



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**

**ASSOCIATION**

# JOURNAL

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Spring has finally arrived, and the stone houses of Huguenot Street are open again for tours, including the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses. There are two events of special interest to beckon you to Huguenot Street: our annual reunion on Saturday, October 13, and a revival of Stone House Day on Saturday, September 8. See the separate items about them on page 3.

We have not yet received further details about our bequest from Harriet Hasbrouck, but with our finances strengthened by the initial distribution of \$300,000 to our endowment fund (from which we can spend the income) our board of directors is starting to consider new actions to enhance the membership experience. To begin with, we are looking at the potential for improving our website, to include scaling for mobile devices, interaction with social media sites, ability to accept electronic payment for dues, contributions and purchases, and a "members only" section with access to our genealogy database. After this in place, we will need someone to maintain/update it, and we are also looking to interact effectively on multiple social media platforms with our members and the general public. If you're tech-friendly and might be interested in any phase of this process, please contact us (see info on masthead) to discuss possibilities.

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 of possible

interest to the overall membership, please mail or e-mail it to us (see masthead above).

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 18 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

Much effort is being devoted to the perennial problem of moisture control. Last month the walls were radar-scanned and laser plotted in a search for voids where water might collect and cause the interior staining now seen on some walls, but nothing significant was found. Other possible causes have been considered, but we will follow our engineer's recommendation for high-tech monitoring of the walls over a period of time to quantify the problem before trying other expensive measures.



Radar scanning of wall at the Abraham House

We are also working on a plan for some moderate regrading of the grounds to direct rainwater runoff away from the house.

The major (\$44,000) project is finally underway to restore the north and south walls to their appearance during our 1760-75 period of interpretation by removing the south wall windows on the ground floor and replacing attic windows with more period-appropriate ones. The replacement windows were already built and pictured in the September '17 newsletter.

### **Jean Hasbrouck House**

As mentioned in previous newsletters, the roof replacement project ran into complications when rot was discovered at the ends of many underlying rafters (see photo). Then an examination of the frame of the house

revealed structural problems. Timber framing experts will be on site June 4-15 to solve these problems. But the cost of the whole project has now escalated to over \$300,000. HHS has raised \$208,000 – enough to pay for the framing restoration work – and applied for grants to cover the balance. If they fall short, HHS will have to raise the funds to cover the balance. So our fundraising for the roof may not be finished yet. We should know in time for our September newsletter. Meanwhile, although the actual roof replacement remains on hold pending funding, the house is open for tours, including an extension of the “Living in Style” special exhibit of over a hundred 17-18<sup>th</sup> century Dutch furnishings and paintings.



Rafter inspection at the Jean House roof

### **Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)**

A special event is scheduled for the weekend of June 9 and 10: an 18th century Market Fair in cooperation with the Brigade of the American Revolution. It will be the largest living history program so far at the site, featuring musical performances, merchants and artisans, demonstrations, military re-enactments, children's games, cooking demonstrations, and other activities from everyday colonial life throughout both days. For more information on this and other exhibits being planned this year, visit [www.facebook.com/LocustLawn](http://www.facebook.com/LocustLawn) or contact



Dawn Elliott, Jean Hasbrouck descendant and Caretaker at Locust Lawn

Dawn Elliott: [elliott.dawn4@gmail.com](mailto:elliott.dawn4@gmail.com), 845-901-0935. The house is not open for regular tours, but you can contact Dawn to set up a private tour – even better!

### **STONE HOUSE DAY IN NEW PALTZ – SEPTEMBER 8**

A revival of Stone House Day, held periodically since 1970, will be hosted by HHS in partnership with the Town of New Paltz, on Saturday, September 8, to celebrate the 340th anniversary of the settling of New Paltz by twelve French Huguenot refugee families in 1678. This Stone House Day will have a focus on the diversity of Hudson Valley history. It will be a celebration of all the cultures that impacted New Paltz and Ulster County, including African, Dutch, English, Esopus Munsee, and French.

The Reformed Church of New Paltz will once again be a partner in this event as well. The historic stone houses will be open for public tours or viewing. Performances, skits, and vendor demonstrations will take place throughout the day while artisans and craftspeople sell handmade goods. Members of the 5th NY Regiment will bring reenactors from multiple time periods, engaging in musket firing, candle making, sewing, blacksmithing, and other activities. There will be musical performances by the 77th NY Regimental Balladeers and Early American Music & Arts.

This is a day for people from all backgrounds to come together to celebrate our vibrant and diverse community in the very location where so much history unfolded. You can register to attend at [www.huguenotstreet.org/stonehouseday](http://www.huguenotstreet.org/stonehouseday). Prices vary from free (under age 6) to \$20, depending on your status. There is a photo display from the last Stone House Day (2009) on our website, [www.hasbrouckfamily.org](http://www.hasbrouckfamily.org).

### **ANNUAL REUNION**

Our reunion in New Paltz this year is on Saturday, October 13 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, a catered luncheon\* at Deyo Hall and an update from HHS along with a talk on a topic of historic interest. 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/hours-rates](http://www.huguenotstreet.org/hours-rates)) 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 Days Inn (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](http://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.

\*Thanks to Harriet Hasbrouck's generous bequest, we are able to provide our expansive reunion luncheon to attendees without charge again this year. Thanks, Harriet -- we'll be thinking of you!

### **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 (845-255-0180) 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 '18) an upper class undergraduate student (entering freshmen are not eligible) or a graduate student and be able to document your Huguenot heritage. The top-rated applicants will receive \$2,000 scholarships from HFA. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: 845-255-1660 or [www.huguenotstreet.org/scholarships](http://www.huguenotstreet.org/scholarships). The deadline for applications is August 31.

### **PROMINENT HASBROUCK SUFFERED POLIO WITH FDR**

Paul DeWitt Hasbrouck (1896-1972), an 8<sup>th</sup>-generation descendant of Abraham, grew up in Poughkeepsie, NY and graduated from Hamilton College in 1918 as a Phi Beta Kappa. With America then involved in World War I, he enlisted in the Army and served until June 1919. He then moved to Washington and became secretary/administrator for Maryland Senator Joseph France, a fellow Hamilton graduate. He also became clerk to the Senate Committee on Public Health and National Quarantine. His exposure to the Congress enhanced his passion for both practical politics and social services, and he served in this position for two years. He was diagnosed with polio around 1921, but he remained active despite the physical limitations of his illness. In 1924 Paul earned a Master of Arts degree from Hamilton with a major in Political Science and a minor in Economics. He then went on to earn a Ph.D. in 1927 at Columbia University, specializing in American Government and Constitutional Law

and American History under the Political Science faculty. In partial fulfillment of his doctoral degree he wrote a book, *Party Government in the House of Representatives*. This historical view of party politics is still utilized as an invaluable research source.

Franklin Delano Roosevelt (FDR) was also stricken with polio in 1921. He and Paul were both patients of Dr. Robert Lovett and became friends. We have access to correspondence between them, starting in 1923. FDR encouraged Paul to avail himself of the restorative benefits of the pool in Warm Springs, GA, which he said had done more for him than anything else he had tried. The warm waters of the springs allowed for extended exercise for damaged muscles. (FDR went there often\* and died there in 1945 at the "Little White House" he built in 1932. Paul made one documented trip there in the spring of 1927. He wrote to his father and described his experience there, including his encounters with FDR.

Other correspondence from Paul to FDR detailed spring-loaded leg braces invented by French orthopedist Gabriel Bidou. Such devices had previously been unavailable in the United States. At Warm Springs Paul was able to walk using one cane and his new braces. After FDR became president, Paul convinced him that he could drive an automobile despite his polio affliction. He showed the President how to alter the brakes and clutch of his car to make it possible.

In 1946 Paul married Martha Turner from Union, SC. They met while she was working at the Poughkeepsie Children's Home and he served on its board of directors. In later years Paul taught in Poughkeepsie, became registrar and educational adviser for the LaSalle Extension University, historian of the First Presbyterian Church of Poughkeepsie and an officer of the Huguenot Historical Society (HHS). The Hasbroucks' house on Church Street in Poughkeepsie became a nurturing



Paul DeWitt Hasbrouck with wife, Martha Turner

home, especially in the summer, for Turner nieces and nephews, as well as many others who received guidance and opportunity while in school. Paul and Martha influenced many young people and maintained close ties with her Southern family.

Paul Hasbrouck died in 1972 in Poughkeepsie. Martha survived him until 1991. Their giving legacy lives on in all the lives they touched.

Most of the material for this article was furnished by James O. Watson, Jr., great nephew of Mrs. Hasbrouck.

\*In 1927 FDR established the Georgia Warm Springs Foundation as a polio rehabilitation center. His patronage made it the foremost such facility in the country. After new vaccines virtually eliminated polio in the 1960's, the Foundation opened its doors to all persons with disabilities. Since 1974 it has served as a comprehensive medical and vocational rehabilitation center under the name of Roosevelt Warm Springs.

## **THE HASBROUCK INSTITUTE**

Receipt of the post card photo above in an email alerted us to a sizeable family-related building/institution we hadn't heard of, and prompted us to see what we could learn about it. This is what we found:



Hasbrouck Institute, Jersey City, NJ

The Hasbrouck Institute for Boys was established in 1856 in Jersey City, NJ by Professor Washington Hasbrouck (1824-1895, a 5th generation descendant of Abraham) as a private school “for the purpose of preparing young men to attend the nation’s foremost colleges and universities and enter public service.” He had founded a similar school in Saugerties, NY before moving to Jersey City. As the school prospered and grew, it moved from its initial location on Mercer Street to a larger location on Grand Street and, in 1893, to the building shown on the picture, at the corner of Crescent and Harrison Avenues. At that point Dr. Hasbrouck was no longer with the school, although it retained his name. He headed it for twenty years, from 1856 to 1876, when he assumed the leadership of the State Normal School at Trenton, now the College of New Jersey.

In 1880 a department for girls was added to the Institute, which also extended its program to cover kindergarten through high school. But it did not neglect its prep school roots. A 1902 article about Jersey City history stated, “Many of its graduates are now occupying positions of

prominence and responsibility in the city. It has greatly developed, and is recognized in educational circles as an institution second to none in its facilities for and methods of instruction.”

But the expansion and quality of Jersey City’s free public school system eventually led to a decline in the Institute’s enrollment and its ultimate demise. In 1912 the city’s Board of Education purchased the building to build a new high school on the site. Ironically, the architect for the new building, John T. Rowland (the city’s architect for over 40 years), was a graduate of the Hasbrouck Institute! The old building was razed before 1920, and Lincoln High School now stands on the site. The Institute died gradually. In 1914 its girls’ division merged with the Bergen School. The preparatory school continued to hold classes for several years in private homes before finally closing. Now we have only the post card image to call back for us a reminder of this once-prominent piece of our family-related history.

## **RANDY REYNOLDS – FROM PIANIST TO BOMBER PILOT TO SURGEON/EXECUTIVE**

President Bob Hasbrouck writes: Last summer Rolland (Randy) Reynolds from Dripping Springs, TX contacted me to say that he planned to attend our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion in conjunction with a trip to document graves of his ancestors, including Elias Hasbrouck, a prominent Revolutionary War veteran and long-time supervisor of Woodstock, NY. I had written a newsletter article about him (Sept. ’10), including his grave in a small family cemetery on private property, and was happy to help him locate and visit the site. When I met him and his wife, Wanda, at the reunion, I learned that, in addition to his connection to the Hasbrouck family through two ancestral lines (both leading to Abraham), he was a multi-talented individual with an interesting and varied career impressive enough to deserve coverage in this newsletter. He graciously consented to our use of the following autobiographical sketch:

I was born and grew up in Dallas, Texas. Dad was the son of a Free Methodist minister, started out at Dallas Theological Seminary, but made a career change early in his education, and spent most of his life as a Professor of Pathology at Southwestern Medical School there. Mom was one of the leading piano teachers in Dallas for over fifty years...which explains why piano lessons were a non-negotiable part of my early education. Although there were model planes to build, motorcycles to ride, and snakes to catch to occupy my time, 2-3 hours of piano practice a day was the norm. I have my folks to thank for that because, although I didn't like it at the time, I learned that hard work did pay off, and was honored to perform as guest piano soloist with the Dallas Symphony Orchestra, the Amarillo Symphony Orchestra and the Houston Baptist College Symphony before I graduated from high school. I still enjoy playing (including for my church) and have Mom's grand pianos in my home.



Randy Reynolds, guest soloist with the Dallas Symphony (1972)

College took me to the Big Bend area of far West Texas. Sul Ross State University in Alpine offered a good pre-med program and exceptional field biology courses with several renowned professors. Sul Ross also offered an Air Force ROTC program, and at the end of my first year of college, I was offered the career opportunity to become an Air Force pilot. I graduated from Sul Ross as the AFROTC Distinguished Graduate in 1975.

I entered active duty in 1976, went to flight training and emerged as a qualified jet pilot. I can still remember the adrenalin rush on takeoff when I'd release the brakes, push the throttles into afterburner and feel the acceleration forces pushing me back into the seat! That was a memorable year for more than one reason. Not only did I get my pilot wings, but Wanda and I were married on New Year's Eve, 1976...one week before I soloed in the supersonic T-38. She grew up in West Texas, and we met during college...although she wouldn't have anything to do with me til I graduated!



Randy Reynolds ready to pilot a supersonic T-38

After pilot training, I was assigned as a B-52D pilot...a "Crew Dog"...at Dyess AFB in Abilene, Texas (see photo, p. 8). The B-52 was designed as an intercontinental bomber during the Cold War and embodied the U.S. capability to drop nuclear bombs on enemy targets if the war turned hot – our so-called "nuclear deterrent". The B-52D was an old aircraft most were almost as old as I was, built in 1956-57, and still sported the Southeast Asia camouflage paint job from the Vietnam era. As a testimonial to their reliability, the last version off the assembly line in 1962, the B-52H, is still in



Randy Reynolds is piloting the nearer B-52D (1981)

active service.\* Our mission was interesting; we trained to deliver a host of munitions from conventional high explosives to nuclear weapons. Air-to-air refueling was a standard part of the job, and I've spent many hours hooked up and flying close formation behind a KC-135 (707 variant) tanker. I spent one week out of every month "on alert," with a loaded B-52, living in the base alert facility, ready to run out to the plane, crank engines and take off in the event of a national emergency. We trained to fly our planes at extremely low altitudes to avoid radar detection. It's quite a rush to be flying a plane with a 186-foot wingspan at 150 feet off the deck traveling at six miles a minute! I'll always remember stopping at a rock shop just outside Holbrook, Arizona, and asking the proprietor about those "big planes" that flew across I-40 in that area. He got quite animated describing how he and his wife "knew" those planes were being flown by robots...because NO ONE could fly those planes so precisely ....appearing at the same place on the horizon, turning at the same point, and crossing the Interstate at exactly the same place....day after day! He was so excited about it that I just didn't have the heart to ruin his theory...and nodded in agreement.

(Due to space limitations, we'll have to finish Randy's story in the next newsletter).

\* Used recently against ISIS in the Middle East.

## **WE HAVE A CENTENARIAN NEW MEMBER**

Up to now our centenarians have been active members for many years (Sherman V. Hasbrouck, Eleanor Rawlings, Harriet Hasbrouck). But that all changed recently when Sharon Sipos gave memberships to her mother, May Kernan, and daughters Lisa and Holly Ann. May, who lives with Sharon in Chesterfield, VA, is a 9<sup>th</sup>-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck. She will be 103 on July 15 and stands a good chance of becoming our oldest member ever. As far as we know, Sherman has that record at 103 + almost 9 months. We welcome May and hope she will set a new record for us next spring!

## **REFORMED CHURCH RECORDS ONLINE**

Two volumes of records of the Dutch Reformed Church of New Paltz, showing church members, town residents, baptisms and marriages, covering 1680s to early 1700s, are now accessible online at [www.hrv.org/hhs](http://www.hrv.org/hhs). Search, using key words "first register" and "second register". The names of people appearing in the registers are also searchable. This project, a joint effort by the Church and HHS, makes these records available to genealogy searchers and others who are unable to view them on site.

## **We welcome our new members:**

Jonathan Elwyn, Irvington, NY  
Tara Fernandez, Richmond, VA  
David Heath, Ankeny, IA  
Bernie Leinfelder, Los Angeles, CA  
Theresa Reed, Elmira, NY