



Relations

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

Quarterly Newsletter

Premier Issue, Fall 2003

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

Founder's Note:

Let Us Begin!

Welcome to the premier edition of *Relations*, a newsletter published quarterly by the **Rudisill Family Foundation** for all Rudisill family members in the United States who want to share their own family history with the extended family and believe in the importance of preserving it for future generations.

The RFF and its mission has come into being over several years of my thinking about the legacy I have been fortunate to inherit and wondering how to preserve it and to share it with our extended family. My father died in 1971, my mother died in 1996, my sister died in 2001. All my immediate relatives are gone except for one first cousin. I have always loved history: I majored in history in college. I have always loved my family and every cousin I have met in our extended family. Our family name is unique: the evolution of its many variations in spelling is unique. The early history of our family in Switzerland surely gives each of us a real sense of pride in their perseverance and determination to succeed and to contribute to improving the quality of life for future generations. Even today we continue to discover new information about the family, going back before the 1600's when the Lutheran Church began to keep family records. [An article in a future issue of *Relations* will discuss the possibility of a name variation and the tracing of a branch of the family who lived before our ancestors in Sax.]

My most precious legacy is the house that my grandfather (for whom I am named) purchased in the early 1900's. It was designed by a famous German architect, Diedrich Rulfs, who came to Nacogdoches, Texas, in the 1880's. Nacogdoches is called "the oldest town in Texas," and it has a history as unique as its Indian name. It was a prosperous city located in the Piney

Continued on page 2

What is the RFF?

In another article you have read about how the RFF has come about. But what is its purpose? Why have it? Whom is it for? How will it work?

After several years of legal research and investigation, the RFF was incorporated in July, 1998, in Texas as a nonprofit "private operating foundation" for charitable and educational purposes, and in March 2000 it qualified as an exempt organization from federal income tax under Section 501.c.3: "Donors may deduct contributions to the extent that their contributions are gifts."

The purpose of the Foundation as stated in our Bylaws are:

1. To preserve and perpetuate the memory and history of the extended Rudisill family in the United States.
2. To establish, operate and maintain a museum for the above purposes.
3. To collect, preserve and own such records, books, manuscripts, maps, portraits, artifacts, furniture, letters and

Continued on page 2

Meet Your Directors

While our Bylaws do not mandate that our directors be "Rudisills," it is a prerequisite to be an officer and there must be a majority of Rudisills on the Board. There are a few openings, so let any of the Directors know if you are interested. We are fortunate to have the following cousins as our current Directors.

**ELIZABETH JOYCE MCINTYRE
RUDISILL**

Charlotte, North Carolina

Joyce was born in North Carolina and except for the two years that her husband was a Lieutenant in the Army Signal Corps in New Jersey, she has lived in her Home State. Her husband, Jacob (Jake) Andrew Rudisill, Jr., died in 1990. He was the grandson of Melville Lafayette Rudisill and the great grandson of Emanuel Rudisill. Since Jake was the only grandson in his direct line, he was encouraged to stay close with his relatives, and he would be pleased to know that his family held their 98th

Continued on page 4



Rudisill Cousins at the 1998 Reunion in Lenox, Mass.

Let Us Begin From page 1

Woods of East Texas, with fertile lands and vast timberland but, alas, not oil, which came into importance long after the town's founding in the early 1700's. Rulfs designed the most important homes in Nacogdoches, most of which no longer exist and very few in their original location. Were it not for the unforeseen circumstances through which I inherited my grandparent's house, it most probably would have been sold and moved or perhaps even torn down, as North Street which once was "Banker's Row" has become mostly commercial, catering to the fast food tastes of the college students who represent 50% of the town's 30,000 population. I am grateful for having lived when I have so I could know my relatives who lived in this house; I am grateful for having been named for my grandfather, who lived and died there. For me the house has a very special "spirit," a patina that my grandparents and aunts and uncles and parents and sister and cousins have given to it. I greatly regret that I do not have children. Yet not having them has been a factor in my saving this place from an uncertain future; in a sense the house has become my "baby." I feel a keen sense of place there and a responsibility to be its caretaker along my life's journey, to restore it and to preserve it, to share it with you and future generations of Rudisills.

My grandfather unfortunately died when I was only 10 months old. Although I do not remember him, I cannot count the number of times I accompanied my grandmother to the cemetery to put flowers on his grave; or listened to stories about him, his family, childhood, siblings; or looked at pictures of him and realizing that the older I am the more I favor him. Two of my most precious possessions were his: the silver pocket watch that he used in his work at the railroad station, and his Webster's spelling book from his early childhood in Gaston County, N.C. (and even signed by him). Another special "possession" is my Aunt Elmina's silver cup with the inscription "To Elmina from Grandmother," which must date from the early 1900's. How very emotional it was for me to discover, with the help of Cousin Joyce, the gravestone of my great grandmother and to learn that her name was Susan Elmina, thus filling the gap to know why my aunt's grandmother would give her such a gift.

Isn't this what family history is all

about: To discover the love that has been passed down to us, to discover who we are, and to preserve our history and the memorabilia that tell these stories, for all of our Rudisill cousins who come after us.

I am now a year older than my father when he died and just a few years younger than my grandfather when he died. It is time for me to focus on my mission to complete the restoration of this special house and to give all that I have in time, talent, energy and gifts (especially the 1896 house) to you through the **Rudisill Family Foundation**. I know you understand my vision and my sense of responsibility. Each of us has a special story and special possessions handed down to us which tell a story. Each of us has a responsibility to honor those loved ones, to share their lives with our other cousins, and to preserve our legacy for future generations. Let us join together, for in doing so we can accomplish much more than alone. Let us begin!

What is the RFF? From page 1

other materials as may be deemed worthy of a place in the Foundation's archives and museum.

4. To encourage historical research into the records and other materials of the Rudisill family, as well as local history (the City and County of Nacogdoches, Texas).
5. To promote sponsor, contribute funds to, and encourage the preservation of historical records, sites and documents.
6. To preserve and maintain residences and other buildings of historical significance compatible with the above purposes.

The Bylaws provide for a Board of Directors and Officers who must meet once a year at the 1896 House and this would usually occur at the Foundation's annual meeting. The complete Bylaws and annual tax returns are of public record and available for anyone's inspection.

This Foundation is for all Rudisills. The 1896 House and its restoration and the legal and accounting framework are my gifts to you. In every sense, the Foundation is YOUR Foundation! And this requires your contributions of family articles that should be preserved; of donations to build an endowment to cover the expenses of operating the Foundation and of maintaining the House; and it requires your active participation by working on a committee, submitting interesting stories about your Rudisill relatives for *Relations*,

becoming a Director, or helping with your talents for any of the Foundation's purposes. In the long term, we will need a curator and eventually a staff. In the near term, I will volunteer my time to supervise the operations and to lead the Board in the Foundation's management. I have left my entire estate to the Foundation, and I expect to be working full time for the Foundation beginning sometime next year.

Because it will take time to build an endowment, the Foundation will need to generate income. I believe the House itself can generate income in several ways. The Bylaws were written to include preserving the history of the County and City of Nacogdoches because it is an historical area and there are several organizations which could benefit from sharing some space in the House for their meetings and fund raisers, for which they would contribute to the RFF. The historical significance and charm of the House could be utilized by renting up to half of the space of the house to a third party to operate a small B&B. There are two bedrooms (and perhaps a third) on the main floor that will be "up scale" and attractive to visitors to the City (and especially to the university) who will not find this style of accommodation elsewhere. The House also lends itself to private functions (receptions, meetings, lecture and concert series). Eventually the Foundation will need all of the space for genealogical and other Family research, exhibitions of letters, clothing, furniture, etc., as an integral part of our Family museum. And we will need space for storage and lodging for our own needs, such as visiting relatives, speakers, advisors, and foremost for a resident curator. The latter is a prime reason to renovate the House's large attic, and I already have an architect's plan for the second floor. There will be more details about this in a future issue of *Relations*.

The purposes and goals of the Foundation may be summarized by our Mission Statement printed on the heading of *Relations*: sharing and preserving our heritage for generations to come.

Future Articles in *Relations*:

- The Riedesels of Eisenbach: Our Kin?
- The Rudisill Gold Mine in Charlotte
- 1896 House Restoration Report
- Setting the date for the 2004 Annual Meeting of the RFF
- And more! Send us your article!

Your Directors From page 1

reunion in 2003. Now Joyce maintains close ties with her Rudisill relatives, both immediate and extended. She participated in the Rudisill trip to Sax, Switzerland, in the spring of 1995 and attended the first national Rudisill reunion in Lenox, MA, in 1998. Joyce continues to be actively involved in the family business in Charlotte, is on the Board of Trustees of Meredith College (Raleigh) where she earned a BA degree, and is the proud mother of her highly educated four children: Joyce Rudisill Donahoe (DVM, PhD), William Andrew Rudisill (BSEE, MSEE, MBA), Jacob Melville Rudisill (BSME, MSME), and John Fred Rudisill (BA, JD). Joyce has eight loving grandchildren.

SHERRY LUCY RUDISILL JOHNSON **Flower Mound, Texas**

Sherry was born in Alexandria, LA, grew up in Natchez, MS, and graduated from the University of North Texas (Denton) with a BA (Cum Laude) in Administrative Management. She worked for many years as a Software Consultant in Dallas, Chicago and Europe. She recently began a career in real estate, which allows her to spend more time with her son, Kenneth Jay Owens, and her two grandsons. Sherry's father was Irland John Rudisill; her grandfather was John Rudisill of Hemphill, LA; and her great grandfather was the Rev'd Joseph W. Rudisill of Pitkin, LA. Sherry has a Nacogdoches connection: Her father's uncle, Franklin Rudisill, lived and raised nine children there, three of whom remain. Sherry is a strong proponent of preserving family history for the benefit of future generations.

ELIZABETH (BETH) LINEBERRY RUDISILL

Bessemer City, North Carolina

Beth is one of the few and may be our only Rudisill cousin who is a Rudisill by birthright and by marriage! Her father was Robert L. Lineberry and her grandparents were Walter and Julia Rudisill Ford. (Julia's brother was Henry Clifford Rudisill who was the grandfather of Henry Clifford Rudisill, II (Cliff), the Founder of the RFF. The elder Clifford Rudisill was the only one of his siblings and one of the few Rudisills of Gaston County to leave North Carolina. Beth and Cliff have the same great-grandparents: Jacob and Susan Elmina Rhyne Rudisill.) Beth was born and grew up on a farm in Gaston County, NC, between Cherryville and Bessemer City.

After high school she graduated from Rhyne College (Hickory), receiving her BA degree with a major in Mathematics. Since her mother and all her aunts were teachers, it was assumed that Beth would teach as well. But she was a banker for 30 years, retiring in 1999, allowing her to spend more time with her two young grandchildren. Beth married Henry Phillip Rudisill in 1968. They have two sons: Matt and Chris. Chris attended college in Houston, which afforded Beth and Henry the opportunity to visit her great uncle's home in Nacogdoches en route to visiting their son. "I could visualize my great uncle Clifford and his family living there, drinking lemonade on the big wraparound porch on a hot summer's day." This close relationship gives Beth a special empathy for the 1896 house and its restoration as the headquarters of the RFF.

ALVIN E. RUDISILL, Secretary-Treasurer **Ypsilanti, Michigan**

Al was born in North Dakota, son of Alvin Edward Rudisill and Marion Helen Junkin Rudisill. He grew up in Minnesota and graduated from Minnesota State University, the University of North Dakota, and the University of Northern Colorado where he was awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy in Education. Al's professional career was in higher education: he was a college professor and later college president. Since his retirement, Al has been active as a consultant to nonprofit companies and has started four private businesses. He also has been active with many professional associations and has held offices in several, including president of the National Association of Industrial and International Technology Education Association. He has been honored with leadership awards by several universities and professional organizations. Al's contributions to the RFF are numerous: he has designed our web site and has advised us on our donor categories. Thank you, Dr. Rudisill!

JOHN (Johnny) JACOB RUDISILL, JR., **Vice President** **Nacogdoches, Texas**

Johnny's parents were John Jacob Rudisill and Frances Cariker Rudisill. He was born and grew up in Nacogdoches, and throughout his childhood lived in a house on the original grounds of his grandparents. "You might say I grew up at Papa and Mama Rudy's back door." Johnny graduated from Nacogdoches High School and earned a BA in Business

Administration from Baylor University (Waco). Except for two years in the U.S. Air Force, achieving the rank of First Lieutenant, Johnny's business career has been in Nacogdoches, where he was Vice President of Sales and Credit at Texas Farm Products. He and his wife, the former Jean Jeton whom he met in college, celebrated their 50th wedding anniversary in August, 2002. They have two children: John Richard (Dick) Rudisill (BA, Texas A&M) who is president of an energy company in Nacogdoches, and Lisa Jean Rudisill Mize (BA and PhD, Baylor), who is a Professor and Chairperson of Early Childhood Development at Stephen F. Austin University. Johnny and Jean have four grandchildren ranging in age from first grade to college. Johnny is very active in his church and enjoys being a gentleman farmer, preserving the farm begun by his father who was a prominent banker and civic leader in Nacogdoches. Johnny is Cliff Rudisill's first cousin and closest living relative.

HENRY CLIFFORD (Cliff) RUDISILL, II **Founder and President** **Lenox, MA; Houston and Nacogdoches,** **Texas**

Cliff's parents were Paul Lester Rudisill and Dorothy Lucile Berry Guthrey Rudisill. His grandparents were Henry Clifford Rudisill of Cherryville, NC and the former Mary Lenora Lively of Chamblee, GA. He is descended from Johan Jakob Rudisill [Rudisili] who was born in Michelfeld, Germany/Switzerland, migrated to Philadelphia from Rotterdam in 1729 and died in York County, PA in 1787. His son, Johan Philip Rudisill, migrated to Mecklenburg County, NC, in which vicinity his descendants have lived for seven generations. Cliff was born in Houston and attended public schools there until his sophomore year in high school when his family sent him to Woodberry Forest School in Orange, Virginia., graduating in 1957. He returned to Houston and attended Rice University, earning a BA (Dean's List) with a dual major (History and Romance Languages) in 1961. He attended Mexico City College that summer and returned to Virginia that fall, having accepted a position to teach Spanish and French at his alma mater. The next year he entered the University of Texas School of Law and was awarded the degree of Doctor of Jurisprudence in 1965. He then went to Phoenix, AZ, to attend the American Institute of Foreign Trade, graduating the

Continued on page 6

Restoration of the 1896 House

Restoration of an historic house is exciting, daunting, stressful, expensive, and rewarding!

This unique Queen Anne Victorian house was built in 1896 for Laura Blount as a wedding present from her parents, who were one of the most prominent families in Nacogdoches at the time. It is apparent that the house was designed to be expanded with a second floor for a growing family because of its large center hall and mammoth attic. But the house was never expanded because Laura Blount, it is told, died in childbirth, and the house was sold. It had a few owners before it was purchased by my grandparents, soon after they migrated to Texas from North Carolina, probably between 1905 and 1920 when the city began keeping property records and recording deeds. They had five children; my father was the youngest. My grandfather died in 1938 and my grandmother in 1962. In the early 1980's my last relative to live in the house, my Aunt Elmina, decided to move to Lenox and live with me in my Inn, which she did for ten years. For another two years she lived in a nearby nursing home where she died in 1996. At that time I inherited the house through her will, which she wrote in Nacogdoches before moving to New England. From the time my aunt left Texas until this year, the house was rented to college students.

The house has a distinctive, large central Mansard roof, fishscale shingles, Eastlake ornamentation and round, arched windows with stained glass which decorate the several roof gables. A large porch surrounds the front and south side of the house; porch gables repeat the Eastlake "gingerbread." [Some of this detail has been incorporated into our Foundation logo.] Triple-hung windows open onto the porch from the front hall, living room and dining room. There are four fireplaces and a center hall that is 66' long and 7-1/2' wide. The ceilings are 12'; some of the doors are 9' and all are solid mahogany. The two bathrooms that my grandfather added to the house have been removed and those spaces have been restored: the back of the center hall and the front bedroom (one bath had been installed partially through the fireplace, which is being repaired). Several years ago a new roof was installed. Recently the front porch has been repaired: a new floor installed according to the original, very complicated design, the

"gingerbread" on the porch and on the gables was restored, and new porch stairs were built according to the original design. Last year the exterior of the house was painted using the original colors of ivory on the walls, white on the decoration, and a gray-blue on the shingles in the gables, matching the stain on the porch floor. The small side porch which my grandfather added has been enclosed for a new half bathroom and the original closet which is now the laundry. The new bathrooms (using reproduction fixtures, except for whirlpool tubs) have been installed in a former bedroom (originally it may have been a large butler's pantry as it was completely paneled with beaded board, including the ceiling), and a third new bathroom has just been completed for the front bedroom. The back entrance to the center hall is being rebuilt as I write, and some flooring and back stairs are being replaced. A state-of-the-art geothermal heating/air-conditioning system is being installed. The main "plant" is installed over the kitchen; 11 or 12 water wells will be drilled in the next few weeks and the air ducts will be installed at the same time. This system is very expensive to install, but it is supposed to pay for itself within 10 years in energy savings. It is quiet, out of sight, and "environmentally friendly." Each room of the house will be controlled individually, including for humidity, a major concern in Texas. Also at this time the new staircase is being built in the center hall. We are sensitive to use reproduction moldings and handrails, and I was fortunate to locate three matching newel posts of the period. I have also recently purchased five antique gas chandeliers, which have been wired for electricity.

I plan to select period wallpaper next month. Luckily a few days ago we retrieved some of the original wallpaper when we removed the dropped ceiling from the front bathroom to restore the 12' ceiling. When all the rooms have been papered and all moldings and trim sanded and stained, the last stage of restoration will be to refinish the floors. I hope the entire project will be completed in early spring. The second floor will not be built at this time, but the stairwell and clearstory will be completed.

All of my grandparent's antiques will be returned to the house (currently being carefully used at the Inn), which with the donation of a dining room table will

completely furnish the living and dining rooms, although more dining room chairs are needed. Last week I purchased an antique bedroom suite: armoire, bed and two end tables. When the restoration is completed, we will need one or two more bedroom suites of the period. If you have or know of someone who has this furniture, let us know! Remember all contributions are tax deductible.

WANTED



Our cousin Elizabeth (Ibby) Rudasill Hunt has generously donated to the RFF a handsome dining room table, side board and six chairs (two arm and four straight). The table and sideboard were made by Clore Furniture in Madison, Virginia. The chairs were manufactured by Henkel Harris, also a Virginia furniture company. With the four leaves, the table will accommodate at least 16 people and it will fit nicely in the 1896 House dining room. If you have or if you see this chair, let us know. Or better, donate it/them to the RFF. We need at least ten more chairs. And remember, your donation is tax deductible!

Ibby was born in Rapidan, Virginia, and grew up in nearby Orange where her father, William A. Rudasill, had a dry goods store. Ibby graduated from Randolph Macon College with a BA degree. She has three children (Harriet who lives in Dallas, Mary who lives in Houston, and Clifton who lives in Durham) and seven grandchildren. Recently she moved from Greensboro to Dallas to be near her eldest daughter Harriet and her family. Thank you, Ibby, for your kind gift!

Your Directors From page 4

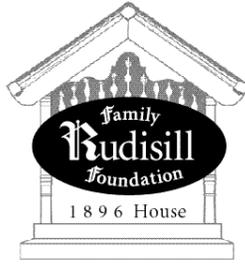
next year. His business career began in Chicago where he was hired by the U.S. Savings and Loan Association to initiate a dialogue with the Latin American S&L industry then in its infancy. He spent about six months a year traveling throughout Central and South America, establishing training programs at all levels. He designed and directed an executive residential seminar at Stanford University, a two-week program conducted entirely in Spanish. After three years, he accepted a position at Wells Fargo Bank in San Francisco. He moved from the West Coast to the East Coast and worked at the American headquarters in New York (later moving to Greenwich, CT) of a Dutch corporation with operations in Latin America. After the death of his father in 1971 while his parents were visiting him in Greenwich, Cliff returned to Texas and managed the Latin American loan portfolio of Houston National Bank and established their import-export financing department. In 1978 he



moved to Princeton, NJ and managed the Latin American loan portfolio of Fidelity Bank in Philadelphia. After two years, he returned to Houston to establish the International Banking Department at Western Bank. In 1982, he became co-owner of The Village Inn in Lenox, MA. After 22 years, he is active in the management but less so in the day-to-day operations, having a competent and loyal staff. He and his business partner, Ray Wilson (who is also an Episcopal priest), hope to retire from innkeeping in 2004.

The RFF Logo

The RFF logo represents several aspects of the Foundation and the 1896 House. The top design is a drawing of the gable over the porch entrance to the House, including the “gingerbread” which is unique but similar to the design of a Queen Anne house. The top of the oval in the center also is from that design. The R and two F’s are in the High German Gothic style. The lower case letters are a modern font which has characteristics of the German. The sides are taken from the design of the porch posts. The bottom represents the stairs leading up to the porch. The colors of gray-blue and ivory are the colors of the house. The logo was designed by Visual Impact, graphic designers in Boston, with concepts suggested by the RFF’s Founder.



P.O. Box 631961 821 North Street Nacogdoches, Texas 75963-1961

Telephone: 936-462-9315 www.rudisillfoundation.org

DONOR CATEGORIES

GUARDIAN ANGELS CLUB

Individuals or groups who contribute \$25,000 or more in a single year or on a cumulative basis will become permanent members in the **Guardian Angels Club**. Benefits include the opportunity to have an exclusive space in the 1896 House named in honor of a designated relative, complimentary lodging in the 1896 House for up to three weeks in a one-year period, and an original watercolor of the 1896 House. They will be listed permanently on the Foundation's Honor Roll on the RFF web site and on a permanent plaque maintained in the 1896 House.

FOUNDING FATHERS CLUB

Individuals or groups who contribute \$10,000 to \$24,999 in a single year or on a cumulative basis will become permanent members in the **Founding Fathers Club**. Benefits include complimentary lodging in the 1896 House for up to two weeks in a one-year period, and an original watercolor of the 1896 House. They will be listed permanently on the Foundation's Honor Roll on the RFF web site and on a permanent plaque maintained in the 1896 House.

GRANDPARENTS CLUB

Individuals or groups who contribute \$1,000 to \$9,999 in a single year or on a cumulative basis will become permanent members in the **Grandparents Club**. Benefits include complimentary lodging in the 1896 House for up to one week in a one-year period and an original watercolor of the 1896 House. They will be permanently listed on the Foundation's Honor Roll on the RFF web site and on a permanent plaque maintained in the 1896 House.

PARENTS CLUB

Individuals or groups who contribute \$100 to \$999 in a single year will be members in the **Parents Club** and will be entitled to complimentary lodging in the 1896 House for up to three days in a one-year period, and will receive a Certificate and Letter of Appreciation and will be listed in that year's Honor Roll on the Foundation's web site.

COUSINS CLUB

Individuals or groups who contribute \$25 to \$99 in a single year will be members in the **Cousins Club** and will receive a Certificate and Letter of Appreciation and will be listed in that year's Honor Roll on the Foundation's web site.

DEFERRED PLEDGES

Donors who pledge \$25,000 or more, and contribute either by annual donations of \$5,000 or more or by designation in their will, will become permanent members in the **Guardian Angels Club** on the date the pledge is made. They are requested to submit a completed Deferred Pledge Agreement.

All donors will receive a mailed subscription to *Relations*.

The RUDISILL FAMILY FOUNDATION is a Section 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation of the Internal Revenue Code and all donations to it are tax deductible.