



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

September 2012

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our annual reunion 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 schedule 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 5, so that we can meet the caterer's deadline for a luncheon headcount.

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.

**By far the biggest happening for HFA since our last newsletter is the reopening of the Abraham Hasbrouck House on July 21. See the details on page 2.**



Ribbon-cutting ceremony at the Abraham House--L-R: HHS Managing Director. Tracy McNally, HFA VP Robert C. Hasbrouck, HFA VP John Delamater, HFA President Robert W. Hasbrouck, HFA VP Robert Freehill, HHS President Mary Etta Schneider

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion this year is on Saturday, October 13, in New Paltz, but you may want to arrive a day earlier for the festivities at Locust Lawn (see page 4). At the reunion we will have registration, coffee/pastries and socializing beginning at 9AM in Deyo Hall. At 10AM we will hold our annual business meeting. At 10:45AM we'll proceed to the French Church for our traditional short memorial service. Afterwards we'll visit the Jean and Abraham Houses for an update on what's happening and planned at each one. At the Abraham House we'll have a special presentation on the restoration just completed there. At 12:45PM we'll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by lunch (please make lunch reservations on the enclosed form), and a status/outlook report from HHS. Then we invite you to linger on your own and visit the exhibits in the Visitor Center at the DuBois Fort and/or see a gallery of portraits from the HHS collections, including several Hasbroucks, at the LeFevre House.

If you are visiting Huguenot Street for the first time, we strongly advise you 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 to visit Huguenot Street. The houses can be visited only on guided tours and are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (Bring your HFA or HHS membership card for free house tours.) 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 usually sell out early. Super 8 of New Paltz (845-255-8865), is a local favorite and is close to Huguenot Street. Super 8 of Highland, (7 miles east) is also popular. 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).

Mark your calendars for October 13 and plan to come and find out about your extended family!

### **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 an L on your label, contact our office for follow-up. Annual members who don't have a 12 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.

Unlike the unincorporated family associations, membership in HFA does not include membership in The Huguenot Historical Society (HHS) although it does include all the benefits of HHS membership\* except voting rights. If you want membership in HHS (and we encourage it), annual dues are \$40 for individuals or \$75 for families. You can send them a check at 88 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561. \*Main benefits are (1) free house tours, (2) 10% discount at online museum shop (except books and music), (3) HHS newsletters, and (4) one complimentary research request to HHS Library/Archives, others at a reduced rate.

## **OUR HOUSES**

### **Abraham Hasbrouck House**



Abraham Hasbrouck House

The house is open again! The reopening took place in perfect weather on July 21 with a ribbon-cutting ceremony at the house (which was open for visitors) and a celebratory reception on the lawn outside the DuBois Fort. The president of the National Huguenot Society, Janice Lorenz, and her husband were present for the celebration, and the total attendance was about 130. The reopening



HFA President Robert W. Hasbrouck addresses the attendees, backed by Robert C. Hasbrouck and Tracy McNally

marked the fruition of a 12-year restoration effort enabling the Abraham House to join the Jean House as showpieces of Huguenot Street. It has been restored (to the maximum practical extent) to its appearance during the chosen interpretation period of 1760-1775 in line with its interpretation theme, *The Role of Women in 18<sup>th</sup>-century New Paltz*. During



Abraham Hasbrouck House - opkamer



Abraham Hasbrouck House - parlor

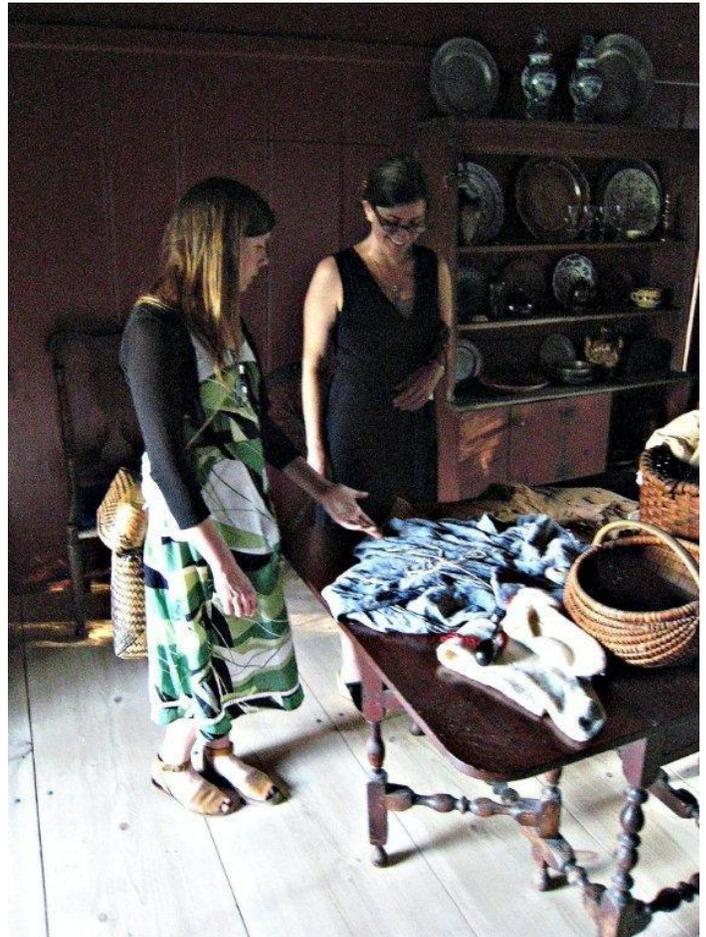


Abraham Hasbrouck House – kitchen

this period the household was supervised by Tryntje Deyo Hasbrouck, the widow of Abraham's son Daniel, who actually built the house. She had six sons and one daughter living there as well as, presumably, several slaves. Visitors will see and

hear about how the house was arranged for them and the routine of life during this period.

Restoration of these historic houses is never really "finished." We will always be working on preservation needs and refined interpretation. Meanwhile, it's time to celebrate the reopening of the house and the huge improvements in authentic appearance and interpretation which have led to it. Come and experience it for yourself!

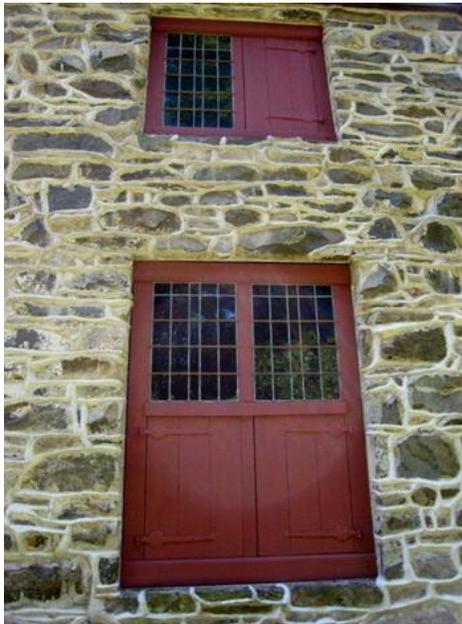


Abraham Hasbrouck House - center room. Dawn Elliott shows a friend exhibited clothing she worked on.

### Jean Hasbrouck House

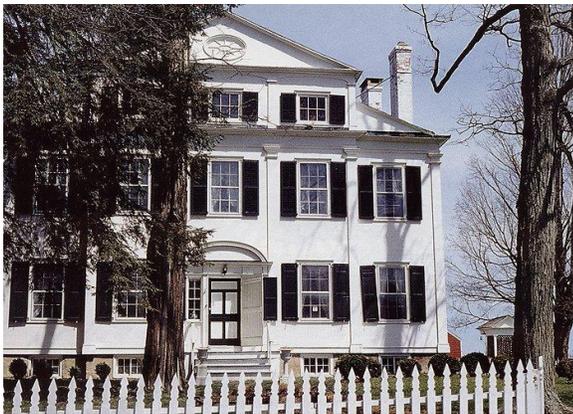
The casement windows on the north wall have been painted a historically appropriate dark red, and they look impressive. Be sure to see them if you visit Huguenot Street. But the major challenge of replacing the roof is still confronting us. It may cost around \$100,000 and will require a major fundraising effort. However, HFA is not waiting for that. This being a Hasbrouck House, it is incumbent on us to be a primary contributor to this project, and it continues to be our primary fundraising focus. So we are asking you again to contribute for the roof at this time as we seek to build a substantial fund dedicated to supporting the replacement project. In the meanwhile

patchwork repairs will continue as well as the development of a specific replacement plan and an assessment of its cost.



Jean Hasbrouck House - reproduction 18<sup>th</sup> century casement windows

**Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House) – a report from its owner, Locust Grove**



Locust Lawn, the Josiah Hasbrouck House (1814)

The restoration of the house is virtually complete; and to celebrate it, **a wine and cheese reception is scheduled there from 3-6PM on Friday, October 12, the day before our family reunion. All Hasbrouck descendants and their families are invited.** The nearby Terwilliger House will also be open. This year Locust Lawn is open only for group tours by appointment, so this may be your only near-term opportunity to see it. Come already on Friday for the reunion and visit Locust Lawn as a bonus for your early arrival. It is located on Route 32, about 3 ½ miles south of New Paltz, a white mansion (see photo) on the left-hand side of

the road where it bends 90 degrees to the left. If you're planning to come, please RSVP by October 1 (giving number in your party) to Ken Snodgrass (k.snodgrass@lgny.org or 845-454-4500, x211).

**A WANDERING BED (A VERY SPECIAL ONE) COMES HOME AGAIN**

After his defeat in the Battle of Long Island (August 1776) George Washington retreated to New Jersey and, according to the Bloomer family of River Edge, spent the night in a four-poster bed in their ancestors' pre-Revolutionary stone house there. They relate that when a British patrol came looking for him, a family servant led them astray into the mountains while Washington remained safe in the house.

Mary Bloomer and her husband moved to Stone Ridge, New York around 1925 and brought the Washington bed with them. Mr. Bloomer died many years ago, and their only son was killed in the Philippines in WWII. Mary Bloomer died in 1986 and left the bed to Stone Ridge native General Sherman Hasbrouck, who had befriended her.



Astrid Hasbrouck enjoying the George Washington bed at Sherman & Clara Hasbrouck's house

Mary was Italian and never learned to read or write English. General Hasbrouck stopped by her house on occasion and wrote checks to pay her bills and to do other things for her that she could not

handle because of her lack of English. When the bed was delivered to General Hasbrouck, it was wrapped in homespun cheesecloth material which was yellowed with age. The bed was short, since in early days persons propped themselves up with pillows which were usually square and stuffed with feathers. General Hasbrouck had the side rails lengthened in order to use the bed in a guest room of the stone house he built after his retirement from the Army in 1955. Guests sitting in the bed faced a period print of Mount Vernon on the opposite wall as a reminder of the bed's claim to fame.



George Washington bed displayed in the Demarest House

After Sherman died in 2002, his widow, Clara (now 91), sold the house and moved in with daughter Susan and her family in Frederick, MD. The bed was stored with daughter Sarah in New York City. After a few years it was evident that the family could not utilize it in either location, and Clara began to look for a historical institution that could properly display the bed to an appreciative public. Looking back where it originally came from – Bergen County, NJ -- she was excited to discover that the Bergen County Historical Society was located right in River Edge, where Washington had used it. The Society was excited too, and the bed was recently moved there and displayed in one of the historic houses on their site. It turned out that the posters were too tall to place it in the Society's showcase building, the Steuben House; and it wound up in the neighboring Demarest House, a small stone house built around 1795 next to a Huguenot cemetery and, in 1956, moved a short distance to the Society's River Edge site. Erroneously attributed to the prominent Demarest (Huguenot) family, the house retained its name after discovery that, in fact, it was built by the Paulison family. At least they had Demarest connections on the female side. Also, it was built on land purchased from Demarests, was later restored by the Demarest family and displays pieces of its furniture.



Demarest House (c. 1795)

In any event, after an odyssey of almost ninety years the bed is back home in River Edge, where it is appreciated for its Washington connection and its local origin. If you are in that area, stop in at the Historical Society and see it (as well as other interesting displays) yourself. You can also visit online at [www.bergencountyhistory.org](http://www.bergencountyhistory.org).

### **HENRY C. HASBROUCK IMPACTS THE MODOC WAR**

Our last newsletter highlighted Brig. Gen. Henry Cornelius Hasbrouck (1839-1910) and his military career, which included the Civil War, the Indian Campaigns and the Spanish-American War. We mentioned that his most illustrious action came already in 1873 in a short but action-filled campaign few of us have heard of – the Modoc Indian War. In some ways this “war” was similar to the ones we are familiar with; in other ways very different. It was the only Indian war which took place in California (actually at the Oregon border northeast of Mt. Shasta). The Modocs and other local tribes were not like the hard-riding, war-painted plains Indians of western movies, but rather pidgin-English speaking natives who wore western clothing, often adopted westernized names and frequently worked harmoniously with white ranchers. The cause of the war was very typical: the desire of western-moving white settlers for the Modocs' grasslands for grazing purposes. As elsewhere, the whites' assumption of cultural and racial superiority and the theme of “manifest destiny” conveyed their right to displace the natives as needed to further their own needs or desires.



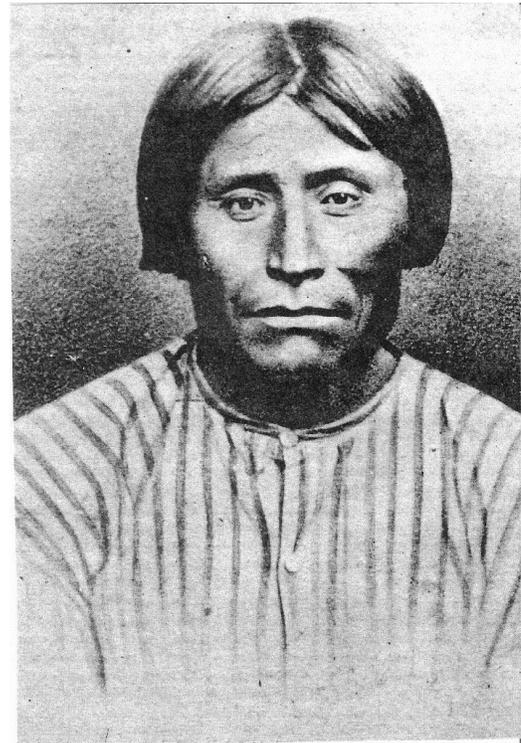
Capt. Henry C. Hasbrouck

Thus the US Government ordered the Modocs to be moved north onto a reservation already occupied by Klamath Indians. The Modocs reluctantly complied, but the Klamaths were hostile to their unwanted new neighbors, and the Modocs became increasingly disgruntled. In 1870, a sizeable (371) group of them rebelled and moved back to their old territory. The Army was tasked with getting them back to the reservation. The Modocs resisted, and on November 29, 1872 shooting broke out between the two. The Modoc War had started.

Led by 36-year-old Captain Jack, who proved to be a wily and resourceful foe, the Modocs took refuge in the lava beds adjoining their grazing lands. This formidable jumble of harsh, rocky terrain (now Lava Beds National Monument) was a familiar haven for the Modocs but an alien nightmare for the troops trying to evict them. With only about 50 braves Captain Jack's group repeatedly outmaneuvered and thwarted the far larger Army forces arrayed against them.

The Government decided to try negotiation, and in February 1873 a Peace Commission was appointed for that purpose. Four meetings with the Modoc leaders proved fruitless. At the fifth meeting the Modocs suddenly pulled out weapons and started shooting the four Peace Commission members. Captain Jack killed Brig. Gen. Canby, the senior U. S. officer in the California-Oregon region. Another member was killed, a third left for dead (but survived), and the fourth escaped through a hail of bullets. Hostilities had resumed, and with success still eluding them, the Army's morale and will to fight were low, while the Modocs were energized.

Into this grim situation came Capt. Henry Hasbrouck with his battery of light artillery, arriving from San Francisco in late April. He had no experience with Indian fighting, but his overall military knowledge served him well. On May 9 he was dispatched to Sorass Lake (aptly renamed Dry Lake by Henry) in the lava beds area in command of his own battery plus two cavalry troops and a group of Indian scouts. He camped with the cavalry at the lake while positioning the artillery in the timber about a mile away. Captain Jack observed the deployment and decided to personally lead a pre-emptive dawn attack on the newcomers, adding insult to injury by wearing General Canby's uniform.



Captain Jack

Although Henry posted lookouts on elevated points to prevent surprise, the Modocs stealthily slipped in overnight, avoiding detection, and occupied two lines of low, stony bluffs facing his camp. At dawn they opened fire on the sleeping soldiers. The first shots stampeded the cavalry horses, which scattered through the campsite, adding to the state of confusion. A similar recent surprise attack had resulted in a panicked rout of the troops involved. This time it was different. Although a few soldiers fled, most swiftly retrieved their weapons, took whatever cover they could find, and fired back at the Indians. Henry, already awake at the outset, acted with level-headed military professionalism. He sent one group to round up the horses, ordered up his artillery battery, sent the Indian scouts to outflank the Modocs and then ordered the main body of his

troops to charge the Modocs, which they did. Modoc bullets cut down some of the soldiers, but the rest kept advancing, quickly clearing the first line of bluffs and pressing on to the second. This time it was the Modocs who fled, so rapidly that Henry's Indian scouts were unable to get behind them and cut them off. The troopers pursued the Indians on foot for four miles, but then stopped for lack of water. (Even holes drilled at Dry Lake failed to find any.) In the pursuit they captured 21 Indian ponies plus mules carrying most of the Modocs' ammunition.



Typical lava bed terrain

Though no one realized it at the time, Henry's victory had turned the tide of the Modoc war. The Army's confidence and morale soared, while the Modocs were demoralized by their sudden devastating defeat after months of success. They started quarreling among themselves and ultimately broke into two groups – the Hot Creeks, who blamed Jack for the loss, and the Lost River group, still headed by him.

Henry knew from his military training that a defeated enemy should be pursued relentlessly and not given a chance to rest and regroup. The cavalry horses were useless in the volcanic lava rock terrain, so on May 12 Henry, resupplied, resumed his chase after Jack on foot with 210 troops. They found him; but, as they closed in, Jack and his 33 remaining braves slipped away and disappeared into the rugged terrain. They then left the lava beds and headed into more open country. When Henry discovered their trail out of the lava on May 16, he remounted the cavalry and continued the pursuit. It turned out that he had actually found the trail, not of Jack, but of the Hot Creek group. He caught up with them on the 18<sup>th</sup> and fought a skirmish in which a number of squaws, children, ponies and supplies

were captured. On the 20<sup>th</sup> the Hot Creeks messaged that they would surrender if assured of protection against reprisal, and on May 22 the surrender of the 63 remaining group members was accomplished.

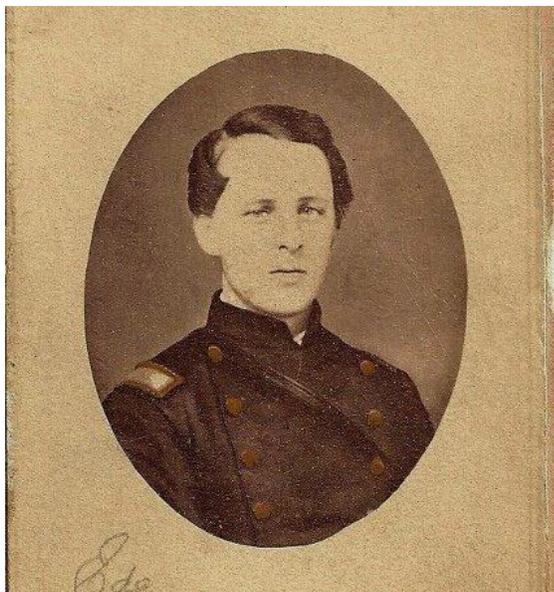
The Hot Creek leaders remained angry at Captain Jack and, in hope of avoiding punishment, offered to help the Army track him down. By May 31 the soldiers had captured all of Jack's Lost River group — except for Jack and his family. Jack had announced that he would rather die with honor than surrender. However, when his hiding place was discovered the next day and he was assured (falsely) by his half-brother that he would not be executed, he came out, holding his four-year-old daughter in his arms, along with his two wives and one or two boys. The war was over.

The Modocs were taken to the nearest Army post, Fort Klamath, Oregon, where they were protected from calls for vengeance from those affected by their actions in the war, including the killing of a number of innocent settlers. The Government decreed that only those responsible for the Peace Commission murders would be brought to trial. A six-man military commission was appointed for that purpose. It included Henry, who on June 15 had become the post commander of Fort Klamath. Captain Jack and five others were sentenced to be hanged. At the last minute two of them were commuted to life at Alcatraz. Jack and the others were hanged on October 3. The 153 remaining Modocs were sent into exile on a reservation in Oklahoma. In his final duty with the Modocs, Henry and his troops escorted them as far as Fort McPherson, Nebraska, taking precautions against rumors of rescue or vengeance attempts. As with virtually all Indian sagas, there was no happy ending for the Modocs. Many died over the next few years from disease and the harsh climate. Descendants of only seven of the original group still survive there, although there are also Modocs in Oregon, descendants of those who never left the Klamath Reservation.

As we learned in the June newsletter, Henry fared much better. For his pivotal performance described here, he was brevetted to the rank of major. He went on to become a corps commander in the Spanish-American war and retired as a brigadier general in 1902. But with respect to combat performance and its impact, the Modoc campaign was certainly the highlight of his distinguished career.

Most of the source material for this article was provided by Daniel Woodhead, who is writing his own book about the Modoc War.

**RARE MISJUDGEMENT BY GENERAL GRANT**  
**FATAL TO HASBROUCK DESCENDANT**



Lt. Col. Edgar Perry

Edgar Perry (1839-1864) was a sixth-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck, a first cousin of Gen. Henry C. Hasbrouck (page 5) and a nephew of Henry's father, William C. Hasbrouck of Newburgh, NY (see Feb. '12 newsletter). His mother was Margaret Hasbrouck, William's sister, who married Eli Perry, captain of the steamship *James Madison*. In 1848 Eli contracted a ship-borne disease and died at age 36, leaving Elizabeth struggling financially to support her four children. In 1860 the oldest, Margaret J., married Chauncey Silliman, who magnanimously brought his mother-in-law and her other children to live with the newly married couple in Brooklyn, NY. In 1862, with the Civil War in the headlines, the 139<sup>th</sup> New York State Volunteer Regiment was formed in Brooklyn, and Edgar signed on as a captain. His paternal uncle, Colonel James H. Perry, who had previously fought in the War for Texas Independence (1835-6), had helped form the 48<sup>th</sup> Brooklyn Regiment and was its commander until he died from apoplexy in June 1862 at Fort Pulaski, GA. (Union forces captured this fort, which guarded the shipping lane into Savannah, thereby closing this important Confederate port for the rest of the war.)

Edgar was promoted to lieutenant colonel in August 1863, (age 24). He was second in command of his regiment in 1864, when it headed for Cold Harbor, VA, about 10 miles northeast of the Confederate capital of Richmond. On June 3 General Ulysses S. Grant, leading the Army of the Potomac, ordered an ill-considered, large-scale frontal assault on strongly fortified Confederate positions there. The colonel of the 139<sup>th</sup> was out sick at the time, so Edgar took over and led his regiment

in the assault, which was a disaster for the Union forces. Seven thousand Union troops were killed or wounded in a half hour's time by withering fire from the well-positioned Confederates. The 139<sup>th</sup> had 118 wounded and 33 killed, including Edgar. And it was all in vain; the attack failed to dislodge the Confederates. It was a rare blunder by President Lincoln's last and most successful top-ranking general, who less than a year later forced Lee's surrender to end the war. Grant said of the battle in his memoirs, "I have always regretted that the last assault at Cold Harbor was ever made. ... No advantage whatever was gained to compensate for the heavy loss we sustained." In a condolence letter to his mother, Edgar's superior in the action, Maj. Gen. B. F. Butler, extolled Edgar's military prowess and performance. His obituary in the *New York Herald* closed with a fitting tribute: "He fell as a brave soldier delights to fall, if fall he must, with his face to the foe in the defense of a noble cause and of his native land."

**COAT OF ARMS ITEMS AND OTHERS**  
**AVAILABLE ONLINE – EXCELLENT FOR**  
**CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

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](http://www.cafepress.com/hasbrouckfamily). You can also see the full line of CafePress products at [www.cafepress.com](http://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 Hasbrouck items (including an \$11.95, 13"x16" coat of arms print suitable for framing) are available online from the HHS Museum Shop ([www.huguenotstreet.org/store](http://www.huguenotstreet.org/store)). Most of them are also listed at the bottom of our home page with a link to the shop, and all can also be ordered by phone or regular mail. If you are interested in jewelry with the Huguenot Cross, HHS (above) has a small collection, and a larger one can be found at [www.huguenotcross.com](http://www.huguenotcross.com).

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Denise Clemmensen, Mission Hills, CA  
Nancy Farano, Chicago, IL  
Joelle France, Greeley, CO  
Melanie Roberts, Brooklyn, NY  
Sandra Ward, Montebello, NY