



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

**FEBRUARY 2003**

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

The restoration work this fall at the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck houses produced findings even more astonishing than those we have reported during the past year or so. They came in the field of dendrochronology (comparing core samples of wood against a verified standard to determine their age through tree rings). Core samples were taken at both houses as well as the DuBois Fort. At the Fort samples indicated a construction date of 1705 – in line with previous information. But the earliest dating for both the Jean and Abraham houses was 1721—after the deaths of both brothers! (Jean died in 1714, Abraham in 1717.) Thus the houses would have been built not by the patentees but by their sons, Jacob and Daniel respectively! At the Abraham House the core samples confirmed the order of construction: first the center section (1721), then the north (1728) and finally the south (1734). Dendrochronology dating is not foolproof, but this work was done by an experienced firm which is confident of the accuracy of these particular results.

Assuming that the dates are correct, where did Jean and Abraham live? At the Jean House recent examination suggests that elements of a smaller, earlier dwelling were incorporated into the present house. A core sample from an oak beam which once functioned as a fireplace lintel produced a cutting date around 1677. From this and other

evidence it appears likely that Jean built a house on this site and that Jacob replaced it with the present stone house. There is no evidence of Abraham's original house. Based on the building patterns of the time the Historic Structure Report makes some educated guesses, but we may never know with any degree of certainty.

Dendrochronology dating is being planned for other houses on Huguenot Street. It will be interesting to learn whether other long-held assumptions will be challenged! We'll keep you posted.

Now that our computerized genealogy database is complete, we are well positioned to handle your research requests and eager to make updates and corrections (we know it's not perfect). So send us any new information, ask us for printouts of your family tree, and let us know if any changes/additions are needed.

Thanks to those of you who sent us contributions last year (see list on back page). They are much appreciated and badly needed (see Finances on page 7). Besides our normal expenses, we want to help HHS with the maintenance and restoration of the Jean House; the needs there with the dangerous north wall are huge. Your tax-deductible contributions are most welcome at any time; we need your support!

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## **STATUS OF OUR HOUSES**

Draft versions of the Historic Structures Reports (HSRs) have been received for both the Jean and the Abraham houses, and final versions should be ready very shortly. These comprehensive reports provide much detailed information about each house's history and present condition as well as recommendations about the future. They will be invaluable in helping HFA and HHS plan for continuing restoration and interpretation of the houses. One major change is already under consideration. The Abraham House HSR concludes that the pattern of additions and removals of various features over the years has made it impossible to present an authentic, museum-type interpretation of the house in any single period of its history (as we have always tried to do). It recommends interpreting the house, instead, in terms of its architectural history, showing the various stages of its development including the discoveries revealed in the course of the recent restoration work. A purely architectural interpretation would present the house unfurnished, but the initial reaction of HFA and HHS is to do a modified version with some display of furniture and artifacts in conjunction with an interpretation of the family's history in the house as well as its architectural development. We've really just begun to consider these possibilities, and we'll be keeping you informed in future newsletters. If you have any ideas and suggestions, we want to be aware of them, so let us know.

Meanwhile, HFA and HHS have agreed that the Abraham House should be open in some fashion for the coming tour season and are working on the details. The initial inclination is to modify the walk-through setup with display panels successfully used at the Colonial Street Festival, expanding it to include more rooms. This is another work in progress.

Still another is the creation of new gutters for the house. After experiencing many frustrations over the past year, HHS has finally been able to acquire suitable wood (cypress) and is now in the process of making the gutters.

At the Jean House the bulging north wall has been stabilized by temporary buttresses until a restoration plan (based on the HSR) can be implemented. At Locust Lawn preparations are being made to finish the roof and chimney restorations begun last year.

## **ANNUAL REUNION**

The weatherman did us no favors for our October 12 reunion in New Paltz. A heavy, all-day rain held down attendance but did not dampen the spirits of those who came. (See the group photo on our website as well as the minutes of the business meeting.) Despite the downpour we moved from coffee hour and an HHS briefing by Executive Director Jack Braunlein to the French church for our traditional memorial service, then past the Jean House with a look at its buttressed north wall and on to the interior of the Abraham House, where we enjoyed Neil Larson's educational display panels and heard of the latest discoveries from our architect, Kenneth Barricklo. After lunch at Deyo Hall we were treated to a slide show by Susanna Lent covering the HHS Huguenot Roots tour in Europe last spring. Finally our business meeting featured the election/appointment of officers, who are listed in a separate item.

Our reunion this year will, as usual, be on the Saturday of Columbus Day weekend, October 11. Mark it on your calendars and plan to come and enjoy a visit with your extended family.

## **HFA OFFICERS**

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

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

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr., President  
Robert C., Hasbrouck, Jr., First Vice President  
John O. Delamater, Vice President  
Eleanor C. Sears, Vice President  
William G. Hasbrouck, Treasurer

### **Appointed by the President**

Eleanor C. Sears, Secretary  
Robert H. Freehill, Scholarship Committee  
Representative and Family Liaison  
Committee Representative  
Thad M. Hasbrouck, Assistant Treasurer  
John C. Thorn, Webmaster

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

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

HFA participates in the HHS College scholarship program. The top-ranked candidates earn \$2,000 Gertrude Hasbrouck scholarships from HFA while other worthy candidates receive \$1,000 scholarships from HHS. All applicants must be of Huguenot descent. This past fall two Gertrude Hasbrouck scholarships were awarded. One went to Vonn Christenson, a senior at Brigham Young University and member of the DuBois and LeFevre families. It was the second consecutive HFA award for this versatile honor

student. In addition to his math major, he has a minor in music (now plays six instruments), studies several languages, and participates in a diverse range of extra-curricular activities. He plans to attend law school and then pursue a career in law, politics and business – an ambitious agenda, and he seems well qualified to achieve it.

The other HFA award went to one of our own family – Ashley Hasbrouck Wilfand, who earned an HHS scholarship the previous year. She is a senior at Cornell University on her way to becoming a veterinarian. In addition to her outstanding academic record, she has spent a year working in an animal hospital and is participating in volunteer projects related to her chosen field.

Three Hasbrouck family members earned HHS scholarships. Rebecca Hasbrouck, a junior at Taylor University, has majors in Spanish and international business and has teaching and leadership roles in several outside activities. In a similar vein, Christa Robin Atkins, a sophomore at Susquehanna University, has majors in French and global management and is developing her leadership skills in a variety of challenging programs. Eric Lieberman, a sophomore at Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is majoring in computer science and plans to be a computer programmer. He is following the lead of his brother, Michael, who was a two-time scholarship winner.

Our congratulations to all these fine scholars!



## JUDGE GILBERT D. B. HASBROUCK AWARD



Richard Relyea Hasbrouck presents the Judge G.B.D. Hasbrouck award (an engraved pewter plate) to Marian Schoettle. On the stand behind them is the plaque with Judge Hasbrouck's picture and the names of past award recipients.

In 1997 HFA agreed to sponsor this award established by the Esopus-Port Ewen Library to recognize significant contributions to the library in the areas of preservation, growth and development. The award commemorates a distinguished family member (see HFA Journal of February 1998 for a biographical sketch) who in 1938 donated the impressive house in which he was born to the library, which still occupies it today. The award is represented by a plaque on display at the library with recipients' names, plus a commemorative gift to the recipients. The award is made only when a worthy candidate is identified; and for 2002 it went to Marian Schoettle, who chairs the Friends of the Library group and is director of the Library Show, a local public-access television program. In addition to volunteering many hours in the library herself, she organizes many Friends events, recruits financial and volunteer support, attends local group meetings on behalf of the Library, and

videotapes community events for the TV program. She manages all this in addition to her family role as wife and mother plus a career as a successful artist/art educator/designer specializing in clothing and textiles. Her work has been exhibited in New York, Philadelphia, Boston, Amsterdam, London, and – of course – locally in Kingston, NY.

The award was presented on behalf of HFA by Richard Relyea Hasbrouck at a dinner ceremony on December 3. We are happy to recognize the achievements of this very talented and versatile lady!

## CORRECTIONS TO THE CORRECTIONS

In the September issue a correction on the timeline for the Abraham House stated that Isaiah Hasbrouck inherited it from his mother, Maria, in 1872. In fact, Maria never married. Isaiah was her nephew – youngest son of her brother Ezekial in Fallsburgh. He came to live with Maria in 1855 at age 11, probably to help her with the house since she lived alone there. (There is no record explaining his coming.) In any event, he lived with Maria at the house until her death in 1872 and then owned it until his own death in 1909. However, as reported in September, he no longer lived there during his ownership but rented it to tenants; so the last actual Hasbrouck family occupancy of the house ended in 1872 and its ownership in 1911.

Research for the HSR revealed that HFA bought the house in 1961 for \$24,000, not \$21,000 as reported in the May '02 newsletter. HFA's last formal bid was for \$21,000, but in the final negotiation with the church we apparently settled for the higher amount.

## A SENSATIONAL FAMILY MURDER

### PART 3

Parts 1 and 2 – in the May and September editions – covered the background of the case and the murder of Anthony Hasbrouck by his relative, Cornelius Hardenbergh. This final part describes the aftermath. The narrative is condensed from James Quinlan's 1873 History of Sullivan County.



Old postcard view of Anthony Hasbrouck House in what is now the Hasbrouck section of Fallsburgh, NY.

When Cornelius Hardenbergh left Anthony Hasbrouck's house after fatally wounding him, he realized that his own stab wound from the conflict was serious and went to the house of his uncle to turn himself in. A cousin met him at the door; Cornelius told him what had happened, surrendered his weapons, and asked his uncle to find out whether Anthony was dead. They headed for Hasbrouck's house and met an acquaintance, who confirmed Anthony's death. Cornelius said, "Then I can die contented, and by the laws of my country I shall have to be hung." He hoped his own wound would be fatal, prayed for death, and asked to be taken to the mill he had disputed with Anthony, saying he

had a right to be there. So he was taken to the mill to spend the night, and the next day he was carried in a bed to jail.

Visitors there found Cornelius pale and weak from loss of blood, but able and willing to describe the killing in minute detail. He mentioned, for instance, that he had cut Anthony across the thigh because he knew that one of the main arteries was there and severing it would cause him to bleed to death. He was cool and adroit in defending his conduct. "Hasbrouck was a public robber. And I was an instrument in the hands of God to punish him." Thereafter he never deviated materially from this theme.

For some time after the event Cornelius continued to wish for death, but eventually his desire to live revived. Someone gave him a book, Deranged Mental Faculties, from which he decided that not only was he insane at the time of the murder, but that he had been subject to aberrations of mind since receiving a severe blow on the head at the age of six. His memory then became very defective with respect to the murder. He could remember facts which placed Anthony in an unfavorable light, but he now claimed to remember nothing about his preparations for the killing or the act itself – events which he had previously described many times over with great precision.

The trial took place in October 1841 (ten months after the murder). Cornelius relied on the insanity defense, but the jury took only twenty minutes to find him guilty. He was not sentenced until the following court session in May 1842. At that time he was given an opportunity to make a statement. He delivered a "somewhat incoherent harangue" in which he attacked some of the trial witnesses and contended that he was of unsound mind when

he committed the deed, which he said “was not the act of a poor individual, but the judgment of Almighty God upon a thankless, ungrateful, sinful people who wish to aggrandize themselves at the expense of the poor.” The court then sentenced him to death by hanging on July 14, 1842.

Cornelius spent most of his final weeks writing his “Life and Confession”. A few days before his execution he related, virtually sentence by sentence, the argument with Anthony which provoked the murderous attack. Then, he claimed, “All feeling left me, and reason forsook her empire. All that I can recollect after this is, I thought I must go away. I knew not what I did until the fatal deed was done.”

During this time Cornelius also planned an escape from the jail. He managed to obtain a knife and a stick of wood with which he loosened his shackles and handcuffs so that he could slip out of them at any time. He was even able to make a wire key which unlocked his cell door! But his plan was thwarted when the sheriff unexpectedly put a padlock on the door in addition to the regular lock. The day before his execution he gave up hope of escape and turned over his equipment to the sheriff, saying “Here is the knife with which I could have killed you.”

On his execution day his conversation “bore the semblance of fervid piety.” At his request he was accompanied to the gallows by two local pastors. His bearing at the end was “firm and unwavering, but without bravado or ostentation.” But he was a bit eccentric to the end, requesting that he be buried between his mother’s house and barn and that a pair of old slippers he had worn in jail be buried with him.

Thus ends the saga of Anthony Hasbrouck, namesake of Hasbrouck, NY. As mentioned in the May newsletter, his handsome stone house still survives. (See old photo in this issue and new photos in the May

and September issues.) It can be visited during periodic events held there. If you will be in the Fallsburgh area and are interested in seeing it, contact the HFA office, and we will get detailed information for you.

## **MEMBERSHIP**

Many members still have not paid their \$15 dues for the membership year starting October 1, 2002. If you are in this category, you are receiving a reminder insert in this mailing indicating the details. Please continue to support your family association; we need you!

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

John DeNaples, Greensboro, NC  
Roger Graham, Nashville, TN  
David J. Hasbrouck, Havertown, PA  
Joshua S. Hasbrouck, Penndel, PA  
Thomas Hasbrouck, Gorham, ME

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

Ruth Hasbrouck, Nyack, NY

## **EVENTS CALENDAR** **(Your attendance is invited)**

May 1	Huguenot Street opens for tours
June 14	HHS Annual Meeting in New Paltz
August 9	Colonial Street Festival on Huguenot Street (Volunteers needed at Hasbrouck houses)
October 11	HFA Annual Reunion in New Paltz

## FINANCES (in \$ thousands)

### 2002 Yearend Assets

HFA Endowment Fund	429	
HFA General Fund (unrestricted)	<u>96</u>	
Subtotal	525	
Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund	1,299	
<b>TOTAL ASSETS</b>		<b>1,824</b>

### HFA ex-Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund

#### 2002 Income

Investment Income	31	
Dues and Donations (unrestricted)	5	
Life Dues and Donations (endowment)	10	
Other Income	1	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>47</b>

#### 2002 Expenses

Jean Hasbrouck House maintenance	7	
Scholarships	4	
Other programs	8	
Accounting fees	5	
Occupancy and Administration	9	
Excise taxes	2	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b><u>35</u></b>

**NET INCOME** 12

### Helene Hasbrouck Anderson Fund

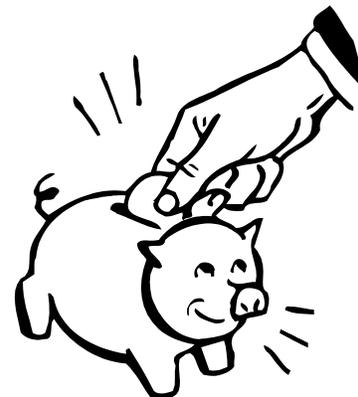
#### 2002 Income

Investment Income	61	
Bequest	<u>25</u>	
<b>TOTAL INCOME</b>		<b>86</b>

#### 2002 Expenses

Abraham Hasbrouck House	52	
Excise taxes	<u>1</u>	
<b>TOTAL EXPENSES</b>		<b><u>53</u></b>
<b>NET INCOME</b>		<b>33</b>

Our finances are solid but not as rosy as they might appear from an initial look at the numbers. The Anderson Fund assets declined 11% last year because of the weak stock market but can still comfortably meet the needs of the Abraham House – no real problem there. The investment income from the HFA Endowment Fund provides about 90% of the funds to cover the rest of our needs, and with limited stock market exposure this Fund managed a slight gain last year. But with interest rates at historic lows our investment income is declining, and contributions were also down last year. Additions to the endowment were favorable (they included a bequest) and very important, but they cannot be spent; so our available income last year was \$37,000 vs. expenses of \$35,000. And our expenses would normally have been higher to pay for the valuable services of our historical consultant, Neil Larson. But last year all of Neil's work for us was devoted to the Abraham House; therefore it was paid by the Anderson Fund instead of HFA's General Fund (which covers all expenses except the Abraham House). So on an ongoing basis we're still struggling to break even. The General Fund shows a comfortable balance of \$96,000, but \$20,000 is going imminently for our contribution to the Jean House HSR. So we still have a cushion, but it's shrinking (and so is the income it earns). The bottom line is – we still need your financial support!



**Hasbrouck Family Association Inc.**  
**2002 Contributors**

**Endowment Fund**

Atkins, Mary-Elizabeth  
Baldwin, Rosemary V.  
Clancy, Jean T.  
Colton, John P.  
Delamater, John O.  
Dempsey, Mildred H.  
Duke, H. Benjamin, III  
Hasbrouck, Phyllis R.  
Hasbrouck, Robert W., Jr.  
MacDowell, Francis M.  
Nichols, Jean E.  
Nickelsen, Roberta  
Patterson, Mary C.  
Quinn, Winona  
Sears, Eleanor  
Smith, Caroline V.

**General Fund**

Esserman, Edward  
Hasbrouck, Eric W.  
Van Arsdale, Walton, Jr.

**Jean Hasbrouck House**

Alliger, David H.  
Atkins, Mary-Elizabeth  
Carey, John H., Jr.  
Cottrell, Christine  
Dalrymple, Cornelia  
DeNaples, Mary H.  
Dixon, Jane Steen  
Eckert, Barbara J.  
Fleckenstein, Edward  
Graham, Douglas R.  
Hasbrouck, Brian L.  
Hasbrouck, Calvin D., Jr.  
Hasbrouck, Charles B., Jr.  
Hasbrouck, Douglas J.

**Jean Hasbrouck House (continued)**

Hasbrouck, Elizabeth  
Hasbrouck, John J.  
Hasbrouck, Joseph F.  
Hasbrouck, Mary M.  
Hasbrouck, Robert David  
Hasbrouck, Robert W., Jr.  
Hasbrouck, Roger C.  
Hasbrouck, William A.  
Hasbrouck, William G.  
Hauser, Marilyn H.  
Horton, Ann  
Kniffen, Elaine  
McCollum, Marion  
McIvey, Susan B.  
Neilson, Jacqueline J.  
Nichols, Charlotte  
Page, Betty  
Quinn, Winona  
Rawlings, Eleanor H.  
Ryan, Elaine B.  
Ryder, Frances B.  
Sofield, Anne M.  
Southard, Marian A.  
Van Dyck, David H.