



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.
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Founder's Corner

Dear Cousins:

Ever since the formation and incorporation of the Rudisill Family Foundation, we have produced and mailed this and each of six earlier editions of our newsletter to over 2,000 American Rudisill cousins, representing over a dozen surname spellings. We sincerely hope that you have enjoyed reading *Relations* and that you have learned more about your family history. On our website is a list by chronological edition of the subjects that we have covered. There will always be much more research to do and information to share with you, and we are committed to publish and send you four informative newsletters a year beginning in 2009.

But we earnestly need your help in two ways: (1) We need you to send us news about your branch of our Rudisill family tree so that we can share this information with your extended family, and (2) we need you to send us a financial contribution of just \$15.00 to cover the cost of an annual subscription (4 issues) of this newsletter. Any donation above that will be tax deductible because the RFF is a Section 501.c.3 charitable corporation as recognized by the IRS.

We believe that these newsletters are an important component of our mission "to preserve and share our Rudisill heritage." We are dedicated to fulfilling all the goals of the RFF, and we truly need your help, now, to accomplish them: to share family history in *Relations*, and to establish a working museum with lecture-tours and exhibits of Rudisill artifacts and memorabilia, and to provide facilities for genealogical research at our RFF headquarters, the 1896 House, a restored former Rudisill home in Nacogdoches, Texas.

On behalf of your Board of Directors, I thank you for supporting the Rudisill Family Foundation with your informational and financial contributions. Every donation will play an invaluable role to preserve and to share our Rudisill legacy for generations to come. Your cousin and RFF Founder,
Clifford Rudisill

GLEN MANOR VINEYARDS IS TO BE A RUDISILL HEIRLOOM

Jeff White, a Rudisill descendent through his mother, has opened the vineyard near Front Royal, VA after a 12 year apprenticeship in the business. His co-owners are his parents, Al and Anna Rae White, who have been growing grapes for about 13 years on 10 acres of their 226 acre farm. Another 10 acres are being planted.

The primary products of Glen Manor Vineyards are Sauvignon Blanc and Bordeaux Red blends.

This will be a family business with Jeff's wife and his brothers and their wives being involved along with their parents.

(below) Jeff is the man with the scissors and the beard at the ribbon cutting on June 7, 2008.



You can check out the vineyard at glenmanorvineyards.com.

California Rudisill Family Extends Agricultural Tradition

Karen Rudisill, daughter of Jake and Ruta Rudisill and a member of the Emmanuel Rudisill clan, has in the midst of the urban environs of Alameda County, CA toiled with distinction in agricultural endeavors. Karen topped off her seven year 4-H career by winning both Horse and Goat Showmanship Championships at the 2008 Alameda County Fair. Karen is now a student at Florida Institute of Technology studying Marine Science, her first love.



Congrats, Karen!

IN TRIBUTE

Frederick Sheely Weiser:

pastor, scholar, cousin, friend



by H. Clifford Rudisill

Our cousin and patriarch, Edward "Ted" Rudisill, told me about "Pastor Fred" when he and Mariana first visited me in 1989 at The Village Inn in Lenox, MA. Ted had written a letter to our extended Rudisill family in the late 1980s, asking for family information for a book that he intended to write about the Rudisill genealogy in America. One of those letters was sent to my Aunt Elmina Rudisill in Nacogdoches, TX, and she forwarded it to me.

I answered that letter and, since Ted lived nearby in Connecticut, I invited him to visit me in Lenox to discuss our common interests in the Rudisill family.

Ted had learned about Fred while doing family research at the York Historical Society and there discovered several articles that Fred had written about the Rudisills in Pennsylvania and their ancestors in Europe. That led to their meeting and to planning a trip in 1993 to Germany and Switzerland where Fred shared his considerable knowledge about our Rudisill ancestors.

Visiting Switzerland

Two years later, Ted organized a trip for Rudisills to

travel with him and Fred and Mariana to those two countries with a highlight being a visit to Sax, Switzerland where our common ancestor, Hans Rudisuli, had lived. I was privileged to be on that trip.

Frederick Sheely Weiser was born in Hanover, PA, on November 25, 1935. He attended schools there and then went to Gettysburg College and to the Lutheran Theological Seminary where he earned his BA degree in Theology in 1960. His first parish was at Grace Lutheran Church in Lancaster where he served as the assistant pastor for four years.

First Trip to Germany

In 1962, he made his first trip to Germany; and, through research at a German institute that specializes in information about German family migrations, learned that the Rudisill family "originated" from Sax, Switzerland, and then from Michelfeld, Germany. In 1964, he went to Germany again for a year: He did voluntary work in Bavaria, gave lectures in the Palatinate about the Pennsylvania Germans (about whom a great deal is known because in the early 1700s all German-speaking immigrants had to register on their ship's manifest to be loyal to the English throne), and did more research about the Rudisills in Germany and Switzerland.

From 1965-66, he was a chaplain in Philadelphia while he was working on his Master's degree at the Lutheran Theological Seminary there. From 1966-71, he worked as archivist at the Gettysburg Lutheran Seminary and was editor for the Pennsylvania German Society, which published an annual volume and a quarterly magazine.

St. Paul's Church

During that time, he also did supply work at St. Paul's

Church in Biglerville; and, in 1971, he was called to be their pastor, a position he held until his retirement in 1990. Until recently, he continued to be editor for the Pennsylvania German Society.

Since 1981, Fred has lived in New Oxford, PA, in a beautifully restored 1853 stone house with his museum-quality collections of German nutcrackers, toy soldiers and country antiques.

Fred Weiser is descended from Philip Rudisuli (one of our original ancestors who came to Pennsylvania in 1727), whose daughter Suzanna married Jacob Metzger, whose daughter Catherine married John Tanger, whose son was Jacob Tanger, whose son was David Tanger, whose daughter Viola married John Sheely, and whose daughter Elizabeth married Donald K. Weiser, and became Fred's mother.

Pastor Fred's scholarship, perseverance and sharing of information with us and especially with our cousin Ted has enabled all of us to know, to understand and to appreciate our unique and special Rudisill heritage. Thank you, Frederick Sheely Weiser: our pastor, scholar, cousin, and, above all, our friend.

A Rudisill Is Huge Academic Star at Duke University!

Lura Elizabeth Rudisill, daughter of John and Bufi Rudisill, graduated from Duke with distinction May 11, 2008 in Classical Studies with the following awards:

Dean's List, Phi Beta Kappa, Summa Cum Laude, the David Taggard Clarke Prize in Classical Studies, and The Classical Association of Middle West and South Outstanding Accomplishment Award.



Way to Go, Elizabeth!

In Memorium



Sherry Rudisill Johnson

It is with great sadness that we report the death on September 27, 2008, of our cousin, Sherry Rudisill Johnson, a much valued and respected member of our first RFF Board of Directors. Sherry was born on April 11, 1947, in Alexandria, LA, and later grew up in Natchez, MS, where her parents, Irlan John and Maudie Iona Rudisill, still live.

She received her BBA Cum Laude from the University of North Texas in Denton in 1981. Her early business career focused on the implementation of complex computer software systems for mid-to large-sized corporations, and she had her own consulting company for 10 years.

She retired in 2001 and engaged in a second career as a realtor. She is remembered as being a perfectionist in all facets of her life, and she enjoyed genealogy and travel.

Sherry is survived by her husband, William; a son, Kenneth Jay Owens; three grandsons, her parents, two sisters, and a brother. The funeral was held on October 3rd at the First Presbyterian Church in Grapevine, TX, near Flower Mound where she and Bill made their home.

Memorials may be made to: Susan G. Komen for the Cure, 5005 LBJ Fwy, Ste. 250, Dallas, TX 75244.

An Addition to the Library

An important book, both to our Rudisill family and to our American history, has been donated to the RFF Archives. Entitled, *Eneas Africanus*, it is one of a series of novella published in the early 1900s by Harry Stillwell Edwards who highly romanticized life in the South before and just after the Civil War: "Dear to the hearts of the Southerners, young and old, is the vanishing type, conspicuous in Eneas of this record."

The book was given by A.T Mast (a well-respected citizen and one of the founders of the Commercial Bank in Nacogdoches, TX, where his descendants still live) to H.C. Rudisill, who lived from 1870 to 1938 and was the grandfather for whom our RFF Founder was named. Mr. Rudisill was gravely ill at the time; and, so, Mr. Mast inscribed the book as follows:

"Dear Mr. Rudisill --- Hope you enjoy reading or having this little story read to you. A. T. Mast, July 9th, 1938."

Mission of the RFF

One of the primary missions of the Rudisill Family Foundation is to preserve items such as this book and to build an archival collection of books, postcards, letters, photographs, and memorabilia that belonged to our ancestors. All of these help us better to understand them and the time in which they lived. Please assist us in this pursuit by sending original items (or copies) that belonged to your immediate family or to your ancestors.

In time, we will have an invaluable collection of archival material that will facilitate future research for our children, grandchildren, and the generations to come. There is no better way to preserve and share these items. Please let us hear from you.

Don't throw "those old things" away. They are valuable to researchers. We will be pleased to have papers, knickknacks, furniture, etc. and the stories behind the items.

We also like to have stories that have been passed down orally but probably cannot be verified by hard facts. Jot them down by hand or computer or record on tape or CD.

Please cut here and send with your check or money order made payable to the Rudisill Family Foundation

Yes, I want to continue to receive *Relations*; therefore, I am sending \$15.00 to cover the fee for an annual subscription. Please send your fee to the return address on this newsletter.

I also wish to make a donation to the Rudisill Family Foundation in the amount of \$_____ which I know to be tax deductible.

I have some memorabilia that I would like to donate to the Foundation. Please contact me about this. Briefly, this memorabilia is _____



Rudisill Family Association
Reunion 2008
in York, PA

>>> Our tour guide,
Jerry Dietz and Judy



Ted Rudisill
our patriarch
(back) and
Rudi, our
president.

>>> At our
ancestral
gravesite. The
stones are
preserved in
Plexiglas/
aluminum
frames.



Introducing a New RFF Director



RFF director
Carolyn Sullivan
Clinton was born
in Charlotte, NC
on St. Patrick's
Day to Walter
and Kathryn
Clinton. Her
great-grandmother
was Mary Rudisill
Plonk. She is
pictured here on
the right with her
cousin Renee
Kastraba in
Jacksonville, FL
where Carolyn
lives.

In September we renewed friendships with distant Rudisills (choose your own spelling). We stayed in the old (modernized) York Hotel. Dinner with "cousins," new and old, was on Thursday night.

After visiting our ancestral gravesite, we toured Amish country on Friday with stops for shopping. There were lots of good information and a better understanding of the culture via Jerry's narration. Food was good, too. The Green Dragon was a fun market.

Saturday we were glad to be riding the bus to see old Rudisill family homesteads. It was rainy and chilly.

In the evening, we enjoyed a local passion play.

Please plan to join us at our family reunion in San Diego in 2009!

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