



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.

Newsletter of the Rudisill Family Foundation, Inc.

www.rudisillfoundation.org

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Founder's Corner

Family and Community: Caring about One Another

During these difficult times of uncertainty caused by the coronavirus pandemic, I am reminded that there are many similarities between Family and Community. Each come together with some common purpose and each care about the Other. I have just finished reading "The Second Mountain: The Quest for a Moral Life" by David Brooks. His final chapters deal with Community. He says: "A community is healthy when the relationships are felt deeply, when there are histories of trust, a shared sense of mutual belonging, norms of mutual commitment, habits of mutual assistance, and real affection from one heart and soul to another... These are the forces in our society that nurture attachment and connection... Edmund Burke [British statesman, 1729-1797] argued that people who have never looked backward to their ancestors will not be able to know themselves fully... will not know the heroism and the struggle that came before them... By respecting our ancestors, we learn to respect ourselves." The more I know about our Rudisill family (in all its diversity and many spellings), the more I respect our common history, our past and present generations. And the more I appreciate and am thankful for both.

In this edition of *Relations* you will be introduced to two cousins who are well-respected artists, to another who is a co-owner of a restaurant, and to another who has just been elected to your RFF Board of Directors. You will be brought up-to-date on Edward (Ted) Rudisill, our patriarch and author of "The Rudisill Genealogy," a cousin to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude for all his genealogical research on our family.

Please help support your Rudisill Family Foundation. Send us your stories that we may print in this newsletter to share with the extended family. Consider taking an active role in the RFF. Think about organizing a family reunion in your area (usually one every two years). Send the names and addresses of your Rudisill cousins to hcrudisill@yahoo.com. We need the help of every member of the extended Rudisill family. Also, let us know how we can help you!

Stay well and, especially at this time, continue to care about and for one another.

Your grateful cousin,
Clifford Rudisill



A Visit with Cousin Ted

In early March I was in Western Massachusetts to attend a wedding and I took the opportunity of visiting Ted Rudisill while I was in the area. Ted just happened to call me a week before I left Houston to give me his new address, so the timing was propitious! Ted had been living with his daughter, Nancy Ziegler, in Dorset, VT, but the time had come for him to move into an assisted living community in nearby Manchester. I was very lucky to be there the last day before the place was in quarantine due to the coronavirus pandemic.

Equinox Terrace is a lovely place and Ted looked amazingly well for his 97 years. He has found a good doctor in Manchester who is doing research on Parkinson's Disease, and Ted has been responding well to some experimental medications. He is walking with the aid of a walker and his trembling is much less than it was a few years ago. He is perfectly lucid and I know he would be pleased to hear from his Rudisill cousins.

His address is: Equinox Terrace, 324 Equinox Terrace Rd., Manchester Center, VT 05255. The main numbers there are 802-565-1548, 802-363-5141, and 802-767-7164. His personal telephone number is 802-362-3452.



Charles R. Mize: RFF Director

Congratulations to Charles Mize upon his election to the Board of Directors of the Rudisill Family Foundation!

Charles is descended from John Philip Rudisill (1738-1794), fourth generation of Hans Rudisuli (1643-1723), our Swiss progenitor. His great great-grandfather was Henry Clifford Rudisill (my grandfather and namesake), who was born in 1869 in Bessemer City, NC and died in 1938 in Nacogdoches, Texas. Charles's grandparents are John J. (Johnny) Rudisill and Jean Jetton Rudisill. His parents are Lisa Rudisill Mize and James (Jimmy) Mize.

Charles was born and raised in Nacogdoches. He graduated from Nacogdoches High School, where he was on the swimming team. He attended the University of Texas in

Austin where he earned his Bachelor of Business Administration with a major in Finance and a minor in Accounting. During his college summers, he was an intern for the Texas Oil and Gas Association, Royalty Clearinghouse, and CenterPoint Energy. Since graduating in 2018, Charles has been working for CenterPoint Energy in Houston as a Strategic Planning Financial Analyst. He is an active member of the Houston Economics Club, Young Professionals in Energy, and The Texas (University) Exes. He possesses considerable computer skills, and his interests are sports, history and politics. Welcome a-Board, Charles!

Ed Rudisell: Indiana Restaurateur

The Indianapolis Star reported in January that our cousin Ed Rudisell has remodeled and reopened the Siam Square Restaurant that he and his wife, Sasatorn, have co-owned for 11 years. The new concept is to eliminate full-service dining and to focus on quick-service and take-out: Place your order in person or on-line, get a number, and your food will be delivered to you. Although their concept is fast service, they do not serve "fast food." Their recipes are individually prepared by Thai cooks, and their traditional specialties are still high-quality at reasonable prices.

"The Basic paradigm for what constitutes a restaurant in American is rapidly being redefined," according to the National Restaurant Association. The current coronavirus pandemic has obviously reinforced the shift to fast/take-out food.

Our thanks to Cousin June Knight Shassere for bringing this family news to our attention.

Remember Dues! If you are reading this newsletter, PLEASE send us your check for \$10 to cover our newsletter expenses. And remember: any donation over \$10 is tax deductible!

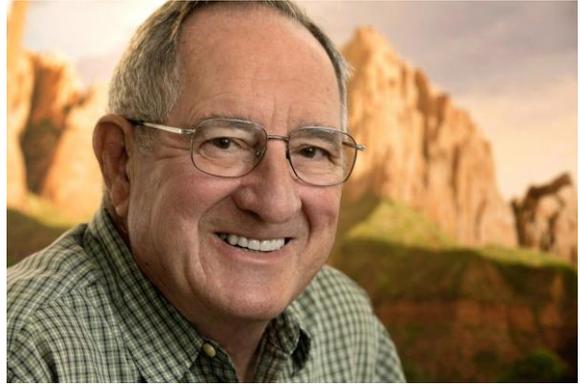


Clapper Rail, woodcarving by Anthony J. Rudisill
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Artist Anthony J. Rudisill Paints Stories in Nature

Sometimes I get discouraged when so many Rudisill cousins seem apathetic about our genealogy, our family's unique history. Then something surprising happens, and my spirits are revived!

Last December I received a fine porcelain plate with a beautifully painted bird scene on its face, a gift from Marjorie Rudisill Bryson of Paonia, CO. In a note to me she wrote: "Surprisingly I found 10 of the plates in our local thrift store. Turning them over, I was shocked to see the signature of the artist, A. J. Rudisill." I looked on the reverse of the plate and found the name of the painting, "Wood Thrust Feeding Time," a series commissioned by the National Audubon Society in 1983. (photos of front and back below) Cousin Marjorie's gift prompted me to find more information about this fine artist.



I went on-line and discovered that A. J. (Tony, as he prefers to be called) Rudisill's art has been featured in exhibitions in museums and galleries all over America, including the Smithsonian Museum in Washington, D.C., the Ward Museum in Salisbury, MD, The Sharp Museum in Jackson, MI, the Newman Galleries in Philadelphia, PA, and the Noyes Museum in Galloway Township, NJ ("Capturing the Jersey Shore: Works of Anthony J. Rudisill"). His work is in corporate, public and private collections, such as the Girard Bank, Smith Kline Laboratories, and the Franklin Mint where for 10 years he was the Franklin Mint's Featured Artist and his paintings were reproduced in the National Wildlife Federation Stamp Program. I asked Tony what he was most proud of and he told me winning "Best in the World" at the Ward Museum competition in 1978 for his woodcarving entitled "Clapper Rail," a bird found along the Jersey shore. As a painting (seen on page 2) of his original woodcarving, it is beautiful. But as a woodcarving, it is truly magnificent! No wonder he won "Best in the World!" Accolades, Tony!



Cousin Tony was born on May 9, 1934 in Philadelphia, the son of John Paul Rudisill and Marie deRites Rudisill. His grandparents were William Wiley and Edna Rudisill. His great-grandparents were Napoleon Jackson and Nancy Case Rudisill. His great great-grandfather was Michael Rudisill, his great great great-grandfather was Johann Ludwig Rudisill and his great great great great-grandfather was Johann Jacob Rudisill, who came to America in the early 1700s. (See Edward Lee Rudisill's "The Rudisill Genealogy.")

Here is our cousin's Credo in his own words: "I believe that the world of nature is the single most important factor in life, and I create lifelike paintings of land and seascapes reflective of this philosophy. My paintings contain a story, a story left to the imagination of the viewers. I want them to feel they are standing along the beach, cliff or mountainside experiencing firsthand the beauty of nature. After some 60 years of painting and sculpture, I continue to embrace new challenges and tackle seemingly impossible subjects. I bring paintings to life with a few sketches of my pencil and mere strokes of color with my brush."

I would add to Tony's statement that his work requires a great deal of artistry and talent! Thank you, Cousin Tony, for enriching our lives with your philosophy in all its artistic manifestations. And thank you, Cousin Marjorie, for introducing us to him!

Keep up the good work, Tony!

Keep telling us beautiful stories with your art!



Roy Rudasill: Virginia Sculptor and Teacher

For four years Roy Rudasill experimented with different materials for a 12-inch, cold-cast bronze statue of Robert E. Lee, before finally deciding on *sculpee*, a malleable material that could be fired repeatedly and sanded afterward. For a model of Lee, Rudasill chose the famous 1863 photograph by Minnis and Cowell. For the sword, he chose as his model the one on the sarcophagus in the Washington and Lee Chapel, and for the back of Lee's uniform he chose the statue in the rotunda of the Virginia State Capitol Building in Richmond. Rudasill taught art and philosophy at the Southern Virginia College for Women in Buena Vista for many years. He and his wife Nancy also operated an art studio in Lexington, where they lived with their two sons, Chris and Roy III, also artists. Roy produced about 200 of the Lee statuettes.

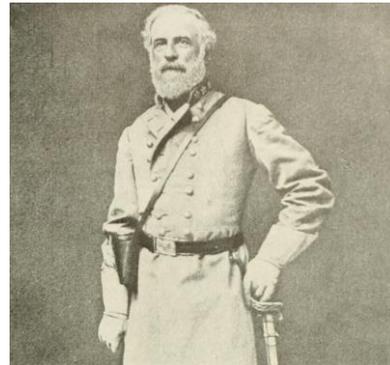
That information appeared in an article from a 1962 edition of the W&L Alumni Magazine which was sent to me years ago by Alice H. Newman from Boonton Township, NJ, and I just recently ran across it again. A very belated "Thank You" to Cousin Alice!

Knowing there was more to this story, I tried hard to locate Cousin Roy Rudasill. I was about to give up when I saw his name on-line associated with a UCC/Presbyterian Church, very active in social justice, in Pinellas Park, FL, where he would work with clay or a similar substance to form an image during and in keeping with the sermon of the day. In 2003, Roy and his wife Nancy moved to FL after he retired from teaching at SVC in Buena Vista. Leroy Rudasill (he prefers to be called Roy) was born in 1934 in Washington, DC. His father was Leroy Unsworth Rudasill and his grandfather was Herndon Barbour Rudasill. Roy graduated from public schools in DC and attended the University of Maryland, graduating in 1956 with a BA in History and English. He went on to get his MA at the University of Delaware, before beginning his teaching career in philosophy and art, especially sculpture.

I look forward to meeting Cousin Roy in person. Maybe a family reunion in Florida? Stay tuned!



Roy Rudasill with some of his statuettes



1863 photograph of Lee by Minnis and Cowell

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Rudasill Family Foundation, Inc.
1204 Joe Annie Street
Houston, TX 77019

