



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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SEPT. 2017

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our annual reunion (October 14) is fast approaching, and a reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter. Note that, for ease of mailing, we have a single, two-sided form for dues/contributions, reservations and proxy voting. Please be sure to fill out both sides of the form. For details on the reunion, see the separate item on this page. Annual members, please send in your dues promptly to spare us the time and expense involved with follow-ups to delinquents. Our life memberships are a bargain at \$350 (\$200 for age 65 and older).

On the form we are asking again for special contributions for the Jean Hasbrouck House roof. (See separate item about the house status for details). As you'll see on the form, we're also looking to your generosity for contributions to our General Fund (which pays for our activities other than the Abraham House) and our Endowment Fund (the income from which feeds the General Fund). Our General Fund income is still insufficient to fund all the things we should be doing. Please mail back your forms to reach us no later than October 6.

Important news from HHS: "Marybeth De Filippis resigned on July 18th, after a little less than three months, as Executive Director, and the Board accepted her resignation. Sometimes these high-level jobs are just not a good fit. The search firm working with HHS is continuing their search."

With the annual membership cycle starting in October, I'm again asking for your help in recruiting new members for HFA. Ask

your relatives to join. Give memberships to your children/grandchildren and help them to develop an interest in their fascinating cultural heritage. Get them to look at our website and participate in our Facebook site. Contact some of our Facebook "friends" and try to interest them in joining HFA; so far, very few of them have done so. The longer-term health of our organization depends on having younger members enthusiastic about carrying on its objectives as the older ones inevitably fade from the scene.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

ANNUAL REUNION

Our 60th anniversary reunion is on Saturday, October 14, in New Paltz. At the reunion we will have registration, continental breakfast and socializing beginning at 9AM in Deyo Hall. At 10AM we will proceed to the French Church for our traditional short memorial service. Then back to Deyo Hall for our annual business meeting. At 11:45AM we'll visit the Jean and Abraham Houses for an update on what's happening and planned at each one. At 12:45PM we'll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by a catered lunch, which, as a 60th anniversary bonus, will be free this year. We'll also have an HFA souvenir handout for attendees. (Please make lunch reservations on the enclosed form). After lunch we'll have a status/outlook report from HHS and a retrospective on HFA's 60-year history. Then we invite you to linger on Huguenot Street on your own and visit the exhibits in the Visitor

Center at the DuBois Fort and the museum shop there.

If you are visiting Huguenot Street for the first time, we strongly advise you to spend at least one night here because the HFA reunion will take up most of Saturday, and you will need at least one additional day to visit Huguenot Street. The houses can be visited only on guided tours and are closed on Wednesdays. (Bring your HFA or HHS membership card for free house tours and museum shop discounts.) Feel free to contact us to help with your planning. The Hudson 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 are already getting scarce for that weekend. New Paltz has four good motels:

America's Best Value Inn (845-255-8865), the closest to Huguenot Street

Hampton Inn (845-255-4200), next to ABV Inn above; new and pricey

EconoLodge (845-255-6200)

Rodeway Inn (845-883-7373).

You can also get information on bed & breakfast inns in the area (including a Hasbrouck house in Stone Ridge – see June '08 newsletter) from the Chamber of Commerce (845-255-0243). More lodging is available in nearby Highland, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Kingston.

Mark your calendars for the October 14 reunion and plan to come and find out about your extended family and details of your Huguenot heritage!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Enclosed is our annual membership dues notice. If your mailing label has an L on it, you are a life member and owe no dues. If you think you are a life member and don't have a Life on your label, contact our office for follow-up. Annual members who don't have a 17 on their mailing label owe dues in arrears at \$20/year as

determined by the year on your label. Please send in your dues now; reminder notices are expensive! If you don't want to bother with annual dues, life memberships are \$350 (\$200 for age 65 and over). If you wish to maintain your membership and feel you cannot afford the dues, please tell us your situation and request a waiver. We especially don't want to abandon long-time members whose current financial condition makes the dues a hardship.

HFA membership includes all the benefits of being an HHS Friend*. If you want to support HHS as a donor (and we encourage it), please consider a gift starting at \$50. You can send them a check at 88 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561.

*Benefits for Family Association members include free tours, plus 10% Museum Shop discount and community events.

OUR HOUSES

Abraham Hasbrouck House



North-side attic window

Period-appropriate reproduction attic windows have been produced, and we are seeking bids for the project of replacing the current windows with them (eliminating the one on the northwest side) and removing the downstairs south-side windows to conform to the 1760-75 period of interpretation. (They have

already been blocked from the inside for several years.)



South-side attic window

We have begun acquiring period artifacts consistent with our revised furnishings plan. Initial purchases, already displayed in the parlor of the house, were a Queen Anne table, a pair of polychrome delft bowls and a pair of knife-edge andirons.



Queen Anne table with bowl displayed.
Its twin is on table behind.

Studies continue on possibilities for regrading around the house to reduce

groundwater penetration through the walls. (When the house was built, the ground level there was close to three feet lower than it is today!)



Close up of polychrome delft bowl



Knife-edge andirons

Jean Hasbrouck House

This spring we thought we (HFA/HHS) had finally completed the funding required to replace the roof. But then complications developed. As reported in our June newsletter, rot was discovered in some of the supporting rafters, requiring further examination to determine the extent of the damage (not as bad as feared). Then the timber framers identified two areas of structural weakness in the frame. Alternatives for addressing these locations are presently under study with a goal of selecting the optimal procedure and developing a cost

estimate by the end of September. These extra steps will be expensive additions to the required funding, so our fundraising effort for the roof project will continue.

Meanwhile, the house has been closed, but it will reopen on September 30 (in conjunction with the HHS Fall Harvest Celebration) for two special exhibits highlighting the influence of Dutch heritage in the Hudson Valley. One is an exhibit of Dutch *kasten* (tall storage cabinets), which were important features in many middle/upper class 18th-century area homes. And the northwest room of the house is being redone as a late-17th-century Dutch period room displaying the renowned furnishings collection of George Way. These exhibits will remain until yearend.

Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House)

The house is open only by appointment; call (845-454-4500) to make arrangements and ask for Mr. Snodgrass, the director. If you mention that you're a Hasbrouck descendant (especially if you're coming from a distance), he will make an effort to give you an individual tour.

Special events are held periodically, and the admission fee includes a tour of the house. See the Locust Lawn Facebook site, <https://m.facebook.com/LocustLawn>, for current information. The next event will be on Sunday, September 10, from 11AM to 4PM. It will feature The Hearts of Oak, re-enactors representing the New York colonial militia of that name, whose members included Alexander Hamilton. In addition to military demonstrations, the event will include period music, cooking demonstrations and other activities. Cost for HFA members is \$5.00.

Ongoing current improvements in the house include installing reproduction carpet in the upper hall, adding another historic stove in the lower hall, and installing new railings on the porch steps.

DIRECTOR NOMINEE

REBECCA J. HASBROUCK



Rebecca Hasbrouck

Rebecca is a twelfth-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck. Her relationship to Huguenot Street is visible: her grandfather, Stanley Hasbrouck, Jr., was the building contractor for the present French Church on the Street -- a 1972 replica of the 1717 original. She grew up in Highland, NY, and has remained a resident of the Hudson Valley. She now resides in Newburgh, NY, with her husband, Robert Isabella.

With academics being her strong suit from a young age, Rebecca graduated Valedictorian of Highland High School. Having completed several college level courses during high school, she started college by skipping right away to art courses, aiming for a career in graphic design. Taking a financial accounting course during one summer break, however, changed her track to Accounting. She earned her degree in 2000 from the State University of New York at New Paltz and continued there at the School of Business to complete her MBA in 2004 while being named the School's

outstanding accounting student for 2003. She then went on to receive her CPA license in 2006.

During college, Rebecca worked at Ulster Savings Bank in New Paltz. After that she had a brief sojourn at Pepsi Bottling Group in Somers, NY, but gained an interest in public accountancy. She started her tenure at Vanacore, DeBenedictus, DiGovanni & Weddell, LLP (now known as RBT, CPAs) in November 2002 and advanced to the status of Partner in Training. But in the spring of 2015, she decided to try a new field. After a couple of private industry positions, she has now settled in as Assistant Controller at Precision Pipeline Solutions, LLC in New Windsor, NY.

Wanting to give back to the local universities, Rebecca was an adjunct professor at Marist and SUNY New Paltz during various semesters between 2008 to 2012. She has since mentored students and stays in touch with them whenever possible. In 2013 she received the SUNY New Paltz Alumnus of the Year Award.

Rebecca has been an active member of the New York State Society of Certified Public Accountants since 2005, actively supporting many of the committees. She continued her involvement to move up the Executive Board and to President for the fiscal year 2016-2017. She is a 2006 graduate of the Leadership Ulster program and a 2015 Leadership Rockland graduate. She received the Orange County Rising Stars Award in 2010 and the Dutchess County Chamber of Commerce Forty Under 40 Award in 2011. Rebecca has been a member of several other professional organizations and loves to volunteer. She remembers fondly being involved with a Rebuilding Dutchess job site on which she and her father built a deck together on a veteran's home in recognition of Flag Day.

Personally, Rebecca's recent interests have been gardening, historical building preservation, genealogy tracking, and environmental sustainability activities. She is looking for involvement in organizations and boards that speak to those concerns. While she and her husband recently moved, they are starting to plan their garden and compost pile

work for next year. She has been visiting many of the historical sites in the surrounding areas and attending seminars on heritage and lineage. She is also looking forward to serving as a board member of HFA.

THE GATHERING



Luncheon tent at The Gathering

The Gathering of all the Huguenot Street families was held August 5 on the Street with 82 people attending, of which, unfortunately, only 5 were from HFA. The rest of you missed a very enjoyable event with enough activities provided to keep everyone occupied all day. After continental breakfast in Deyo Hall, attendees had a choice of three tours: Jean Hasbrouck House roof project, a regular tour of several houses, and a new women's history tour. After a catered buffet luncheon under a large event tent came an enthusiastically received concert at the French Church, featuring renowned historical balladeer Linda Russell using historic instruments found in the Hudson Valley: guitar, mountain dulcimer, hammer dulcimer, pennywhistle and washboard.

In honor of the centennial of the ratification of women's suffrage in New York, the concert explored the role of women's lives in society from the 18th century to the 19th Amendment, featuring broadsides, laments, murder ballads, love songs, parlor melodies,



Hasbrouck family visitors in the Abraham House



Linda Russell's popular concert at The Gathering

and suffrage anthems that reflected the changing status of women in society. Afterwards, there was a refreshment break at the event tent followed by a repeat of the morning tour offerings. When not otherwise occupied, attendees could browse through the Visitor Center in the DuBois Fort with its displays, history-themed video and museum shop. Outside the Fort, they could visit the summer archaeology dig and a recently constructed wigwam, authentic for the Esopus-Munsee tribe, which sold our Huguenot ancestors the land on which New Paltz was founded.

In all, the day provided a very rewarding experience. We will shortly have a display of

Gathering photos on our website and will email you when it's available.

JOHN HASBROUCK

"A MOST ESTIMABLE CITIZEN"

A Feb. 2004 newsletter article about slavery in the New Paltz area mentioned that, although freedom barely improved the lot of most, a few managed to prosper, one being John Hasbrouck, a former slave of Josiah Hasbrouck at Locust Lawn. (Slaves frequently took the family names of their owners.) The article covered some details of his life, but we now have a lot more, thanks to a well-researched essay and exhibit about him by Josephine Bloodgood, HHS Director of Curatorial and Preservation Affairs. What follows is an abridged version of her essay with a little added material.

John was born in 1806 to Peg, a slave who was inherited several months later by Josiah and served with John in his household thereafter. As he grew, John would have worked in the fields alongside other male slaves, supervised by Josiah's son, Levi. In a letter of 1818 to Josiah, who was away on Congressional business, 27-year-old Levi Hasbrouck reported that he had been able to "keep our hands threshing, working flax, sometimes sawing rails," and they were also busy pruning the neglected old orchard. Peg and John were fortunate in some ways. Many slave families were broken apart, while Peg and John remained together. John remained bound to his mother's master for 28 years, pursuant to the 1799 Act for the Gradual Emancipation of Slavery. He learned to read, write, and to do arithmetic, probably during his youth at Locust Lawn. An 1810 law required that slave children be taught to read, or the master had to emancipate the individual at age 21.

In 1817, New York passed a new emancipation act that legally abolished slavery for most in the state, effective July 4, 1827. John Hasbrouck and his mother appear to have been freed at that time. In 1830 John began keeping an account book, mostly of the work he performed for white farmers and how he was

compensated, a practice he no doubt learned from his merchant slave owner and that he continued for most of his life. Entries in the book for the next several years indicate that John was working as a day laborer for Jacob J. Hasbrouck, his former master's brother, and renting a house from him. Many free blacks at the time were still living in white households or had emigrated to urban areas in search of greater economic opportunity. John and Peg appear to be one of only a few black families living on their own, albeit as tenants, in New Paltz.

In September 1844, John (at age 38) was able to purchase a six-acre property in New Paltz, on what is now North Putt Corners Road, from Jacob Elting for the sum of \$300. The following year, John appeared in the town census with his wife Sarah and three children; a fourth was born later. Sarah had been enslaved, perhaps also under Josiah Hasbrouck. The family occupied "four improved acres," and John was producing crops of wheat, corn, rye, and oats on land including at least another 28 acres he must have leased. His livestock included a horse, twelve hogs, and a cow. The account books show that John continued to work for wealthy white farmers while also managing his own productive farm.

In order for a black man to vote in New York State at the time, he needed to own real property valued at \$250 or more. Despite having paid \$300 for his property, John did not manage to vote until 1858, becoming then, it is believed, the first African American to vote in New Paltz despite local efforts to suppress voting by blacks.

Two volumes of John's account books are known to survive. These, along with other personal papers, provide exceptional insight into the man and his daily life. The earliest dated entry notes "for Daniel Duboise May the 10th, 1830 began to work for five month at Nine Dollars A month." John worked for Dubois (who built the second floor of the DuBois Fort on Huguenot Street) almost continuously for the next fifteen years, mostly doing harvest work. He was compensated in both cash and goods,

including grains, vegetables, butter, soap, loads of wood, leather, and other necessities. Other entries indicate that John was compensated for providing board to other workers and that, at one time, a Charles Wurtz may have been working off a debt to him. The account books offer more than just a record of John's day-to-day labors and financial dealings, however. In the margins, at the bottom of pages, and on end papers, we find myriad inscriptions, expressions of the author's tender and imaginative mind, and a persistent devotion to improving his penmanship. Countless times John signed his full name, the script becoming more and more graceful as the years passed. Other times, John simply practiced writing elegant capital letters and numbers. A few times, he recorded quotations that obviously impressed him, such as this one: "Writing is universally admitted to be one of most [useful] arts to society. It is the soul of commerce and messenger of thoughts."

John Hasbrouck's signature

Appreciated as a whole, all of John's inscriptions summon for the reader the enormous pride he must have felt in the act of writing at a time when few African Americans possessed literacy. Writing seems to have become a meditation for him, a way to make order, and perhaps a source of solace and escape from the mundaneness, if not the actual trials, of existence.

Impressions of John and his family can be drawn from other documents as well. Receipts show that John subscribed not just to a local paper, but also the *Christian Intelligencer*, published in New York City by the Association of Members of the Protestant Reformed Dutch Church. Records of the New

Paltz Reformed Church show that John's and Sarah's marriage was sanctified in 1858. John and some of his children were also baptized there. They were apparently a close-knit family. Census records show John, wife Sarah, and their children living together continuously, except for Margaret, who left to work in the home of a wealthy white family in Columbia County and married a man named Clow.

John Hasbrouck died in 1879 at the age of 73 and was buried at the New Paltz Rural Cemetery in an area set aside for African Americans, as was the practice throughout the United States at that time. His obituary in the *New Paltz Independent* read: "New Paltz loses a most estimable citizen in the death of Mr. John Hasbrouck, colored, He was a man of quiet demeanor, good sense, and Christian character." The headstone he shares with his wife and four children includes the inscription "God is love."

John and his family did better than most black families in New Paltz at the time, as many emigrated by the last decades of the 1800s to other towns or cities in search of jobs and the hope of a better life. However, he and his family were ill equipped to cope with a period of land devaluation and economic instability. By 1884, five years after John's death, local records show that his family had lost ownership of their farm. But some years later, after Sarah's death in 1892, Margaret (then 55) returned to New Paltz, eventually purchasing land at 127 Huguenot Street and hiring Jacob Wynkoop (a successful black builder) to construct a house, where her siblings joined her. This was probably the first property on Huguenot Street to be owned by an African-American. Margaret worked as a nanny and was fondly remembered for her loyalty by her charge, Jesse Elting DuBois. The house was sold after her death in 1910, and by the 1920's economic hardship and white hostility had caused virtually all African-Americans to leave New Paltz.

COAT OF ARMS ITEMS AND OTHERS AVAILABLE ONLINE – EXCELLENT FOR GIFTS AT CHRISTMAS AND ANY OTHER TIME

Our internet users can now obtain a number of attractive items decorated with the Hasbrouck coat of arms. Items currently available include tiles, mugs, magnets, badges, note/greeting cards, a keepsake box, a golf shirt, several types of tee shirts, a tote bag and several jewelry items. See and order these items online at www.cafepress.com/hasbrouckfamily. You can also see the full line of CafePress products at www.cafepress.com. If you see another item there that you'd like to have decorated with our coat of arms, let us know, and we can probably arrange it. Other items (including a 11"x17" coat of arms print with or without framing and various Huguenot crosses) are available at the HHS Museum Shop and can also be ordered by phone (845-255-1889) or online (see <http://historic-huguenot-street-museum-shop.myshopify.com>). See also publications available directly from HFA on our website (click on HFA Store).

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.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Joanne Covert, Kearney, NE

Randy (Rolland) Reynolds, Dripping Springs, TX

WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBER DEATH

Ruth Priest