



# Relations

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

Newsletter of the Rudisill Family Foundation, Inc. [www.rudisillfoundation.org](http://www.rudisillfoundation.org)

No. 7, December, 2007

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

## Founder's Corner: Two Ancestors named Henry

Dear Cousins:

This edition of *Relations* honors two remarkable Rudisill ancestors who lived in different periods of American history, who used different spellings of our family surname, but who shared the same given name: Henry Rudecilly (1755-1847) and Henry W. Rudisill (1801-1858). Like many of our ancestors, both men were born in Pennsylvania and later migrated to the West. Both men worked hard not only for their immediate families but also for their local communities and their country. Each rightly is a "hero." Henry W. Rudisill has a street and a school named in his honor and a stone monument erected in his memory. Henry Rudecilly, however, is remembered only by such written records and oral histories. What a proud legacy these two Henrys have left to our Rudisill family! You also will read an article about the recent national Rudisill family reunion in Charlotte. These annual inclusive family reunions provide us a unique opportunity to share and learn about our extended family and to meet cousins from all over the county. Our next edition of *Relations* will include details about the 2008 national reunion, and we hope to see you there! And we are pleased to introduce two of your new Directors of the Rudisill Family Foundation who were elected at our annual Board meeting. My sincere thanks go out to all our RFF Directors and to all our cousins who are supporting the RFF with your good work and financial donations. We need both to accomplish our goals! Please send us stories about your Rudisill ancestors, and make your annual tax-deductible donation to your Rudisill Family Foundation. We look forward to hearing from you, and meanwhile send heartfelt wishes to you and your loved ones for a Merry Christmas and a Happy and Healthy New Year!

Your cousin,  
Clifford Rudisill

## Meet Your New Directors

**Clifford Frank Daniel Rudesill**  
Cape Girardeau, MO

Cousin Cliff was born in Chicago on July 25, 1924 to Walter Jackson Rudesill (born in Mt. Vernon, IL) and Grace Sophia Blum Rudesill. His grandfather was Oliver H. Perry Rudesill who was born and raised in Houston. Cliff had only one brother and he was killed in a military accident in 1942, the same year that his father died. Cliff graduated from high school in Hot Springs, AK, that year and got his pilot's license at the age of 16. Then he joined the Air Force Reserves and studied to become a flight instructor, which in 1943 took him to the air force base in Cape Girardeau, MO. There he met his future wife, Mary Kathryn Litzelfelner, and they married in 1946 when he returned from active duty as a pilot in the Far East. Their two children are Mark (who lives in Cape Girardeau) and Gail (who lives in Naperville, a suburb of Chicago), and they have four grandchildren. After returning from the service, Cliff went into sales and sales management in the hardware field and they lived in several cities in the Midwest.

*This article is continued on Page 6*

## Henry W. Rudisill, 1801-1858: Pioneer of Fort Wayne

*Special thanks to our cousin and RFF Director, Mary Lou Potts Kuhn, of Zionsville, IN, who obtained the many monographs from the Fort Wayne Historical Society and the Fort Wayne Library that made this report possible.*

Henry Wolff Rudisill was born on August 8, 1801, in Lancaster, Pennsylvania, and was baptized on August 30<sup>th</sup> in Trinity Lutheran Church. His parents were John Adam Rudisill and Elizabeth Wolff Rudisill. He was the fourth of 13 children.

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## The 2007 Rudisill Family Reunion in North Carolina

Our Tar Heel cousins Ann and Jim Schout planned a very special family reunion in Charlotte, August 16-19, 2007, and nothing could have been improved upon, except perhaps the very hot and dry weather, which has persisted this year in so much of the Southeast. The long weekend got off to a great start on Thursday evening with a reception and dinner at an upscale grill near our four-star hotel in a beautiful residential section of Charlotte. Afterwards, Ted and Rudi Rudisill convened the annual meeting of the Rudisill Family Association, at which it was decided to hold next year's reunion in York, PA (a site so important to our Rudisill heritage, where we have met before, and which this time would be organized by Jerry Dietz), or in San Diego, CA (where we have not met and which would be planned by Ted Rudisill). Joyce Rudisill gave out souvenir bags for everyone to use, compliments of her and her children, John, Jake and Macki.



John Schout welcomes The Rudisill Reunion to the Latta Plantation

The next morning some 50 cousins boarded a bus for a visit first to the Latta Plantation, a restored Colonial working farm and home, and then to the Reed Gold Mine, established in the early 1800s about the same time as the famous Rudisill Gold Mine, now hidden beneath a sports arena in downtown Charlotte. Although no one struck it rich panning for gold, everyone enjoyed the cooler climate down in the mine! That Friday evening we toured the Museum of the New South in downtown

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Charlotte and enjoyed a delicious buffet dinner in their private dining room. On Saturday morning we boarded our bus for a trip to Winston-Salem where we spent the entire day in the historic Old Salem Village and enjoyed a typical mid-eighteenth century luncheon at the Old Salem Tavern. That evening back in Charlotte, we enjoyed a traditional and bountiful North Carolina barbeque dinner at Bubba's Barbeque.

On Sunday morning everyone traveled independently to nearby Cherryville in Gaston County where several Rudisill pioneers settled and where many Rudisill families still live. After attending a beautiful service at St. John's Lutheran Church (in whose graveyard many Rudisill ancestors rest), everyone adjourned to the Fellowship Hall for an historic event: the first joint meeting of our hosts, the Descendants of Emanuel Rudisill (who were celebrating their 102<sup>nd</sup> annual family reunion) and the annual national Rudisill family reunion, sponsored by the Rudisill Family Association. The joint meeting was chaired by John Rudisill, who gave several reports about the Emanuel Rudisill Association. Ted Rudisill also spoke and gave some background to his dedicated work in writing the *Rudisill Genealogy*, organizing the tours to Switzerland and forming the Rudisill Family Association. These presentations followed a lavish buffet luncheon provided by the Emanuel Rudisill Association. There were 106 attendees from the Emanuel Rudisill clan and 121 Rudisills in attendance in all, from states as far away as California and Washington. This historic joint gathering of the various Rudisill clans was a highlight of the Charlotte Rudisill Family Reunion and will be long remembered by all those cousins who were there. Thank you, Tar Heels!



John F. Rudisill calls the 102<sup>nd</sup> Emanuel Rudisill Family Reunion to order

**Henry Rudecilly**  
**[John Henry Rudisill] 1755-1847:**  
**Revolutionary Soldier**

*The following is a fairly complete transcription by Clifford Rudisill of the original Testimony of Henry Rudecilly, written in the hand of Paul Henkle, Clerk, with two other notations written on the outside of the Testimony, that was found in the National Archives by Richard (Rudi) Rudisill during our 2005 Rudisill family reunion in Northern Virginia and Washington D.C. Names and words in italics were difficult to read and may not be accurate.*

Note: Henry Rudecilly was born on 11 December 1755 in Washington Township, York Co., Pennsylvania, and died on 5 January 1847 in Beaver Creek, Clark Co., Ohio. He married Judith Spengler in 1781 and they had eight children.

**I. Notations** (on the outside of the Testimony)

Henry Rudecelly or Rudecilly or Rudeaily [or Rudeicilly]  
 Ohio, 1798

Henry Rudecilly of Clark Co. in the State of Ohio who was a Private and Sergeant in the Company commanded by Captain Smiler of the Regiment commanded by Col. Swope in Pennsylvania for 10 months:

Private \$ 26.66  
 Sergeant 10.00  
 \$36.66

Inscribed on the Roll of Ohio at the rate of \$36.66 per annum to commence on the 4<sup>th</sup> day of March 1831.

Certificate of Pension issued the 6<sup>th</sup> day of April 1833 and sent to C. Cavileer, Springfield, Ohio:

\$73.32 Arrears to the 4<sup>th</sup> of March 1833  
 \$18.33 Semi-annual allowance ending 4 Sept 1833

\$91.65 Total

Revolutionary Claim Act June 7, 1832  
 Recorded by E. R. Palmer, Clerk  
 Book E, Vol. 8, Page twenty-two

**II. Brief in the case of Henry Rudecilly**  
 (written on the outside of the Testimony)  
 County of Clark in the State of Ohio  
 Act 7<sup>th</sup> June, 1832

1. Was the declaration made before a Court or Judge? Court.
2. If before a Judge, does it appear that the applicant is disabled by bodily Infirmity?
3. How old is he? 76

4. State his services, as directed in the form annexed:

Period	Months in Service	Rank	Names of Generals & Field Officers under whom he served
Volunteered, 4 <sup>th</sup> July 1776	3	Private	Capt. Josh Harbaugh and Lt. Andrew Smith
Immediately on the expedition of this service, taken prisoner, escaped 12 December & went home	2	Private	Col. Michael Swope  Capt. Michael Smiler
Drafted 2 June 1777	3	Private	Capt. Jacob Miller
Drafted fall of 1778	2	Sergeant	Capt. Simon Copenhafer

5. In what battles was he engaged? Brandywine

6. Where did he reside when he entered the service? Manchester Township, York Co., Pennsylvania

7. Is his statement supported by living witnesses, by documentary proof, by traditionary evidence, by incidental evidence, or by the rolls? Traditionary.

8. Are the papers defective as to form or authentication? And if so, in what respect?

I certify that the foregoing statement and the answers agree with the evidence in the case above mentioned.

Charles G. Wilcox, Examining Clerk

23 July 1832

In testimony whereof I have herewith set my hand and seal of office this third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

Paul Henkle

**III. The Testimony of Henry Rudecilly**

The State of Ohio  
 York County

Personally appeared in open Court before Judge B. Holt, Esquire, President, and Daniel McKennan, Joseph Peneau and William Lewice, Esquires, associate judges of the Court of Common Pleas of the State of Ohio within and for the County aforesaid, the same being the

*This article is continued on Page 3*

**Rudecilly**, *continued from page 2*  
Court of Record, now sitting **Henry Rudecilly** as resident of the County and State aforesaid, aged seventy-six in years on the 11<sup>th</sup> December now last past, who being first duly sworn according to law doth on his oath make the following declaration in order to obtain the benefit of the Act of Congress passed June 7<sup>th</sup> 1832, that he entered the service of the United States under the following named officers and served as herein stated, that on or about the 4<sup>th</sup> day of July of 1776 he volunteered his services as a soldier and joined a company commissioned by Captain Josh Harbaugh and Lieutenant Andrew Smith in York County in the State of Pennsylvania where he then resided, that he marched in said company from the town of Little York in the County and State aforesaid to the City of Philadelphia where he remained in said company for several days when said company with himself was placed on board a *ship* and carried up the Delaware River to Trenton where he remained for some time. But the precise time he cannot now recollect when he was dispatched in said company to *Princeton* in the State of New Jersey where they remained for three or four days when he was marched to New Brunswick in said State of New Jersey, and from thence to Elizabethtown Point where they were stationed to watch the movements of the British who were then on Staten Island where they continued for about a week. From there he was marched in said company to Newark in the said State where the company was detained for about three weeks. From thence he was marched to the Hackensack River where he remained one day and was then marched to Bordentown in the State of New Jersey. At this place his term of service expired for the three months for which he had in the first place engaged. He then immediately enlisted for the term of six months in a company commanded by Captain Michael Smiler, the names of the other officers he cannot now recollect. The Regiment in which he was placed was then commanded by Col. Michael Swope. He was then taken across the North River and marched to Fort Washington when himself, the Regiment to which he belonged and Fort Washington were surrendered to the British, the 16<sup>th</sup> day of September, about 4 o'clock of the same day. He was then with the Company and Regiment placed on board a British ship and taken to the City of New York where he was kept as a prisoner until about the

11<sup>th</sup> or 12<sup>th</sup> of December, following which he escaped from the British prison, which had been a church, and by swimming the North River he then returned to his home in Manchester Township in York County and State of Pennsylvania.

About the 2<sup>nd</sup> day of June AD 1777 he was again drafted for the term of three months in York County in Pennsylvania and placed in a company commanded by Captain Jacob Miller. The lieutenant's name he cannot now remember. He was immediately marched from the place of his being drafted to the City of Philadelphia and from there he was immediately marched toward a place then called *Medford* in the State of New Jersey,...and then marched to Chadds Ford, Pennsylvania, to meet the army which was then commanded by General George Washington on the Brandywine River. There he joined the main army. Afterward, the Battle of Brandywine took place in which he fought to the best of his skill and abilities. In three days after the Battle of Brandywine, the term of three months for which he had been drafted expired and he was discharged on the high grounds about twelve miles from the battleground at Brandywine. In the fall of the year 1778 he was again drafted for three months at York County in the State of Pennsylvania and placed in a company commanded by Capt. Simon Copenhafer, names of the other officers of said company he cannot now recollect. This company was named to guard the prisoners sent up to that part of the country by General Washington. It was in Philadelphia that he faithfully served out said term of three months in guarding the British prisoners then in York County in Pennsylvania, as first sergeant of said company which was the last service he performed in the army of the American Revolution. He cannot now remember the names of the regular field officers under whom he served. He well remembers that General Washington commanded in person at the Battle of Brandywine as well as his grey horse, that he has no documentary evidence and that he knows of no persons whose testimony he can procure or who can testify to his service.

1. He was born on the 11<sup>th</sup> day of December 1755 in Washington Township in York County and State of Pennsylvania.

2. He has a record of his age in a Bible kept by his father which he now has in his possession in Clark County aforesaid.

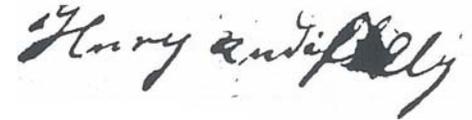
3. When he was called into service he resided in York County in the State of Pennsylvania where he resided until he was thirty-nine years of age when he *moved to Morrisons Cove* on the line between Washington and *Brasson* Counties in the State of Pennsylvania, where he *resided* for about four years when he *moved* to Coal Hill within about eight miles of Pittsburgh where he resided about one year when he *moved* to Mercer County in the State of Pennsylvania where he resided about seven years when he *moved* to *Trumbull* County in the State of Ohio, where he resided for about four years when he *moved* to *Beaver Creek* in Clark County in the State of Ohio where he has been living and yet resides.

4. He was called into the service as already stated in the preceding part of this Application.

5. He cannot remember the names of the Regular Officers who were with the troops with whom he served nor the lieutenants who commanded the regiments other than those whom he has already stated.

6. He does not remember any facts other than those already stated. *That he is known to ...who can testify as to his character...and their belief of his services as a soldier of this Revolution. And he hereby relinquishes any claim whatever to a pension or an annuity except the present and he declares that his name is not on the rolls of any agency in any state.*

Signed:



Sworn to and subscribed the day and year aforesaid in open court.

Paul Henkle, Clerk.

And the said Court do hereby declare their opinion after the investigation of the matter and after putting the interrogations prescribed by the War Department, that the above named applicant was a revolutionary soldier, and served as he stated, and the Court further certifies that it appears to them that Paul Henkle, who has signed the preceding certificate is a *duly known* resident in the town of Springfield, County of Clark and State of Ohio, and that Thomas Norton and Moses B. Corwin, who have also signed the same, the former resident in the *immediate* neighborhood where the said applicant

*This article is continued on Page 4*

**Rudecilly**, *continued from Page 3*  
now resides & the latter resident in the County of Champaign and State of Ohio, and are credible persons and that their statement is entitled to credit.

I, Paul Henkle, clerk of the court of Common Pleas in and for the County of Clark in the State of Ohio aforesaid, do hereby certify that the foregoing contains the original proceeding of the said court in the matter of the application of Henry Rudecilly for a pension.

In testimony whereof I have hereunto set my hand and seal of office this third day of October in the year of our Lord one thousand eight hundred and thirty-two.

Paul Henkle, Clerk

## **Henry W. Rudisill**

*Continued from Page 1*

When Henry was 14 he worked as an apprentice for John Barr and a partner named Campbell in their mercantile business in Shippensburg, PA, and later in Chillicothe, Ohio. In 1824 he moved to Lancaster, Ohio, where he opened his own business and married Elizabeth Johns. In 1829 he moved to Fort Wayne, Indiana, to work again for John Barr and his new partner John McCorkle (who in 1824 together had bought the original land of Fort Wayne) in their enterprise to survey and develop the land of Fort Wayne into lots to be sold to incoming settlers, and this he did until 1837.

Rudisill's arrival in the Three Rivers region with his wife and two infant children, Martha and Henry, during the dead of winter in December 1829, became one of the legendary tales about the early settlers of Fort Wayne. After a harrowing two-week trip from Lancaster, Ohio, Rudisill and his family and a small band of settlers were struggling across the southeastern frontier of Fort Wayne during a blinding snowstorm on Christmas Eve, when they lost their way and began to hear a pack of wolves circling close by them. They stopped and circled their wagons and built fires to ward off the wolves. The next day the weather cleared and they discovered that they had made camp on the Wayne Trace itself and were only a short distance from town. A few riders were sent ahead and soon returned with a jubilant party of townsmen to welcome and escort the Rudisills and their band of settlers into the village on Christmas Day. A few days later, Rudisill wrote to John Barr the following letter:

"January 2, 1830. I arrived here on Sunday a.m. after a very unpleasant journey of two weeks. Roads were extremely bad and water high. Teams loaded with goods and furniture arrived a few days after me. They were detained a considerable time on the road by high water. We had the misfortune of losing one of our best work cattle on the road. I am well pleased with Fort Wayne and the country surrounding it, and the citizens appear to be very attentive and obliging to strangers." Thus Rudisill and his family began their life-long pursuit to give strength and leadership to the small but growing town.

As a prominent employee of these land speculators, Rudisill was able to purchase land at low prices and he bought choice sections on the north side of town "about one mile out" in the area of modern Spy Run Avenue and State Street. He quickly realized the opportunities of providing essential services to the wilderness community, especially milling. In 1830 he and his father-in-law, Henry Johns, built the town's first "overshot"\* grist mill in the area of his property on the St. Joseph River where they built a 300-foot long dam. Until this mill was built, corn had to be taken all the way to Ohio to be milled, and therefore the Rudisill mill was a real benefit to the local farmers and produced great quantities of flour. In 1841 he built a large saw mill with a wool carding operation on the second floor: It was the first steam-powered mill in Fort Wayne. In 1843 he established a mill for making linseed oil from flaxseed, the first such factory in northeastern Indiana.

Henry Rudisill built a grand manor for his family on Spy Run Avenue, where he welcomed Lutheran priests and other clergy and missionaries in their circuit-riding days through the Midwest. He reserved a room known as "the Prophet's Room" for these and other distinguished guests, including John Chapman, better known as Johnny Appleseed, traveling throughout Indiana and Ohio selling apple seeds and seedlings and planting orchards. Henry Rudisill's daughter, Eliza, recorded her experiences as a child sitting in Johnny Appleseed's lap and listening to many tall tales about his exciting adventures, especially those with the Indians.

\*The mill was powered by water overshooting a large "overshot wheel" with its series of buckets that are filled with water from a race over the top of a dam, the weight and impetus of the water turning the wheel, which returns the water to the level of the river.

Henry Rudisill threw himself into the business of building the frontier town into a thriving community. He wrote back to his employers in Pennsylvania, Barr and McCorkle, "to send me Germans, for they are the most industrious laborers" to clear and improve the land. In addition to his many business ventures, he was active in virtually every activity for the benefit of the Fort Wayne community. He was the first treasurer of the Fort Wayne Corporation, as the town was officially known. He presided at a meeting celebrating the commencement of the building of the Wabash and Erie Canal. He was an Ensign in the Fort Wayne Light Infantry, the first native Fort Wayne military unit, to meet the feared threat of a revolt among the Irish working on the Canal to the west of Fort Wayne. Although the "Irish War" came to nothing, Rudisill continued to serve in the local militia as first lieutenant of the "Fort Wayne Guards" and in 1842 he was named its captain. He was secretary of the first Agricultural Society. In 1851 he was on a committee to support the Ohio and Indiana Railroad project and he presided at a meeting petitioning the state legislature to encourage immigration into Northern Indiana. He was active in the Masonic Lodge and in the Democratic Party. He was postmaster of Fort Wayne under Andrew Jackson from 1831 until 1841. In 1848 and again in 1849 he was elected to the high office of Commissioner of Allen County. He was one of the founders of the first volunteer fire brigade, "The Anthony Waynes," in 1833. As one of the few persons in Fort Wayne fluent in both English and German, he was very influential in the growing German community and is credited with doing more than any other man to make the Democratic Party the ruling party in the county.

In 1858 Henry Rudisill was hurt in a fall at one of his mills, injuring his spine and causing partial paralysis. He died on February 6, 1858. His wife, Elizabeth, died in 1891. They had six children: Martha, Henry, Julia, Eliza, Amelia, and Susan.

As important an influence on the Fort Wayne community as Henry Rudisill's business and civic contributions were, he left his greatest mark through his influence on its religious life. Shortly after arriving we know that he wrote his employer, John Barr, suggesting he send him some industrious Germans to supply

much-needed labor. A few weeks later he again wrote but more specifically: "I would prefer the Wurttenbergers, as they are the most industrious and temperate." [And they were Lutherans, of course.] Rudisill also wrote the Lutheran Mission Committee in Philadelphia and the Immigration Commission in Baltimore to direct migrating German Protestants to Fort Wayne. As his efforts to stimulate German-Lutheran migration to Fort Wayne succeeded, Rudisill realized the need for a Lutheran pastor and he placed an advertisement in an East Coast German-language newspaper. (At this time the only regular religious services were conducted by the Presbyterians, which Rudisill and his family attended.) He received a response from the Rev'd Jessie Hoover, pastor of a Lutheran church in Woodstock, Virginia, who was also a "Pennsylvania Dutch," having been born in Dover, York County. He had graduated from Gettysburg Seminary where he had expressed an interest in serving as a missionary.

Rev'd Hoover came to Fort Wayne in 1836 and became the first pastor of the First Evangelical Lutheran Church (later named St. Paul's), founded under Henry Rudisill's leadership on October 14, 1837. Pastor Hoover kept the church records in English and although he normally preached in German, he occasionally preached in English, believing it would help his German-speaking members to become "American Lutherans." Hoover was a successful and popular pastor. "Men and women would walk on Sundays, even eight and sometimes twelve miles, to hear him preach. He preached in English to all denominations in the morning; when the English congregation was dismissed, we would see the Germans in their native dress pouring in crowds." Although Hoover died suddenly on 24 May 1838 at the age of only 28, he had firmly established a bilingual congregation. Unfortunately, bilingual clergymen like Hoover were rare and he was replaced by Fredrich Konrad Sietrich Wyneken who spoke only German and had been born and educated in Germany. Wyneken wanted to reinstate the old confessional and liturgical Lutheranism and he drove the Methodist and Reformed from the church by excluding them from Holy Communion. Other members, including Henry Rudisill, became disenchanted with Wyneken's rejection of the more "American style" of Lutheranism, and

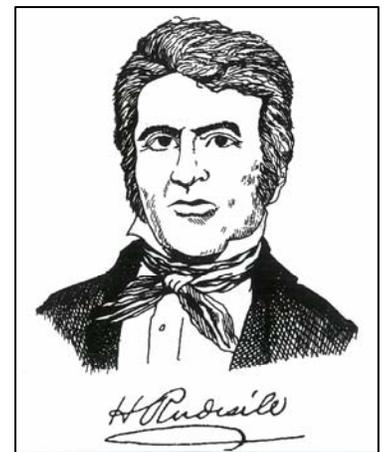
Wyneken resigned in 1844. He was replaced by Wilhelm Sihler, who was even more anti-American Lutheran than his predecessor! Once again the church split. "The issues of doctrine, liturgy and language were substantial: if Sihler was determined to turn his congregation back to 16<sup>th</sup> century Lutheranism, Rudisill was equally determined to restore his remnant to 19<sup>th</sup> Century American Lutheranism." So Henry Rudisill and some other members decided to form an English-speaking congregation, without alienating any of the numerous Germans who patronized his mill and supported his leadership in the Democratic Party. Too, Sihler knew how popular Rudisill was with the congregation and he did not want to alienate his supporters who remained with the German congregation. Among the charter members of the new congregation were many Rudisills: Henry, Emmanuel, Susannah, Elizabeth, Henry J., Ann and Sarah. The last Rudisill trustees of the new church were listed in 1868: Emmanuel Rudisill and Henry J. Rudisill.

The new church was called Trinity English Lutheran Church. It was a small white framed church acquired from the Presbyterians and it was used from 1846 until 1864. Henry Rudisill was buried from this church in February, 1858. In 1859 Mrs. Henry (Elizabeth) Rudisill is listed as founder of the Ladies (Sewing Society) of the English Evangelical Lutheran congregation. The cornerstone of worship for the new congregation was the Augsburg Confession. In 1845 a Rev'd Albaugh served as part-time pastor. He was succeeded by Pastor Alexander Bartholomew, who became full-time in 1856. In 1864 the second church building was erected on lots purchased at Wayne and Clinton Streets and it was equipped with a pipe organ. A carved Gothic pulpit was donated by Eliza Rudisill in memory of her father.

Education was also very important to Henry Rudisill, and there were two school buildings built in the area originally occupied by the Rudisill farm that were named in his honor. The first, built in 1899, was a four-classroom building with a large schoolyard with a well and a high wooden fence separating the girl's and boy's playgrounds. This school building was replaced by another school that was built in 1914. That building served as an elementary school until 1968 and it is still standing today.

In addition to churches and schools that were built by or in honor of Henry Rudisill, there are two other impressive memorials in Fort Wayne dedicated to him. He will be remembered forever by the street running from Broadway to beyond McMillen Park which bears his name: Rudisill Boulevard. Another lasting tribute to him is the Rudisill Memorial, a stone monument made possible by the congregations of St. Paul's Evangelical Lutheran and Trinity English Evangelical Lutheran Churches. The monument was designed by Richard Birkmeier to depict Henry Rudisill's accomplishments, especially his establishment of the two Lutheran churches. It is 10 feet long by 7 feet high and is made of Cherry Hill black granite with keystone blue granite posts separating three tablets. The center tablet has a portrait of Henry W. Rudisill. The left and right tablets are etched with pictures of the two churches he founded.

Henry W. Rudisill and Henry Rudisill were truly remarkable people, and we are proud to honor their memory in this edition of *Relations*. We hope that all who read about these distinguished cousins will continue to learn about our family in America and to remember how much we owe to our Rudisill ancestors. It is the mission of your Rudisill Family Foundation to preserve our special legacy and to pass it on to future Rudisill generations. Thank you for your support!



**In future issues of *Relations*:**

- A Rudisill tour of York County, PA
- Details about the 2008 national Rudisill Family Reunion
- Henry J. Rudisill's Vineyard, one of the first in Indiana
- Jeff White's Glen Manor Vineyard near Front Royal, VA
- And much more!

**Meet Your New Directors,  
Clifford Frank Daniel Rudesill,**

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In 1967 they moved back to Cape Girardeau and bought half interest in a lumber business, which he eventually managed. He also became active in the local community and was president of the Chamber of Commerce. In 1984 he sold his interest in the lumber business and retired. Cliff and Ki often attend Rudsill family reunions and contribute their interest in and knowledge of the Rudsill family.



**Clifford Frank Daniel Rudesill**

**Thyra Elizabeth McCary Smith  
Ellicott City, MD**

Cousin Elizabeth was born in 1929 in Olney, Texas, which is probably the only thing that Olney is famous for! Her father was Oscar P. McCary and her mother was Sibyl Rudsill McCary. Elizabeth says she had a normal, fun life growing up in West and East Texas. She started college at Kilgore Junior College (where she was one of the "Rangerettes," a well-known women's drill team) and graduated from the University of Texas with a degree in Journalism.

After college she worked for the Austin Recreation Department and then for the Galveston YWCA. In 1955 she married Lt. Thomas C. Smith and they moved to California in preparation for his departure to Korea. After the Korean War, he was transferred to Japan where they lived for two years, and then "she moved around the U.S. while he traveled the world." He ended his Air Force career in Abilene, TX, where Elizabeth became very active in both the Boy and Girl Scouts.

They have two children: Elizabeth Ann Smith Thomas, who is the mother of Ariel Smith Thomas and teaches school in Houston, and Thomas Oscar Smith, who works for the government and has three children: Thomas Oscar Smith, Jr. (the father of Jordan Elizabeth Smith, born in 2007), Kristopher L. C. Smith and James R. Smith.

After her husband's death, Elizabeth moved with her son to Bremerton, WA and then to Ellicott City, MD, where she is active in the Master Gardener program and helps raise two of her grandchildren.

Elizabeth has been working with our Rudsill cousins to restore and maintain one of the original Rudsill cemeteries in Pennsylvania, and is working with our cousin Jerry Dietz on copying Rudsill family church records in PA and MD from Pastor Fred Wieser's translations from the original German.

Welcome to the Rudsill Family Foundation Board, Cliff and Elizabeth!



**Thyra Elizabeth  
McCary Smith**

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**WE NEED YOUR HELP** to achieve our goal  
of "sharing and preserving our heritage for generations to come."

The Rudsill Family Foundation is a not-for-profit 501.c.3 corporation to which donations are tax deductible. Our purposes includes preserving and maintaining family documents and items and telling the American history of the inclusive Rudsill family at our museum in The 1896 House, an historic Rudsill home in East Texas.

**HOW TO HELP** PLEASE send us copies of histories and memorabilia from your branch of our family, as well as financial donations in whatever amount, all of which will be gratefully received and acknowledged! Thank you!

*Thank you, new and old  
Directors, for your invaluable  
contributions of time and talent  
to the Rudsill Family  
Foundation! Especial thanks  
to Al, Ted, Elizabeth, Mary Lou,  
and Jake for their efforts this  
past year. Clifford Rudsill*

**Do you know how to prepare Son-of-a-Gun Stew?**

This is one of the wonderful items in RUDISILL RECIPES TO REMEMBER collected by Edward L. (Ted) Rudsill, author of the "Rudsill Genealogy," and Marie Faulk Rudsill, author of "Fruitcake: Memories of Truman Capote and Sook."

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