



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

With help from HHS, the family associations of Huguenot Street are busy working on their first-ever joint project: The Gathering of all the associations on the weekend of August 13-15. Besides the opportunity to discover links with the other Huguenot/Dutch descendants, a terrific program of interesting activities for all is being offered; and I hope you will be able to take advantage of this great opportunity. See more details in the separate article on this page.

HFA is now on Facebook! For the first time we have an interactive forum, where you can meet other Hasbrouck descendants, post your opinions and suggestions, participate in discussions on family-related topics, and keep up to date on HFA developments. On the Facebook website, typing Hasbrouck Family Association in the search box will bring you to us, and then you can sign up as a group member (we have about 100 already). Let us know what you think and how we can improve the site.

Also check out our merchandise offerings of items customized with the Hasbrouck coat of arms at www.cafepress.com/hasbrouckfamily. If you want an item in the wider CafePress inventory that we're not offering, contact us and we'll add it to our selection.

Would you rather receive this newsletter by e-mail rather than the printed version? As it is now, you can have it both ways because we send members an e-mail notice when the newsletter is posted on our website. But if you would just as soon reduce clutter and dispense with the printed version, let us know and we'll e-mail it directly instead.

We are always in search of family-related stories and happenings like the ones presented in this edition of the newsletter. If you have anything of this nature that might be of interest to our members, please submit it or contact us to discuss it. We need your continuing input to help maintain this newsletter as an enjoyable reading experience.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.



THE GATHERING (August 13-15)

By now you should all have received a mailing from HHS with an insert containing details about this important event and a registration form for it. If you haven't, please contact HHS (845-255-1660) to obtain it. Full details (with electronic registration) are also available on the HHS website (www.huguenotstreet.org; on the homepage go to Descendants, then The Gathering), and also by link from the HFA website (www.hasbrouckfamily.org).

Besides meeting other Hasbrouck descendants, The Gathering provides a great opportunity to explore your links to the other families of Huguenot Street. For instance, all Hasbroucks have Deyo roots since Jean and Abraham, from whom we all descend, married Deyo sisters. Look at your family trees (we can help with that, if needed) to see whom your Hasbrouck ancestors married. Particularly in the early generations you are likely to find names of other Huguenot Street families (early on, there weren't many others available!), and at The Gathering you can talk to members of those families and investigate your own roots with them.

In addition to all this, there's a varied program of events as well as activities to keep your children occupied, making this a great weekend event for the whole family. So please do plan to come, and act promptly to reserve accommodations (consult HHS

website or HFA) because demand will probably exceed supply for that weekend. The registrations go to HHS, so please additionally notify HFA that you're coming as an aid for planning our own meeting on that Saturday morning. We hope to see you there!

HFA ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion in New Paltz this year is on Saturday, October 9. It will probably follow the usual format: registration/socializing and service in the French Church in the morning followed by an on-site update at the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses, lunch at Deyo Hall and our annual meeting. An added attraction will be a "Celebration of the Arts" festival on Huguenot Street until 5 PM, so you can enjoy its exhibits after our meeting. If you are coming from a distance and want to visit Huguenot Street in some detail, plan to spend at least one night here because the reunion will take up most of Saturday, and you will need at least one additional day on the Street. The houses can be visited only on guided tours and are closed Wednesdays.

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 three good motels: Super 8 (845-255-8865), 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 in nearby 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. Take your HFA (or HHS) membership card whenever you visit to get free house tours and a 10% discount at the museum shop.

OUR HOUSES

Abraham Hasbrouck House

The house is closed this year for restoration. Plans for the rafter support project have been finalized and put out for bids from contractors. Detailed restoration plans for each room of the house



are still in progress. As previously announced, the interpretation theme will be the role of women in the New Paltz community during the mid-18th century. This theme is consistent with the house history during that period. Daniel Hasbrouck, builder of the house, died in 1759; and his widow, Tryntje Deyo, owned and ran it for 28 years until her death in 1787 at age 79.

Jean Hasbrouck House

Since it was reopened in 2008 after replacement of the north wall and extensive interior restoration, this house has been a proud showpiece for HHS and the Hasbrouck family. Among groups much impressed by recent tours there were our French visitors (see page 4) and a group of tour guides from Historic Deerfield in Massachusetts.

Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)

Locust Lawn now has its own website: www.locustlawn.org. Visit it to see current and historic photos and information about the house and its furnishings, the outbuildings, and the nearby Terwilliger House.

HHS continues to explore alternate management/funding arrangements to enable this historic gem and its site to survive as a house museum and realize its true potential. Meanwhile, because of HHS's strained financial condition, the house is closed for public tours. If you are visiting and would like a private tour, call the HHS Visitor Center (845-255-1889) and identify yourself as a Hasbrouck descendant. If circumstances allow, they will make the arrangements.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

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 10 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.

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 send us a fax or e-mail (see numbers 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. Call them (845-255-6738) 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

The deadline for scholarship applications this year is August 31, which means that awards will apply to the spring semester rather than the fall semester. To be eligible you must be (at that time) a college sophomore, junior or senior and be able to document your Huguenot heritage. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: (845)255-1660 or www.huguenotstreet.org (go to Learn, then Scholarships).

IMPRESSIONS OF OMAN



Jane Odenweller and grandson Keoki McCorrison dining in Oman

As reported in the last newsletter, anthropologist/archeologist Joy McCorrison left for a dig in Oman shortly after attending her grandmother's (Eleanor Rawlings) 100th birthday party. On the first part of the trip she was accompanied by her 7-year-old son, Keoki, and her mother, Jane Odenweller, who took care of Keoki while Joy was at work. Jane wrote an account of her visit and her impressions of this Middle East Muslim country. Here are a couple of excerpts:

"Oman was a cliché of superlative and exotic. At the same time it is progressive, modern, and busy, especially in Muskat, its capital. The Sultan was educated at Sandhurst and Oxford, and is truly an enlightened ruler. He insists on tolerance, educates women and men, paying for higher degrees abroad. Women are in all the professions, in Parliament and the Sultan's Council. Women do not veil, although they cover their limbs and often their hair. The Sultan has poured the resources of the country into building infrastructure, and developing tourism, but at a measured pace, and in such a way as to integrate the country into a whole.

"While in Muskat we were invited to a wedding, the likes of which I could never have imagined. The union was sealed, without the bride's presence, days before with the groom and men at the mosque. But the practice is for a messenger to be sent three times from the mosque to ascertain that the bride accepts the marriage. Then the party is for women only, except for one man, the ONLY man allowed in the hall: the groom, who comes in, dressed as a sultan from Arabian nights, to take the bride away (from her women friends and family—not too symbolic!) And what women -- all made up, kohl around the eyes, hair elaborately dressed, and under the hijabs they wear (on their way to and from the party) over their décolleté and splendid gowns, jewels and spangles, gold lace and gorgeous silks and satins. They dance together, in circles, pairs or groups, talking and socializing to loud music. Since this family with myriad cousins (every time we went anywhere with our friends there, we met another cousin) is originally from Zanzibar, most of the music was with a heavy beat. The dancing is sinuous, with hula-like hand movements, and hip rolling, but not like exaggerated belly-dancing: more subtle. It was a spectacular evening, with a lot of ululation breaking out at crucial moments from clutches of friends." At least there is one thing in common with American weddings: the loud music!

Jane and Keoki had many other interesting experiences during their stay, and Keoki was an instant favorite of the local officials, who gave him

special treatment. And the dig was successful with the highlight being the discovery of a beautifully preserved whole skeleton from a Neolithic tomb.

FRENCH SCHOOL GROUP VISITS HASBROUCK CONNECTION IN NEW PALTZ

In late January we heard from a school group from the Lycee Fenelon in Cambria, France, not far from the town of Hazebrouck. They were coming to visit their sister school in Park Ridge, NJ and wanted also to come to Huguenot Street. As a school project they had been researching the Hasbroucks in America and were interested in seeing the Hasbrouck houses in New Paltz. We put them in touch with HHS, which arranged a tour for them.

roots in the same area: Louis Bevier came from the nearby city of Lille and Louis Du Bois from that same vicinity.



French students and their Park Ridge, NJ partners at the Abraham Hasbrouck House

The group enjoyed their exposure to the Huguenot history of New Paltz and its connection to the area where they live. HHS has conducted several “roots” tours to our ancestral areas in Europe, and this was a nice opportunity to host a tour in the opposite direction for this group of appreciative students.

HASBROUCK DESCENDANT EARNS EAGLE SCOUT DESIGNATION

On April 18 a Boy Scouts of America Court of Honor formally confirmed 18-year old Samuel F. Nickelsen of Cortlandt Manor, NY as an Eagle Scout, the highest honor award in Scouting, reached by only 3% of participants. He received around 50 letters of commendation, many of them from senior government officials (past and present) and several organizations, including HFA. Sam is the son of HFA member Roberta Nickelsen and grandson of Ralph Hasbrouck Monsees. He is an 11th generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck and also has Deyo, Dubois and Schoonmaker ancestry. Sam has been involved in Scouting since 4th.grade.

A major requirement for the Eagle Scout award is successful completion of a major project chosen by the individual and demonstrating leadership and resourcefulness. Sam found his project close to home. His sister, Claire, has multiple disabilities and attends special education programs at a nearby school. On a visit there Sam noticed that a nature trail used by the students was in a deteriorated condition and decided that restoring it should be his project. With his scout troop he solicited contributions and community volunteers and then organized and



Eric Roth shows visiting French students old documents in French in the HHS archives

On April 1 they arrived – 23 students with two teachers – and they brought along 13 of their American partners from Park Ridge. The Americans were also aware of the Hasbrouck name since Park Ridge is close to Hasbrouck Heights, NJ (see February '02 newsletter). Guided by HHS's Richard Heyl de Ortiz and Rebecca Mackey, they toured the Abraham and Jean houses as well as the French Church and the Visitor Center. Some also went to the archives, located beneath the church. HHS Executive Director and former librarian/archivist Eric Roth showed them old documents in French from the early days of New Paltz. They enjoyed the challenge of deciphering the different language and handwriting style of that era, compared to modern French.

As the group walked along Huguenot Street and were told about the other New Paltz families, they were interested to learn that two others also had

directed the work. The pavement required extensive patching. Dead trees and weeds were removed and new plants and mulch added. Still to come are wind chimes for blind students, to be made by other students in the school. Managing this project in addition to his busy school schedule was a real challenge. Rainy weather added to the difficulties of the project by causing erosion and exposing tree roots, but Sam and his crew persevered and had the trail completed for use this spring. He noted that the outdoor experience provides the special education students with a different perspective from their indoor activities and broadens their opportunities for learning and enjoyment. And it's a special satisfaction that his sister will be one of the beneficiaries.



Sam Nickelsen, Eagle Scout

Sam is graduating this month from Walter Panas High School in Cortlandt Manor, where he was captain of the baseball team, which qualified for the league playoffs this year. This fall he will be attending Hudson Valley Community College in Troy, NY and majoring in physical education. After completing the two-year course there, he plans to finish his college studies at the University of Tampa with a major in athletic training. And he is not forgetting Scouting. He says, "Being an Eagle Scout is something that will carry on for the rest of your life." Sam's accomplishments to date augur well for his success in whatever direction he takes. HFA is proud to claim

him as a family member and a fine role model for his contemporaries.

ELIAS HASBROUCK – REVOLUTIONARY WAR VETERAN AND MORE



Military headstone installed in 2000
at actual gravesite

President Bob Hasbrouck writes: Better late than never! When I took over writing this newsletter in 1995, Kenneth Hasbrouck told me I should write an article about our illustrious ancestor Elias Hasbrouck. With our unfortunate legal dispute with HHS then at an intense level and Kenneth's death in 1996, his recommendation got buried in the process but never entirely forgotten. Now, 15 years later, I am finally fulfilling his desire. (The source for the biographical information is an article in the *Kingston Daily Freeman* of Dec. 30, 1952.)

Indeed, Elias Hasbrouck (1740-1791), a third-generation descendant of Abraham, is worthy of our attention. He was a prominent merchant in Kingston, NY when he took a leadership position by becoming one of the first in Kingston to sign the Articles of Incorporation, a precursor to the Declaration of Independence, in June 1775 – a risky move at that time in the British colonies. That same month he was commissioned a Captain of the Line in the Third New York Regiment. He recruited his own company in Ulster County and led them to Albany, where they became a part of the American army under General Richard Montgomery which marched north to attack Montreal and Quebec. Captain Elias accompanied the army as far as Montreal, at which point he was recalled to Ulster County and given the post of Captain of Scouts and Rangers (a militia organization) guarding the northern frontiers. Until the end of the war he was constantly employed, either in this duty or other important assignments.

For a time he was Quartermaster of the army guarding the Hudson Highlands. He served on courts martial involving, among other activities, detecting spies and suppressing conspiracies. He was one of the outnumbered defenders of Kingston when it was burned by the British in 1777, and during 1778-1780 he transported supplies for the American troops on the Hudson. From 1780 to 1784 he extended this service to supply the French troops allied with the Americans.

In spite of his store having been burned by the British, Elias reestablished himself in Kingston during the Revolution and dealt in many items. The trade must not have been very successful, for by the spring of 1785 he decided to sell his Kingston properties, including his dwelling/store at the corner of Wall and Main Streets, plus a large tract of land.



Memorial dedication in Woodstock Cemetery

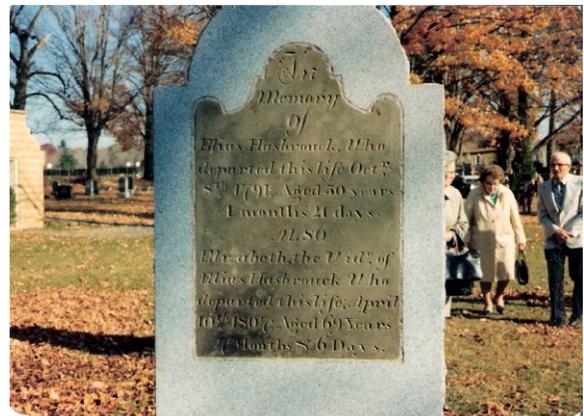
By June 1787 Elias had moved to the newly organized township of Woodstock, which at that time covered an area of about 450 square miles! That month he was elected as its first town supervisor, a post he held until his death in 1791. His original homestead there is still standing (although considerably altered by subsequent owners). This is where the first town officers met and where he conferred with other Revolutionary War veterans who had adopted Woodstock as their home and were shaping its future. After Elias's death his widow, Elizabeth Slecht, operated a tavern there for west-bound pioneers traveling the trail past the house, as well as for the local community.

According to tradition, Elias passed away while out hunting and was found sitting against a stump with his gun across his knees – a fitting end for this warrior-hunter, whose best years had been spent in dangerous service on the frontier. He was buried nearby in a small family cemetery, but the original headstone was stolen some time before

1930, and the untended cemetery fell into a state of disrepair. In 1976 Bernard Lapo, a descendant of Elias and, at that time, Woodstock's town historian, orchestrated a cleanup/restoration of this cemetery with the support of the town of Woodstock as well as HHS and HFA. Meanwhile, the headstone was somehow discovered in a Brooklyn garage and returned to Woodstock. Mr. Lapo organized a group of descendants – in conjunction with HHS and HFA (to which most of them belonged) -- to create a memorial monument for Elias, incorporating the old headstone, in a more prominent location -- the main Woodstock Cemetery. With funds provided by HFA and the individual descendants, a lot in the cemetery was purchased by HFA and deeded to HHS. The monument was designed and erected under the guidance of Mr. Lapo, Kenneth Hasbrouck (HHS President) and Richard R. Hasbrouck (HFA President). It was dedicated in a ceremony on Oct. 28, 1978 (see photos).



Inscription on 1978 memorial to Capt. Elias Hasbrouck



Memorial to Elias & Elizabeth Hasbrouck showing original headstone inset

There is more to the story. In 2000 Woodstock American Legion Post 1026 undertook a project to replace and repair missing and damaged gravestones of Woodstock veterans. One of the first chosen was that of Captain Elias. A standard US Government military headstone was placed at his grave in the old family cemetery (now called the Lake Hill Cemetery). So now, after many years of obscurity, this worthy ancestor is honored and remembered in two locations in the now well-known town he helped to settle.

INTERESTING LINKS TO THE PAST – SOME TRUE, SOME NOT



Hudson River Chain links displayed at West Point with view up the river

HFA President Bob Hasbrouck writes: When I was a new cadet at West Point, an immediate requirement was to learn a lot of facts about the history of the Academy and its famous sites. Among them was the Revolutionary War chain across the Hudson, which successfully prevented British ships from advancing north up the river. More recently I was surprised, when researching the Jonathan Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, to read that the family there was threatened in 1777 because the British had broken the chain across the Hudson and were advancing up the river. With a little further research I discovered that there were two Hudson River chains.

The first chain was stretched across the river in November 1776 under the supervision of Thomas Machin, a 33-year-old artillery engineer. It was located near the present site of the Bear Mountain Bridge and protected by two hilltop forts overlooking it. In October 1777 the British sent a strong force under Sir Henry Clinton up the river to reinforce the

beleaguered Gen Burgoyne. They overran the greatly outnumbered defenders of the forts (which included Col. Jonathan Hasbrouck's NY Regt) in a fierce, bloody battle. Lt. Machin was badly wounded in the action. Then the British broke the chain and sailed north as far as Kingston, which they sacked and burned on October 16. Despite its military success, the expedition failed in its mission. On October 17 Burgoyne surrendered at Saratoga, and Clinton's force withdrew to New York.

Worried about another Hudson invasion, the Americans decided this time to block the river a few miles farther north at West Point, where it bends west and then back to the north, forcing ships to slow down for the turns. Learning from earlier failure and recovered from his wounds, now-Capt. Machin designed and supervised the installation, on April 30, 1778, of a far heavier, locally manufactured 1,500' chain at the eastern bend of the Hudson. It was protected by a series of forts constructed on the heights above both sides of the river. As I learned as a cadet, the chain and its fortifications proved impregnable. The next year the British came up the Hudson again but stopped well short of West Point, which was never attacked. Its only perilous moment came in 1780 with Benedict Arnold's failed attempt to hand it over to the British. Instead, it denied them access to the river and its surrounding territory for the rest of the war.

But our story does not end yet. After the war a few links of the chain were saved by the government as historic relics. Thirteen of them (one for each original state) are displayed at Trophy Point at West Point (see photo). The rest of the chain was sent to a nearby foundry to be melted down for other uses. And so things stood until the 1880s, when a well-known NY junk dealer named John Abbey advertised authentic links of the chain for sale. He claimed that they had been found at the Brooklyn Navy Yard. In fact, they were from a contemporary anchor chain of a type made only in Britain. These links were much larger and three-times as heavy as the authentic links. Nevertheless, Abbey successfully peddled them to unsophisticated buyers, including former New York City mayor Abram Hewitt. Eventually, Hewitt thought to compare his links with those at West Point and demanded his money back, but Abbey managed to evade repayment. Some of these links are still displayed on the lawn of Hewitt's Ringwood Manor, now a New Jersey state park. Others are on the village green at the Orange County Museum in Monroe, NY.

The fake chain business moved into high gear in the early 1900s when Abbey turned it over to

Francis Bannerman, perhaps the country's foremost surplus arms dealer, who had an undeserved reputation as a reputable businessman. (He maintained a warehouse in the form of a romantic castle on Pollopel Island in the Hudson near West Point. Now known as Bannerman's Castle, the crumbling ruin is still an attraction on Hudson River tours.) Bannerman concocted an elaborate, logical but totally false story explaining how the chain segment got to the Brooklyn Navy Yard and into his possession. He published and distributed this story in a pamphlet used to market the links on a wide scale. His story was widely believed and still occasionally quoted. He sold links to descendants of the manufacturer of the real links and to wealthy collectors, some of whom passed them on to well-known institutions. By gift or direct purchase they wound up being displayed at the Smithsonian Institution in Washington, the U.S. Coast Guard Academy, the Chicago Historical Society, the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society and Forest Lawn Memorial Park in Los Angeles.

The enterprising Bannerman went even further. Each sale of link segments left damaged open links at the ends. He carved them up into "handsome souvenir desk weights" engraved with suitable identification and sold them to the public (along with a copy of his pamphlet) for \$2.75 each. Bannerman died in 1918. At the time, he was trying to sell to the U.S. Government, for \$450,000, thirty 6-inch guns he had purchased from the Navy for about \$2,500.

Amazingly, despite easily accessible means of verification, none of the individual purchasers or institutions ever seriously investigated the authenticity of the links. They were finally discredited definitively in the 1980s by historian/researcher Lincoln Diamant, who wrote a detailed exposition of the hoax. The reaction was mixed. At one extreme, the Chicago Historical Society's links were dumped in the shrubbery outside the back door. The Smithsonian's were put in a warehouse. But they are still displayed as authentic at the Buffalo and Erie County Historical Society. Meanwhile, the real chain links are available for public viewing just a stone's throw away from the spot where they played such a significant role in turning the tide of the Revolutionary War.

55 FOR '55

Last month President Bob Hasbrouck, West Point Class of 1955, attended '55's 55th anniversary reunion. One hundred classmates were there out of 350 still living from 470 graduates. The class started

with 640 members in July 1951 and graduated 73% of them with most casualties coming not from academics but from crash exposure to severe military discipline in the initial two months of summer training. Twenty-five became generals, and two were astronauts. Luckily, only five died in Vietnam.

Reunion attendees received a current "situation report" indicating how the Academy is adjusting to changing conditions. With the Army strained by Middle East requirements, it graduated 1,000 cadets last month and is admitting 1,400 (15% women) in July. Academics now include civics, many foreign languages, political science and exposure to foreign cultures in assignments abroad. Realistic military training is given by Middle East veterans and a contingent of Afghan-Americans.

West Point is proud of its selection by *Forbes* magazine as "America's Best College". It is highly competitive, accepting less than 10% of applicants. Bob says, "I thought my four years there were challenging, but it is even more demanding now. Only the highly motivated will survive, and that's intentional."



Bob & Astrid Hasbrouck at West Point '55 reunion
View north up Hudson River in background

We welcome our new members:

Claire Elizabeth Blackman, Tulsa, OK
Nicholas Blackman, Houston, TX
Allan P. Hasbrouck, Surprise, AZ
Erik Hasbrouck, Loveland, CO

We have received notice of the following member death:

Cornelia Dalrymple, Branchville, NJ