



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**

**ASSOCIATION**

# JOURNAL



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

**February 2018**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

**The Hasbrouck Family Association (HFA) is now 60 years old!** Our reunion on October 14 was only two days different from our foundation date, October 12. On page 3 is a review of highlights and milestones along the path of those 60 years, including both pluses (financial growth, expanded activities) and minuses (declining membership and a disappointing level of active member involvement). We really need more active participation by you members. All our activities are being conducted by just a few people. We could do much more with your help. There are opportunities in such activities as (1) contacting current and lapsed members, (2) researching/writing newsletter articles, (3) working on/improving our website, Facebook site, and/or CafePress site, (4) doing genealogical and/or historical research, (5) recruiting new members from Facebook, where we have about 650 "friends", very few of whom have become dues-paying HFA members. Do you have an idea we haven't thought about? With phone and internet anyone anywhere can participate; you don't have to be near New Paltz. Please contact us if you're willing, and together we'll come up with something helpful that you can enjoy doing.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## OUR HOUSES

### Abraham Hasbrouck House

A year ago our newsletter stated, "Moisture penetration is a perennial problem, especially on the north side of the house. This probably did not happen in the 1700's because the ground level then was about 30 inches lower and the fireplaces were in use, creating heat to evaporate moisture. We are continuing to seek competent professional advice on this issue, but a quick solution is not in prospect." This situation continues, but we are making some progress. Together with HHS we are considering recommendations to (1) divert surface water runoff away from the building with a gradually sloping regrading and swales on the north and east sides, and (2) block groundwater penetration with a removable bentonite clay wall against the north wall of the house. Next steps will probably be engineering and landscaping analysis of these plans. We are also arranging for radar scanning of the walls to reveal interior gaps that can be filled to block water penetration.

We are evaluating contractor bids for a plan by our consultant, Neil Larson, to restore the exterior appearance of the north and south walls to represent (as closely as can be done practically) their appearance during our chosen interpretation period of 1760-75. The project will eliminate main floor windows on the south side and replace second floor windows on the south and north sides while eliminating the window on the northwest side. The replacement windows have already been built in historic style (see photos in last newsletter).

## Jean Hasbrouck House

The discovery of rotting beams and structural problems with the frame have delayed the roof replacement project and added an estimated \$80,000 to its cost. HHS is seeking grants to meet these costs and is also continuing its own fundraising campaign with participation by HFA. You can help with a check payable to Hasbrouck Family Association with designation for Jean House roof fund and sent to our PO box, shown on the newsletter masthead.

HHS hopes the project can be finished this year. Meanwhile, during the tour season the house will be open by appointment with the main attraction being the holdover of George Way's Dutch Room exhibit of authentic 17-18th century furnishings.



In the Dutch Room at the Jean House

## ANNUAL REUNION

We had pleasant weather for our 60<sup>th</sup> anniversary reunion on October 14 with a good turnout of 38 people. (See coverage on our website – [www.hasbrouckfamily.org](http://www.hasbrouckfamily.org) – including a photo display). We followed the normal agenda, starting with socializing over continental breakfast, then our business meeting, service in the French Church, tours of the Jean and Abraham houses, luncheon in Deyo Hall, a review of HFA's 60 year highlights (see also page 3), and an update on HHS by its Board Chair, Mary Etta Schneider.



HHS's Ashley Trainor shows attendees part of the kasten exhibit in the Jean House

## HFA OFFICERS

Listed below are the officers elected and appointed at the annual meeting:



HFA Directors (L-R): Robert C. Hasbrouck, Thad C. Hasbrouck, Rebecca Hasbrouck, Robert W. Hasbrouck, Derek Hasbrouck, Robert Freehill  
Missing: John Delamater

## Elected (These comprise the board of directors.)

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr., President  
Robert C., Hasbrouck, Jr., First Vice President  
John O. Delamater, Vice President  
Robert H. Freehill, Vice President  
Derek W. HasBrouck, Vice President  
Rebecca J. Hasbrouck, Vice President  
Thad C. Hasbrouck, Treasurer

## Appointed by the President

Meryl S. Brown, Secretary

The officers welcome your comments and suggestions. Also send in items you would like to have published in the newsletter (space permitting) either by regular mail or e-mail (see addresses on masthead).

### **A NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR FOR HUGUENOT STREET**

Our June newsletter announced a new executive director for HHS. For various reasons she did not prove to be the right fit for the position, but now there is a worthy successor. Liselle LaFrance is an award-winning museum professional and served as the Director of Historic Cherry Hill in Albany for 26 years. Under Ms. LaFrance's leadership, Historic Cherry Hill was named the "Best Historic Site in the Hudson Valley" by Hudson Valley Magazine in 2000.



Liselle LaFrance

"Historic Huguenot Street is excited to have found a proven leader in Liselle LaFrance," said Mary Etta Schneider, Board Chair. "Our Search Committee, Board of Trustees, and staff members were equally impressed by her outstanding credentials, her track record of success, and her ambitious work ethic. We are thrilled to begin working with Liselle to develop long-term strategic and site plans that will provide the framework for our programming, publications, and exhibitions in the years ahead – based on appropriate standards of scholarship

and offered to as broad a segment of the public as possible."

### **HFA 60-YEAR HISTORY – IMPORTANT DATES AND HIGHLIGHTS**

In 1955 Kenneth Hasbrouck galvanized the sleepy Huguenot Patriotic, Historical and Monumental Society of New Paltz (now HHS), which had purchased the Jean Hasbrouck House in 1899, with an ambitious and ultimately successful plan to acquire the other stone houses on Huguenot Street, save them from deterioration or destruction under private ownership, and form a unified historic district. For financing he decided to appeal to descendants of the founding families to buy their respective houses and put them under the unified ownership of HHS. He started with his own family.

**1957:** On October 12 a group of Hasbrouck descendants led by Kenneth formed the Hasbrouck Family Association for the purpose of (1) purchasing the Abraham Hasbrouck House for HHS, (2) restoring the house, (3) raising an endowment fund to maintain it and (4) expanding the family genealogy. Kenneth was its first president.

**1961:** The Abraham House was purchased from the New Paltz Dutch Reformed Church for \$27,000. By that time HFA membership was 177, and attendance at the annual reunion was 87, a still-standing record. (Now it's usually about 20-25.)

**1963:** A California branch of HFA was formed as a result of Kenneth's visit to members there and was later expanded to a West Coast branch. (It no longer exists although we have quite a few members there. If you're interested in restarting it, please contact us.) Alfred Hasbrouck became treasurer and maintained that position until his death 31 years later. Membership passed 400, higher than the current level of about 300.

**1965:** HFA had 8 functioning committees (none now); a formal duzine of regional members was appointed to keep in touch with members beyond the local area. (It no longer exists.)

**1969:** After 12 years in the position, Kenneth Hasbrouck stepped down as HFA president but remained active as an adviser as well as family

historian and genealogist. Sometime between 1967 and 1973 the Abraham House dormers were removed to restore the original appearance of the roof.

**1971:** HFA had 9 regional branches. None have survived.

**1976:** The Olive Hasbrouck Whittier Memorial Garden was established just south of the Abraham House. She was a strong supporter of both HFA and HHS (see Sept '06 newsletter article). We still enjoy her garden.

**1978:** A report on the Abraham House indicated that moisture had been a problem there since at least 1840. It still is.

**1981:** Aided by an intense program of family contacts around the country by Helene Anderson, Kenneth and volunteers, membership exceeded 1,000! But it didn't last.

**1982-85:** John Delamater was president; he is still on the HFA board.

**1987:** Membership was reported at 491. We could not find any explanation for the decline but suspect that Helene and Kenneth could not maintain their earlier pace of family contacts.

**1988:** Rotting floor beams at the Abraham House were reinforced at a cost of \$80,000.

**1992:** Received \$235,000 bequest from the estate of Gertrude Hasbrouck. Established scholarships (2 or more per year) in her name. Robert C. Hasbrouck, Jr. was elected president. He is still on the HFA board.

**1993:** After short-lived efforts in the '60s and '70s, the HFA newsletter was revived in its present form.

**1994:** Alfred Hasbrouck and Helene Anderson died. Helene left a bequest of \$750,000 for support of the Abraham House. That fund has since grown to \$2.35 million. It funds all expenses related to the house. Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr. was elected president, and still holds this position.

**1995:** HFA incorporated to validate its legal qualification to manage its own funds and relieve HHS of that fiduciary responsibility. But this action led to a "war" with HHS, which sued to assert control and had almost all of our funds frozen. Meanwhile, computerization of our genealogy was initiated by Sue Leahy.

**1996:** Kenneth Hasbrouck died after being seriously injured in an auto accident the previous

year. We obtained status with the IRS as a 501(c)3 non-profit private operating foundation with contributions tax exempt for donors. We adopted new bylaws which expanded HFA's scope of interest from Huguenot Street alone to include "historic sites having relevance to the Hasbrouck family." These have included the Col. Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn), the Jonathan Hasbrouck House (better known as Washington's Headquarters Historic Site) in Newburgh, and grave monument restorations of Col. Josiah in New Paltz and "Abraham of the Strand" in Kingston.

**1998:** After surviving financially for over two years on member contributions, HFA won a court decision in one case and signed a "peace treaty" with HHS to end the war. HFA retained control of its funds and agreed to minimum support levels for HHS, which it has greatly exceeded ever since. (It was never our intention to stop supporting HHS.) HFA is now an independent, tax-exempt family association and is considered an affiliate, rather than a subsidiary, of HHS.

**1999:** HFA rented (and still occupies) a small New Paltz office at 124 Main Street. Our website was established. Meryl Brown replaced Sue Leahy as administrator and office manager. Thankfully she is still with us.

**2000:** HFA helped fund replacement of rotted cellar beams in the Jean House. It also sponsored a 250th anniversary booklet about the Jonathan Hasbrouck House (Washington's Headquarters Site) in Newburgh.

**2001:** Abraham House roof was replaced.

**2002:** Dendrochronology (tree-ring dating) revealed that the building of the Abraham and Jean Houses started in 1721, after the death of both patentees!

**2003:** Historic Structure Reports were completed for both houses.

**2004:** Initiated a comprehensive moisture control project at the Abraham House, preceded by archaeology which produced around 60,000 artifacts, some of them prehistoric.

**2006-7:** HFA and its members helped fund the \$500,000 restoration of the sagging north wall of the Jean House – the largest project in HHS history.

**2010:** Unable to properly support Locust Lawn, HHS transferred ownership to Locust Grove in

Poughkeepsie. This was a natural fit since the two properties had been under joint control of Hasbrouck descendants for many years. HFA decided to continue providing limited financial support for Locust Lawn and has worked with Locust Grove management to do so.

**2012:** The Abraham House reopened after a 3-year project to restore its interior appearance to fit the chosen interpretation period of 1760-75, when Daniel's widow, Wyntje, controlled the household.

**2016:** Longtime member/supporter Harriet Hasbrouck (see Feb '11 newsletter article) died at age 101 and left a major bequest to HFA. We have received \$300,000 so far for our endowment fund, which now exceeds \$800,000 (see page 7).

### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

HFA participates in the HHS College scholarship program. Normally the two top-ranked candidates in the program for Huguenot descendants earn \$2,000 Gertrude Hasbrouck scholarships from HFA while other worthy candidates receive \$1,000 scholarships from HHS. In 2017 the HHS scholarship fund was unable to make awards. As a partial offset, HFA provided \$2,000 awards to the four top-ranked applicants, who are outlined below:



**Drew HasBrouck** from Saratoga Springs, NY is a descendant of both Abraham and Jean with links also to the Deyo and Bevier families. He is a repeater, having won a Gertrude scholarship last year and HHS scholarships previously. Drew is in his final year of masters

degree studies at Northeastern University with a major in electrical engineering and a minor in sustainable energy systems. He is working toward a career as a technical specialist in the integration of renewable resources into electricity grids to reduce adverse environmental impact while improving reliability. He has been getting lots of exposure and practical experience working as a co-op or intern with companies involved in the field. He has had a leadership position on some projects and received awards for his performance. Drew has already accepted an offer to join one of these firms after graduation – ample evidence of his outstanding talent in his chosen field.



**Kristen Hassenkamp**, an Abraham descendant from Middletown, NJ, was an HHS scholarship winner last year and graduated magna cum laude from The College of New Jersey's Honors Program. Continuing her undergraduate major, she is now in a PhD program in Industrial/Organizational Psychology at the University of Akron. She will be both student and teacher during the program, conducting research on psychology's applications to the workplace, as well as gaining field experience on real projects for corporate enterprises, such as selection and placement programs, training and motivational programs, and adapting the workplace for optimal results.



**Margaret Miller**, a DuBois descendant from Atkinson, NH, is in the third year of the William and Mary and St Andrews Joint Degree Programme in International Relations, involving two years at each university. She was selected as a research fellow in the Project for International Peace and Security and is developing her own project about European separatist movements to present in April to the policy community in Washington D.C. Meanwhile she is benefiting from the faculty and resources of two top universities while experiencing life in very different communities.



**Sabrina Myoda**, an Abraham descendant from Wilmington, DE, is a senior at Purdue University majoring in Sustainable Food and Farming Systems. She has a special interest in

the developing world, where there is much to be learned and a great need for improvement. She plans to gain hands-on experience supporting communities in developing countries in the practice of sustainable agriculture and conservation management, and is currently focusing on the Peace Corps in order to do so after she graduates. Later, she would like to work in the Foreign Service to use her knowledge and experience overseas to promote food security and improve U.S. international relations.

This year's award winners comprise a diverse group with a considerable variety of interests. However, they have some things in common: they are all dedicated to the pursuit of excellence; and they are achieving it even before they graduate. We extend our best wishes for continued success to all these outstanding students.

### **MEMBERSHIP DUES**

Many members still have not paid their dues for the membership year starting October 1, 2017, and a few are unpaid for longer periods. If you are in this category, you are receiving a reminder insert in this mailing indicating the details. Please continue to support your family association; we need you!

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

- Peter Atkins, Pound Ridge, NY
- Ronald Atkins, Salt Point, NY
- Lisa Coffey, South Chesterfield, VA
- Holly Craddock, Holly Cary, NC
- Sara Fuller, Poughkeepsie, NY
- Carole Hasbrouck, Newburgh NY
- William Hasbrouck, Freeport, NY
- Mary Ann Henry, Pound Ridge, NY
- May Kernan, Chesterfield, VA
- Rachel Olsby-Bilger, Little Falls, NY
- Dale Pierson, Newton, NJ
- Anne B. Skidmore, Madison, NH
- Gregory Skidmore, Incline Village, NV
- Mrs. Philip Skidmore, Darien, CT
- Lynn Thomas, Meadville, PA
- Allison Trapani, Clarksburg, MD
- Greg Vitek, Raleigh, NC

## **FINANCES (in \$ thousands)**

### **2017 Yearend Assets**

HFA Endowment Fund + restricted	730
HFA General Fund (unrestricted)	86
Subtotal	816
Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund	<u>2,335</u>
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>	<b>3,154</b>

### **HFA ex-Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund**

#### **2017 Income** (ex-capital gains/losses)

Investment Income	36
Dues and Donations (unrestricted)	4
Life Dues and Donations (endowment)	1
Jean House roof donations (restricted)	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b> (4 restricted)	<b>44</b>

#### **2017 Expenses**

Jean Hasbrouck House maintenance	8
Locust Lawn maintenance	2
Scholarships	8
Other programs*	9
Office and storage rental	8
Administration	1
Accounting fees and taxes	<u>1</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>37</b>

**NET INCOME** 7

**NET UNRESTRICTED INCOME** 3

### **Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund** **(for Abraham Hasbrouck House)**

#### **2017 Income** (ex capital gains/losses)

Investment Income	89
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>	<b>89</b>

#### **2017 Expenses**

Maintenance, preservation	41
Accounting fees (1.5) and taxes (1.2)	<u>3</u>
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>	<b>44</b>

**NET INCOME** 45

\*Mainly newsletters, website, genealogy and member services

The stock market was exuberant in 2017 while bond markets showed little material change. Balanced funds (like ours) holding both stocks and bonds delivered an average return (excluding income) of around 12%. Our funds didn't do that well (around 6%) because our stocks are oriented toward providing income for our programs, whereas the best-performing stocks were (and still are) growth oriented companies (especially the technology sector) which provide little or no income. With respect to income, however, our results were excellent with a return of over 4%. By comparison, stocks overall presently have an average dividend return of around 2%, bond yields are still close to multi-decade lows, and money market funds yield virtually nothing.

Looking ahead, our financial outlook is favorable. The Anderson Fund's income should adequately cover whatever is needed for maintaining and displaying the house. And the HFA Endowment Fund, inadequate in recent years, received a big boost last year with a generous bequest from our long-time supporter Harriet Hasbrouck. We received an initial distribution of \$300,000 in July and expect more this year. The increased income from these funds will allow us to expand the scope of our activities in future years – an exciting prospect!



## **2017 CONTRIBUTORS**

### **Endowment Fund**

Duke, H. Benjamin  
Graham, Douglas R.  
Hasbrouck, Rebecca  
Hasbrouck, Robert W.  
Hassenkamp, Edward P.  
Morrow, Ian

### **General Fund**

Andrew, Tammy  
Atkins, Mary Elizabeth  
Baldwin, Rosemary V.  
Christensen, Susan  
Cross, Alice  
Delamater, John O.  
Freeman, Keith  
Graham, Douglas R.  
HasBrouck, Derek  
Hasbrouck, Phyllis R.  
Hasbrouck, Rebecca  
Hasbrouck, Roger C.  
Hasbrouck, Robert W.  
Hasbrouck, Thad C.  
Hasbrouck, Thad M.  
Hassenkamp, Edward  
Hill, Gay W.  
Link, Margaret Ann  
MacDowell, Frederick  
McCann, Donna C.  
Merritt, Barbara J.  
Morrow, Ian  
Nickelsen, Roberta M.  
Odenweller, Jane R.  
Patterson, Mary Clancy  
Stephens, Alison M.

### **Jean Hasbrouck House Roof**

Andrew, Tammy  
Atkins, Mary Elizabeth  
Berquist, Virginia  
DeNaples, Mary H.  
Eckert, Barbara J.  
Gibson, James P.  
Hasbrouck, Charles B.  
Hasbrouck, James J.  
Hasbrouck, Rebecca  
Hasbrouck, Robert Clark  
Hasbrouck, Robert David  
Hasbrouck, Robert W.  
Hasbrouck, Thad C.  
Hasbrouck, William Andrew  
Hassenkamp, Edward  
Kleinknecht, Dorothy  
Linnabary, Phoebe C.  
MacWilliams, Bruce Newell  
Merritt, Barbara J.  
Morrow, Ian  
Nichols, Jean Erway  
Odenweller, Jane R.  
Quinn, Winona C.  
Snyder, Celia G.  
Vilmar, Dorothy S.

**Thanks to all of you! We really appreciate  
(and need) your support!**



Jean Hasbrouck House