



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The weather has finally warmed up again, and Huguenot Street is once more open for visitors. Our houses there – the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck houses – both provide an authentic, recently enhanced representation of how our early ancestors lived. And the museum shop in the Dubois Fort is open again and well stocked with attractive items to enhance the visitor experience.

I hope you can visit the Street and feel a connection to your family roots there. But surprisingly few members of HFA live near New Paltz, and for those of you further away, visits may be difficult. Nonetheless, in this electronic age, it is easy to make a meaningful connection on the internet. The websites ([www.hasbrouckfamily.org](http://www.hasbrouckfamily.org) for HFA and [www.huguenotstreet.org](http://www.huguenotstreet.org) for HHS) both provide lots of interesting information and photos relating to Huguenot history (both in Europe and America), New Paltz, Huguenot Street and its families and how they all have developed. HHS has had a number of excellent exhibits onsite, and now you can experience the best of them on their website. (Click on Online Exhibits at the lower right corner of the home page.) There are seventeen to choose from at present, covering a variety of topics, many with reference to the Hasbrouck family. Recently added, for example, is a colorful exhibit of HHS's extensive quilt collection, very few of which can be shown on Huguenot Street due to lack of space. Also on the home page are links to virtual tours of Huguenot Street, both in print and by video. And under Research you can access a wide variety of interesting articles related to our history. So whether you are 5 miles from New Paltz or more than 500, take advantage of these valuable resources to grow your knowledge of your ancestors, their experiences and how they contributed to the development of the world we know today.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## HFA ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion in New Paltz this year is on Saturday, October 12. It will follow the format initiated last year: registration/socializing, business meeting, service in the French Church followed by an on-site update at the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses, lunch at Deyo Hall, a status report from HHS and a short presentation on a relevant topic by historian Neil Larson. 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, which is open from 10:30 to 4:30 on Monday, Thursday and Friday; 9:30 to 4:30 on Saturday and Sunday. The houses can be visited only on guided tours\* (at 11AM, 1PM and 3PM on Monday, Thursday and Friday; 10AM, 11:30AM, 1:30PM and 3PM Saturday and Sunday) starting from the Visitors Center in the Dubois Fort. (\*See exception for Jean Hasbrouck House under Our Houses on page 2.)

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 (The Inn at Stone Ridge).

Bring your HFA (or HHS) membership card whenever you visit to get free house tours.

## OUR HOUSES

### Abraham Hasbrouck House



South room (parlor)

The house is looking great, both outside and inside (see photos) following completion of a multi-year restoration project last summer. Visitors this year will see a few minor interior changes. The furnishings which were borrowed for display last year have been replaced with items from the HHS collections or purchased by HFA. A few more will be added during the year. Together with HHS, we are examining steps to improve the interior lighting setup and address ongoing moisture problems, which have been reduced but not eliminated.



Center room

### Jean Hasbrouck House

A preservation architect recently examined the roof, and we are awaiting his report to HHS with specific recommendations on replacing it. Meanwhile, the house is otherwise in good shape and open for tours. New this year is an arrangement for visitors to go through the house at their own pace with a docent stationed there to provide information and security.



North room (opkamer)



Kitchen

### Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)

**TAKE NOTE:** Although the house is not open for regular tours this year (only prearranged group tours), it will be open from 10AM to 4PM on the weekend of June 29-30 for a Living History Day celebration (cost: \$10 adults, \$8 children). There will be themed tours of the house every hour on the hour as well as outdoor activities, including 19<sup>th</sup> century tents, craft displays, artisans at work, children's games and demonstrations by historic reenactors. This may be your only chance this year to visit this historic family gem.

Restoration-wise, projects planned for this year are extensive restoration of the tool barn and replacement of a rotted cornice section in the west wing of the mansion.

### 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.

### **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 13 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.

### **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. The HHS scholarships are for \$1,000, but the two top-rated applicants will receive \$2,000 scholarships from HFA. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: (845)255-1660 or [www.huguenotstreet.org](http://www.huguenotstreet.org) (go to Learn, then Scholarships).

### **WE HAVE A NEW TREASURER**

After ten busy years as HFA Treasurer, William G. (Bill) Hasbrouck has retired. We are very grateful for his effective performance over this long period in keeping track of our financial ins and outs with assets divided into two portfolios (HFA's regular funds and the Helene Anderson Fund for the Abraham House), making bookkeeping and reporting more complicated.



Thad C. Hasbrouck

Bill's replacement as treasurer is Thad C. (Chuck) Hasbrouck. He is the second member of his family to hold the position. His father, Thad M. Hasbrouck, took the job after the death of Kenneth Hasbrouck in 1996 and held it until Bill's arrival in 2003. He is still an active member of HFA, as is Bill.

Chuck Hasbrouck retired in 2009 after a 35-year career in education culminating with the position of Director of Curriculum and Professional Services for the Watertown CT public schools, which he served in several capacities for twelve years. But he is still not fully retired from the education field. He has taken on part-time positions at The University of Saint Joseph in CT as a supervisor of student teachers and one of three supervisors of the university's off-campus Master of Education program.

Besides looking after our finances, Chuck has other talents useful to HFA. He likes restoring old buildings and is an excellent photographer. You can see some of his photos of the Abraham and Jean Houses on our Facebook site. We are happy to welcome him as our newest family officer!

### **A HASBROUCK WITH BINGHAM IN PERU**

In 1911 Yale professor and explorer Hiram Bingham sparked intense international interest with a claim that he had discovered the ancient Inca city of Machu Picchu (Quechua for "old peak") and that it was the fabled "Lost City of the Incas." It has turned out since then that he was mostly wrong on both counts but also correct in ways he didn't

realize. In fact, Machu Picchu had been discovered by earlier westerners as well as Peruvians. However, Bingham was the first person to publicize it, conduct archaeological excavations and uncover the now famous structures hidden by four centuries of isolation. He also documented, mapped and photographed the site on his three expeditions there (1911, 1912 and 1915).



Machu Picchu

As for the “Lost City of the Incas,” the term relates to the saga of these people in the 16<sup>th</sup> century. After Spanish conquistador Francisco Pizarro and his troops conquered the Inca capital city of Cuzco in 1536, Inca leader Mano Capac II led the survivors into the rough mountainous and forested terrain to the west, where they built another city and held out against the Spanish until 1572. Over the centuries the location of this city was indeed lost. Because of its grandeur and location in the mountains, 50 miles west of Cuzco, Bingham felt sure that he had found it. Later research established that the lost city was actually located 30 miles farther west at a remote forest site called Vilcabamba. After its capture the Spaniards destroyed the city. Over time the site reverted to jungle, and its location was forgotten. Ironically, Bingham also “discovered” this site on his 1911 expedition, but he did not realize its significance and mistakenly claimed Machu Picchu as the lost city and final Inca refuge.

Based on the excitement generated by his 1911 discoveries of Machu Picchu and other Inca ruins in the area, Yale University and the National Geographic Society sponsored subsequent expeditions by Bingham in 1912 and 1915. They

produced more valuable details about the Inca empire and its culture. The National Geographic Magazine’s March 1913 issue was entirely devoted to Machu Picchu, which has been a tourist magnet ever since.

Recently HFA member Jane Odenweller visited Peru, including Machu Picchu, and discovered that the photographer for the 1915 expedition was a J.J. Hasbrouck. We looked up half a dozen J.J. Hasbroucks in our genealogy and found him. His full name was Joseph Jansen Hasbrouck, an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Abraham, briefly described in our records as a mining engineer and “archaeologist with Yale expedition to Mayan country.” He was a grandson of Jansen Hasbrouck and a great-grandson of “Abraham of the Strand,” both prominent businessmen in Kingston, NY and covered in previous newsletter articles. Born in 1885, he would have been 30 years old in 1915. Our internet search for more details turned up no photographs of him or attributed to him, but Bingham gave him credit in describing an important archaeological dig. On the 1915 expedition a major emphasis was given to the Inca sites leading to Machu Picchu. Bingham wrote:

“The most important ruin in this region is called by the local Indians Patallacta, or ‘the City on a Hill,’ at a place called Qquente, or ‘Hummingbird,’ which was probably the largest city tributary to Machu Picchu. We spent two weeks executing a careful survey of the town and making small excavations in each of its houses. In no case was it necessary to dig down more than a couple of feet, since what material there was lay close to the surface. This work was under the personal supervision of Mr. Elwood C. Erdis and Mr. J. J. Hasbrouck. Their job was well done.”

More internet research revealed that Patallacta and other Inca sites along these paths were destroyed by the retreating Incas. They did such a good job of covering up the paths that the Spaniards could not follow them. They never found Machu Picchu, which is why it survived in relatively good condition and is such a treasure today.

The only other information we were able to find about Joseph Jansen Hasbrouck was a terse obituary notice that he died suddenly on June 5<sup>th</sup>, 1918 in Kingston, NY (near New Paltz), just a month after his 33<sup>rd</sup> birthday – a promising career cut short by an untimely death. He was unmarried and therefore left no direct descendants.



Patallacta

There is an interesting recent footnote to the Bingham Peruvian story. On his expeditions he collected some 40,000 artifacts – ceramics, silver, jewelry, mummies and human bones – which he brought back to Yale; many were displayed in the university's Peabody Museum. At the time Yale announced that these items were brought back for study and would be returned. But this did not happen (except for a few in the 1920's). The Peruvian government demanded their return, but Yale disputed their ownership and asserted that Peruvian authorities lacked the resources to care for them. The standoff continued until 2010, when pressured by Yale alumni and a lawsuit, the university agreed to send them back and established a partnership with San Antonio Abad University in Cuzco to share stewardship of the artifacts as well as collaborate on academic research. The final shipment arrived in Cuzco on November 12<sup>th</sup>, 2012. Many of the objects are now on display at the Casa Concha Museum, where they can be viewed by tourists heading for Machu Picchu as well as, for the first time, by Peruvians themselves.

### **JACOB DUBOIS HASBROUCK – CIVIL WAR VETERAN, FARMER, BANKER -- PART 1**

HFA Life Member Elaine Ryan of Greeley, CO comes from a long line of Jacob Hasbroucks (10 generations so far) extending back to the youngest son of Jean the Patentee, the actual builder of the present Jean Hasbrouck House on the site of his father's earlier house there. Elaine herself is from the eighth generation of Jacobs. Her grandfather was born in Highland, NY, close to New Paltz, and later moved to Ault, Colorado,

contributing to the westward spread of the Hasbrouck name from its Hudson Valley base. Elaine recently gave HFA a treasure trove of documents related to her family tree. Most of it concerns her great grandfather, Jacob Dubois Hasbrouck, and provides the basis for this article about him. Jacob D. was born in 1838 in Highland, NY, then called New Paltz Landing due to its proximity to New Paltz and its location on the Hudson River shore opposite Poughkeepsie. His father, Jacob J., became a colonel in the U.S. Army, but we could not find any details about his service. He would have been 51 at the beginning of the Civil War and might have participated in it.



Jacob Dubois Hasbrouck

Jacob D. went to school locally and then spent two years at Charlottesville and Claverack Seminary in New York. He taught school in Illinois, went to Pike's Peak on a mining venture and returned home to Highland, where he was married in 1860 to Rowena Deyo, also from Highland.

With the Civil War in progress in August 1862, Jacob, at age 24, was commissioned a 2<sup>nd</sup> lieutenant in the 156th Regiment of New York State Volunteers. His army service was entirely with this regiment. By January 1863 his regiment was in the vicinity of Baton Rouge, LA where the Union forces were attempting to close off Confederate use of shipping on the Mississippi River. We have a letter he wrote to Rowena on January 26. Most of it is devoted to questions/comments about family and finances, but there is this amusing comment: "Rowena you spoke about my stopping chewing tobacco. I have not inquired, but I guess they do not allow anyone in the army that does not chew."

And as for drinking, I have not drunk as much since I left as you and the baby did when I was home. So I will have to put the time for to stop chewing when I get home.”

And like countless men regretfully separated from wife and family, Jacob expressed fervent devotion: “Rowena, you said that you would know how to cook when I came back, to please me. Rowena, you please me in every respect. I would not take 100 of the best women in the United States – and Jacob Astor’s wealth to support them with – for one piece of your little finger. You are just the one that suits me, the only one, and I never want you to think that I think any different.” Five days later he had more good news for Rowena – promotion to first lieutenant.

The key to Union control of the Mississippi River was Port Hudson (LA, not NY!), a heavily defended port town 25 miles upstream from Baton Rouge, which had fallen to the Northerners in December 1862. In March 1863 the Union Navy tried to force a fleet of gunboats past Port Hudson to gain control of the river, but they were repelled with heavy losses by the town’s well-situated defenses.

Union commander General William Banks, a political appointee more at ease in the comfort of New Orleans than on the battlefield, found excuses to avoid attacking Port Hudson but was pushed into it when it developed that a significant part of the defenders there had been sent north up the river to aid the Confederate defense of Vicksburg, which was even more important.

On May 22 Banks, with numerically superior forces (30,000 vs. 7,500) surrounded Port Hudson



Union attack on Port Hudson (Gen. Paine on horse)

on its three land sides (the fourth being the river). Anxious for a quick victory, which would allow him

to move north and help General Grant at Vicksburg, he ordered a frontal assault against the defenses, disregarding advice from experienced subordinates. He was confident that his numerical dominance would assure a successful outcome. He formed four assault groups and told them “to commence at the earliest hour practicable.” But this time was different for each group, which resulted in uncoordinated attacks at different times, allowing the defenders to concentrate against each one in turn and defeat them all.

Realizing that both his political and military careers would be ruined by an embarrassing defeat here, Banks added nine regiments – including Jacob Hasbrouck’s 156<sup>th</sup> New York -- to his forces and attacked again, two weeks later, on June 13. We have a letter from Jacob to Rowena describing the battle as he experienced it. Almost all of the letter, which follows, is directly quoted, but we have added a few explanations in parentheses and omitted or abbreviated some less important elements to shorten the length of the four- page letter.

June 16, 1863

Dear Wife,

We have had very exciting times since I wrote you last. I thought I would be writing this letter from Port Hudson, but I am disappointed. I will now undertake to give you a faint idea of our proceedings last Saturday. Banks had all the artillery to fire on the place for one hour. He then sent in a flag of truce and asked for an unconditional surrender of the fort, or he would take it by storm. The general in command of the fort told him his business was to hold the fort, so Banks made arrangements to storm the place in five different locations. I can tell you only of the place where I was. On Saturday afternoon we were ordered to move into position. The 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin was to go ahead and drive in their pickets (outlying defenders placed to provide warning of approaching enemy). Then the 4<sup>th</sup> Wisconsin, 38<sup>th</sup> Mass. And 53<sup>rd</sup> Mass. were to act as skirmishers and charge their works (defensive breastworks). The 156<sup>th</sup> N.Y., 133<sup>rd</sup> N.Y. and 38<sup>th</sup> Ct. were to follow, and they were to be covered by artillery, the whole under the command of Brig. Gen. Paine. Saturday night we all lay down with orders to attack at 2:30AM. I suppose every one of us thought it would probably be the last night he would lie down

with his comrades to sleep, and indeed it was the case for hundreds. I can scarcely state my feelings. I knew we were to be in the first line of battle. I lay down but could not sleep. I got up again and filled my pipe. I sat and smoked until about 11 o'clock and then went to bed and to sleep. I was awakened by the cooks about 2 o'clock. The men all got up, and the cooks brought in their breakfast – coffee and beans well cooked. About as soon as we finished eating, we were ordered to fall in. We had not gone over 300 yards before our advance guard commenced firing on their pickets. We marched on about ¼ mile when the firing went by volleys. When we got there, it was nearly daylight. On Paine's orders the 156<sup>th</sup> was to advance on the works. We double timed to the road that led to their works. Then we got orders to halt and lie down. We were not more than 600 yards from their breastworks and in full range of their guns. Gen. Paine led the 4<sup>th</sup> Wisc, 38<sup>th</sup> Mass and 53<sup>rd</sup> Mass to charge the works. He was shot through the leg within 50 yards of their breastworks. I think they got onto the breastworks, but not having any support, were forced to retreat. After Gen. Paine got shot, there was no one in charge. We could not find the commanding officers, and here we lay in the road with the rebels pouring their grapeshot and canister into us. We lay there without orders to advance or fall back out of their range. After five or six of us got wounded, the colonel ordered us to fall back. We had just got out of range when the colonel was ordered to take us forward again. He was then overcome with sunstroke (a serious factor for both sides); and, the major being wounded, he placed the regiment in the command of the first captain, who marched us back into the same road for the rebels to shoot at. I lay very much exposed. Two or three were wounded very close to me. I whispered to five or six of my company and told them to crawl across the road. I got most of them out of range without being more than 15 feet from the regiment. It made me so mad that I did not know what I was about that I had a notion to throw my sword away, for I believed that the commanding officers were cowards. When Paine led that charge, we were to come after him, and the officer in charge did not do it. Who that officer is, I do not know, but I think the whole thing will be investigated. Gen. Paine was wounded around 7 or 8 o'clock in the morning, and he was so near the breastworks that they could not get him off the battlefield before night. One

sergeant volunteered to take him some stimulants and water, but it was impossible since the rebels had a full sweep of the hill we had to cross.

The whole thing was a failure. We did not accomplish anything, and we lost a great many men – 21 wounded and 2 killed in our regiment – and we never even fired our guns. We lay in the road for the rebels to shoot at. I believe if the officers had not been cowards, we would have been successful. I believe if Gen. Paine had not been wounded, we would have got inside the fort. He was a brave man, and there were brave officers in our regiment, but they had nothing to say. I hope Paine will live, so we can find out where the fault was; I know someone acted the coward. I will never forget the proceedings of that day; and if I live, I will tell you more about it. We are now back in our old camp, and all is quiet again. This morning Gen. Banks asked for a thousand volunteers to storm the works. I suppose in a day or two we will attack the fort again, but I will say again it is not being done the way I would do it.

I will close now. I received three letters from you the day before we went to be shot at. (The letter is unsigned; he had no room left at the bottom of the page.)

The other attacks on Port Hudson that day fared no better than Gen. Paine's. (He survived but lost a leg.) All together, the Union had 1,792 casualties for the day vs. 47 for the Confederates. Banks got 1,036 volunteers for his new assault force and sent them to the rear for training. Meanwhile, Union efforts were restricted to artillery bombardment and unsuccessful efforts to tunnel under the breastworks and blow them up with mines. But despite all these setbacks, the Port Hudson siege is recorded as a Union victory. On July 4 Vicksburg surrendered to General Grant. The Port Hudson commander, Maj. Gen. Gardner, realized then that his position was hopeless. With his men exhausted and starving after a 48-day siege, he surrendered on July 9.

The Union victories (just a few days apart) at Vicksburg and Gettysburg signaled the start of the decline of the Confederacy, although it survived almost two years longer. But the Battle of Port Hudson is a prime illustration of how inept leadership by Union commanders, some of them unprepared political appointees like Banks, enabled the South to hold its own and often win battles for so long despite the superiority of the North in manpower and resources. With the eventual rise of

outstanding Union generals like Grant, Sherman, Meade and Sheridan, the tide turned.

In July 1863, about a month after the battle, Jacob was promoted to captain and assumed command of Battery D of the 156<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers. Our next documents from Elaine Ryan's archive are from a year later and find him and his regiment in the Shenandoah Valley of Virginia, involved in the Valley Campaign of 1864. We'll complete Jacob's story later, probably in the next newsletter.

### **OCTAGON HOUSE FOLLOWUP**

Our June 12 newsletter featured an octagon-shaped house in Middletown, NY built by John W. Hasbrouck (1826-1906) and his wife, Lydia Sayer (1827-1910). Recently we came across a photo of the couple and some interesting additional biographical information.

John's formative years were in Kingston, NY. He graduated from Kingston Academy and had several jobs locally. He was one of the founders of Kingston's YMCA and its Literary Association. Writing for The Kingston Journal led to his career in journalism. From 1846-1851 he was in Bloomingburgh, NY, where he published The Sullivan (County) Whig and was school superintendent and postmaster. In 1851 he moved to Middletown and founded The Whig Press.

Lydia Sayer was a strong-willed early feminist. Opposed to the layers of skirts and undergarments customarily worn by women in that era, in 1849 she began dressing more practically in a knee-length skirt and pantaloons (see photo). Refused admission to nearby Seward Seminary because of this dress style, she continued to wear and popularize it as a matter of principle. (The style became famously popular as "bloomers", named for Amelia Bloomer, one of its later devotees.) She vowed that she would stand or fall in the battle for women's physical, political and educational freedom and equality.

Lydia studied medicine, practiced it in Washington, DC and also became a newspaper correspondent. In 1856 she moved to Middletown and set about founding The Sybil, a newspaper devoted to women's dress reform. Her publisher was John W. Hasbrouck, and their business relationship rapidly turned into something more. They were married in July 1856, the same month The Sibyl debuted. The couple proceeded to build the octagon house, where they raised three

children and lived for the rest of their lives. But, with John's approval, Lydia continued her campaign for women's rights through writing and lecturing. She was an advocate for educational and medical training for women, property rights, equal pay and suffrage. In 1861 she wrote to President Lincoln, seeking to open management-level government jobs to women. She refused to pay taxes because (like all women) she could not vote. In 1881 she and John published The Liberal Sentinel, a reform paper promoting women's rights. She continued her devotion to this cause until her death in 1910, ten years before voting by women was finally authorized.



John W. and Lydia Sayer Hasbrouck

John and Lydia's octagon house was demolished in 1919 to make way for Middletown's Memorial School. However, nearby Hasbrouck Street still survives, named for the prominent couple in the 1860s.

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

Elizabeth Bower, Richmond, IN  
Michael Czarniecki, Watchung, NJ  
Richard Czarniecki, San Diego, CA  
Sarah Czarniecki, Tokyo, Japan

### **We have received notice of the following member death:**

Mary Ellen Hasbrouck