

Zuill, Henry Alan (1935–2009)

SABRINA RILEY

Sabrina Riley was born in Auburn, New York and raised in Dowagiac, Michigan. She received a B.A. in history from Andrews University and an M.A. in information and libraries studies from the University of Michigan. Riley was a member of Andrews University's library staff from 1998 to 2003, library director and college archivist at Union College from 2003 to 2016, and is presently a freelance researcher, author, and information professional.

Henry Alan Zuill, renowned biologist, teacher, and author, was born, along with his twin brother Charles Vincent, in Paget, Bermuda, on December 24, 1935,¹ to Alan James Zuill and Lilla Hodsdon Frith (1895–1893; 1896–1985).²

Early Life and Family

Of British Isles origin, the Zuill family had lived in Bermuda since 1720. Alan Zuill worked for the Bank of Bermuda until the family joined the Seventh-day Adventist Church in the early 1930s. Thereafter he pursued a variety of small business opportunities. Alan and Lilla Zuill were active in their local Seventh-day Adventist church in Bermuda.³

In addition to their twin sons, the Zuills had two older daughters, Elizabeth and Esther Margaret Vincent (1928–2019).⁴ All four children attended college, although their father was not wealthy. Charles studied at Atlantic Union College and Esther at Washington Missionary College. Both became teachers. Elizabeth took nurses training at the New England Sanitarium.

Henry Zuill married fellow Atlantic Union College classmate Joyce E. Ferneyhough, of Oshawa, Ontario, on January 12, 1961. They had two sons, Richard and Brian.⁵

Education

Zuill attended Whitney Institute in Bermuda.⁶ He graduated from Atlantic Union College in 1957 with a Bachelor of Arts in biology. Later Zuill earned a master's degree in 1967⁷ and a doctoral degree in 1973,⁸ both in biology and from Loma Linda University.

Career

Upon graduation Zuill accepted a teaching position in the Southern New England Conference where he briefly taught at Providence Temple School, Rhode Island. He returned to Bermuda, but as a permanent resident of the United States he was drafted in 1959. Zuill could have avoided military service by remaining in Bermuda, but

instead chose to serve. He was assigned to a research laboratory in Letterman Army Hospital at the Presidio of San Francisco.¹⁰

After Zuill separated from the United States Army in January 1961, he returned to Bermuda and taught at the Whitney Institute.¹¹ From 1963 to 1965 he taught biology at Adelphian Academy in Holly, Michigan.¹² He returned to Atlantic Union College in 1967, this time as a member of the faculty teaching for two years.¹³ In 1971–1972, Zuill taught at Greater Boston Academy.¹⁴

From 1974 to 1977 Zuill taught at Montemorelos University in Mexico.¹⁵ He then moved to Antillean Adventist College in Puerto Rico, in 1977, where he was a professor and chair of the Biology Department until 1987.¹⁶ He was also responsible for a United States Department of Education-funded grant that allowed the college to purchase science equipment.¹⁷

In 1987 Zuill returned to Bermuda, taking a yearlong break from teaching⁸ before he accepted a position at Union College in Lincoln, Nebraska, in 1989. While teaching biology at Union College, he curated of the college's Joshua C. Turner Arboretum. Zuill published several articles in the field of ecology.¹⁹ He was also a member of the Biblical Research Institute Science Council from 1990 to 2000.²⁰

Later Life

In 1999 Zuill retired to Norman, Arkansas, where he was an active member of the Chapel Valley Seventh-day Adventist Church. In 2005 he was diagnosed with cancer and underwent a series of conventional treatments at Loma Linda University Medical Center and in Little Rock, Arkansas. Three years later, when it became evident that his condition was declining and further medical intervention would be futile, his family took him to Eden Valley Institute of Wellness in Loveland, Colorado. Surrounded by his family, with the support of hospice care, Henry Zuill died on March 28, 2009, in Loveland, Colorado.²¹

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NOTES

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2. “Lilla Hodsdon (Frith) Zuill obituary,” *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, March 12, 1985, 19.
3. Richard Zuill, interview by the author, November 11, 2019.
4. “Married,” *Atlantic Union Gleaner*, September 4, 1951, 6.
5. “Henry Zuill obituary,” *Southwestern Union Record*, July 2009, 61; Richard Zuill, interview by the author, November 11, 2019.
6. Richard Zuill, interview by the author, November 11, 2019.
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17. "New Biology Professor for Math/Science Div.," *Clocktower* (Union College), September 7, 1989.
18. Richard Zuill, interview by the author, November 11, 2019.
19. See, for example: Earl W. Lathrop and Henry A. Zuill, "Southern Oak Woodlands of the Santa Rosa Plateau, Riverside County, California," *Aliso* 10, no. 4 (1984): 603–611; Henry Zuill and Timothy G. Standish, "Irreducible Interdependence: An IC-Like Ecological Property Potentially Illustrated by the Nitrogen Cycle," *Semanticscholar.org*, 2007, accessed November 8, 2019, <https://pdfs.semanticscholar.org/4e33/5236d1fa6f7b3627a75bab99ce9a96626d67.pdf>.
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