



HASBROUCK FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

Telephone 845-255-3223 Fax: 845-255-0624

Website: [www.hasbrouckfamily.org](http://www.hasbrouckfamily.org) E-Mail: [info@hasbrouckfamily.org](mailto:info@hasbrouckfamily.org)

©Copyright 2006 Hasbrouck Family Association Inc

JUNE 2006

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There are positive developments at all three Hasbrouck Houses owned by HHS. See the details under "Our Houses" below. But the most important developments concern our affiliated organization, The Huguenot Historical Society (HHS). Since HHS owns and maintains the stone houses of Huguenot Street (as well as Locust Lawn and others) and interprets them to the public, its health is critically important to HFA and, indeed, all the family associations. As described in the last newsletter, HHS needs a substantial improvement in its finances to support its present level of activities and continue to expand them. This will require a significant broadening of its donor base beyond the traditional descendant groups, including the family associations. Following recommendations of a specially commissioned marketing study, HHS is reorienting its approach to the public by emphasizing Huguenot Street as a slice of American history rather than its traditional focus on Huguenots building a community in the Hudson Valley. It is felt that this approach will appeal to the broad group of people who are interested in American history but have no familiarity or connection with Huguenots. Moving in this direction, HHS established task forces (including family association representatives) which reviewed all aspects of its operations and presented findings and recommendations at the trustees' annual planning retreat in February (with family representatives invited to participate for the first time).

Responding to this input, the trustees initiated several actions (with more still to come):

- 1) Adopted new mission and vision statements
- 2) Adopted a detailed 2006 development plan
- 3) Adopted a new name – Historic Huguenot Street (still HHS) – for marketing, but not legal, use.

Several tag lines may be test-marketed. The one now in use is, "Where an American story unfolds."

Addressing financial concerns, the trustees made some staffing cuts and other expense reductions, but programs scheduled for this year (see HHS Spring newsletter) are more diverse than ever before.

HHS has still not found a suitable replacement for Jack Braunlein as executive director. With John Carnahan no longer sufficiently available to provide effective oversight, the trustees on April 12 appointed HHS librarian/archivist Eric Roth as interim director, and he has been doing an admirable job of expanding outreach to the New Paltz community on top of opening the tour season, coordinating and contributing to fundraising efforts, and, in general, "keeping the wheels turning" as smoothly as possible.

The most pressing immediate problem is funding the restoration of the Jean Hasbrouck House north wall. The work is underway, and the Gerry Charitable Trust recently gave HHS a \$20,000 grant for the project. But that still leaves a \$165,000 shortfall to be covered from the HHS endowment fund, which is badly in need of enhancement, not a reduction of this significant size. So again, as the family represented by this house, we are asking you to make as generous a gift as you can for this project even if you've given before. Member contributions since the February newsletter appeal have been disappointingly few. Remember it's your family heritage – particularly for you who are Jean descendants!

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## OUR HOUSES

### Abraham Hasbrouck House

There is a significant enhancement for this year's tour season. The north room is being presented – much as it was a few years ago – as the *opkamer* (up-room in Dutch; it is higher than the other rooms), traditionally used as a private living space/bedchamber. It is likely that this room was used as such by Abraham's widow, Maria, from its construction in 1728 until her death in 1741.



Opkamer furnishings restored to the north room of the Abraham House

There's another new feature this year. On the site of the discontinued herb garden, an HHS intern will plant an 18th century "kitchen" garden similar to those used by families to grow a few plants and herbs for food and medicinal use.

Processing of artifacts from the archaeology work around the house has been delayed by illness of the person assembling the collection. It should get underway this summer.

### Jean Hasbrouck House

The wall restoration process is finally underway! Scaffolding is in place, and each stone in the wall has been numbered and photographed for later reassembly. Dismantling of the wall is scheduled for mid-June and is such a delicate process that it is programmed to take 35 days! Completion of the project is scheduled for October. The main difficulty now is paying for it (see President's Report).

### Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)

For the first time in years the house opened this month for weekend tours! A new entrance driveway has been installed on the west side to

replace the old one on the south side, considered a serious safety hazard. Due to budget constraints some exterior improvements have been postponed (painting; restoring/reinstalling shutters), and other restoration work is needed, but the front porch and deck have been redone. The house looks good and retains its 19<sup>th</sup> century elegance – a real treat for visitors.

### FATHER AND SON GRADUATE FROM COLLEGE JUST WEEKS APART

Christian J. Hasbrouck is the older son of Richard Relyea Hasbrouck, our only family member still living on Huguenot Street in New Paltz (see February 2001 newsletter). Born in 1958, Christian earned an associate degree when he was young; but circumstances at the time prevented him from qualifying for a full-fledged bachelor's degree – until recently. Realizing the importance of a good education in today's competitive job market, he took evening classes for several years at Aquinas College in Nashville, TN while working full time and earned a Bachelor of Science degree in May at age 48.

Meanwhile, Christian's son, Chase Alexander Hasbrouck, was progressing through Furman University at Greenville, SC on a four-year ROTC scholarship. He graduated this month with a Bachelor of Arts in Political Science and was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the US Army Signal Corps. He is scheduled for assignment in Korea after additional training at Fort Knox, KY. Both father and son can take pride in the other's – and their own – academic achievement!

### SCHOLARSHIPS

The deadline for scholarship applications this year is August 31, which means that awards (\$2,000 and \$1,000) 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 Huguenot heritage. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: (845)255-1660 or [info@huguenotstreet.org](mailto:info@huguenotstreet.org) with the subject "Scholarship Mailing List."

### A HEAVYWEIGHT CONNECTION

Although he spent most of his career traveling, former world heavyweight boxing champion Floyd Patterson was a long-time resident of New Paltz. He died on May 11 at age 71. In his memory, relatives

and friends planted a yellow magnolia tree on May 27 in Hasbrouck Park. This park was named for Jean Hasbrouck the Patentee (it was once his property). It was described in our May 2001 newsletter.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Colonial Street Festival**

The Festival will not be held this year but will be back for 2007.

### **HFA Annual Reunion**

Our reunion day this year is Saturday, October 14, in New Paltz. It will probably follow the usual format: registration/socializing and service in the French Church in the morning followed by an on-site update at the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses, lunch at Deyo Hall, and our annual meeting. If you are coming from a distance and want to visit Huguenot Street in some detail, plan to spend at least one night here because the reunion will take up most of Saturday and you will need at least one additional day on the Street. The houses can be visited only on guided tours and are closed Mondays. If you will be a first-time visitor, 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), 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).

## **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 06 on your mailing label, you're 8 months delinquent by now. Income tax preparation is no longer a distraction, and the Bush tax cuts must have saved you enough to pay your HFA dues. So get yourself up to date! We need your support.

## **REMEMBERING THE "FATHER" OF HUGUENOT STREET**



Kenneth E. Hasbrouck, Sr. in the 1960s

This May marked the tenth anniversary of the death of Kenneth E. Hasbrouck, Sr. and, sadly, his wife, Alice, just died in March. It is timely, therefore, to look back and recognize the huge impact that Kenneth – backed by Alice – had on the formation of and preservation of Huguenot Street.

It all started in 1948 – a year of new beginnings for Kenneth. He received his master's degree from New York University, married Alice, and started a new job teaching NY State history at Wallkill Central High School. With his passion for history, it was natural for him to join the Huguenot Patriotic, Historical and Monumental Society of New Paltz. As Kenneth himself described it, "I kept asking when they were going to have a meeting. They finally got around to having one, and Walter Hasbrouck was elected

president, while I was elected secretary-treasurer. Out of about 100 members, only half of them seemed to be living. Life membership was only \$10 at the time.”



Jean Hasbrouck House Historic Site Designation -- National Park Service official presents certificate and plaque to Kenneth on June 15, 1968.

Founded in 1894, the Society in 1899 had acquired the Jean Hasbrouck House, and this was still its only stone house. Walter relied on Kenneth's ideas to revive the Society, and Kenneth had an ambitious plan to acquire the other stone houses on Huguenot Street, save them from deterioration or destruction under private ownership, and form a unified historic district. That appeared to be quite out of reach, since the Society (which he renamed the Huguenot Historical Society or HHS) was in precarious financial condition and had no money to buy the other five stone houses. But Kenneth had an ingenious idea for funding and expanding the Society's support base. He had embarked on an extensive project to document the genealogies of the founding families of New Paltz from the first arrivals in America to the present. In the process he accumulated contacts with a large number of surviving descendants of these families. He now called on these descendants to form family associations dedicated to buying (on behalf of HHS) and helping to maintain the houses of their ancestors on Huguenot Street as well as helping to expand the family genealogies. He started with his own family and in 1957 arranged with interested descendants for the formation of the Hasbrouck Family Association (HFA). Since HHS already owned the Jean Hasbrouck House, HFA's initial mission was to acquire the Abraham Hasbrouck House, which it did in 1961. (This was the Society's third house. Kenneth and Walter had already arranged in 1955 for the Jamison Foundation

to buy the Freer House for HHS.) The Bevier-Elting House was added in 1963, then the DuBois Fort and the 1799 (LeFevre) House in 1968. In 1972 the Crispells, who had no family house on the Street, financed the construction of a replica of the original (1717) French Church only a few yards away from its original site. That same year the Deyo House was purchased, completing the assembly under HHS management of all the original stone houses on Huguenot Street. But Kenneth did not stop there. In 1958 Annette Young had given the 1814 Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn) to HHS along with its outbuildings and considerable land. Close by it was a 1738 stone house built by Dutch settler Evert Terwilliger and later owned by Josiah Hasbrouck. Kenneth arranged the formation of the Terwilliger Family Association, which purchased this house for HHS in 1974, adding it to the Locust Lawn property. In later years Kenneth managed to acquire almost all the non-historic houses interspersed among the stone houses of Huguenot Street and used them for office and meeting space, a library, maintenance facilities and staff housing. He formed supporting relationships under HHS control with existing associations of families which became linked to New Paltz shortly after its founding – Schoonmakers, Gerows, and Magnys. Under Kenneth's leadership HHS had developed into an organization well capable of preserving the buildings and history of Huguenot Street and presenting it to the public. The area has been designated a National Historic Landmark District.



Kenneth and Alice (at left) at designation of Huguenot Street as an Ulster County Historic Landmark, Dec. 1, 1974. Beside Alice is her sister and behind her is Kenneth Jr. On the right is their younger son, Charles, who was active in HHS and was president of HFA at the time of his untimely death in 1987.

Kenneth's background shows how well suited he was for his long association with Huguenot Street. To begin with, he was an eighth-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck, and he often boasted that he was related to all the original New Paltz families. He lived almost all his life in the vicinity of New Paltz. He was born in 1916 in nearby Gardiner, graduated from New Paltz Normal School in 1938, and had several teaching jobs before being drafted into the Army in December 1942 and sent to California. He spent most of his time there teaching illiterate draftees to read and write. And he met 23-year-old Alice Jackson through a friend who was dating her sister. In 1944 he had a lucky experience. Scheduled to go with his superior on an inspection tour, the two of them were bumped from the flight, which crashed, killing all onboard.



Kenneth and Alice (undated; probably around 1990)

By the end of the war Kenneth was a master sergeant and department head in the Adjutant General's office in San Francisco. Romance blossomed between Kenneth and Alice, and they became engaged after he was discharged and returned to New Paltz in 1946. They maintained their long-distance relationship as Kenneth resumed teaching while at the same time getting a Bachelor of Education degree at New York State Teachers College in 1946 and a Master of Arts in history and English two years later at New York University. In July 1948 he married Alice in California and brought her back to live in his (deceased) grandfather's stone house. He was already getting experienced in the restoration and

maintenance of old stone houses. He started teaching NY State history at Wallkill Central High School and took additional college courses in history. Kenneth Jr. was born in 1949 and Charles in 1952.

History of the local area was Kenneth's passion, which extended far beyond teaching it. In addition to bringing the stone houses of Huguenot Street under the protection of HHS, he wrote extensively about the rich history of the area, including the European roots of the New Paltz settlers. He was also fascinated by the related field of genealogy and became the area's leading expert in that field. He researched old records, contacted hundreds of descendants of the New Paltz founding families, and built extensive genealogies of four of them (Hasbrouck, Bevier, Crispell and Deyo) as well as Alice's Irish Jackson family. He already published the first volume of his comprehensive The Hasbrouck Family in America in 1952 and added to it (six volumes in all) through the rest of his life. He was a tireless promoter of Huguenot Street and had the fundraising skill to keep it viable financially as well as management skill to oversee its operation (through HHS) with respect to preservation of the properties and presenting them to the public. He was the president of HHS from 1960 to 1994; and although there was a board of trustees, he was a dominant force to the point of becoming known as "Mr. Huguenot Street". He stimulated support from distant as well as nearby descendants by forming small groups of regional supporters and having them work in their respective regions to contact additional descendants and awaken their interest in their heritage and Huguenot Street. Kenneth and Alice made periodic trips to visit supporters around the country.

The attractions of Huguenot Street went beyond its buildings. By gift, bequest and occasional purchase, Kenneth acquired period furniture and other items to furnish the houses. During his tenure HHS amassed a significant collection of about 7,000 historic artifacts. They included many old documents relating to New Paltz and its families.

Kenneth was a guiding force in HFA as well as HHS. He initiated its formation, served as its first president from 1958 to 1970, and maintained a leading role in its activities until shortly before his death.

Kenneth's involvement in local and regional history extended far beyond Huguenot Street and was remarkable for its scope, even before he retired from teaching in 1972 and devoted full time to it. For many years he was the town historian for New Paltz, Gardiner and Shawangunk, as well as the Ulster County historian and an officer of the County's Historical Society and its Landmark Commission. He

was a trustee, and later president, of the Young-Morse Historic Site, Locust Grove (Samuel F. B. Morse's home); trustee of the Holland Society of America; director of The Old Senate House in Kingston; and a member of numerous historical and genealogical societies. And he did all of this while simultaneously managing HHS, writing numerous historical articles and pamphlets, giving talks on historical subjects, working on genealogies, keeping up extensive correspondence, and traveling to promote HHS.



Kenneth speaking at New Paltz Tercentennial Celebration (1978) at SUNY campus.

Wholly immersed in work he loved, Kenneth maintained this prodigious level of activity for several decades, but age and declining health inevitably slowed him down. He presided over HHS's bicentennial celebration in 2004 (see photo), but that same year he reluctantly relinquished his leadership of the Society, which by that time had grown beyond the point where it could be adequately managed by a single dominant individual. He was appointed trustee emeritus and continued many of his activities (including Treasurer of HFA), but unfortunately he was not able to enjoy a long, happy retirement. In 1995 he was badly injured in an automobile accident from which he never recovered. Kenneth died on May 26, 1996, just a month short of his 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. We remember him today for his remarkable accomplishments in almost single-handedly reviving a moribund historical society and transforming it into a wonderful site which is still enhancing its capacity to educate and entertain current and future generations. Without Kenneth neither HHS nor HFA would exist today. We are forever indebted to him for his foresight and determination in making it all happen. And also to his helpmate, Alice, who just died on March 29 after a long illness. We were lucky to be able to enjoy their warmth and enthusiasm for so many productive years.



At HHS Centennial celebration in 1994. Kenneth was already in declining health.

### **HASBROUCKS HONORED IN CAMPUS BUILDINGS**

Did you know that several buildings at universities in the Northeast are named for Hasbroucks? Perhaps the foremost is the Hasbrouck Laboratory at the University of Massachusetts at Amherst. Built in 1948 and expanded in 1965 with a massive additional wing, it occupies a prominent site on the campus. The Physics Dept. occupies most of the building, which also has areas devoted to geo sciences and entomology as well as offices, meeting rooms and an auditorium.



Original Hasbrouck Laboratory building at UMass. Newer wing is visible at left rear.

The building is named for Professor Philip Bevier Hasbrouck, who during 29 years (1895-1924) at what was then known as Massachusetts Agricultural College (MAC) became a living legend as a teacher of math and physics and head of the Physics Dept. in his last 14 years. A seventh-generation descendant of Abraham, Philip grew up in the New Paltz area and graduated from the Normal School there in 1889 as well as from Rutgers in 1893. He came to MAC in 1895 (at age 25) as an assistant math professor. He added physics and rose in seniority while managing at the same time to do graduate studies in these subjects at Cornell and Yale. In 1905 he took on the additional post of college registrar. In 1911 a separate Dept. of Physics was established, and Philip headed it (while continuing as registrar) until his sudden death from a heart attack in 1924 (at age 54).



Philip Bevier Hasbrouck

Philip was regarded with great affection by his students – after they got to know him. He took a personal interest in them and was a faculty adviser to many. The Class of 1910 dedicated their yearbook to him. He was one of those rare molders of character who are a blessing to the teaching profession. A flavor for his impact can be gained from this extract from a biographical sketch written during his later years.

“For two decades and more, freshmen varnished and polished with prep school arrogance have encountered “Billy’s” sandpaper exterior and

have been scraped and worked down to solid material, and then smoothed and rubbed to a finish.

“Men turn to him for confidences, advice and help after they get over the scare of his teaching manner. In class he is ostensibly severe, strict and dictatorial; in reality he is watching youngsters to see the stuff that is in them, and is laughing deep down inside somewhere. Sometimes the laugh bursts out of bounds, and Billy’s true self is revealed.

“Respect and admiration are cold terms; love and desire for comradeship fit those feelings that every student has who meets Prof. Hasbrouck either in or out of his classroom. He is one of the men with whom the graduate must shake hands and be called ‘my son’ – and whose smile is a benediction on a student’s head.”

The naming of the physics building is a suitable tribute to this dedicated educator. Interestingly, his grandson – named for him – was a life member of HFA until his death in 2003. It would have been nice to have his personal recollections for this article.

The State University of New York (SUNY) Ulster in Stone Ridge (close to New Paltz) has a Hasbrouck Building completed in 1967 and named for Jacob A. Hasbrouck (1717-1802), a grandson of Abraham and brother of Colonel Jonathan Hasbrouck of Newburgh. He was one of the first settlers of the Stone Ridge area – in Kyserike. He and his wife, Maria Hornbeck, are buried in the Hasbrouck Cemetery there. The building houses the Business Dept., computer labs, general-use classrooms, and the Graphics/Printing Dept.



Jacob A. Hasbrouck at SUNY Ulster in Stone Ridge

At SUNY New Paltz, Hasbrouck Hall is the main dining area on the campus. It is at the center of the Huguenot Complex, which includes five dormitories surrounding the dining hall and named for the other patentee families: Bevier, Crispell, Deyo, DuBois and LeFevre. The complex was built in the late ‘60s, and its Huguenot names survived a student activist campaign several years ago to remove them because

the families were slaveholders (a common practice at that time – see recent newsletter items on this subject). The ground floor of Hasbrouck Hall was originally a student lounge area, but the university's growth has resulted in a makeover into offices and a computer lab.

Cornell University in Ithaca, NY has the Hasbrouck Apartments, a large (338 units) graduate housing area adjoining its golf course. The complex takes its name from Charles A. Hasbrouck, the previous owner of the land on which the housing was built in 1960. He gave the land to Cornell in 1910 in memory of his wife, Mary Forbes. We have no other information about Charles except his birth date (July 31, 1864) and ancestry (back to Jean). If you know anything else about him, please tell us. Also, please let us know about any other buildings (not just on campuses) named for Hasbroucks, so that we can publicize them.



Hasbrouck Hall at SUNY New Paltz

### **HFA OFFICE**

Our New Paltz office is open by appointment only. But if you are planning a visit to the area, leave a message on our answering machine or send us a fax or e-mail (see numbers on the masthead), and Meryl will contact you to arrange a visit where you can get information, look at our genealogy files and publications, and check our archives. If you are doing family research, you may also want to see what is

available in the HHS Library. Call them (845-255-6738) to make an appointment.

Our office is just half a mile from Huguenot Street in the Pine Office Center at 124 Main Street. It's across the street from the Citgo gas station and far back from the street, but there is a sign at the driveway entrance, ample parking and handicapped access. In the same building is the New Paltz Chamber of Commerce, where you can get information and brochures on a wide range of attractions and accommodations in the area.

### **MORE HISTORICAL INFORMATION AVAILABLE**

In our office are copies of several recent, very detailed reports on our houses, their history, and the families who lived there:

Abraham House: Historic Structure Report (HSR)

Jean House: HSR and Furnishings Plan

Locust Lawn: HSR and Master Plan for the site

We want to make this information available to our members, but we have just one or two copies of each report, and they are generally several hundred pages long. We will consider offering the Historical Overview sections of the reports to interested members for the cost of copying and shipping/handling. If you're interested in getting this information, tell us (by e-mail or regular mail; no obligation involved) what you would like from the list above. Based on what you want, we will let you know how many pages are involved and what the cost will be; and you can then place a firm order.

HHS is putting the genealogical records from its Bible collection on CD-ROMs, and the first one is now available for about \$30 (\$25 for HHS members) with lots of Hasbroucks, all the other patentee families and many other names as well. You can see the details at their website: [www.huguenotstreet.org](http://www.huguenotstreet.org); click on About Us, then on News.

### **We welcome our new member:**

Robert Garmany, Livingston, NJ

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

Alice J. Hasbrouck, Lake Katrine, NY