



HASBROUCK FAMILY
ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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

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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.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion this year is on Saturday, October 12, in New Paltz. At the reunion we will have registration, continental breakfast 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 12:45PM we'll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by lunch (please make lunch reservations on the enclosed form), a status/outlook report from HHS and a short presentation by Neil Larson on the history of the Abraham House. Then we invite you to linger on your own and visit the exhibits in the Visitor Center at the DuBois Fort and the newly reorganized museum shop there.

If you are visiting Huguenot Street for the first time, we strongly advise you to spend at least one night here because the 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 (see Jean House exception on page 2) and are closed on Tuesdays and Wednesdays. (Bring your HFA or HHS membership card for free house tours and museum shop discounts.) Feel free to contact us to help with your planning. The Hudson Valley is full of beautiful scenery and tourist attractions; you can easily spend an entire vacation here.

Anyone planning an overnight stay should make reservations as soon as possible. The reunion is during the foliage season, and accommodations usually sell out early. New Paltz has three good motels:

Super 8 (845-255-8865), the closest to Huguenot Street

EconoLodge (845-255-6200)

Rodeway Inn (845-883-7373).

You can also get information on bed & breakfast inns in the area (including a Hasbrouck house in Stone Ridge – see June '08 newsletter) from the Chamber of Commerce (845-255-0243).

Mark your calendars for October 12 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 13 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 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

Not much has happened since the June newsletter. The HFA directors and Neil Larson discussed several possible steps to address the moisture problems (which are bothersome but not severe) but decided more research is needed before

proceeding with potentially expensive remediation actions.



SUNY Professor A. J. Williams-Myers, his wife, Janice, and HFA director Robert Freehill in the center room of the Abraham House

Meanwhile, in conjunction with the HHS annual meeting on June 29, the directors visited the house and were favorably impressed with the updated display of furnishings and how they are being presented for the current tour season.



HFA directors John Delamater, Chuck Hasbrouck and Robert C. Hasbrouck in the Abraham House kitchen

Jean Hasbrouck House

New this year and unique on Huguenot Street is an arrangement for visitors to go through this house at their own pace with a docent stationed there to provide information and security. So if you

don't have time for a regular guided tour, you can still visit this Hasbrouck house in as much detail as you wish.

The major challenge of replacing the roof is still confronting us. HHS has received the findings and recommendations of the preservation architect who examined the house and is in the process of drawing up specifications for contractors to bid on. A new roof may cost around \$100,000 and will require a major fundraising effort. However, HFA is not waiting for that. This being a historic 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.

Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House)

On June 29-30 the house was open for Living History Weekend, featuring period crafts and re-enactors as well as other activities for visitors of all ages. Next year will mark the 200th anniversary of the house construction, and there will be a major celebration to commemorate it. We'll pass on details as they become available.



War of 1812 re-enactors at Locust Lawn

HFA recently contributed \$1,000 to the restoration program at the house. It is being used in replacing a rotted cornice section in the west wing of the mansion.

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. You can also see the full line of CafePress products at www.cafepress.com. If you see another item there that you'd like to have decorated with our coat of arms, let us know, and we can probably arrange it. Other 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). 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. See also publications available directly from HFA on our website (click on HFA Store). If you are interested in jewelry with the Huguenot Cross, HHS (above) has a small collection, and the National Huguenot Society has a larger one at www.huguenotcross.com/gehuocr.html.

THE HASBROUCK PIANO

A few years ago we reported on the Hasbrouck motor car from around 1900, powered by a one-cylinder engine, which could go "as fast as anyone may care to go." Now we have details of the Hasbrouck piano, produced in the same era.

The Hasbrouck Piano Company was founded in 1886 by George Gross Hasbrouck (1855-1945), an eighth-generation descendant of Jean, from Nyack, NY. It had a factory in Manhattan where it produced upright pianos in eleven styles, all described as "cabinet grands" and priced from \$375 to \$650. The company's sales brochure states, "We are proud of the distinction of being the manufacturers of the best low-priced pianos in America." And "If you want a really good instrument, of excellent finish and fine tone, there is no reason you should pay any more than the price of the HASBROUCK. If you pay less than our price, you are sure to get far less in the way of quality." In 1908 George obtained a patent for an improved type

of piano frame (achieving space saving, greater strength and better tone), which he utilized in the Hasbrouck pianos.



Trade publication ad for the Hasbrouck piano

George's son, John E. R. (Jack) Hasbrouck, also worked for the company and became its sales representative in New England. But in 1912 he was attracted by the rapidly growing American automobile industry and seized a job opportunity there. At that time George closed the factory and retired. In the late 1920's Jack attempted to revive the business, but this effort was thwarted by the onset of the Great Depression in 1929.

Our information about the piano comes from George's grandson, William G. (Bill) Hasbrouck, who was HFA's treasurer from 2003 until this April (see last newsletter). Bill had been looking for a Hasbrouck piano for many years. In February 2010 he learned of one for sale in Kentucky, purchased it and moved it to his home in New Hampshire, where it is now a visible – and audible – link to his family history. And now there is a second such piano in the family. Bill's oldest grandson, Nathanael Hasbrouck, lives in Cumberland, Maine with his wife, Elizabeth (Liz), and twin girls, 1½ years old. Liz is a piano teacher, and her father tunes pianos as a hobby. In late 2010 he noticed a Hasbrouck piano, also located in Maine, on Craig's List, and Nathaniel obtained it for the family. And it was he

who alerted Bill to the availability of the piano he obtained from Kentucky.

The survival of these two pianos, both more than a century old, tends to confirm the accuracy of the company's high quality and endurance claims for its products. And it is particularly fitting that they have returned to the family which created them so long ago.



Bill Hasbrouck's piano

JACOB DUBOIS HASBROUCK – CIVIL WAR VETERAN, FARMER, BANKER -- PART 2

In the last (June) newsletter we covered Jacob's pre-Civil War life, marriage to Rowena Deyo, appointment as a lieutenant in the 156th New York Volunteer Regiment and his experience at the Battle of Port Hudson, LA in June 1863. He was promoted to captain in December 1863 and took command of Company D of the Regiment. (Our June newsletter dated the promotion as July 1863. Actually it was in December with date of rank retroactive to July.) The Regiment participated in further combat actions in Louisiana and was eventually sent north to join the Shenandoah Valley campaign of 1864.

The Shenandoah Valley, running in a northeasterly direction along the western border of Virginia, was vital to the Confederacy for several reasons. First, it provided a corridor for Confederate troops to advance into Northern territory (they used it to reach Gettysburg, PA) and to threaten Washington, which they did on several occasions. While occupying the valley they could also pour through its gaps to attack Union forces operating to

the east in Virginia. In addition, the valley was a fertile farm land (referred to as the breadbasket of the Confederacy), which provided a dependable source of food for the troops.

Realizing the importance of the valley, Union forces tried to capture it in 1862. But the famous General Stonewall Jackson, with 18,000 men, brilliantly outmaneuvered and defeated a Union force of 60,000, keeping the valley in Southern hands.

By May of 1864 the Confederacy was in grudging retreat, and the Northerners were ready to try again. General Ulysses S. Grant, now in command of the entire Union Army, sent a force of 10,000 men to invade the valley, but it was repulsed. In June Grant replaced the Union commander and resumed the offensive with mixed results. In July veteran Confederate General Jubal Early arrived with his corps and counterattacked. He successfully drove northeast through the valley and on into Maryland, briefly threatened Washington and burned the town of Chambersburg, PA in retaliation for the destruction inflicted on the valley by Union forces. Now Grant turned to a reliable and aggressive commander, General Philip Sheridan, to take charge of the Valley Campaign. Union forces received additional strength, including the 156th New York Regiment with Capt. Jacob D. Hasbrouck.

In August and early September Sheridan's forces stabilized the situation and commenced a slow advance up the valley (toward the southwest) against stiff resistance. When Early diverted some of his troops to attack the Baltimore and Ohio Railroad (an important Union transportation link), Sheridan struck in full force (39,000 against 15,000 Confederates) around Winchester, VA. The battle raged for several hours with the Southerners giving ground slowly until, ultimately, Union forces broke through their left flank, and Early ordered a general retreat.

Casualties in the battle were very heavy: about 5,000 for the North and 3,600 for the South. But it was a decisive and critical victory for the Union, which was now on the verge of victory, at last, in the Shenandoah Valley campaign.

One of the Union casualties in the battle was Capt. Jacob Hasbrouck. A bullet passed through his right leg while he was leading his company in the attack. Capt. Johannes Lefevre commanded adjacent Company E in the battle and described it vividly in a letter which is included in an online

exhibit about him on the HHS website (www.huguenotstreet.org/learn/exhibits). He says he saw Jacob fall, and in a subsequent letter detailing casualties, he says, "Captain Hasbrouck is wounded in the leg. Lt. M. Hasbrouck in the head."

Research revealed that M. Hasbrouck was Matthew Hasbrouck (1828-1873), a 6th-generation descendant of Jean from Stone Ridge, near New Paltz. He enlisted in the 156th Regiment as a private in September 1862, became a sergeant in May 1863 and was commissioned a 2nd lieutenant in November 1863, 1st lieutenant of Company I in February 1864 and captain in July 1865. This last date indicates that he recovered from his head wound and returned to action. He remained with the 156th until its dissolution in October 1865.

Such was not the case with Jacob. Our documentation is sketchy, but we know that he spent twelve days in an army hospital near Washington, DC and received a disability discharge in March 1865. He never returned to his unit but maintained ties with his former comrades. His senior lieutenant from Company D wrote to him, and we have one of his letters, describing the follow-up actions of the 156th after the hard-fought victory at Winchester.

Early regrouped his troops at Fisher's Hill, south of Winchester, but Sheridan defeated him there also and proceeded to advance the length of the valley. Then he pulled back slowly, employing the "scorched earth" policy later used by General Sherman in his famous "March through Georgia," to destroy everything of use to the Confederates and weaken their will to resist. Back at Winchester, Sheridan thought he had done just that. But Early had other ideas. He formed his remaining forces



Union breakthrough at the Battle of Winchester

into three parallel columns, which advanced through the night of October 18-19; and at dawn they attacked Sheridan's unsuspecting troops camped along Cedar Creek, south of Winchester. The letter from Jacob's recent subordinate, Lt. Harrison Lockwood, now in charge of Company D, describes what happened. (The letter below is abbreviated to shorten its considerable length.)

The night of the 18th passed without a thought of Rebels on my part, but about daybreak the startling sound of Rebel muskets came crashing upon our ears, a signal to many that the hour of death was near at hand. We were ordered into the breastworks immediately; and by the time our brigade was ready for action, the 8th Corps was in a complete panic. On they came, dashing by our left flank like sheep with dogs after them. The hills and valleys were covered with a dense fog, making it impossible for our artillery to tell the Rebels from our own men. Our left flank was now exposed. We shifted some men from our breastworks to cover the flank, but by this time a large force of Rebels were already a quarter mile in our rear, and in the smoke and fog we thought they were the 8th Corps, which added to the confusion. Now they were approaching us from the front too, and the artillery pieces on our right were captured. The Rebels moved along like rabbits and formed a perfect battle line extending past our left flank and at least 1 ½ miles to the rear of our brigade. Then the right side of our brigade gave way, and in their hasty retreat they seemed to be trying to catch up to the 8th Corps, but they couldn't. Immediately after we formed a line on our left, Capt. Hoyt was wounded and fell into my arms. We sent him to the rear. Capt. Rundle then assumed command and was almost immediately wounded, and the command fell to Capt. Cooley, who is still in command. About this time the 176th Regiment gave way and took off for the woods. The left of our regiment could do no better than to follow suit, and away they went, leaving our center, composed of Companies C and D. One after another, the officers were wounded, leaving only Capt. Western, Capt. Cooley and me. But Cos. C and D stood firm; not one man flinched. At this time a Rebel flag was planted on our breastworks not far from us. Capt. Cooley gave the command to fix bayonets. I thought the order foolish – one company to charge a whole army? I gave instructions to take our own colors to the rear as soon as possible. The color bearer was wounded

and dropped them. Capt. Cooley took them off the staff and stuffed them in his pocket. He and Western then left for the rear. I ordered the men to leave the works, and away I went, balls flying like hail around me. Then I saw the danger. The guns captured from the 8th Corps were turned against us and were belching forth their deadly content into our midst. In addition, the Rebels were sending their missiles of death at us from the road and yelling at us to "halt, you Yankee sons of bitches." We kept going for about four miles to where the 6th Corps had time to get in position, and they held on for some time. Our brigade was so cut up that we were ordered to the rear to reorganize, which we did, having about 200 men left. We helped form the second line of battle around 3PM, when Gen. Sheridan made his appearance. By this time the men had recovered from their panic and were ready to go in with the General, heart and hand. And away we went, yelping like wild men, frightening the Rebels out of their wits. Some of our prisoners said they knew just as well that Gen. Sheridan had arrived, and they saw such a change in our men. Away the Rebs went, pell-mell, much worse than we in the morning. At dark we were back on our old camp ground, and our cavalry was after the Rebs. We got our own guns back and 52 more, plus a great many prisoners. The dead and dying lay for about 6 miles upon the cold ground, horrible to behold. From your experience, Capt. Hasbrouck, you can picture this horrid scene better than I can tell you.

Lt. Lockwood's account of the battle is accurate but not complete. Not expecting any hostile action, Gen. Sheridan was at his headquarters in Winchester when the attack came. Hearing the sounds of battle, he galloped to the scene and extended a line of troops to halt the fleeing units and reform them. This done, he rode along the line, rallying the men with his charismatic leadership. (See picture on page 7) As Lockwood wrote, the effect was electric, and Sheridan's forces were quickly transformed from disorganized retreat into vigorous attack.

What Lockwood didn't know was what happened on the Confederate side, which allowed a stunning victory to turn into a crushing defeat. A cardinal rule of warfare is to relentlessly pursue a defeated enemy and deny him an opportunity to regroup. The Confederates failed to press their advantage. Hungry and worn down by months of



Gen. Sheridan rallies the Union troops at Cedar Creek

privation and hardship, topped off by their night march and dawn attack, the normally well-disciplined troops (and even some officers) stopped to plunder the newly captured Union camps despite Early's entreaties, giving Sheridan time to restore order within the Union ranks, bring up reserves and commence a counterattack. The Southerners, outnumbered as usual (36,600 vs. 21,100), held their ground for about an hour before their left flank gave way, allowing Gen. Custer's Union cavalry to circle around behind them. Threatened with being cut off by the enemy, many Rebels panicked, and their retreat turned into a rout with much loss of men and equipment, as Lockwood described.

As usual in major Civil War actions, casualties in the Battle of Cedar Creek were high: about 5,600 for the North and 2,900 for the South. But the North could afford them better than the South. This battle cemented Union control of the Shenandoah Valley, a critical loss for the Confederacy on its way to final defeat six months later.

An astonishing aspect of the war, revealed in our collection of Jacob Hasbrouck's documents, was the parsimonious controls imposed by the Union Army on its troops, even in combat. Jacob, for instance, had to accept responsibility for the clothing and equipment issued to his men; and he in turn had each of them sign for his own. In his letter to Jacob, Lt. Lockwood lamented that he couldn't arrange financial clearance for his men killed in action because the unit's clothing lists were lost in the heat of battle. He was still trying to find them. And he warned one of his men who lost his rifle in the battle

that he would have to pay for a replacement. (The man picked up another one on the battlefield.) When Jacob was hospitalized for his wound, he was charged for his board there. Despite all the confusion of war, the Government persisted in its quest to assess financial liability. Although he was discharged in March 1865, Jacob did not receive final clearance of his financial account (including back pay) until 1889!



Capt. Jacob Dubois Hasbrouck

After his discharge Jacob returned to his beloved Rowena and their son in Highland. But in 1869 he saw attractive opportunities in the West and moved with his family (3 sons by then, including the 6th consecutive generation of Jacobs) to Wayne County, Iowa, took possession of "320 wild acres" and created a successful farm there. By 1878 he and Rowena had six children – 4 boys and 2 girls. In 1877 his niece, Harriet Hasbrouck Buck, and her family (husband William and 4 children) followed them to Iowa and farmed 240 acres nearby, so there was ample opportunity for visits with these relatives.

Wayne County grew rapidly in the 1870's, creating the need for additional services for its expanding population, and Jacob saw another opportunity. In 1880, with a friend, George McCulloch, he founded the Home State Bank in Humeston, the nearest town to his farm. He was its president for 25 years until his sudden death at age 66 from a stroke on January 29, 1905. He had managed to be simultaneously successful as both a banker and a farmer, continuing to run the farm with

the help of his children and hired hands. Our documents include a log of farm activities between 1876 and 1888, showing who was doing what and indicating that at least one of the sons also helped at the bank.

Jacob was a civic leader in Humeston and was honored there after his death. But he wasn't forgotten back where he came from either. After the Civil War a veterans' organization was formed similar to today's VFW and American Legion. It was called the Grand Army of the Republic (abbreviated to GAR) and had posts around the country. The Ulster County GAR post, #168, was named the Jacob D. Hasbrouck Post in his honor. Our records indicate that Rowena, who died in 1916, was buried in their hometown of Highland, NY, so she may have moved back there some time after Jacob's death.

Jacob's children continued the westward migration common to many American families in that era (Hasbroucks included). Fred moved eastward to Ohio, but Herman went to California, Harriet to Washington, Deyo to Wyoming and Jacob VI to Ault, Colorado, where, like his father, he was a bank president for many years.

PAST EDITIONS OF THE HFA JOURNAL AVAILABLE

Our newsletter often includes references to articles in previous editions. We have extra copies of most of these issues, and they are available on request. Send it by regular mail (see address on masthead) or e-mail and specify which editions you want. Or you can request a specific article; and if we can find it, we'll send it.

HFA DIRECTOR MINI-BIOS

Our June newsletter featured a short item about our new treasurer, Thad C. (Chuck) Hasbrouck. Our other directors have served many years, but we have told you very little about them. It is time to remedy this oversight; so, as space allows, we will provide mini-bios of them in the newsletter, starting in this edition with our president, Robert W. (Bob) Hasbrouck, Jr. In his own words:

I am a ninth-generation descendant of Abraham and live in Summit, NJ, 90 miles south of New Paltz. I grew up mostly in Washington, DC, graduated from West Point in 1955, and spent the next three years based in Fulda, Germany with a regiment guarding the East German border. The

major benefit of this assignment was meeting Astrid, a venturesome German girl eager to practice her English (she corrected mine). We communicated well and were married two years later. Then came a tour with the Cincinnati Air Defense, which Astrid utilized to graduate with honors from Miami University (Ohio). But I was by then frustrated with my army experience and resigned in 1961 to join the Fiduciary Investment Department of The Chase Manhattan Bank in New York. I remained with this unit in various investment and administrative roles, through reorganizations and sale of the entire unit to UBS, until retiring in 1997. In my early Chase years I went to New York University at night to earn an MBA degree in investments, and I still make use of my professional experience in managing HFA's funds.



Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

Astrid and I have two daughters, Karin in California and Melinda with two young children just three miles away. My activities with HFA, my church, grandchildren, and various other interests keep me fully occupied and wondering when I will ever get to the list of things I intended to do when I retired.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Heather Martin, Elbridge, NY
Mathew Martin, Elbridge, NY

We received notice of the following member death:

Betty F. Hasbrouck