

Relations

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

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

No. 9, Spring, 2009

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

Founder's Corner

Post-office Error Means Extended Subscription!

Dear cousins,

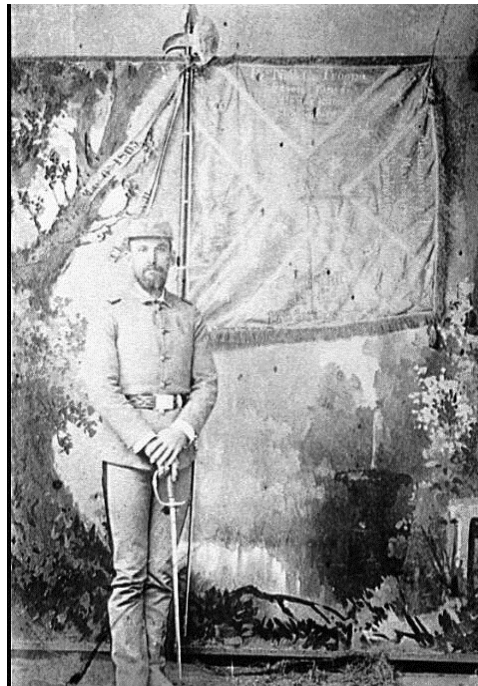
At about the time that you received your December 2008 issue of *Relations*, the Nacogdoches post office mistakenly began returning mail sent to our RFF post office box address. There simply was a glitch in the automated system that indicated our box had been closed. Fortunately, the error was discovered through the perseverance of one of our loyal cousins who had mailed a contribution that was returned to her. She investigated at her post office; discovered the problem was in the national postal computer system; notified us; we contacted the Nacogdoches post office where the mistake was corrected. Unfortunately, the correction was not made until late January, and by then countless donations had been returned to their sender.

The good news is that we are sending this edition of *Relations* complimentary to our entire mailing list so that everyone will have one more opportunity to send us your contribution of \$15 for a year's newsletter subscription, and, especially, so those of you who had your contribution returned by the post office can send them again. We thank the many cousins whose contributions were received, and we look forward to hearing from those cousins whose contributions were not received. We know these are difficult economic times for everyone, and we want you to know that we will work very hard to merit your donations so that we can continue to fulfill our mission to preserve and share our Rudisill family history. Please remember to send us information about your branch of our family along with any family memorabilia that tell us about you and your ancestors. We look forward to hearing from you.

Gratefully, your cousin,
Clifford Rudisill

Flag Bearer of 16th North Carolina, Infantry

By Elizabeth Smith



Lt. Emanuel Rudasill with the 16th North Carolina Regiment, Infantry battle flag that he brought home after the Civil War.

The flag bearer was hit!! The flag was falling!! I had to get that flag! We had followed it through battles and more were to come. I was successful, and I carried it from that day all the way home.

My name is Emanuel Rudasill. I was a member of Company M of the 16th North Carolina Regiment. I became the third Regimental flag bearer during the Battle of the Wilderness. My brother, Wiley Marcus, knew he had lost me when he saw me grab that flag. But, I made it to Appomattox and home to Gaston County, NC.

I didn't turn in that precious flag at Appomattox. I got a substitute from one of the companies. The regimental battle flag was sewn inside the lining of my overcoat and brought through the Yankee lines to my commander, Col. William Stowe. Col. Stowe told me to keep the flag and preserve it for my descendants. I was eventually pressured to give it to the state of North Carolina. Some years later when my granddaughters asked about it at a museum in Raleigh, they were told that it was probably in the basement.

(continued on page 2)



Rev'd Frederick Sheely Weiser: 1935-2009

It is with a sad heart that we report the death of our beloved cousin on January 26, 2009, in York, PA. A memorial service was held at Christ Lutheran Church in York on February 3, 2009.

Few Rudisill cousins have given so much of themselves as Fred did to preserve our early history of our extended family, nor will there ever be anyone like him. He was uniquely qualified to trace our ancestors through church records back to 1600 in Switzerland and Germany, and he had the intellectual curiosity to persevere in his research until he had filled in all the missing information.

It was Fred who provided our other beloved patriarch, Edward (Ted) Rudisill, with the background information for the first chapters in his seminal book, "The Rudisill Genealogy," entitled "Our Swiss Beginning" and "The German Descendants of Hans Rudisuli, Our Progenitor." What a fortuitous meeting it was of those two men and of those two minds! It has been said that we cannot know who we are until we know where we came from. Fred and Ted have given us just that, and what a gift that is!

We are so grateful for the lives of both of these men. Rest in peace, Fred: dear pastor, scholar, cousin and friend. In *Relations* for November, 2008, we published a tribute to Rev Weiser that will give you more information about him. Find this at www.rudisillfoundation.org

Clifford Rudisill

Flag Bearer (continued from page 1) Emanuel spoke to you on page 1. Now, his great granddaughter tells you about him.

Emanuel Rudasill, (no middle name), was born September 17, 1845, near Cherryville, Lincoln County, NC. His parents were Wiley and Susanna Carpenter Rudisill. (Lincoln County became Gaston County in 1846.) It was from there that Emanuel joined the 16th North Carolina Regiment, Infantry, probably following his 16th birthday in 1861.

The 16th was a part of The Pender/Scales Brigade that began its participation in the Civil War at the Battle of Williamsburg on May 5, 1862. It has not been proven in which battles Emanuel participated before the Battle of the Wilderness on May 5-6, 1864. It is assumed that he was somehow involved in previous battles in which The Pender/Scales Brigade participated: Seven Days Campaign, Cedar Mountain, 2nd Manassas, Antietam, Fredericksburg, Chancellorsville, Gettysburg.

Following the Battle of the Wilderness, the Brigade and Emanuel who was now 18, saw action in the battles of Spotsylvania Court House, North Anna, Cold Harbor, and the Siege of Petersburg.

As the surrender at Appomattox on April 9, 1865 approached, Emanuel could not give up that flag which he had carried for almost a year. He got a flag from another company and surrendered that one.

According to his brother, Marcus, as told to his daughter, Susie, and passed by her to her grandson, Ralph Langston of Memphis, TN, Emanuel found a "good Southern woman" to sew the flag inside the lining of his overcoat. When the Confederate troops were pardoned to go home, Emanuel carried "his flag," through the Yankee lines and on home to Gaston County, NC.

Brothers Migrated

Following the war, four brothers of the nine sons of Susanna Carpenter Rudisill, left North Carolina and migrated West. They were Wiley Marcus, Emanuel, Levi and James Anderson.

They stopped in Alabama long enough to plant and harvest and sell a crop to finance their travels. Moving on through Tishomingo, Tippah County, MS where Susie was born, they traveled through Arkansas where Marcus decided to stay.

Emanuel continued to the Oklahoma Territory and across the Red River to Sherman, Grayson County, Texas. Levi and James went south into south central Texas.

In Sherman, Emanuel stayed with his mother's brother, Ephram Carpenter. Two houses away was the uncle's widowed

daughter, Permalla Caroline Carpenter Tate and her two little boys, James Minor Tate and Charles A Tate. Emanuel and Permalla (Mally) married and had three sons, William Stowe (my grandfather), Samuel Ephram, and Milton Pearl.

Emanuel became a wheat farmer and had a large farm which "Willy" and "Eph" inherited. Pearl was killed in his 20s by one of his half-brothers, James Minor, over a land dispute. "Eph" was a bachelor and lived with William Stowe and his wife, Louisa Isophenia McClendon, and their children Wilhelmina Sibyl (my mother) and Thyra (no middle name).

Everyone is buried in the old section of West Hills Cemetery in Sherman, Texas except Permalla who is found in the cemetery's Mausoleum where Minor and Charles placed her.

More About the Flag

In 1919, Emanuel received a letter from the United Daughters of the Confederacy requesting return of the flag for a celebration they were planning. Later, he received letters from the Governor and from the State Historian. He decided to bestow the flag to his Native State and asked Charles L. Stowe, an attorney in Sherman, for help in this endeavor.

Mr. Stowe was the nephew of Col. Stowe. Mr. Stowe telephoned Col. Stowe to learn what he remembered about Emanuel and the regimental battle flag. Mr. Stowe wrote a report dated October 16, 1919, of his conversation with his uncle. The following are excerpts from that report:

"In the early part of year 1863, in City of Richmond, Virginia, Miss P.C. Semon was employed by Officers of the Regiment, and she made this flag.

"Until the Regiment surrendered at Appomattox with General Lee, this Flag was with the Regiment. At Appomattox, a company flag was surrendered by the Regiment. This Flag was inclosed inside of a large overcoat. Thus concealed, it was carried by the owner of the overcoat through the lines of General Grant's Army.

"After receiving from General Grant, a parole, and after arriving at his home in Gaston County, N.C., Col. Wm. A. Stowe, of the 16th Regiment had at his private disposal this Flag.

"...In a battle of the many fought by this Regiment, its Color Bearer was mortally wounded. As he fell in the front ranks with his face to the enemy, the nearest comrade to the dying hero was Emanuel Rudasill, then nearly 19 years of age. He grasped the Flag

before it had reached the ground, waved it aloft and led his comrades on to Victory! Col. Stowe was at his station in the battle charge and saw his Color Bearer fall and die and also saw Rudasill, the young hero, rescue his Flag from a bed of dust and blood and saw him bring it safely into Camp after the battle.

"To be a Regimental Color Bearer was an honor much sought for by the brave soldiers of the Confederate Army; it too carried a Commission as an Officer, 1st. Lieutenant, to the winner. Col. Stowe was deluged by applicants, tried, proven, gallant soldiers, for the vacant position. His reply to all was,- "This farmer boy, who saved our Flag from trailing in the dust, shall be our Color Bearer", and thus was Emanuel Rudasill made Color Bearer of this Regiment. Twice in battle, when leading the men with this Flag aloft, he was severely wounded and at Appomattox, it was he who prevented its surrender to our enemies."

The Flag was sent to the State Historian of North Carolina. A certificate of thanks was received by Emanuel. In closing his report, Mr. Stowe said the following:

"...All these years, Emanuel Rudasill has had possession of this Flag and has held it as a treasure beyond price. Recently, his good health has given up to causes ... so he has but little hope of living much longer.

"... He has decided to bestow his Flag to our Native State- to North Carolina- to be preserved at Raleigh in the Capitol room devoted to hold relics of the State, of which is this Flag of the 16th N. C. Regiment, C.S.A."

Reunion in San Diego Next September 17-19

The Rudisill Family Association will hold its annual reunion in San Diego, September 17 - 19, 2009.

Activities will include the following:

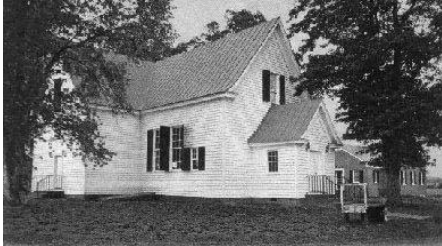
- 17 Sep.** poolside cocktails, hors d'oeuvres
- 18 Sep.** Bus to USS Midway museum, to a park for box lunch, to 2 hour harbor cruise, to Hotel Del Coronado (walkways, gardens, gift shops), and back to our hotel, Humphrey's Half Moon Inn & Suites. Dinner will be at the Bali Hai Restaurant just down the street.
- 19 Sep.** Bus to San Diego Zoo for a tour by tram train, lunch on your own at zoo; to Old Town San Diego, to Del Mar, and to La Jolla for free time. We will meet in the village for a short ride to the home of Ted and Marina Rudisill for a sumptuous Mexican Feast that ends our reunion. For details, contact Rudi Rudisill (703)281-6915, rudi@ieee.org.

Donations To RFF Archives

By Clifford Rudisill

One of the most important purposes of your Rudisill Family Foundation is to preserve original family documents (including letters, post cards, photographs, memorabilia, etc.), or copies of them, documents that tell stories or give facts about our ancestors. We are very grateful to two of our cousins who have recently entrusted us with the following items:

1. Copy of the handwritten 1790 Deed by Michael M. Carpenter to Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison, VA, donated by Katherine Smith Frere of Altadena, CA.



Hebron Lutheran Church, Madison VA

The original handwritten deed by Michael M. Carpenter (a/k/a Zimmerman) gave "500 lbs. curt. money of Va. to be paid in gold and silver..." and an acre of land "whereon the german l. ch. is now standing....to the uninterrupted use of the people belonging to sid ch. & cong to their publick services of God as long as it shall remain a church & place of publick worship of the g. l. cong..." Michael Carpenter's daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, married James A. Rudisill: They were great-great grandparents of our cousin, Katherine Smith Frere.

"Katey" was born and grew up in Culpeper, VA, and now lives in Altadena, CA., near her daughter, son-in-law and granddaughter.

Hebron Lutheran Church, located just north of Madison, VA, is the oldest continuously operating Lutheran Church in the U.S. and is one of a handful of wooden Virginia churches that pre-date the Revolutionary War. It was built in 1740 by the Germanna immigrants of 1717 (the second Germanna Colony). In about 1726, they had moved to the Madison area from the Germanna settlement where Virginia Route 3 crosses the Rapidan River, and took out land patents, having finally won their freedom from their indenture to Governor Spotswood.

The settlers first built a log chapel on the current site of the church, then set about attracting a minister. In 1733, they brought Rev. Johann Caspar Stoever to be their pastor. They then began a fund-raising drive to finance the construction of a new church. Rev. Stoever and two of the original

immigrants, Michael Smith and Michael Holt, went to Europe to raise money and to find an assistant pastor. They secured the funds and hired Rev. George Samuel Klug. On the return trip, Rev. Stoever died, leaving the building and consecrating of the new church to Rev. Klug. An annex was added to the church about 1800 and in it was installed a **Tannenberg organ** from Pennsylvania at a cost of L 200. Tannenberg, who was 74 in 1802, did not travel to Madison to install the organ but sent Phillip Bachmann in his place. The organ has remained entirely unaltered and is the largest and clearest example of the type of organ that Tannenberg built for the Lutheran and German Reformed churches at this time.



In 1962, the church was substantially restored. It is situated on a small rise that affords a pretty view of the Robinson River and surrounding area.

Thank you, Katey, for this important addition to the RFF archives!

2. Original Document of the "Minutes of the Centennial Celebration held by the Descendants of the Elder Matthias Smyser, May 3rd, 1845, on the farm of Samuel Smyser in West Manchester Township, York County, PA, printed by Abraham Rudisill," donated by Joanne Rudisill McIntyre of Lancaster, PA

The inside-cover of this booklet reads: "Mrs. Susanna Rudisill on her death-bed requested that this book should be printed, and a copy of it given to each of her children, as also to some of her friends, as a token of remembrance."

On the same page, signed by The Committee is the following: "The design of the following pages is merely to furnish an interesting family document to those who may come after us, and we would recommend to all of the descendants of the elder Mathias Smyser, who have this pamphlet in possession, carefully to preserve the same, so that when another hundred years shall have passed by, it may still be found, as its pages will doubtlessly then be much more interesting than at the present time; and if such can conveniently do so, would add in manuscript, incidents of their

own respective branches, would render it still more interesting."

This original document, now over 150 years old, is a remarkable early history of our family in America, especially during the time of the Revolutionary War when a committee, including our ancestors in York, raised and sent 250 pounds to John Hancock "for the purpose of affording relief and encouragement to their distressed brethren of Boston," the port of Boston having been closed by the British in 1775 "for the purpose of starving the people of that important place into submission." It goes on to say: "If the American cause had failed, every member of that committee would have forfeited their lives on the scaffold, with all their property."

The document includes a "Family Record of the Rudisills," which begins with "Wyerly Rudisill, who emigrated from Germany in the early period of this State of Pennsylvania, was a tailor by profession, and had but one son, Andrew who was born on May 17, 1756. Andrew's youngest son, Henry, born on November 12, 1797, married Susanna Eichelberger in 1823." One of the nine children of the Elder Matthias Smyser, his daughter Elizabeth, married Leonard Eichelberger, whose descendant Samuel was Susanna's father. The document includes the "Birth Record of Henry Rudisill's children," and the "Marriage Record of Henry Rudisill's children, the last entry of which reads: "My son Henry was married on the 2nd day of January A.D. 1851, in the State of Ohio, to Sarah Brown, a daughter of William Brown of Green County, Ohio."

Cousin Joanne also sent us a list of Rudisills from "The Reference Directory" of **The Family Heritage Book**, published in 1980 and compiled by Beatrice Bayley. She also included "A Rudisill Genealogy" which was an insert in **The Day of our Abraham**, which traces her line from Weyrick Rudisill, who was born in 1697 in Alsace-Lorraine and came to this country in 1737 on the ship "Samuel."

Thank you, Joanne, for sharing all these treasures with us!

Is YOUR Rud..... Here?

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 These are the 44 we know. If you know of others, please send them to us.

Commanding General of 56th Artillery in WWII

Major General William E. Sweet was the great grandson of Mary Margaret Rudasill, daughter of Elkin Jerome Rudisill. His only Rudasill first cousin is our Mary Lou Potts Kuhn who remembers him very fondly.

Mary Lou recalls vacations at their maternal grandparents' home in Toledo, OH. The highlight of their visits was sailing on the Maumee River in Bill's Nipper.

During WWII, General Sweet was Commanding General of the 56th Artillery Command (Pershing), Commander of the 8th Infantry Division Artillery and Chief of Staff of the 8th Infantry Division and VII Corps. He served as Chief of Officer Assignments in Europe and held several positions in the Pentagon. He completed two tours in Vietnam.



Maj Gen William E. Sweet

Bill retired to Florida where he died on July 8, 2008. He was the son of Earl and Marian Connor Sweet and was born on September 15, 1929, in Toledo. He is survived by his wife, Nedra; daughter Lou Anne Wright (Charles) of Casper, Wyoming; and his daughter-in-law, Debora Ann Sweet and grandsons Branden and Jordan Sweet of Long Island, NY. His son, Jeffrey Mason Sweet, died in 1992. General Sweet was buried in Toledo Memorial Park in Sylvania, OH on Thursday, July 17, 2008, with full military honors.

PLEASE SEND US YOUR DONATION

Your contribution of \$15 provides you with a year's subscription to *Relations*. For your donation of at least \$25, we will send you a complimentary copy of "Rudasill Recipes to Remember," compiled by Marie Faulk Rudisill and Edward L. Rudisill, and a copy of a pencil drawing of "The 1896 House," the headquarters of the Rudisill Family Foundation. (For a history of The 1896 House, see our website at rudasillfoundation.org. Also, refer to articles in our newsletters No. 1-Fall, 2003; and No. 4-December 2005.)

Any donation above \$25 will be tax deductible, as the RFF is a Section 501.c.3 charitable corporation as recognized by the Internal Revenue Service.

Each and every donation, of whatever amount, helps us to succeed in our mission of "sharing and preserving our family heritage." Please send your donation to the Rudisill Family Foundation, c/o Clifford Rudisill, 4932 Post Oak Timber Drive, Houston, TX 77056. You will receive a letter of appreciation and, if appropriate, a letter acknowledging your tax-deductible donation. Thank you!

Rudasill Family Websites

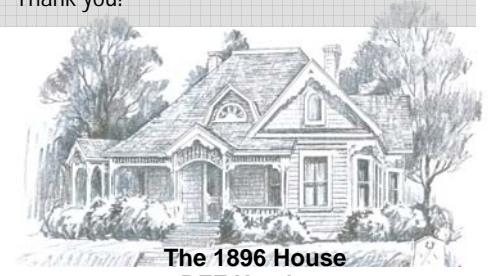
www.rudasillfoundation.org: This is the official website of the Rudasill Family Foundation, Inc. It is maintained by our cousin and RFF Director, Dr. Alvin E. Rudisill (al@rudasill.ws), of Ypsilanti, MI.

www.rudasill.ws This site is also maintained by Dr. Alvin E. Rudisill

www.geocities.com/Heartland/Acres/8018/: This site is maintained by Ms. Karen Ruedisueli (krudy@chartermi.net) who lives in Oscoda, Michigan.

freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~vstern/: This site is maintained by Ms. Vanessa Rudisill Stern. (vrstern@earthlink.net) Vanessa has a great site with a considerable amount of family information.

DO YOU HAVE A WEBSITE? WOULD YOU SEND US THE ADDRESS, PLEASE?



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