



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

PO Box 176, New Paltz, N Y 12561-0176

JUNE 2017

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Winter has released its grip on the Hudson Valley. With the return of warm weather Historic Huguenot Street is open again for tours and has a new executive director (see page 3). Visit the HHS website (www.huguenotstreet.org) for details. The season will feature two events of special interest to us: The Gathering of all the Huguenot Street families on August 5 (see page 2) and HFA's 60th anniversary reunion on October 14 (see page 2). We hope you can join us for one or both of these occasions. The Jean Hasbrouck House roof replacement has unexpectedly been delayed until next year (see article on this page), but the house will be open in September and for The Gathering. The Abraham Hasbrouck House is open for the entire season. The interpretation of all the houses shifts its focus periodically, so you can have a different experience on return visits.

This newsletter is our main vehicle for communicating with our membership, and we welcome your input. If you have any family-related stories or other information to the overall membership, please send it by US Mail or email (www.info@hasbrouckfamily.org).

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Dues (\$20/year) for renewal of annual memberships should have been paid by October 1, but there are still quite a few laggards out there. If you don't have L (for Life member) or 17 on your mailing label, you're 8 months delinquent by now. But it's never too late to get yourself up to date! We need your support. If you wish to maintain your membership and feel you cannot afford the dues, please tell us your situation and request a waiver. We don't want to abandon members

whose current financial condition makes the dues a hardship.

OUR HOUSES

Abraham Hasbrouck House

We have engaged a contractor with previous Abe House experience for the exterior work planned on the north and south walls (mainly involving the windows) to restore its appearance to be consistent with the house's 1760-1775 period of interpretation. The work should be completed this season. And we are working with HHS to begin the implementation of our updated furnishings plan with purchase of several authentic period items. This will be an extended process since such items are expensive and usually not readily available. Reproduction items will be used where needed.

Jean Hasbrouck House

An examination of the roof's frame and supports by engineers and timber framers has revealed rotted wood in the lower portions of about 25-30% percent of the rafters.



Examining the Jean House rafters

It will be necessary to uncover sections of the roof to reveal the extent of the damage and arrange for repairs/replacement. This will delay the actual roof replacement until next spring. After the timber framers complete their examination and analysis this year, the removed portions of the roof will be covered with sheathing and snow and ice guard to keep it waterproof through the winter until the weather is warm enough to resume roofing work. Notwithstanding the roof condition, the house should be open for a special preservation tour at The Gathering (August 5) and then for regular tours starting in September.

Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)



Ground clearing in front of Locust Lawn

The current restoration activity is work on clearing overgrown trees and brush to make the house more visible from the road (see photo) and get closer to the original landscape design.

The house will be open most Saturdays at 1pm for tours, \$11/person (in addition to bus tours and private tours scheduled by appointment). Check ahead (845-454-4500) before you go to be sure it will be open.

A special event is scheduled for Sunday, June 10, from 11 to 5: *Preserving our Liberty: Citizens and Citizen Soldiers in 1830*. It features re-enactors representing the New Paltz Militia of that year celebrating 50 years of American independence with drills and maneuvers. "Demos and activities for all"

THE GATHERING

A highlight of the current season, The Gathering of all the Huguenot Street families will

be held there on Saturday, August 5. After continental breakfast and a welcome from HHS Chair Mary Etta Schneider, attendees can choose from several tours during the morning and again in the afternoon after a catered luncheon and a concert at the French Church featuring historic instruments. The museum shop will be open in the Visitor Center, which also houses exhibits and an Introduction to Huguenot Street film. The day will end with an informal get-together at The Gilded Otter (at the south end of Huguenot Street). Come and meet a bunch of your cousins for the first time. See accommodations information in the Reunion article below and make your reservations early.

ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion in New Paltz this year is on Saturday, October 14 and will probably follow our traditional format: continental breakfast/socializing in Deyo Hall followed by our business meeting, service in the French Church, tour with updates at the Jean and Abraham houses (see the roof work at Jean and the new furnishings at Abe), lunch at Deyo Hall and an update from HHS along with a talk on a topic of historic interest. We will be celebrating HFA's 60th anniversary with a birthday present for our attendees: there will be no charge for our catered luncheon! If you are coming from a distance and want to visit Huguenot Street in some detail, plan to spend at least two nights here because the reunion will take up Saturday. The Street is open every day except Wednesday from 10 to 5. The houses can be visited only on guided tours leaving from the Visitor Center. Visit the HHS website (www.huguenotstreet.org/tour-schedule) to see the various tour options and their times, or call 845-255-1889 for the details.

If you will be a first-time visitor, contact us to help with your planning. The Hudson River Valley is full of beautiful scenery and tourist attractions; you can easily spend an entire vacation here. Anyone planning an overnight stay should make reservations as soon as possible. The reunion is during the foliage season, and accommodations usually sell out early. New Paltz has four good motels: America's Best Value Inn, close to Huguenot Street (845-255-8865); Hampton Inn, also close – new and pricey (845-255-4200); EconoLodge (845-255-6200), and Rodeway Inn and Suites (845-883-7373). You can also get information on bed & breakfast inns in the area from the Chamber of Commerce

(845-255-0243), including a Hasbrouck House B&B (The Inn at Stone Ridge).

HHS is offering a wide variety of other programs and events in the New Paltz area during the year for adults, children and families. You can see the schedule on their website: www.huguenotstreet.org. Bring your HFA (or HHS) membership card whenever you visit to get free house tours and a 10% discount at the museum shop.

HFA OFFICE

Our New Paltz office is open by appointment only. But if you are planning a visit to the area, leave a message on our answering machine or e-mail (see information on the masthead), and Meryl will contact you to arrange a visit where you can get information, look at our genealogy files and publications, and check our archives. If you are doing family research, you may also want to see what is available in the HHS library and archives. Call them (845-255-1660, ext. 116) to make an appointment.

Our office is just half a mile from Huguenot Street in the Pine Office Center at 124 Main Street. It's across the street from the Citgo gas station and far back from the street, but there is a sign at the driveway entrance, ample parking and handicapped access.

SCHOLARSHIPS

With HFA participation, HHS has a college scholarship program, and now is the time to apply. To be eligible you must be (as of September '17) an upper class undergraduate student (entering freshmen are not eligible) or a graduate student and be able to document your Huguenot heritage. The HHS scholarships are for \$1,000, but the two top-rated applicants will receive \$2,000 scholarships from HFA. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: www.huguenotstreet.org/scholarships or 845-255-1660. The deadline for applications is August 31.

HHS HAS A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Concluding a national search, Historic Huguenot Street has chosen Marybeth De Filippis as its new Executive Director. She started in her new position on April 24.



Marybeth De Filippis, HHS Executive Director

Ms. De Filippis is an award-winning museum professional and scholar specializing in the material culture and history of early New York. She served for eight years at the New-York Historical Society, where she was most recently Associate Curator of American Art and former Manager of the Henry Luce III Center for the Study of American Culture.

Ms. De Filippis has held Board of Trustee positions at the New Amsterdam History Center, Huguenot Heritage, and Henry Hudson 400; served as an advisor for Peabody Essex Museum's recent exhibition *Asia in Amsterdam: The Culture of Luxury in the Golden Age*; and has undertaken independent art historical, conservation, and provenance research projects. Her early career included positions in the banking and securities industries, as well as substantial residential design, space planning, and renovation experience, skills that will be drawn upon as Historic Huguenot Street prepares to embark on a Master Site Plan.

Ms. De Filippis holds an MA in American Material Culture from the Bard Graduate Center in New York City and an MBA in Finance from the Wharton School of the University of Pennsylvania. Of Huguenot descent, Ms. De Filippis is a member of The Huguenot Society of South Carolina, New Netherland Institute, Association of Historians of American Art, and the Association of Art Museum Curators, among other industry organizations.

Mary Etta Schneider, Board Chair of HHS, said, “Our Search Committee and Board of Trustees voted unanimously in favor of hiring Ms. De Filippis due to her exceptional museum-related credentials, impressive work experience, strong leadership qualities, significant strategic planning and financial skills, and her passion to see Historic Huguenot Street ‘soar.’ This is an important time for the organization, and the board and staff look forward to working with Marybeth.”
So do we at HFA!

THE G STREET LION

We first became acquainted with Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck when he arrived in Kingston to become the Ulster County Director of Public Health in 2010 (see Feb. '10 newsletter). In two years he turned a corruption-tainted, inefficient health department into an exemplary agency. This performance attracted higher-level attention, and he moved on to become the Director of Public Health for the State of Illinois (see Jan. '12 newsletter). After three successful years there he took a position of national importance as Executive Director of the National Association of County and City of Health Officials (see June'15 newsletter). This progression seemed to come naturally for a personable and dynamic individual, and by now it probably does. But it was not always so. Now Dr. Hasbrouck has written an autobiographical book, released last year. – *G Street Lion: Stalking a Dream* – that tells us far more about the man – his background, his struggle and determination to move forward and his goals – than we ever knew before. Engagingly written, it tells the inspirational story of LaMar’s journey from the poverty-ridden G Street neighborhood of San Diego to his respected position today while overcoming a never-ending series of obstacles, including financial difficulties, self-doubt, youthful mistakes, demanding academic standards, racial prejudice and the negative attitudes of some people along the way.

LaMar was one of four children in a family with a deadbeat, absentee father (we could not discover the origin of his Hasbrouck name) and a caring but stressed-out mother struggling to raise her kids with several jobs and welfare.

Early on, LaMar had little interest in school work. That changed in fifth grade when a stimulating black male teacher became a role



Dr. LaMar Hasbrouck

model for him and led him to take a positive attitude toward school.

“Before my encounter with that man, I was another average black kid growing up in the hood: a fatherless, welfare-receiving, free-lunch-getting, happy-go-lucky black child without a single, concrete goal in sight. Interacting with that substitute teacher altered my trajectory in life. A brief brush with his extraordinary ambition opened my world of possibilities.”

In 1977 LaMar’s mother, by now divorced, married a retired professional football player and moved to a better section of town. LaMar had athletic ability and bonded with his new father over football. With his new dad’s encouragement he made the junior varsity high school team in 10th grade despite his relatively small size and went on to become captain of the varsity team in football and also wrestling. Although initially slow to catch on academically in his new school, he started entertaining the idea of college and buckled down to finish in the top 20% of his class. Based on his academics and athletic record he was accepted at the University of California in Berkeley in 1983.

The transition to a large, elite university was a challenge for this 17-year old with his limited background and little guidance on how to cope in this difficult environment. Not only was the academic work much harder, but the fact that he

was one of the few African American students there added to his anxiety/stress level. But LaMar adopted the mindset that he could be whatever he wanted to be – a doctor -- and that Cal-Berkeley provided his path to that objective. He defied discouraging advice from his assigned guidance counselor, survived some mean-spirited teachers and a part-time job while gaining in confidence by making the football team as a rare walk-on prospect. With the aid of a pair of fortuitous tutorial programs and a gifted black mentor, he managed to survive academically. In his senior year he was a cornerback and special teams captain on the football team – good enough to demand and receive an athletic scholarship, which eased his financial stress, validated that he was a highly-valued contributor to his team's success, and raised his expectations of what he could accomplish.

Recruiters for medical schools told LaMar that no school would accept him because of his relatively low grades. But he learned of a one-year program for students like him, actively promoted himself to gain acceptance into it on a probationary basis, and finished with an A- average, proving that he could handle the curriculum when he set his mind to the task. Accepted by six medical schools, LaMar concentrated on urban, historically black schools “with a focus on turning out doctors most likely to serve the neediest communities across the country.” He chose Charles R. Drew University in Los Angeles and was one of 24 students selected from nearly 1,300 applicants. Drew “convinced me that I personally could make a difference.” The Drew students attended classes jointly with the UCLA Medical School but did their clinical work separately in poor neighborhoods.

At each educational level LaMar found that the bar was raised. Here a C average was unacceptable. And he felt somewhat isolated as one of only five African American male students in the combined Drew-UCLA class of 150. He made it through the demanding academic load in the first semester but failed two courses in the second and was faced with repeating the year. Refusing to accept that fate, he made such a compelling appeal to the promotion committee that they allowed him to take make-up exams (written and oral) in both subjects and advance if he passed with an A- grade. He had eight weeks in the summer to prepare, but not really, because he was simultaneously completing a summer fellowship in Atlanta on infectious diseases. But LaMar says,

“The fear of failure was all the motivation I needed to keep pushing.” He found a way to succeed in both projects and continued, refocused, through his final year of academics while also involving himself in group efforts to defuse the racial tension and violence in Los Angeles resulting from the Rodney King affair and expediting the rebuilding of the affected communities.

LaMar and the other Drew students spent their third year at the King-Drew Medical Center, located in South Central Los Angeles, which cared for some of the sickest and poorest residents of LA County. Here they learned to put their academic training to practical use. LaMar says, “It was a year of eye-opening discoveries. Every rotation taught me about clinical medicine and about myself.” He was starting the transition from student to doctor. In his final year LaMar successfully completed elective rotations at Harlem Hospital and Boston City Hospital and was accepted for internship and residency at his first choice: the New York Hospital Cornell Medical Center. As a final elective he chose a 4-week cardiology course at Cedar Sinai Medical Center in LA. When his supervising resident learned of LaMar's prestigious upcoming assignment, he was envious of the standing of this young black man and immediately turned from supportive supervisor to harsh critic. He gave LaMar a D- grade for the course and called him dishonest and unreliable -- a serious obstacle to his upcoming graduation from Drew. Again LaMar found a way to succeed. Recognizing the unfair grade, the Drew dean of student affairs prescribed another course for him to take in the final two weeks of school. He did (successfully) and went on to deliver the student keynote speech at the Drew graduation, receive the Most Inspirational Student Doctor award and the highest honor given for the thesis program at the UCLA School of Medicine.

But LaMar's tribulations were not over yet. In fact, in the book he describes his initial exposure to internship as “At My Lowest.” Responsible for 15 unfamiliar patients assigned to him (nearly 50 in total, plus frequent emergency room admissions, while on duty every fourth night), he was overwhelmed by the workload involved. By the second week he felt he was in over his head. When his supervisor noticed, he tearfully said, “I feel I'm out of control. I'm just going through the motions. I don't know what's going on with my patients, and I feel like I might make a mistake or something.”

In response, the senior supervisor for all the interns expressed confidence in him, gave him a week off to decompress, and assigned him two weeks of lighter duties to reposition himself for regular service in the wards. It worked. "I've come too far to go back now," he decided. "I convinced myself that I belonged, and that made life low on the totem pole sufferable." Following his two-week interim assignment, he was mentored by two outstanding black female residents, whose example raised his confidence that he could emulate them and succeed.

And he did, overcoming not only the never-ending challenges common to the job but also what he describes as pervasive racial prejudice on the part of both supervisors and patients. There were only nine minority students at New York Hospital out of a total of 120, but they organized themselves as a committee to bring their unique issues to the departmental leadership. LaMar was elected as its first chairman, and the committee was given official status. Now in its twenty-first year with an active membership of 21 residents, the Minority Housestaff Committee "works to increase the number of under-represented minorities" and enable them to "thrive, not just limp through the program, battered and bruised."

After completing his medical internship, LaMar's next challenge was passing the medical board exam to become a full-fledged, board-certified physician. It took two years and three attempts, but with his usual determination he did it; and in 1998 he joined the nation's premier health agency, the Center for Disease Control and Prevention. Since then he has been on a steady upward trajectory, as chronicled in our newsletters.

LaMar's struggle-filled rise from a poor, dead-end neighborhood to his prominent position today has established him as an inspiring role model for young aspirants, particularly those of color, hoping to follow in his path. "If others could learn from my story, I thought, why not?"

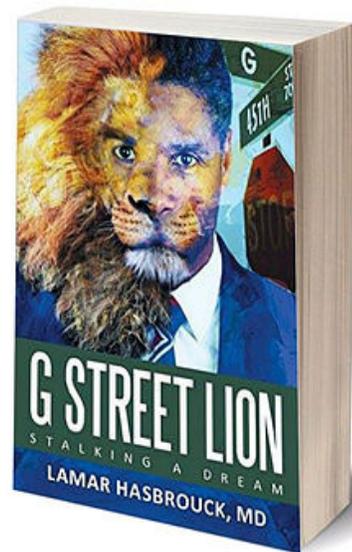
"If I have been fruitful in my career, it is because I have followed these four simple principles: self-awareness, audacity, passion, and humility. I have never finished at the top of my class in any subject or earned the title of the best or the brightest. But I have made a conscious effort to leverage my education and my talents, continually grow my skill sets, and align my efforts with something bigger than myself: the health and longevity of communities, particularly challenged

communities. In this way, I have attempted to be *my best and brightest.*"

"*G Street Lion* is my way of channeling these lessons – lessons that I know were a gift from God. My wish is that readers may glean from my account that stereotypes and bigotry need not predict the trajectory of one's life. The path to success requires only optimism and a stubborn belief in oneself."

"Today, I continue to pursue my professional and personal goals like a lion wading through tall grass. Like a lion, I take measured and persistent steps when stalking my goals. With every well-placed stride has come the potential for significant growth. Many of my targets have been opportunities cleverly disguised as insurmountable challenges. In many cases, no one sees me coming."

Well, we have watched LaMar coming and are applauding his continuing accomplishments, which seem even more remarkable now that we know his full story. And we are sure there will be more to come!



To learn more about Dr. Hasbrouck and to follow his continuing journey, visit his website www.drlamarmd.org.

UPDATE ON EAGLE SCOUT SAM NICKELSEN

Our June 2010 newsletter featured an article about Sam Nickelsen, an 11th-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck from Cortlandt Manor, NY, who at the time was a high school

senior and outstanding student, captain of his baseball team and a newly anointed Eagle Scout. For his Eagle project he renovated a nature trail used by students with disabilities, including his sister, Claire.

Since high school Sam has pursued his interest in athletics and physical conditioning. From 2010 – 2012 he attended Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY and was a pitcher on its baseball team. In 2012 he transferred to the University of Tampa and graduated in 2014 with a BS degree in Human Performance and Exercise Physiology. Continuing at Tampa with graduate studies, he earned an MS degree last July in Exercise Science and Nutrition. During this period he was also an assistant strength and conditioning coach for the university's athletic teams with a concentration on the baseball team, which won two National Division 2 championships during this time. His experience as a player enabled him to relate well to them and thus improve his effectiveness.

Sam is happy to benefit from a current trend in the field of athletics to add strength/conditioning coaches to prevent injuries, which can result in a critical loss of talent. In January he was hired from a field of 190 applicants for the New York Mets organization as a strength and conditioning coach. He is based at the Mets training/rehabilitation complex at Port St. Lucie, FL where he works daily with major and minor league players in this capacity (see photo). From June to September he will travel with the Brooklyn Cyclones, a Class A Mets farm team which plays a short-season schedule.



Sam Nickelsen stretching a Mets player

Sam's time in Brooklyn will take him to familiar family territory. His great grandparents, Frederick and Helen (Hasbrouck) Monsees, were born in Brooklyn and lived there for about 25 years. His grandfather, Ralph Hasbrouck Monsees, was also born there.

Sam's sister, Claire, died in 2013 at age 24, weakened by multiple disabilities. But she and Sam had a close relationship, and Sam has often said that her persistence and courage has been a great influence on him and his approach to his work. We are happy to learn of his progress since our 2010 article and are confident of his continuing success.

THE SLAVE DWELLING PROJECT **AT THE ABRAHAM HOUSE**



Participants at the Abraham Hasbrouck House
Rebecca Hasbrouck at right and HHS Chair
Mary Etta Schneider beside her

Joseph McGill of the Slave Dwelling Project made his Hudson Valley debut at Historic Huguenot Street. A descendant of slaves, Mr. McGill travels the country staying overnight in historic slave dwellings to bring awareness to their need for preservation. He joined community members who spent the night in slave dwellings on Huguenot Street, including SUNY students and descendants of those in New Paltz who enslaved Africans as well as those they enslaved. HFA's Rebecca Hasbrouck eagerly volunteered for an overnight stay in her ancestor's Abraham Hasbrouck House. Below is her account of the experience.

With much anticipation, I pulled into the parking lot at Historic Huguenot Street, happy to be selected - seemingly hand-picked -- to stay

overnight in my ancestor's home. I grabbed my things and headed to the DuBois Fort Visitors Center, to see how we were getting the night started. Our hosts went with us to drop our sleeping bags and pillows off at the house, in the basement, and bring us back to the fireplace where we would have open dialogue with others. While I expected a discussion around slavery in the 18th and 19th centuries, I hadn't prepared myself for how deep and controversial the conversation would become. There were introductory comments from Joseph McGill (the project director) and his friend and colleague, Terry James, regarding the Slave Dwelling Project and past experiences, as well as insights into the history of slavery. The audience was varied: both those who have traveled a way as well as local community members; SUNY New Paltz students and faculty; young and experienced; black and white. We had the pleasure of being joined by Mary Pottinger, who is not only of Huguenot descent, but also of Sojourner Truth.

The topics expanded from the Project and past locations that Joe and Terry have visited and slept in to the experiences of slaves at various points in history. Several individuals mentioned not being told of the slavery that took place on Huguenot Street – down to being told another reality of Huguenots never having slaves. The listeners were surely considering how history was being made relevant today, in light of the enslaved peoples. There were discussions of the prejudices that have continued since slavery was brought to an end. There is, as it was described, a “historical trauma” that we have carried with us – both enslaved and captors alike.



Overnight scene at the Slave Dwelling Project

Moving to the areas of our overnight stay, all had to tread carefully not to fall down the steep stairs into the places where the slaves made their

daily homes. Getting situated on just a sleeping bag on the hard floor, one could only hope for real comfort. I talked with Terry a bit about how he would typically prepare himself for the night; nothing too outlandish – just prepare to sleep where the slaves used to. I knew I wouldn't sleep at all, so I considered what I was hearing. Students on their cell phones, a car whizzing by, the sound of a dehumidifier – all non-existent when the slaves of the Hasbrouck family would have been sleeping; all luxuries we have today, almost entitlements. But those that were here, in the basement of this house, would be trying their best to rest before having to wake so early to serve the family they were owned by. “Owned by.” It's a strong statement that slaves were owned and traded as property. They were left to others by way of Last Will and Testament. And they were contained in basements.

Finally starting to get going in the morning, attendees reconvened at the Fort to get coffee, breakfast, and continue some of the conversation from the night before. It felt as though we could approach the subject of slavery with compassion towards one another. The goal now is to learn more of the enslaved people and their heirs. The direction that we should all take, with one another, is to talk about the past, to learn from the past, and carry that positive understanding and encouragement for change out into the world and to the next generation.

We welcome our new members:

Hollie Hasbrouck, Mantua, NJ
Hazel Kelly, Little Silver, NJ
William E. Nagengast, Anderson, IN
Hollis G. Nickas, Hackensack, NJ
Bradley Vath, Tipp City, OH

PAST EDITIONS OF THE HFA JOURNAL AVAILABLE

Our newsletter often includes references to articles in previous editions. We have extra copies of most of these issues, and they are available on request. Send it by regular mail (see address on masthead) or e-mail and specify which editions you want. Or you can request a specific article; and if we can find it, we'll send it.