

Relations

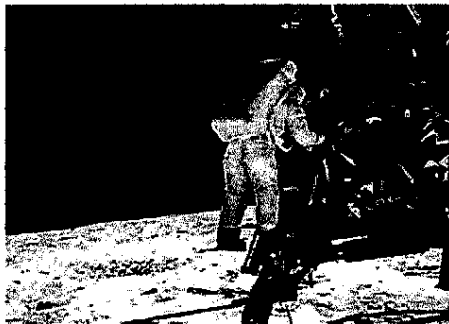
...sharing and preserving our heritage for generations to come

The Rudisill Family Foundation is a member of the American Association for State and Local History.

Newsletter of the Rudisill Family Foundation, Inc.

www.rudisillfoundation.org

No.21, August, 2019



One Small Step for Man

Founder's Corner

By H. Clifford Rudisill
Reflections and Historic

Perspectives: Causes for Gratitude

This year's Rudisill Family Reunion will focus on the historic Apollo 11 landing on the moon 50 years ago on July 20, 1969. Highlights will be a private tour of a special exhibition at the Houston Museum of Natural Science, a private 90-minute Tram Tour of Space Center Houston (and the newly restored Mission Control Room), and visits to other historic places.

We will pay homage to Ida Rudisill who in 1907 began what has become one of the largest and most important hospitals in the Texas Medical Center.

And, we will form new friendships with cousins along the way. We hope you will be among them! Just complete and return the enclosed Registration Form before **September 20**.

Our first edition of Relations was in the fall of 2003. Since then, we have shared family histories only available in articles such as "A Nostalgic Trip Back Home" by Elizabeth Smith. Herein also is a special tribute to Edward (Ted) Lee Rudisill, compiler of "The Rudisill Genealogy" and our family patriarch who deserves our gratitude not

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A Tribute to Our Patriarch: Edward (Ted) Lee Rudisill

By H. Clifford Rudisill

The prodigious and seminal book, *The Rudisill Genealogy* (1995), has given to present and future generations of the Rudisill family in America an invaluable perspective on our ancestors, not only here but also in Switzerland. It was a true labor of love, really of one man, Edward Lee Rudisill. Many others contributed to it, and most notable was Pastor Frederick S. Weiser (see *Relations* #8 Dec. 2008; #9 Spring 2009; #11 Nov. 2010; and #15 Dec. 2014) who furnished the missing links to Hans Rudishuli (1643-1723), our Swiss progenitor whose descendants emigrated to America in the 1700s with the Palatine Migration. Ted's important tome



documents some 40 variations in the spelling of our unique family name!

In the "Foreword" to his book, Ted writes:

"Like many in the family, I was raised with very little knowledge of the background of my Rudisill ancestors...my father did tell me the names of his grandfather and great-grandfather and their location in Illinois... On a trip to Morgan County, Illinois, I was able to find the location of the old family farm and the grave of my great-great-grandfather, Daniel H Rudisill. Daniel was born in 1799 in Pennsylvania... and I learned that he had walked from Ross County, Ohio, to Illinois... On a trip to New York City, I visited the City Library and found Laban Miles Hoffman's book, "Our Kin." Hoffman traced the early North Carolina Rudisill families back to Pennsylvania... Then, I joined the New York Genealogical Society... and learned that early Pennsylvania church records had been transcribed by Pastor Frederick S. Weiser, Archivist of the Pennsylvania Lutheran Church.

"In 1980, I visited Pastor Weiser; and, lucky for the Rudisill family, I learned that Fred was a direct descendant of Philip Heinrich Rudisill... and that he had done considerable research on the history of the family in America, Germany and Switzerland...It was Fred who suggested that I write a book combining our research... I am glad for his suggestion because it has given me a most rewarding avocation. It's brought me the acquaintance of hundreds of the family, an awareness of our history, and a chance to document a real American pioneer family."

Ted was born on September 20, 1923, in San Diego, CA. His father was Richard Erle Rudisill and his mother was Edwina Marie Rodgers Rudisill.

He attended elementary through high school in San Diego. He earned a BS in Electrical Engineering from Carnegie Institute of Technology in

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Founder's Corner

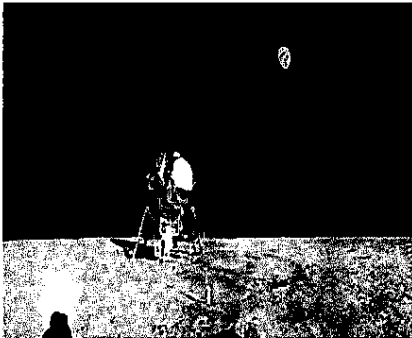
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only for introducing us to all our American cousins but also to our Swiss ancestors, especially Hans Rudisuli, our common ancestor. Thank you Ted!

And thanks to all our cousins who have financially and otherwise supported the RFF over these 16 years. We trust you have been entertained and informed. Now consider joining our Board and helping the extended Rudisill family in this way. Please email me hcrudisill@yahoo.com or call me at 713-782-3215.

And please join us for this year's family reunion. The Houston weather is pleasant in October, and this is a unique opportunity for you to experience firsthand an important moment in our nation's history.

Your cousin,
Clifford Rudisill



Earth from the moon

Please return your Rudisill Family Reunion REGISTRATION FORM quickly! You don't want to miss this chance to visit the restored Apollo 11 mission control room. Nor miss the visit to see that the work Ida Rudisill began for the ill and infirm has been carried forward for more than a century into a vast hospital complex. The entire reunion will be fun and informative. JOIN US!

Annual Dues

We depend on your modest annual donation of \$10 to cover our expenses to produce these newsletters. Please help!

A Nostalgic Trip Back Home

By Elizabeth McCary Smith

There comes a time in each of our lives when it seems appropriate to make one last trip "down memory lane," and, perhaps, to share that trip with a relative. My cousin, Clifford Rudisill, had expressed an interest to visit the gravesite of my maternal great-grandfather, Emanuel Rudasill, and to visit other places in Northeast Texas where I had spent my early years.

Cliff and I first met at a Charlotte Rudisill reunion where we happened to sit next to one another at a dinner. During our conversation, I realized that I had a letter that his father had written to my mother in the 1920s. Cliff's father had a sister named Sybil; my mother's name was Sibyl. Somehow these two Sybils/Sibyls met and Cliff's father wanted to make contact with my mother. I gave that letter to Cliff, and he cherishes it because it illustrates a side of his father that he never knew.

I flew from San Antonio where I live to Houston where I spent the night at Cliff's home. The next morning, we drove to Nacogdoches and had lunch at the Fredonia Hotel (named for the first rebellion in Texas's fight for independence from Mexico). Cliff showed me the gravesites of his grandparents and two aunts, and we visited his first cousins, Johnny and Jean Rudisill. We spent the night in his grandparent's historic 1892 home he renovated after inheriting it from his Aunt Elmina in 1996.

Kilgore, where I grew up and attended what was then called Kilgore Junior College, was our first stop the next day. I narrated a tour of the town that included my old home. Then, we drove on to Mineola, the home of my paternal grandparents and aunts, and I pointed out those landmarks and gravesites.

Continuing our trip to Sherman, we arrived in time to tour West Hill Cemetery. We found the graves of my great-great grandparents, Ephraim Carpenter (1812-1924) and Dicey Clements (1818-1898). Their daughter, Permalla (1842-1925), married Emanuel Rudasill (1845-1924). Emanuel's gravestone marks the large Rudasill plot that includes his children: Samuel Ephraim (1873-1947), Pearl Milford (1876-1922), and William Stowe (1871-1945) who married Louisa Isophenia McClendon (1877-1966), who were my maternal grandparents. Their twins, Earnia and Louie, were born in 1878 and died when they were just 2 months old. We found the gravesites of my parents, Oscar Pinkney McCary (1891-1960) and Wilhelmina Sibyl Rudasill (1900-1982); my husband, Thomas Carson Smith (1928-1995); my mother's sister, Thyra Rudasill (1905-1999) and her husband, Edward Reed Bane, Sr. (1895-1985), and their son, Edward Reed Bane, Jr. (1932-1954). I inherited this large Rudasill cemetery plot from my mother. At day's end we visited Austin College where my mother was the very first female to register: She graduated Suma Cum Laude! The next day we returned to Houston and I flew back to San Antonio. It was a memorable trip "down memory lane."

A Tribute to Our Patriarch:

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Pittsburgh and earned an MBA in Finance from USC. He began his career in Marketing and Sales with General Electric but worked for most of his career with IBM. He had one brother, Richard Erle Rudisill, Jr. born in 1921 (See Relations #12, Dec. 2012) Richard attended the US Naval Academy and became a Commander in the Navy. He had four children. His son, Richard ("Rudi") Erle Rudisill III, helped Ted with his Rudisill Association work until his untimely death in 2015 (See Relations #16, Dec. 2015)

Accolades, Ted, for all your good works! Your books are in most public libraries, and we, your extended family, are so proud to call you our cousin! You have shown us who our ancestors were and where they came from. By knowing that, we have come more fully to know ourselves, and we are so very grateful. Well done, cousin! (A paperback copy of Ted's book can be purchased from Olde Springfield Shoppe, 10 West Main Street, Elverson, PA 19520-0171.)

Rudisill Family Foundation
Family Reunion in Houston, Texas
October 17-20, 2019
ITINERARY and REGISTRATION FORM

Thursday, October 17

Check in: Best Western Plus Downtown Inn and Suites, 935 West Dallas, Houston 77019
713-571-7733 bwdowntown.com

Please make your own motel reservation *before* their **September 20 deadline** to get our special rate for the Rudisill Family Reunion: 3 nights @ \$135 + tax, including full breakfast.

6:00 WELCOMING RECEPTION (Wine and Cheese): Cliff Rudisill's home, 1204 Joe Annie Street
(about 12 blocks from Best Western). Ask BW for possible one-way shuttle service to Cliff's home.

7:30 Two-course Dinner, VINCENT'S (2817 W. Dallas): \$38 (includes tax & tip; not beverage) \$ _____

Entrée (Please indicate your choice):

Pasta Julia: fettuccine, rotisserie chicken, spinach, mushrooms, marinara sauce _____

Mezzaluna: pasta filled with rotisserie chicken, ricotta and parmigiano, pomodoro cream _____

Eggplant: layered with pomodoro sauce and goat cheese, served with penne pomodoro _____

Dessert: Make your choice from their dessert tray.

(Note: Transportation back to BW is by your own arrangement: city bus, taxi, or private car.)

Friday, October 18

8:15 Private bus leaves Best Western. (Please be ready to board at 8:00.)

8:45 Arrive HOUSTON MUSEUM of NATURAL SCIENCE (5555 Hermann Park Dr.) \$25 p.p. \$ _____

9:00 Meet guide for private tour and talk: "The Moon Landing Exhibit"

10:00 Choose: Movie on Giant Screen Theatre or Planetarium Dome; or tour Museum on your own.

11:15 Bus leaves Museum for drive to the Texas Medical Center and a stop at MEMORIAL HERMANN HOSPITAL (6410 Fannin) to visit the exhibition honoring IDA RUDISILL who founded the Rudisill Sanitarium in 1903 and then sold it in 1907 to the Baptist Church, thus becoming the 1st Baptist Hospital in Texas and 2nd Baptist Hospital in the Nation. She was Superintendent of Nursing until retiring in 1912, and she designed the nurses' cap on display: It was used until 1938. (See *Relations*, #13, December 2012)

12:00 Bus leaves Hospital for RICE UNIVERSITY (6100 Main). Campus walk. **Lunch on your own.** (Options given.) After lunch, meet in Lobby of the Shepherd School of Music (See their Opera House, nearing completion.) We will board our bus in the parking lot near the Music Building.

1:45 Bus leaves Rice for the CLAYTON GENEALOGICAL LIBRARY (5300 Caroline). Orientation and time for personal research. [OR visit the nearby Holocaust Museum on your own: \$10 p.p.]

3:15 Bus leaves Clayton Library for driving tour of downtown Houston.

4:00 Bus returns to Best Western.

Dinner on your own. Free time to rest & choose an evening entertainment.

One option is to attend the Opening Night at Houston Grand Opera: "Rigoletto" by Verdi: \$45 p.p.* \$ _____

Arrive at Wortham Theatre (500 Texas Ave) no later than 7:00. Performance begins promptly at 7:30. (15-minute taxi ride from BW.) A buffet dinner is served in the Wortham lobby from 5:30.

*Tickets must be reserved with this Registration Form. They will be given out at the Reception.

Saturday, October 19

8:00 Bus leaves BW. (Please be ready to board at 7:45.) Drive thru the petroleum industrial complex.

9:00 SAN JACINTO MONUMENT & Battleground (Independence Pkwy, La Porte) \$10 p.p. \$ _____

Tour Museum on ground floor. Take elevator (limit 6 people) to Observation Deck (567 ft high).

10:00 See movie: "Texas Forever: The Battle of San Jacinto." (April 21, 1836: Texas Independence Day)

10:45 Bus departs Monument and drives by The Battleship Texas.

11:30 Arrive SPACE CENTER HOUSTON (1601 NASA Parkway, Houston)

Board "Private Tram Experience," (90-minute private tour) @ \$50 p.p. \$ _____

1:15 Bus departs for trip to Galveston.

Enjoy a Box Lunch during our trip:

Choose sandwich: Ham ___ Turkey ___ Chicken Salad ___ ; on White ___ Wheat ___

Choose cookie: Chocolate chip ___ cranberry walnut ___ white chocolate macadamia nut ___

(Potato chips, bottled water, tax and tip are included with box lunch.) \$11.00 p.p. \$ _____

2:00 Arrive BRYAN MUSEUM of TX History (1315 21 St, Galveston). Self-guided tour. \$ 12 p.p. \$ _____

3:30 Bus leaves for a drive along the Sea Wall and Broadway to the Strand.

4:00 Visit 1877 "Elissa" Tall Ship (2200 Harborside) Self-guided Tour/Audio Guide. \$ 10 p.p. \$ _____

5:00 Free time to stroll along The Strand.

5:45 Meet at Fisherman's Wharf Restaurant for 3-course Farewell Dinner @ \$43 inclusive*\$ _____

Choose: Gumbo ___ Wharf Salad ___ Caesar Salad ___

Choose: Fish Pontchartrain with wine sauce & crawfish tails, mushrooms & onions over rice _____

10 Fried Shrimp served with French fries _____

Grilled Chicken in white-wine butter sauce and sautéed new potatoes _____

Shrimp or Chicken Fettuccine with Alfredo sauce, tomatoes, mushrooms & onions _____

Crab Stuffed Tilapia with grilled shrimp, baked in a lobster cream, served with spinach _____

Choose: Root Beer Bread Pudding ___ Pecan Pie ___ Key Lime Pie ___ Apple Pie ___

*Pre-Fixe Dinner includes tea, coffee & soft drinks. Wine/cocktails may be purchased independently.

7:15 Bus leaves for return trip to Houston

8:00 Bus arrives Best Western. Evening on your own.

[Contact Information on cousins attending the Reunion will be given out at the Welcoming Reception.]

Private Bus charge for our two days \$75 p.p \$ _____

Total for 2019 Family Reunion \$ _____

Sunday, **October 20.**

Best Western: Check-out after breakfast. Safe travels home!

*PLEASE COMPLETE THIS REGISTRATION FORM, INCLUDE YOUR CHECK MADE PAYABLE TO THE RUDISILL FAMILY FOUNDATION), AND MAIL IT BEFORE **September 27** TO:*

Clifford Rudisill, 1204 Joe Annie St, Houston, TX 77019. Make a copy for your records.

THANK YOU!

Return Service Requested

1204 Joe Annie
Houston, TX 77019

