(10)

In 1856 the Mississippi legislature endorsed Sallie Reneau's proposal and established the State Female College in Yalobusha County, which then included the town of Grenada where Reneau was teaching. The law founding the college also named an eighteen member board of trustees to organize and oversee the state's newest collegiate institution. Among the board members were Governor McRae, future governor John J. Pettus, and Reneau's father, Nathaniel S. Reneau. (11)

Unfortunately, the lawmakers did not appropriate any funds for the institution. After the legislature again failed to allocate funds to the woman's college at its 1858 session, Sallie Reneau drafted a Memorial to the United States Congress asking that an additional land grant be dedicated to the State Female College. Several other Mississippi collegiate institutions including Jefferson College, Mississippi College, the University of Mississippi, and later Alcorn University and Mississippi State University were beneficiaries of federal land grants. Even though it was a reasonable request, and the state of Mississippi was actually due another land grant which the University finally received in the 1890s, the United States Congress was preoccupied with the impending civil war and did not approve Sallie Reneau's request. Consequently, the establishment of a state collegiate institution for women was postponed until Sallie Reneau brought the idea back to life during the Reconstruction Period immediately after the Civil War.(12)

Although Sallie must have been disappointed that her dream for a state female college did

not materialize in 1856, she was not dismayed and in the great crisis that soon engulfed the nation she would be found in the front lines of public service. In the spring of 1861 her father and her younger brother, like thousands of other southern men and boys, were imbued with the romantic notion of war and rushed off to the front. According to a history of Panola County her brother William Reneau died during the Civil War, and other records indicate that her father was captured and later released from Fort Lafayette in New York Harbor in 1862. (13)

Immuned to any romantic notion of war, Sallie organized a group of ladies in Panola County and wrote to Governor John. J. Pettus offering their services as “Mississippi Nightingales. . . to go around to the various camps. . .to nurse the sick and wounded soldiers and to sew for those who might need it.” To protect themselves in the lawless environment that always parallels a state of war, she asked the governor for some “small arms. . .that we could carry conveniently,” and for the sake of quick and easy identification, she asked that he supply them with uniforms.

“If you will provide for us as we request,” she concluded her letter, “ we will endeavor to organize a Mississippi Volunteer Relief Association. . .to go around to the camps to distribute to the [soldiers] such necessities as the Association may furnish them, and to nurse the sick as best we can.” Sallie’s effort to establish a wartime Volunteer Relief Association predated the establishment of the International Red Cross by several years. (14)

Sallie’s plan to establish a volunteer relief association in June 1861, even before the first battle of the Civil War had been waged, was a rare and realistic anticipation of the bloody conflict that followed. In January 1861 Governor Pettus declined an opportunity to import firearms from a Brussels manufacturer because he did not believe there would be any war. As late as March 14, 1861 the editor of Sallie Reneau’s hometown newspaper, the *Panola Star*,

predicted that there would be no war and that Lincoln would pursue a policy of peace. (15)

John K. Bettersworth was probably the first Civil War historian to cite Sallie's letter to Governor Pettus. In a 1973 history of Mississippi he wrote of her "spectacular zeal" and highlighted the fact that her "Mississippi Nightingales" would be armed, uniformed, and would receive pay equal to soldiers. Subsequent historians who cited Bettersworth, but apparently did not read Sallie Reneau's letter, have also focused on the side arms, uniforms and soldiers pay.

The popular and highly respected *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy*, edited by the renowned historian Richard Current includes the following statement: "Girls, too, were eager to help. Sallie Eola Reneau attempted to form a company of 'Mississippi Nightingales,' complete with uniforms and sidearms." (17)

Karen Zeinert, in *Those Courageous Women of the Civil War*, writes, "Sallie Reneau of Mississippi offered to raise a company of women to be armed, uniformed, and paid like soldiers to defend the home front." It is evident from these two examples that historians who have cited Sallie Reneau as an advocate of female militarism have not read her letter to Governor Pettus and have read too much into her request for military accouterments. (18)

Sallie Reneau's demand, or her plea, for equal pay for the women volunteers was an early expression of one of the founding principles of feminism.

Governor Pettus did not fund Sallie's "Mississippi Nightingales," and the Volunteer Relief Association was not formed. But Sallie Reneau did not allow defeat to deter her from her larger goal. She organized the ladies of Panola County, established the Society of Sisters, and conducted on a smaller scale the volunteer relief program that she had envisioned in her letter to Governor Pettus. Sallie was the corresponding secretary of the Society and the local newspaper

carried several articles about the Society's effort to provide relief and aid to Panola County soldiers. (19)

A December 9, 1861 article in the local newspaper reported that the Society had provided Panola County troops with 90 pairs of socks, 50 overshirts, 17 undershirts, and 62 pairs of drawers. Sallie was very expressive in her appreciation to all the ladies for their "carding, spinning, and knitting" and to all the others who had made some contribution to the Society of Sisters. (20)

As the Civil War divided the nation into North and South, so it divided the Reneau family into Blue and Grey. While Nathaniel Reneau supported the Confederacy, two of his brothers sided with the Union. By all accounts, "Berry Jordan Reneau's Unionism is legendary." It was said, perhaps in jest, that he would not allow his girls to wear anything but blue dresses, and he named one of his sons Ulysses S. Grant Reneau. Nathaniel Reneau's oldest brother, Isaac Tipton Reneau, was also an ardent Unionist. And while Sallie's brother William served in the Confederate army, her first cousin Thomas Reneau was a sergeant in the Union cavalry. (21)

When the war was finally over Sallie Reneau went back into the classroom at the Batesville Academy, and she openly and publicly embraced the new age of opportunity for women engendered by the Civil War. In a local newspaper article announcing a gala musical program and the crowning of a May Queen by her students, Sallie invited the general public to attend the concert and announced, "Ladies can exercise the customary right of escorting each other, or going alone." In that time and place women were not supposed to go out at night alone, especially to an event that lasted until well after midnight, as that one did. (22)

Most white Mississippians were psychologically unprepared for military defeat and the

emancipation of the state's 436,000 slaves, but circumstances beyond their control forced them to accept the "world remade by the Civil War." Sallie Reneau, however, welcomed that bold new world with open arms and renewed her effort to establish a state female collegiate institution.

(23)

On April 5, 1872 the Reconstruction legislature, which for the first time in the state's history included African Americans and Republicans, established a state supported female college and named the institution in honor of Sallie Reneau. The state's second Republican governor, Ridgely C. Powers, signed the bill into law. James L. Alcorn, Mississippi's first Republican governor, and for whom Alcorn University was named, had been elevated to the United States Senate. Powers was then lieutenant governor and succeeded Alcorn as governor. (24)

The Reneau Female University of Mississippi was established at Oxford as a co-equal branch of the University of Mississippi to provide college level courses to women "on the same and equal privileges that the males have been and are now being taught." The statute named Sallie Reneau "Principal of Reneau Female University, and Vice-President of the faculty of the University of Mississippi, at Oxford." A nine member board of trustees that included James M. Howry, an original member of the University of Mississippi board of trustees, Absalom M. West, a railroad man and one of the state's most successful businessmen, Joshua S. Morris, the Republican Attorney General, Governor Ridgely C. Powers, and Sallie's father, Nathaniel S. Reneau. (25)

One of the special features of Reneau Female University was its commitment to Mississippi's increasingly important teacher corps. In 1870 Mississippi established a statewide system of public education. To staff that system with qualified and well trained teachers Sallie

Reneau proposed and the legislature agreed to provide a four year college education, including tuition, room and board, to female orphans who would agree to teach in the public schools for two years after their graduation. (26)

Again, Sallie Reneau's hopes and dreams were dashed when the legislature did not appropriate any funds to Reneau Female University. Defeated but undeterred, she again appealed to the United States Congress for a land grant to fund a Mississippi university for women.

In 1872 the state of Mississippi was funding the University of Mississippi, Alcorn University, a public university for African Americans, the State Normal School, a public coeducational teachers college for African Americans in Holly Springs, and the normal department at Tougaloo, a private co-educational college for African Americans in Jackson. White women were the only segment of Mississippi's population that did not reap the benefits of state supported higher education. (27)

After the United States Congress declined to make another land grant to Mississippi, the legislature repealed the act establishing Reneau Female University as a branch of the University of Mississippi in 1873. (28)

But Sallie Reneau would just not give up on her vision for a Mississippi University for Women, where "the indigent and the opulent" could acquire "the imperishable riches of a well cultivated mind." Apparently under the spell of her persuasive power, on February 20, 1873 the Mississippi legislature established the Reneau Female University of Mississippi at Sardis. To accomplish the goal she had first conceived in 1855 as an eighteen year old teacher in a girl's school, she enlisted the support of her long-time friends in Panola County. According to J. F. Lavender, whose reminiscences appeared in the Panola County *Southern Reporter* on February

12, 1903, he and several other prominent citizens of Sardis were anxious to have the Reneau Female University located at Sardis and agreed to help Reneau in any way they could. Lavender even located twenty acres of property that would be suitable for the college. Their machinations also included getting Nathaniel Reneau elected to the legislature, “and through his influence secure the college.” Nathaniel Reneau was not elected to the legislature, but Sallie and her Sardis allies were successful in getting the Reneau University established at Sardis in 1873. The university’s fifteen member board of trustees included Governor Powers and Nathaniel Reneau, but there was no appropriation for the institution, and the founding and funding of a Mississippi state college for women was postponed again. (29)

Reneau’s crusade for the education and elevation of women was a remarkable story and what she had long envisioned was at last achieved in 1884 with the founding of Industrial Institute and College at Columbus, largely through the efforts of Annie Coleman Peyton and Olivia Valentine Hastings. (30)

In his 1903 reminiscences J. F. Lavender recalled that Sallie Reneau was teaching in the “Stark School at Holly Springs” in 1873 when the legislature established Reneau University at Sardis. In 1877 or early 1878 “a group of civic-minded citizens” of Germantown, Tennessee, wrote to Sallie Reneau asking her to help them organize a school. Sallie went to Germantown, “where she lived in the home of Postmaster and Mrs. Miller. The school was planned, organized, pupils enrolled, and Sallie returned to her home in Mississippi in July, 1878.” (31)

During the Yellow Fever epidemic in the late summer of 1878 Sallie Reneau went back to Germantown where she organized a small band of ladies to care for those who were sick and dying from that scourge that swept across the lower Mississippi valley. On September 28, 1878

Sallie Reneau wrote to her father who was in Washington, D. C.

My dear Father, I sent you a postal card and six papers today, and I do not know that I could say more in a letter than I have said in the card and the papers. . . . I am very anxious to see frost and be rid of all this dreadful excitement. I am tired . . . It has been two months of continual fear and excitement, which is as much as human nerves can stand. . . . There have been ten thousand deaths from this disease . . . and it has scattered gloom and distress all over the land. . . . I have never felt so entirely helpless as now. Who is there to look to but God? God help us! And send us frost. . . . I am low spirited, distressed. After all, I had rather be here than at Batesville, I had rather die here. I am glad that I came. I will write again as soon as I can. Write. God bless you! Good night. Your affectionate child, S.E. Reneau. (32)

Two weeks after she wrote this letter, Sallie Eola Reneau fell victim to that dreaded disease. Her obituary in the October 20, 1878 issue of the *Memphis Daily Appeal* speaks eloquently of this truly remarkable woman:

The deceased leaves a large circle of friends throughout the Union who will mourn her loss. A woman of great mental endowments and rare intellectual attainments, she leaves her impress upon the minds and hearts of those who were favored in being her pupils, as well as upon her associates and friends. The motto of her life was "Universal love to all mankind," and like many others at this hour, she laid down her life for her neighbors and friends.

"Verily, Death loves a shining mark."

When Mississippi's United States Senator James L. Alcorn learned of Sallie Reneau's death he declared, "The State of Mississippi, at the earliest session of her legislature, should erect over her remains some monument . . . worthy of this great scholar of the state of which she was proud to be have been a daughter." (33)

ADDENDUM ONE

Sallie Eola Reneau Census Records

Sallie Eola Reneau was born circa May 21, 1837 in Somerville, Tennessee
circa 1840 she moved with her mother and father to Grenada, Mississippi
in 1854 she graduated from the Holly Springs Female Academy
in 1856 she was living and teaching in Grenada, which was then in Yalobusha County

Her father was Nathaniel Smith Reneau
who was born July 10, 1814 in Cumberland County, Ky
he died December 5, 1888 in Mexico City

Her mother was Eliza Darwin Rawlings
who was born January 27, 1819 in North Carolina
she died on January 19, 1841 at Grenada
she is buried in the Yellow Fever Cemetery

Sallie Reneau's mother and father married December 28, 1835 in Somerville, Tennessee
the family moved to Grenada prior to 1840
where Nathaniel Reneau was engaged in some kind of business enterprise
William Edward, Sallie's brother, was born in Grenada circa 1840

1850 Mississippi Census — Sallie Eola Reneau is not listed in the 1850 census

1850 Marshall County Census

Nathaniel S. Reneau is listed as a 32 year old merchant born in Kentucky
he does not appear in any other Mississippi census after 1850
but he maintained a residence in the state
in 1856 he was named trustee of the State Female College in Yalobusha County
in 1872 and 1873 he was named trustee of Reneau Female University

1850 Panola County Census

William E. Reneau is listed as a 10 year old male, born in Mississippi
living in the household of Anderson D. Patton

Anderson D. Patton is listed as a 33 year old farmer, born in South Carolina
in his household are listed
Nathaline [sp?] Patton, 29 year old female born in Virginia
and 3 male children ages 7, 4, and 1
Mrs. Patton was a sister of Edward's mother, Eliza Rawlings

1850 Panola County Slave Schedule

A. D. Patton owned 2 female slaves, 23 and 3 years old

1860 Panola County Census

A. D. Patton is listed as a 44 year old male, born in South Carolina
A. A., a 41 year old female [his wife?]
and three males 16, 14, and 11

1860 Panola County Slave Schedule

A. D. Patton is not listed as a slave owner

William Edward Reneau does not appear in the 1860 Panola County Census
but he joined a Confederate military unit in 1861 that was formed in Panola County
on his enlistment papers he was listed as a store clerk
William Edward Reneau died during the Civil War

1850 Panola County Slave Schedule

Lawson G. Taylor owned 7 slaves
a 52 year old male, a 45 year old female,
3 females 25, 23, and 22 and 2 males 6 and 3

1860 Panola County Census

Sallie Eola Reneau is listed as a 22 year old female, born in Tennessee
living in the household of Lawson G. Taylor

Lawson G. Taylor is listed as a 51 year old male, born in Virginia
in his household are listed
Augusta Taylor, a 50 year old female, born in North Carolina
Mrs. Taylor was a sister of Sallie's mother, Eliza Rawlings

1860 Panola County Slave Schedule

Lawson G. Taylor is not listed as a slave owner

Sallie Reneau does not appear in any Mississippi Census after 1860

She died on October 14, 1878 in Germantown, Tennessee during the Yellow Fever epidemic

ADDENDUM TWO

Reneau Genealogy Correction

The current edition of the Steven G. Fancy and Sue Reneau Damewood *Genealogy of the Reno/Reneau Family in America, 1600-1930* incorrectly locates Sallie Eola Reneau in Pontotoc County in 1860 in the household of Samson G. Taylor. On page 136 the authors state:

In 1860 Sallie was living with the Sampson G. Taylor family in Panola County, Miss. She is also listed on the 1860 Pontotoc County, Mississippi, census as 22, b. TN, living with the Samson G. Taylor family.

Sallie does not appear in the 1860 Pontotoc County census.

Samson G. Taylor does not appear in the 1860 Pontotoc County census.

Sampson G. Taylor does not appear in the 1860 Panola County census.

Sallie appears in the 1860 Panola County census in the household of Lawson G. Taylor.

The manuscript census is sometimes difficult to decipher, especially involving the cursive letters 'F' 'L' and 'S' because they were similar in appearance, and genealogical publications must be read with care and caution. In some Reneau genealogical records Panola County is cited as Tampa County, and in one census index Lawson G. Taylor is identified as "Louison G. Taylor."

Apparently, the "Lawson G. Taylor" family in Panola County was misconstrued and incorrectly identified as the "Sampson G. Taylor" family.

A Samuel H. Taylor was listed in the 1860 Pontotoc County census, along with Uriah Taylor and Elizabeth Taylor. All three were identified in the 1860 Slave Schedule as slave owners, but Sallie Reneau was not living in a Taylor household in Pontotoc County. Sallie was not related to the Taylors in Pontotoc County, and they are not listed in the 2007 edition of the *Reno/Reneau*

Family Genealogy.

The only Reneau household listed in the 1860 Pontotoc County census was George G. Reneau, a 46 year old male born in Alabama. In his household were a 37 year old female, two males 12 and 11, and a 5 year old female. George Reneau's 28 year old brother, Joshua B. Reneau, was also living in his household. George Reneau is included in the Fancy-Damewood genealogy, but he belonged to a different branch of the Reneau family and was but distantly related to Sallie's branch of the family.

The new online edition of the Damewood *Reno/Reneau Genealogy* is deleting the reference to Sallie Reneau's listing in the 1860 Pontotoc County census.

ADDENDUM THREE

Sallie Reneau's Letter to Governor John J. Pettus

Panola Missi., June 7th, 1861.
His Excellency John J. Pettus

Dear Sir:

The ladies of this vicinity desire to form themselves into a company of "Mississippi Nightingales" to go around to the various camps where Mississippi volunteers may be stationed to nurse the sick and wounded soldiers and to sew for those who may need it. The ladies propose to organize a company numbering twenty or twenty-five members to be armed and uniformed in suitable traveling dress trimmed with metal buttons ala militaire. The ladies think that our expenses should be defrayed as are the expenses of other soldiers - Officers and privates paid the same wages as are paid to volunteers; they also think you will make the necessary arrangements for their accommodations and have requested me to address you this letter, requesting an early reply with a full statement of the provisions you will make for them. Will the State equip, arm, and defray our expenses! I do not believe any railroad company would charge us for passage - they would give us passage free. We would want small arms - Colts Navy Repeater, or something similar - that we could carry conveniently.

I think you would be dully justifiable in fitting us out as we desire and presume you have authority to do so - but I am ignorant on that point; please enlighten us. If you cannot provide for us, please present our petition to those who can do so. We would like to have a Surgeon travel with us - some elderly married gentleman as a sort of guardian to our company. Would you defray his expenses. If you can not do so, we will try to prevail on some physician who is able to defray his own expenses to go with us. If you will provide for us as we request, we will endeavor to organize a Mississippi Volunteer Relief Association, for the State at large; and our company will constitute a traveling agent to go around to the camps to distribute among the volunteers such necessaries as the Association may furnish for them, and to nurse the sick as best we can. Will you uniform and defray the expenses of our company as for the volunteer companies.

Hoping to hear from you soon.

I am, very respectfully, Sallie Eola Reneau.

P.S. - My father and brother have gone to the war, and I am now staying with my aunt - five miles from the town of Panola.

You will please address your reply to Panola.

END NOTES

1. Mississippi House of Representatives, *Journal 1856*, p 22-23; 282-288; the House Journal is hereafter cited as *Journal* and date; see Bridget Smith Pieschel and Stephen Robert Pieschel, *Loyal Daughters: One Hundred Years at Mississippi University for Women* for a history of the founding and evolution of MUW; see page 4 for a picture of Sallie Reneau.
2. *Journal 1856*, p 22-23
3. Ibid.
4. Ibid.
5. Pieschel, *Loyal Daughters*, p 4; Sheldon Scott Kohn, *The Literary and Intellectual Impact of Mississippi's Industrial Institute and College*, [Electronic Edition] p 63; see also the biographical sketch of Reneau in the Sallie Eola Reneau Subject File in the Mississippi Department of Archives and History in Jackson. Some documents indicate that Sallie Reneau was born in August, 1836.
6. Alan Brinkley, Frank Freidel, Richard Current and T. Harry Williams, *A Survey of American History* (1991) states on page 331, "But even with all members of slaveholding families included in the figures, those owning slaves still amounted to perhaps no more than one quarter of the white population." In *Mississippi History* (1930) Charles Sydnor and Claude Bennett state on page 173, "If the families of slave owners are considered, we find that less than one-half of the white people of the state were members of slaveholding families." See also the census records cited in Addendum One; William Edward Reneau stated on his enlistment papers that he was a store clerk
7. See references to Charles Reno, Sallie's great-great grandfather, and her uncle Isaac Tipton Reneau, in Steven G. Fancy and Sue Reneau Damewood, *Genealogy of the Reno/Reneau Family in America, 1600-1930* [Electronic Edition], cited hereafter as the *Reno/Reneau Genealogy*.
8. See references to Eliza Reneau and William Edward Reneau in the *Reno/Reneau Genealogy*. In some other Reneau family genealogical records the date of their births and deaths differ slightly.
- 9 See xerox copies of census records cited in Addendum One.
10. See references in *Reno/Reneau Genealogy*; copies of census records cited in Addendum One; see also *Laws of Mississippi, 1856* p 383; *Laws 1872*, p 125; *Laws 1873*, p 442.
11. *Laws 1856*, 383-384.
12. See David G. Sansing, *Making Haste Slowly, The Troubled History of Higher Education in Mississippi* for references to various institutions receiving federal land grants.
13. Panola County Historical and Genealogical Society, *History of Panola County*, T23 and T27; for the release of N. S. Reneau see Richmond, Virginia, *The Daily Dispatch*, February 2, 1862 [Electronic Resource].
14. See Addendum Three for a transcription of Sallie Reneau's June 7, 1861 letter to Governor John J. Pettus. The original letter was located and transcribed by the Mississippi Department of Archives's renowned Civil War historian H. Grady Howell, Jr., and I wish to express my appreciation to Mr. Howell for his assistance in finding and transcribing Reneau's letter.
- 15 For Governor Pettus' refusal to import Belgium rifles see David G. Sansing and Carroll Waller, *A History of the Mississippi Governor's Mansion*, p 48.
16. John K. Bettersworth, Chapter 16, "The Home Front, 1861-1865," vol. 1, pp 492- 517, in

- Richard A. McLemore (ed.), *A History of Mississippi*; see p 517 for Reneau's letter.
17. Richard N. Current (ed.), *Encyclopedia of the Confederacy*, vol.2, p 516.
 18. Karen Zeinert, *Those Courageous Women of the Civil War*, [Electronic Edition] p 25.
 19. *Panola Star*, December 9, 1861. The files of the *Panola Star* cited here are located in the Panola County courthouse in Sardis.
 20. Ibid.
 21. See references to Berry Jordan Reneau, Isaac Tipton Reneau, and Thomas Reneau, in the *Reno/Reneau Genealogy*.
 22. *Panola Star*, April 27, 1872 and May 4, 1872.
 23. *Laws 1872*, 125-128.
 24. Ibid.
 25. Ibid.
 26. Ibid.
 27. See Sansing, *Making Haste Slowly*, for the various state supported colleges.
 28. *Laws 1873*, p 113-114.
 29. *Laws 1873*, 443-444; James T. Lavender was named to the board of trustees of the Reneau Female University at Sardis. He could have been the J. F. Lavender who wrote about founding the university in the 1903 Panola County *Southern Reporter*.
 30. See Pieschel, *Loyal Daughters* and Kohn, *The Impact of Mississippi's Industrial Institute and College*, for the founding of the Industrial Institute and College at Columbus.
 31. Information about Sallie's organizing a school at Germantown was graciously provided by Anita Reneau Daniels of Vancouver, Washington, and first appeared in the *Reneau Book of Memories Through the Years, October, 2004*.
 32. Ibid.
 33. Senator Alcorn's statement is found in a clipping from an unidentified Mississippi newspaper in the Sallie Eola Reneau Subject File in the Department of Archives.