

Presentation to Finnish Genealogy Group of Minnesota



Sandra Hill Ruitberg

Finnish Heritage Project Finding Our Finnish Roots

Edward Ruitberg
Arthur Ruitberg

February 2022

Send questions and comments to: eruitberg@gmail.com

QUESTIONS

1. Where did our grandmother, Sandra Hill Ruitberg, live in Finland?
2. What's Sandra's relationship to the Mattila Family?

Mattila

Mattila Family of Rock, Michigan, circa 1935
Back row, l. to r., George, Nestor, Elmi
Front row, l. to r., Helen, Mary

Ruitberg

Ruitberg Family of East Northport, NY, circa 1918
l. to r., Sandra, Oscar, Jr., Oscar Sr.

Photos supplied by Oscar Ruitberg, Jr

ANSWERS!

- Sandra Hill Ruitberg was from Siikainen, Finland
- Sandra Hill Ruitberg and Mary Hill Mattila (Rock) are first cousins
 - Share same four grandparents!
 - Lived on same farm in Siikainen, Finland

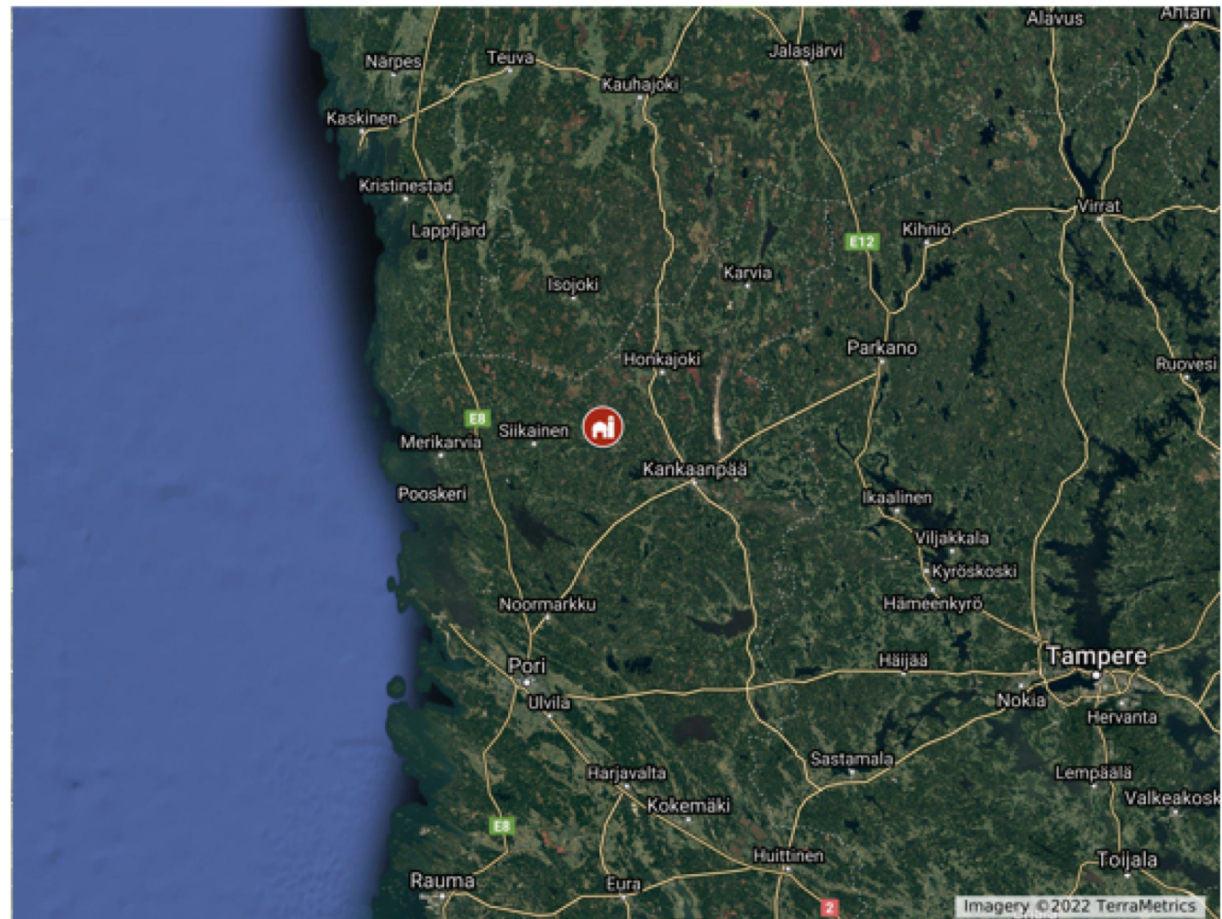


Family Farm Site - Siikainen, Samminmaja

Farmsites



Samminmaja (Osara) (Isaac, Adolfin, & Mary V.; Jaakko, Maria, & Sandra's family farm)



Phase 1 – Ruitberg Family Search

US Census, Birth, Marriage, & Death Record Searches

Obituaries of Sandra Hill Ruitberg & Mary Hill



Sandra Hill Ruitberg

Mrs. Oscar Ruitberg

Mrs. Sandra Ruitberg, age 53, wife of Oscar Ruitberg died on Tuesday, January 3, in Huntington Hospital. They had lived in East Northport many years.

Mrs. Ruitberg was born June 29, 1896 in Finland, the daughter of Mary and Jacob Hill.

Surviving besides her husband are her son O. Edward and two grandchildren, all of East Northport. Also a brother John Hill of Bath, N. Y.

Funeral services were conducted at the home of O. Edward Ruitberg, 40 Irving Johnson street, East Northport, by the Rev. William A. Ruppert of St. Paul's Lutheran Church. Interment was in the Northport Rural Cemetery.

Northport Journal, January 5, 1950, p8

Mrs. Edward Keiser

Mrs. Mary, wife of Edward Keiser of Second Street and Third Avenue, passed away early Sunday morning at the Huntington Hospital. She had been a resident of the East Northport section for the past twenty years. She was born in Finland, March 21, 1878, the daughter of Katherine Luoma and Henry Maki and received her education in that country. When a girl of 18 she married Jacob Hill and two years later they came to this country. Mr. Hill passed away in 1900. In 1921 she married Edward Keiser, who survives as do two children by the first marriage, John Hill, and Mrs. Sandra Ruitberg, both of East Northport.

Funeral services were held at the home of her daughter, Tuesday afternoon at 2 o'clock, Rev. Charles Fredericks, pastor of St. Paul's Lutheran Church officiating. Interment followed in the Genola Cemetery.



Mary Hill

The Long Islander, July 30, 1937, p4, sect. 2

Phase 1 – Mattila Family Search

US Census, Birth, Marriage, & Death Record Searches

Obituaries of Isaac & Adolfina Hill - Parents of Mary Hill Mattila



Isaac L. Hill

Isaac L. Hill Funeral Monday

Funeral services for Isaac L. Hill, retired farmer of Rock Route One, who died yesterday at St. Francis hospital after a long illness, will be held at 1 p. m. Monday at the Finnish Lutheran church in Rock and burial will be in Rock cemetery. Rev. Amos Marin will conduct the rites.

The body is at the Anderson funeral home where friends may call beginning Sunday afternoon, and it will be taken to the church at noon Monday.

Mr. Hill who had lived in Rock for 37 years was born in Siikainen, Finland, November 20, 1869. His wife, Adolphine, died February 6, 1948.

He is survived by a son, Arthur of Rock, a daughter, Mrs. Nestor Mattila, Rock, 5 grandchildren and 5 great grandchildren.

Mrs. Isaac Hill, 77, Rock Pioneer, Dies

Mrs. Isaac L. Hill, 77-year-old Rock pioneer died at one o'clock Friday morning at the family home in Rock.

Mrs. Hill was born in Siikainen, Finland, Feb. 20, 1870, and came to the United States in 1909, living in Princeton, Mich., until coming to Rock in 1913.

A member of the Finnish Lutheran church, Mrs. Hill is survived by her husband and a son and daughter Arthur William Hill and Mrs. Nestor Mattila, both of Rock. Also five grandchildren, eight great grandchildren and a sister in Finland.

The body was taken to Anderson funeral home where arrangements will be completed tomorrow.

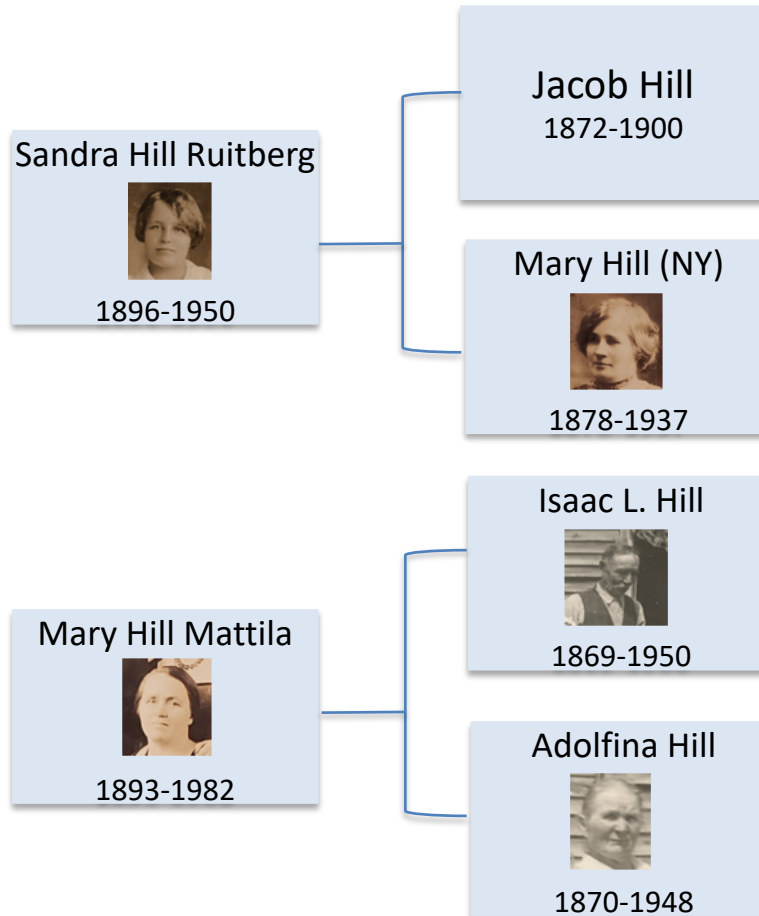


Adolfina Hill

The Escanaba Daily Press (Escanaba, MI), 23 Mar. 1950, p10

The Escanaba Daily Press (Escanaba, MI), 6 Feb. 1948, p10

Phase 1 Search Results Summary



Phase 1 Conclusion:

Common ancestor must be in a prior generation. Need to broaden search!

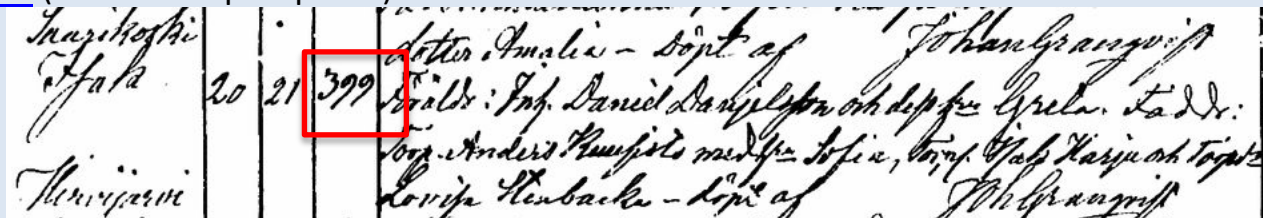
Phase 2 - Finnish Church Record Searches



Isaac L. Hill

Birth/Baptismal Record: Siikainen Birth Records 1868-1881, p. 15, 20 Nov 1869

https://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/sivut_eng/jasenille/paikat.php?bid=16152&pnum=8 (membership required)



(Saarikoski/Isaac; born 20 Nov 1869; baptized 21 Nov 1869; parents Daniel Danielsson and wife Greta; sponsors Anders and wife Kaisa; also Isaac Harju & Lovisa Stenback; reference Siikainen communion book, page 399)

First Communion Record: Siikainen First Communicants 1842-1986, page 86, 1885

https://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/sivut_eng/jasenille/paikat.php?bid=16815&pnum=44



(Saarikoski/Isaac Danielsson Lähteenmäki; born 20 Nov 1869; Siikainen church book ref. page 311)

Saarikoski Village - Family Home to Brothers Isaac & Jacob

Siikainen Parish Communion Book 1867-1873
Saarikoski Village, Nordlund Estate

Discovery of first
common
ancestor pair!

- Daniel
Danielsson
- Greta
Isaacsdotter

Brothers

- Isaac Danielsson
- Jacob Danielsson

[illegible]

Where are Adolfin & Maria Hill?
Where is Sandra Hill Ruitberg?

Kankaanpää Parish – Family Home to Sisters Adolfinia & Maria

Kankaanpää Parish Communion Book 1883-1892
Samminmaja-Italuoma Village, Mäki Farm

[illegible]

Discovery of
second
common
ancestor pair!

- Henric Jeremiasson
- Kaisa Ericsson

Sisters

- Adolfina
Henricsdotter
- Maria
Henricsdotter

Samminmaja Village – All one family

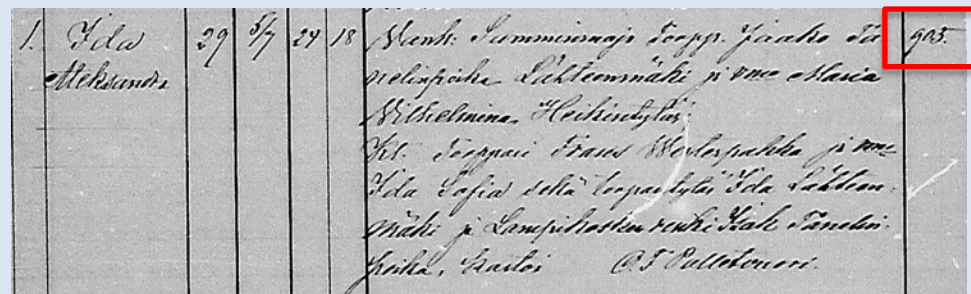
Lähteenmäki Brothers Married Mäki Sisters

[illegible]

Sandra Hill Ruitberg (Ida Alexandra Lähteenmäki)

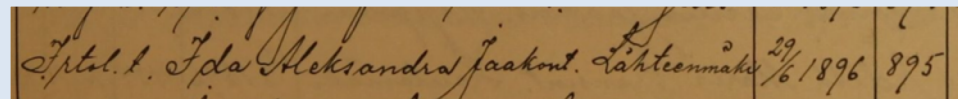


Birth/Baptismal Record: Kankaanpää Birth Records 1894-1902, p. 94, 29 Jun 1896
https://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/sivut_eng/jasenille/paikat.php?bid=9032&pnum=48 (membership required)



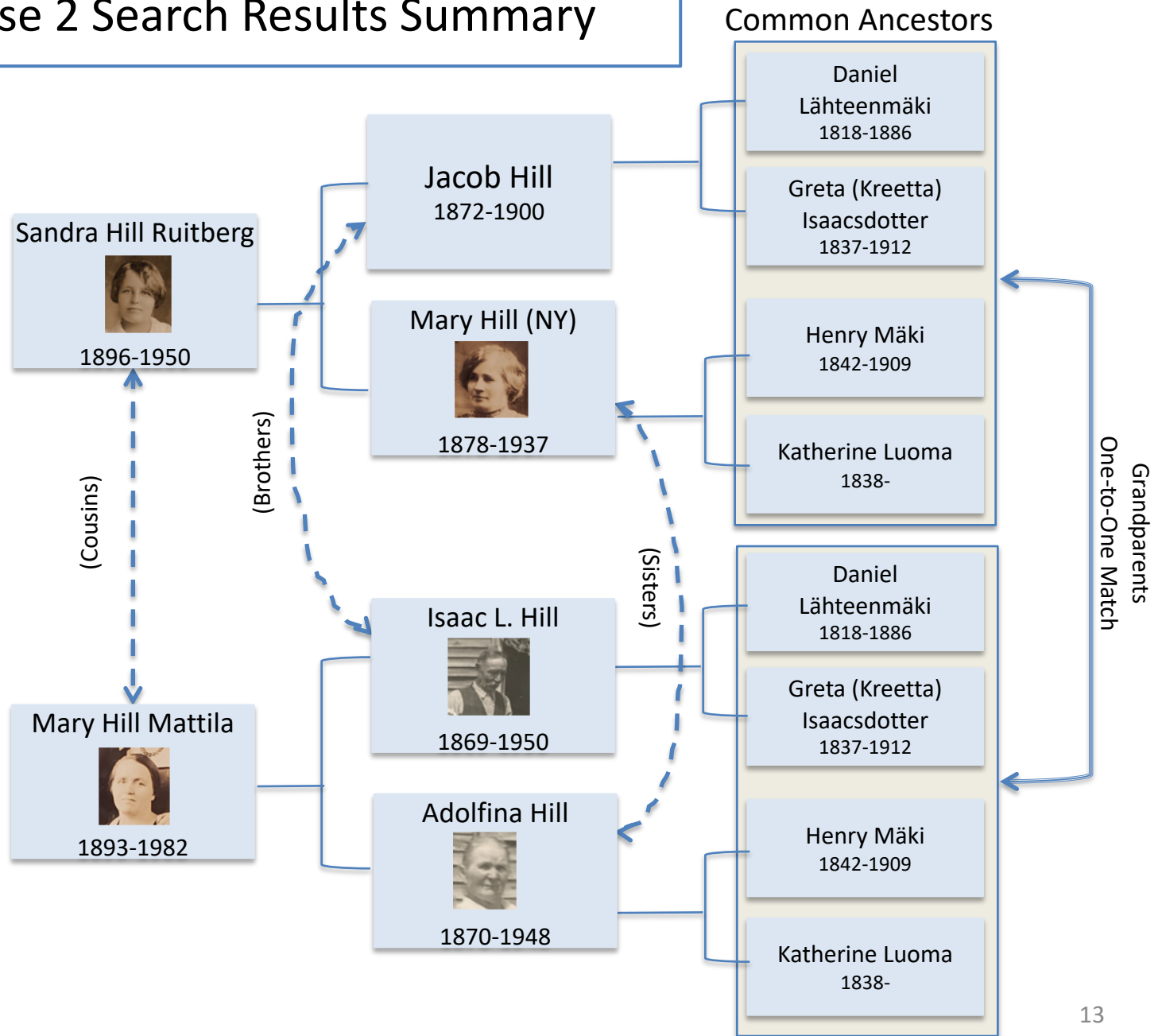
(Ida Alexandra; born 29 Jun 1896; baptized 5 Jul 1896; father 24 years old; mother 18 years old; Samminmaja village; Jacob Danielsson Lähteenmäki, Maria Wilhelmina Henricsdaughter; sponsors Frans Westerpakka and wife Ida Sofia; also Ida Lehtimäki & Isaac Danielsson; Kankaanpää communion book, page 905)

First Communion Record: Siikainen First Communicants 1902-1912, image 36, 1912
https://www.sukuhistoria.fi/sshy/sivut_eng/jasenille/paikat.php?bid=22530



(Ida Alexandra Jacobsdaughter Lähteenmäki; born 29 Jun 1896; Siikainen church book ref. page 895.
 Note: Samminmaja village transferred from Kankaanpää to Siikainen Parish in 1904)

Phase 2 Search Results Summary





Finnish Land Survey Map: Vanhatalo, Samminmaja, circa 1915





Sandra Lähteenmäki's Childhood Home Current Day Location

Osara (Samminmaja), Siikainen, Finland (Google Maps 2021)



Summary

- Found answers to our questions
- Got stuck at times, but found discovery path
- Utilized:
 - Multiple search engines
 - *Finnish National Archives* (<http://digi.narc.fi/digi/>)
 - *Finland's Family History Association* image database - critical to our success
- Made contact with Sandra Culver of Green Bay, Wisconsin, granddaughter of Isaac and Adolfina Hill
 - Confirmed relationship among Hill, Mattila, and Ruitberg families
- Planning trip to Siikainen, Finland, in Aug. 2022, to walk the farm of our ancestors

APPENDICES

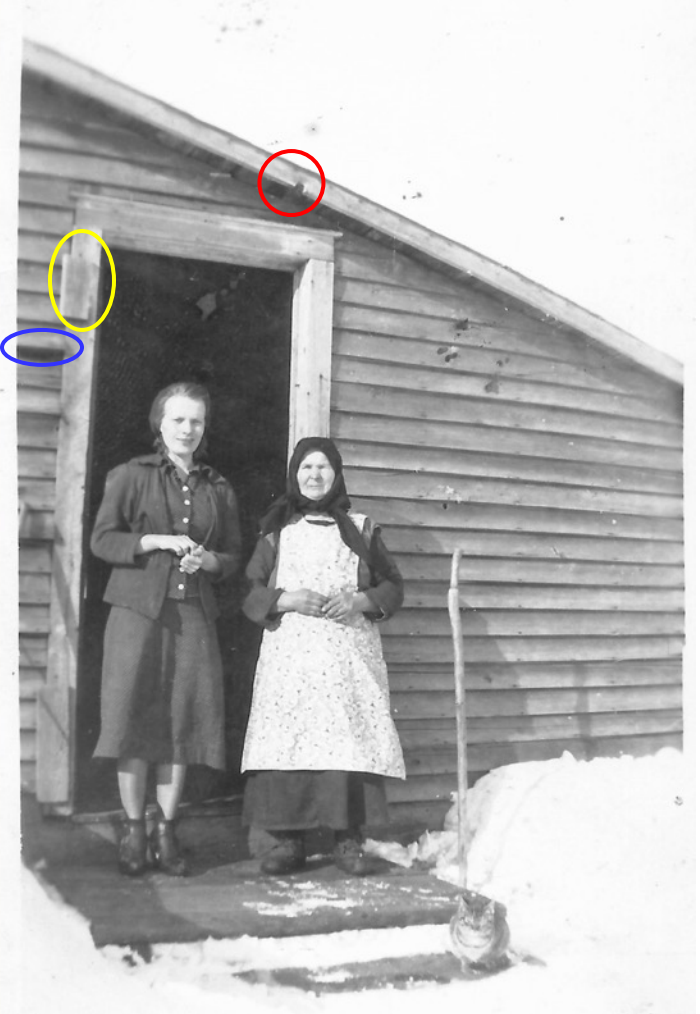
1. Rock, Michigan Photos
2. Ship Passenger Lists
 - Adolfina Hill (1909)
 - Sandra Hill Ruitberg (1913)
3. About the Authors

Appendix 1 – Rock, Michigan Photos
SIMILAR DETAILS OF HOUSES IN TWO PHOTOS
(In Addition to Similarity of Overall Construction, Siding, Entranceway)

Buckled Siding

Plaque Board

Knot Hole



Sandra Culver's Photo of Adolfina, Isaac, & Granddaughter Helen Lund's children, circa 1941

Oscar Ruitberg Jr.'s Photo of Helen[?], Adolfina, & cat, 1939

Appendix 2 – Arriving Ship Passenger Lists, Page 1

Adolfina and Mary Hill (Lähteenmäki*) New York Arrival (1909)

First Page, Entry 14 & 15

16

3:00 PM

BALCON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

Papinas *S.S. Mauretania* sailing from *Liverpool* *July 24th* 1909

No. on List	Family Name	Given Name	Age	Sex	Calling	Place of Birth	Nationality	Race or People	Last Permanent Residence	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence alien came.	Final Destination
1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
6212	Lagg	Beada	30	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
6213	Kantala	Jugis	22	M	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
93	Mikkola	Johan	20	M	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
824	Tusa	Karne	18	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
115	"	Klusa	18	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
6217	Gronroos	Alma	24	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
307	Kyting	Alma	18	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
10	Marghusea	Agastonia	20	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
929	Vahsanen	August	25	M	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
10	"	Johanna	21	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
11	Taka	Benrik	20	M	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
912	"	Jenny	20	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
11	Rahmquist	Ra Ch	23	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
6218	Lahdenmäki	Adolfina	16	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland
15	"	Mary Hill	16	F	Domestic	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland	Finland

15

Johna Loma
Imapeta

15

*Signed of shipping receipt of baggage and claims to travel, state in column 11 whether they are "tourists" or "in transit."
*Race or People "is to be determined by the alien from which alone speaking and the language they speak. List of names will be found on back of this sheet.

Appendix 2 – Arriving Ship Passenger Lists, page 2

Adolfina and Mary Hill (Lähteenmäki*) New York Arrival (1909)

Second Page, Entry 14 & 15



THIS SHEET IS FOR STEERAGE PASSENGERS.

List

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Arriving at Port of NEW YORK 30 JUL 1909 190 163

No. or List	Name	By whom passage paid?	Whether ever before in the United States, and if so when and where?	Whether going to join a relative or friend, and if so, what relative or friend, and his name and complete address.	Condition of Health, Mental and Physical.	Deformed or Crippled.	Height, Nature, length of time, and cause.	Color of— Feet. Inches. Hair. Eyes.	Marks of Identification.	Place of Birth.	
										Country.	City or Town.
1	Friend <u>W. H. Hill</u>			Friend <u>W. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 10	Light blue gray	None	Finland	Parikka
2	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 10	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
3	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 10	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
4	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
5	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 3 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
6	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
7	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
8	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
9	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
10	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
11	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
12	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
13	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
14	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
15	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
16	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
17	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
18	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
19	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
20	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
21	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
22	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
23	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
24	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
25	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
26	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
27	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
28	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
29	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka
30	Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u>			Brother <u>H. H. Hill</u> <u>Chicago, Ill.</u>	Good		5 7 1/2	Light blue	None	Finland	Parikka

Appendix 2 – Arriving Ship Passenger Lists, page 3 Sandra Hill Ruitberg's (Ida Lähteenmäki*) New York Arrival (1913) First Page, Entry 11

Form 506 is
 Department of Commerce and Labor
 IMMIGRATION SERVICE

SALOON, CABIN, AND STEERAGE ALIENS MUST BE COMPLETELY MANIFESTED.

LIST OR MANIFEST OF ALIEN PASSENGERS FOR THE UNITED STATES

Required by the regulations of the Secretary of Commerce and Labor of the United States, under Act of Congress approved February 20, 1907, to be delivered

S. S. Cymric sailing from Liverpool, 4th Dec, 1913.

1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12
No. on List.	NAME IN FULL. Family Name. Given Name.	Age. Yrs. Mos.	Sex. M. F.	Calling or Occupation. Married or Single.	Able to— Read. Write.	Nationality. (Country of which citizen or subject.)	Race or People.	*Last Permanent Residence. Country. City or Town.	The name and complete address of nearest relative or friend in country whence a/came.	Final Destination. (stated for permanent residence.) State. City or Town.	
1	Manninen Etina	19	F	Permit	Yes	Yes	Finland	Finnish	Viipuri	Father Eeva Manninen Turen Ka. Viipuri	Miss Pigeon Cove
2	Markkanen Maria	22	F	do	as	as	as	as	Pietarsaari	Father Eeva Manninen Turen Ka. Viipuri	Miss Luning
3	Puustinen Richard	24	M	Labourer	as	as	as	as	Tampere	Mother Awa Puustinen Tampere	as Gardner
4	Tho Emil	37	M	Farmer	as	as	as	as	Muola	Mother Eeva Tho Muola	Miss East City
5	Nilholm	39	M	do	as	as	as	as	as	Father Juh. Niittinen Muola	as as
6	Naittinen Mikko	20	M	Labourer	as	as	as	as	as	Father Juh. Niittinen Muola	as as
7	Lehti Matti	25	M	do	as	as	as	as	Lomero	Father Matti Kujansalo Lomero	Miss Duluth
8	Ukka Juh. J.	22	M	do	as	as	as	as	Lapua	Brother Juh. Ukkala Lapua	as Ely
9	Ukka Juh. J.	22	M	do	as	as	as	as	Lapua	Brother Juh. Ukkala Lapua	as Ely
10	Miero Juh. J.	19	M	Labourer	as	as	as	as	Finland	Father Juh. Miero Lapua	as New York
11	Lähteenmäki Ida	14	F	Permit	as	as	as	as	Finland	Grandmother Kari Lähteenmäki Lapua	as as
12	Joukainen Juh. J.	24	M	Labourer	as	as	as	as	Litti	Mother Lura Joukainen Litti	Pa Philadelphia

Appendix 2 - Arriving Ship Passenger Lists, page 4
Sandra Hill Ruitberg's (Ida Lähteenmäki*) New York Arrival (1913)
Second Page, Entry 11

STATES IMMIGRATION OFFICER AT PORT OF ARRIVAL.

to the United States Immigration Officer by the Commanding Officer of any vessel having such passengers on board upon arrival at a port in the United States.

Arriving at Port of New York 15th December, 1913

184

																		SUPPLEMENTAL INFORMATION REQUIRED BY NATURALIZATION ACT APPROVED JUNE 28, 1906.																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																																	
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Appendix 3 – About the Authors



Edward

Edward and Arthur Ruitberg, twin brothers, began working on their Finnish Heritage Project with an interest in finding information about the origins of their Finnish grandmother, Sandra Hill Ruitberg. They both love solving puzzles and working together they were able to find the answers. They began their research in late-2020 and were productive through September 2021, while the Covid-19 pandemic crisis was impacting the world. In the end, they found a family story that revealed their own origins and a few surprises.

They were born and raised in East Northport, NY, and were graduated from Pratt Institute with Bachelor of Science Electrical Engineering degrees in 1971. They worked on NASA/Goddard Space Flight Center flight projects for nearly their entire careers.

Edward is retired and lives with his wife, Laura, in Davidsonville, Md. He was a member of the Hubble Space Telescope Project for over 30 years.



Arthur

Arthur Ruitberg lives, with his wife, Erin, in Williamsburg, Va. American history of the Colonial and Civil War periods is of special interest to both, and much time is spent studying various topics.

Pursuing our family's Finnish history is valuable to learn our family's trials and successes on both sides of the Atlantic. The same research methodology was employed as used in American History projects.

Our parents, Oscar Ruitberg, Jr. and Anna Ruitberg; grandparents, Oscar Ruitberg, Sr. and Sandra Hill Ruitberg; and great-grandmother, Mary Hill Keiser are buried in Genola Rural Cemetery, East Northport, NY

