



Relations

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

Newsletter of the Rudisill Family Foundation, Inc. www.rudisillfoundation.org

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

Founder's Corner

Dear Cousins,

This edition of Relations is devoted entirely to the Rudisill Family Reunion in March.

Enclosed is the Registration Form which includes the schedule and prices. Please review it carefully, fill it out (including your meal selections), and return it to me with your check made payable to the Rudisill Family Foundation. I have negotiated some really good group prices on events, bus transportation and meals; but I need an accurate number of people to confirm these contracts and the deadline is March first.

To bring us together so we can greet old relatives and meet new ones, I am inviting everyone to my home for a Welcoming Reception on Thursday evening, March 16th. For the hearty, it is about a ten-block walk from LaQuinta Galleria to my house. For those who prefer to ride, I am sure there will be enough private cars to accommodate everyone. For dinner, The Post Oak Grill is just a 3-block walk from my house.

The events are special and varied. They are located in Houston and in neighboring counties, so I have chartered a bus to serve us all day on Friday. There will also be a bus to take cousins to Nacogdoches on Saturday and back to Houston airports on Sunday.

Our first stop on Friday is The Clayton Library which has some genealogical research material that you might not find anyplace else. Our next stop is Bayou Bend, a lovely mansion in one of the most beautiful neighborhoods in America. The house contains a spectacular collection of American antiques, and its vast grounds with hundreds of azaleas should present a blaze of color. If the weather permits, we will enjoy our box lunch in a nearby 1,000-acre park.

After lunch our bus takes us to The San Jacinto Monument (in Texas fashion, slightly higher than the Washington Monument in D.C.!), which marks the place in the San Jacinto Battlegrounds where General Sam Houston with a small band of volunteer soldiers defeated the huge Mexican Army under the command of General Santa Anna, and won independence for the Republic of Texas. The Monument is undergoing a major restoration, but some of it may be open in time for our visit. We will be able to walk around the base of the Monument and read the history that is inscribed on its walls. Just a few yards away at rest in the Houston Ship Channel, is the Battleship Texas, the only surviving battleship that served in both World Wars I and II.

Our next visit is to NASA, where we will spend three hours in order to view the IMAX movie and take the tram ride around the facilities. We will divide into small groups, so you will be able to choose what you want to see and do, or just relax!

Our bus will next drive us to Galveston Island, once one of the most important ports in America and famous for its beautiful homes and beaches. The Hurricane of 1900, the most disastrous storm in American history but not well known, destroyed the town and the port. The town was rebuilt, but the port lost its importance when a ship channel was dredged from Galveston Bay to Houston and enlarged just after W.W.I. Today, Houston is usually ranked as the second largest port in America. Our bus will drive us around the island to view some of the old homes, the historic Strand District, and the Island's beaches. To conclude our day, we will enjoy dinner at a wonderful restaurant in a private dining room overlooking the Elissa, a restored 1877 schooner.

On Saturday morning, we will take the bus (or drive our private cars) to Nacogdoches, the "oldest town in Texas," having been a Spanish mission in 1716 and later the first incorporated town under Spanish and then Mexican rule. The Old Stone Fort served as the first town hall as well as a fortification and is one of the places we will visit. After lunch on your own, we will walk to the Town Square and to the Visitors' Center and then to a nearby house museum. After our visit to the Old Stone Fort, we will stroll along paths of the Mize Arboretum with its 6,500 azaleas. Then we will return to the Hotel to rest and freshen up. Later there will be the annual meeting of the Rudisill Family Association, conducted by Richard (Rudi) Rudisill at the Rudisill 1896 House (about eight blocks from the Hotel), followed by a Reception hosted by the Rudisill Family Foundation. Our Closing Dinner will be in the 1896 House also, and a very special entertainment is planned to conclude the evening and our Rudisill Family Reunion.

If you have any questions or need more information, please call me at 713-782-3215 or email: h.rudisill@sbcglobal.net (note that the dot after h was omitted in the last newsletter!).

Please join us for our Rudisill Family Reunion, a special time when we can share our heritage and help preserve it for generations to come, and please return your Registration Form soon!

Your cousin,
Clifford Rudisill