

## **Bio: Ludlow Barris Reno**

prepared by Pamela Hutchison Garrett, 2019

*from An illustrated history of the Yellowstone Valley : embracing the counties of Park, Sweet Grass, Carbon, Yellowstone, Rosebud, Custer and Dawson, state of Montana; Western Historical Publishing (Spokane Washington); 1907. Available online through Internet Archive.*

Ludlow B Reno, attorney at law, residing at Chance Montana, is known far and near in Carbon county and other portions of the west. He is a man of great activity and energy, has been connected with many enterprises and is now giving his entire attention to the practice of his profession. Mr. Reno is distinctively a self-made man, and one too, who did not stop when the job was "half done" as the renowned Mark Twain remarks about one of his characters. When other men were resting from their labors, Mr. Reno was toiling away with his books and augmenting the training that was lacking in his educational career while a lad. To follow the path of his life will be interesting to all and with pleasure we enter into the same somewhat in detail.

In far away Beaver county, Pennsylvania, on February 26, 1842, there was born to John and Elizabeth (Barris) Reno, a son afterward named Ludlow B. John Reno was a well-to-do farmer, a native of this same Beaver county. In 1843, when Ludlow was an infant of one year, the father determined to try the west, and accordingly went to Indiana, that being well out west in those days. Eleven years were spent there in pioneer work, opening up a farm and so forth. Then he came on with the ever advancing tide of the restless American people, to Iowa where he settled down, occupying himself with farming and stock-raising until the time of his death. John Reno was a direct descendant of the original Reno family that came to America in the early colonial days from France and settled in Pennsylvania. Our subject's mother was born in Pittsburg Pennsylvania, descending from an old family. Her mother's maiden name was Fumbell and the Fumbell family was also early settlers in the colonies from France.

In the woods of Indiana there was little opportunity to gain an education and Ludlow being a very strong and active boy he was well occupied in the arduous labors of assisting his father on the farm. He was about twelve when he came to Iowa with the family and there, too, little opportunity presented itself for him to secure training from the schools, and the fact of the matter is that Mr. Reno attended school but one term in all his life. But, that could in no way quell the desire in him to study. How he learned to read, he does not remember, but learn he did and then woe to the book that came within his grasp, for it was devoured and thus by poring over volumes that he could secure, he stored his mind with the necessary knowledge to fire his heart for more. But education consists in knowing things and, as well, and sometimes more important, in knowing how to use the knowledge that has been gained. Here is where Mr. Reno manifested the real wisdom of his nature, for he was enabled to so put to use the knowledge that he gained that he always was using it for its full worth. What a precious faculty this is if only understood by those who Wave watched the workings of such wisdom. Many a man has been put through the universities by fond parents, polished, too, with all that skilled professors could do, but who showed himself utterly helpless when called upon to use the knowledge that he had acquired, and because of this lack of wisdom to know how much to apply his store of accumulation he has made a failure. Many such are to be found on every hand, and so it is that the self-made man is always in the lead. He has had a hard time to get the store of knowledge and that has wrought in him a skill to use what he has until the better part of the man's education after all, namely, the power to wisely utilize what he has. [It] is much more developed and augmented than it is in the man who has had lavished on him all the advantages of the higher institutions. It is of worth to remember that when the immortal Lincoln addressed the gathering at Gettysburg, after the renowned orator, Wendell Phillips, had

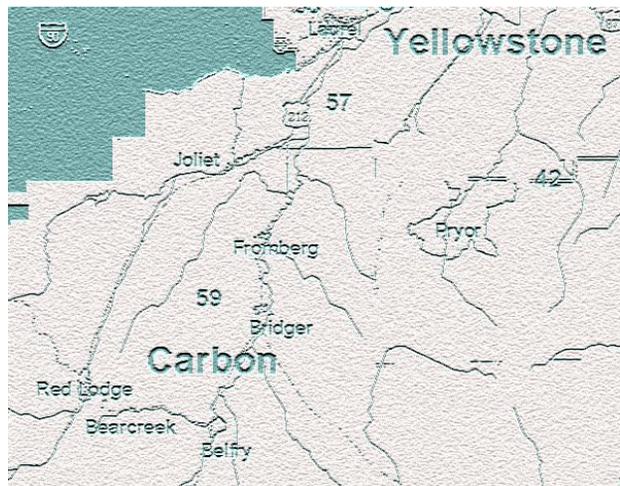
pronounced the classic his great skill had prepared for the occasion, he so far outdid the work of Phillips that the latter remarked, he would trade his life work for the ability to make one such speech. Wendell Phillips was a master orator, but he had never split rails and that was the key to the situation.

This gives a little illustration of the thought we desire to bring out in connection with the life of Mr. Reno. He is self-made, [and has] perfected to a great degree the wisdom of knowing how to use the knowledge he gained over the midnight oil. When the dark clouds of fratricidal strife rent the nation and the call came for troops to stem the awful devastation, Mr. Reno, then nineteen years of age, responded quickly and was numbered in the Third Iowa Cavalry, Company E. He went in as private and was in command of a company at the time of his honorable discharge, although his commission had not yet been issued. Here, again, we see the manner of man, for, not as many who fought a battle and then quit,- Mr. Reno remained until the work was done for which the awful war was waged, and then he laid aside the implements of death that he might give his hand to assist in the rebuilding of the nation that had so sadly suffered. His regiment had been in some severe work, as on Wilson's raid and other equally hard, it being a part of the Sixteenth Corps.



From the soldier's camp Mr. Reno went to his Iowa home and soon removed to Saunders county, Nebraska, and engaged in farming. He took up the study of law while engaged in farming and pressed his studies so that in due time he was admitted to the bar. However, he had allowed his name to be placed on the Democratic ticket for sheriff of that county and he was promptly elected. So well did he discharge the duties incumbent on him that he was called upon to serve a second term. This completed he entered the practice of law until 1876, the year when the great rush poured into the famous Black Hills country. Mr. Reno was a man of aggressiveness and the spirit of the west took possession of him and he soon was among the voyageurs that sought the golden sands of that favored region. He was among the first ones in the Hills and his experiences there were fraught with many exciting occurrences. Judge Reno, as he [began] to be familiarly known, was a prominent figure in Custer county, where he remained until 1895, when he again came "west," this time to locate in Red Lodge, where he was elected prosecuting attorney the next year. Two terms he served in that office and then he transferred his residence to Chance where we find him at the present time, engaged in the practice of law. Mr. Reno is a great favorite with the younger people, especially, as he takes a great interest in providing things for their education and advancement and, under his fostering care, he has conducted a lyceum for debates and so forth and the result is that many a one has been brought out to stir up the talent in him by this means that might have slumbered on.

On November 16, 1865, Mr. Reno married Miss Lucinda Stansberry a native of Indiana and the daughter of John and Esther (Rice) Stansberry. Her parents were born in New York. To Mr. and Mrs. Reno three children have been born, namely: William A Reno, a rancher in Carbon county; Bertha Reno, wife of Joseph Pitt ; and Walter Reno, a rancher in Carbon county. Mrs. Reno is postmistress at Chance and also conducts a mercantile establishment.



Reno is a Democrat and has always been a wheel horse in the campaigns. He is a well known speaker of ability and his services are greatly in demand on all occasions. Especially is he forceful and convincing in political work and his pleas at the bar are listened to with interest by all. 'Sir' Reno is distinctively a man of practical ideas and he has always been a person with the courage of his convictions. He has passed three score years in the activities of life, but he is still hale and hearty, genial as ever, well liked by all and a man whose career shows many points both of interest and commendation.

Do you want to know more?

[Link to Ludlow Barris Reno in the database](#)

Further Reading:

Cavalrymen of the Third Iowa: Enoch Hunter and the Third Iowa Cavalry 1861-1865; David G Hunter, 2014; available through amazon.com.

Voicing the Dead: A Poetic History of Early Day Carbon County Montana; Steve Robbins.

**Bio of Ludlow Barris Reno compiled by Pamela Hutchison Garrett for the Family Stories website; 2019.**