



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

**JUNE 2007**

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 2007 Hasbrouck Family Association Inc.

## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

This is HFA's 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary, a natural time to review the past, compare it with the present, and think about the future. In some ways we have made considerable progress. HFA was formed, foremost though not exclusively, to acquire the Abraham Hasbrouck House, and that was its early focus. As a result, for many years a number of Jean descendants perceived that HFA was basically Abraham oriented and neglectful of their interests. In recent years we have purposefully striven to overcome this impression by increasing emphasis and support for the Jean House and Locust Lawn (owned by Jean descendants).

With respect to genealogy we have computerized and updated Kenneth Hasbrouck's records. We now have about 25,000 names in our database and can provide information from it on request.

Financially we have done quite well, thanks to major bequests from Gertrude Hasbrouck and Helene Hasbrouck Anderson, plus a favorable stock market which has greatly enhanced these gifts. Helene's bequest was designated specifically for the Abraham House (her special passion) and should provide adequately for its foreseeable needs. But there is no endowment for the Jean House and only an inadequate and shrinking one for Locust Lawn, so there is an ongoing funding need for both beyond what HHS can provide.

In one important respect we are backsliding dangerously: membership and member involvement. At one time around thirty years ago HFA had over 600 members. Now we are slipping under 400. There were regional member meetings, but none in recent years (except for reunions of several particular family groups). There was active involvement of local members in preparing the Abraham House for opening in the spring and closing it in the fall, and for organizing and

participating in HFA and HHS activities during the year. Now there are very few members in the local area and even fewer who are active.

If you value your Association, please consider taking a more active part in it. There is so much more we could do if we had more members involved! And in the modern interconnected environment with inexpensive internet and telephone communication, you don't have to be anywhere near New Paltz to participate (although being close enough to appear in person from time to time is a big benefit to us). We need people for activities we can't adequately cover now, such as (1) calling other members/prospects (at HFA expense) to inform/encourage/rekindle interest; (2) encourage others -- especially family members -- to join HFA and participate in it; (3) do genealogical/historical research, mainly online but also by traditional methods; (4) contribute to our newsletter; (5) organize activities; (6) represent HFA on HHS committees; (7) serve as officers of HFA... the list goes on.

Without broader member participation HFA is in danger of gradually withering away. If you are interested in helping us to avoid such a fate by getting involved in any of the activities above (or others of your own choosing), please contact us to explore the possibilities. (See our contact points on the masthead of this newsletter.)

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

**Hasbrouck Family Association**  
**Founded October 12, 1957**  
**50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Year**

## **OUR HOUSES**

On April 15 New Paltz experienced 6 inches of rain in less than 24 hours. Eight of the HHS houses were flooded to some extent, but we were fortunate. Of our three houses only Locust Lawn was affected and that not severely (see below).

### **Abraham Hasbrouck House**

Our exterior moisture control system worked during the big storm; there was no water entry. Early this year a new dehumidifier was installed and has been validating its purchase during the recent wet weather. Since the installation, HHS building/grounds staff reports a noticeable decrease in the musty smell often experienced in the lower-level kitchen.

The shutters have been repainted with a historically correct finish and will probably be reinstalled by the time you read this. The exhibit panels have been upgraded for the '07 tour season. As mentioned previously, we are in a holding pattern now, awaiting a new interpretation plan for Huguenot Street (due next year) before embarking on such a plan for the house because the house plan needs to be consistent with the Street's plan.

### **Jean Hasbrouck House**

The fence has been removed from the reconstructed north side. That area can now be regraded and seeded. The historically accurate window panes will soon be installed in the new, historically accurate replica casement windows there, after which the boarding can be removed to reveal them. Restoration work on the interior will be done this year, and finalization of interpretation and furnishings plans will set the stage for executing these plans and reopening the house for self-guided tours in May 2008.

### **Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)**

Plattekill River flooding on April 15 left about a foot of water in the basement. It has been pumped out, and the house is now drying out with the aid of several dehumidifiers. Mold remediation was done at the house earlier this year (funded mostly by HFA). HHS is confident that its current actions will avoid further mold formation. Fortunately, nothing of value in the basement was damaged.

The house will open for weekend tours (Sat. & Sun. 11-5) beginning in June. On the first weekend (June 1-3) there will be a Civil War encampment on the grounds. Sunday evening candlelight tours (7:00-8:30) are scheduled for June 17, July 15, August 19, September 16 and October 21.

## **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 07 on your mailing label, you're 8 months delinquent by now. But (waxing poetic here) it's never too late, so get yourself up to date! We need your support.

## **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.

## **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The deadline for scholarship applications this year is August 31, which means that awards will apply to the spring semester rather than the fall semester. To be eligible you must be (at that time) a college sophomore, junior or senior and be able to document 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), which has a scholarship link on the homepage.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Old New Paltz Day

The Colonial Street Festival has been renamed, revamped and is back on the HHS schedule; this year it will be on Saturday, September 8. Details are not finalized at this time\* but the entire event will be conducted in the Huguenot Street area, so Locust Lawn will not be included. As the date approaches, contact HHS for further information (845-255-1660; info@huguenotstreet.org). This day is traditionally the highlight of the Huguenot Street season, so plan to come for the festivities, which always include something of interest for all ages.

\*More information is in the HHS Spring newsletter.

### HFA Annual Reunion

Our reunion in New Paltz this year on Saturday, October 13, will mark the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of HFA's founding in 1957. 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, a presentation (this year featuring HFA history), 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. That weekend there will be a Civil War encampment on Huguenot Street and a Friday evening candlelight tour of several houses (7-9PM).

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).

## ANOTHER MILITARY HASBROUCK A MODERN MINUTEMAN

In the Revolutionary War era, volunteers who were ready to take up arms and defend their land from invaders on a minute's notice were known as Minutemen. At Lexington and Concord, MA they fought the first battles of that war, and there are Minuteman statues at both locations.

In the more recent era of the Cold War, this name was given to large intercontinental ballistic missiles (ICBMs) stored in underground silos at a number of US locations and ready – at little more than a minute's notice – to launch a devastating nuclear counterstrike in the event of a Russian ICBM attack. Their success as a deterrent is evidenced by the fact that they never had to be used. But the real minutemen were the ones who controlled and maintained these ICBMs – ready to respond on a moment's notice to a threat against our country, and Lawrence (Larry) Hasbrouck, III was a prominent one.



Colonel Lawrence Hasbrouck, III in 1983

A tenth-generation descendant of Abraham, Larry was assigned to the Minuteman program in 1962, when he was an Air Force captain, and remained with it until 1975, rising to the rank of full colonel in the process. He was commissioned as an Air Force 2<sup>nd</sup>

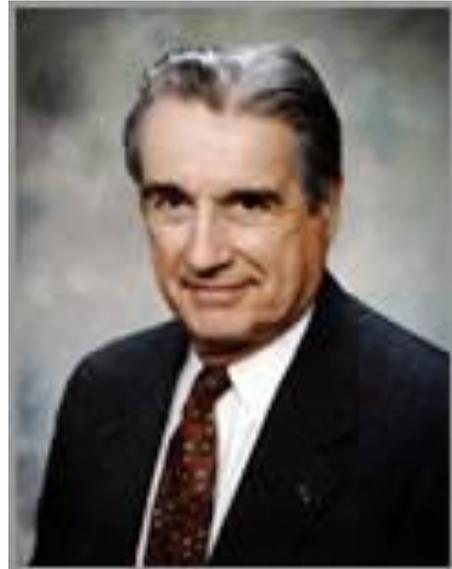
lieutenant upon his graduation with honors from Colgate University in 1953 and was a personnel and administrative officer prior to his Minuteman assignment as a teacher and eventually the senior instructor for a Strategic Air Command (SAC) missile wing in South Dakota. Next he moved to a SAC base in Nebraska and became director of the Airborne Launch Control System, which gave the SAC airborne command posts the capability to launch all 1,000 Minuteman missiles. SAC kept a flying command post in the air at all times, known as "Looking Glass," capable of launching all 1,000 Minuteman missiles. At higher alert levels three of these aircraft were airborne and also capable of launching all 1,000 missiles. This system served to thwart Russian plans for disrupting US counterstrike action by targeting ground-based command centers. The airborne launch capability made it certain that a surprise Russian missile strike on the USA would trigger a punishing Minuteman response on Russia. Larry accumulated over 1,700 flying hours in these command post planes. Additionally, while aloft he was the launch director for over 35 missile test launches from a base in California.

In 1972 Larry became the commanding officer of a missile squadron of the 351<sup>st</sup> Strategic Missile Wing in Missouri, in charge of over 100 officers and 50 missiles. Two years later he was promoted to colonel and assigned as Director of Operations for the Missile Wing, responsible for 150 missiles, 365 missile launch officers, a communications squadron and a helicopter squadron. We are all fortunate that there was never a need to use this awesome destructive power. (Since the end of the Cold War, half of the Minuteman missiles have been deactivated, but about 500 are still kept in a ready status – a powerful deterrent capability in an uncertain world.)

In 1975 Larry was transferred from the Minuteman program to become the commander of an Air Force ROTC detachment at Lehigh University in Pennsylvania. Having earned an MBA degree from Ohio State University in 1967 (while simultaneously performing his Air Force duties), he was also appointed as a full professor and chairman of the Department of Aerospace Studies for his 5-year tour there. Larry considers this assignment – affording him the opportunity to have a favorable influence on the development of these maturing college students – as the most rewarding

experience of his military career. In 1980 he was named as Air Force ROTC Northeast Area Commandant, in charge of 30 ROTC detachments (including a number of major universities) from Maine to North Carolina. Under his supervision seven more were started during the next three years.

In 1983, after 30 years of service, Larry retired from the Air Force, moved to the Gulf Coast of Mississippi, and began a new career in education and training – first as a graduate-level teacher at William Carey College in Gulfport, and subsequently in the field of real estate as a recruiter and trainer. In 1987 he earned a PhD in Management from Pacific Western University and then taught economics, management and real estate at Emory Riddle University in Gulfport (where he is still an adjunct professor) as well as serving as Dean of Phillips Junior College in the same area.



Dr. Lawrence Hasbrouck - current photo

In 1998 Larry founded his own real estate training company (The Real Estate Training Institute – RETI), which has since become the foremost of its kind in Mississippi and expanded into Tennessee and Alabama. He and his wife, Betty, have seven children. The youngest, Lawrence Hasbrouck, IV, is now the Vice President of Administration for RETI.

Larry is a life member of HFA. Last fall he and Betty made their first visit to Huguenot Street but encountered heavy rain, which severely limited their experience there. We hope they'll have an opportunity to return under sunny skies and be able to enjoy all Huguenot Street has to offer.

**A VERSATILE HASBROUCK'S LINK TO A  
CONTROVERSIAL RARE BIRD (AND  
MORE)**



Ivory –Billed Woodpecker

In the world of birding the ivory-billed woodpecker looms large. First, it is a spectacular bird (see photo). Typically about 20 inches long with a 30 inch wingspan it is one of the world's largest woodpeckers. Its hammering sound has been confused with gunshots. But it has become a victim of civilization – a sad symbol of the environmental cost of human expansion. The ivory-bill's habitat is thick, hardwood swamps and mature pine forests. And a single pair of the large birds requires an area of ten square miles to survive. Heavy logging of their habitat and hunting by collectors decimated the ivory-bill population in the late 1800s. Sightings kept declining steadily, and the last positive identification was in 1944. The bird has long been labeled "probably extinct". Several claimed sightings in Louisiana and Florida could not be confirmed. But in 2005 a team from the Cornell University Lab of Ornithology – the nation's most prestigious authority in the field – announced seven definite sightings, each of a single (possibly the same) bird in a remote Arkansas swamp and offered as evidence recordings of its hammering sound and a brief video clip. This was the biggest US birding event in decades and even penetrated the popular press to the extent of a first page article in the *New York Times*. But despite the authoritative Cornell source, many ornithologists questioned and/or rejected the sightings. The video clip was blurry and only 4 seconds long. They said the images could not definitely differentiate the bird from the

slightly smaller and more common pileated woodpecker. (The two birds are similar in appearance although there are differences in plumage identifiable with a clear view, which the skeptics said was lacking.) An expedition to the location last year failed to produce a sighting; another is planned this year. Meanwhile the controversy continues, and the bird's possible survival is debated.

With this background we were surprised to receive an inquiry from Noel Snyder, a specialist in endangered bird species, requesting information about Edwin M. Hasbrouck. Snyder is writing a scientific publication about the ivory-billed woodpecker and said that Edwin had made an important but underappreciated contribution to the study of the species and its problems. A quick look at our database revealed that Edwin (1866-1956) was a seventh-generation descendant of Abraham and the progenitor of several talented descendants of his own who have been featured in previous newsletters: his daughter, artist Eleanor Rawlings; her daughter, poet/author/lecturer Jane Odenweller; and Jane's daughters, opera singer Liesl Odenweller and anthropologist/geologist Dr. Joy McCorriston. Information from Mrs. Rawlings and some further research produced a fuller image of this multi-talented man, whose genes probably contributed significantly to the success of those descendants just mentioned.

Edwin grew up in Syracuse, NY and graduated from Syracuse University. As a boy he developed a serious interest in nature in general and birds in particular. He loved hunting and fishing, and – like many serious modern birders – learned to identify a vast number of birds by sound as well as sight. James Audubon was his idol. He wanted to become a career naturalist but reluctantly decided that he could not earn a decent living in that profession, so he turned instead to medicine and went to medical school at Georgetown University, followed by learning to become a surgeon at Johns Hopkins University.

However, Edwin did not give up on birds. He retained a life-long fascination with them and became a serious and respected – even though amateur – ornithologist. Already in 1888 at age 22 – he began writing scholarly articles for *The Auk*, the journal of the American Ornithologists' Union (AOU). In 1891 he wrote a thorough and informative study on the status of the ivory-billed woodpecker with its dwindling numbers and shrinking habitat (the contribution referenced by Mr. Snyder). The same year he did a similar study on another endangered species, the Carolina parakeet

(America's only native parrot), which ultimately suffered the same fate, disappearing completely in 1904. In 1893 he wrote a comprehensive review of the distribution of the eastern screech owl and its many subspecies. And he managed to do all this work while in medical school – a very demanding occupation by itself!



Screech owls are small (6-8" high, 6-7oz). They don't really screech -- rather they hoot and whistle --typical owl language.

Edwin did his internship in Philadelphia and at age 30 began practice as a surgeon in Washington, DC in 1897. That same year he married Harriet Anne Blackistone, a teacher whom he met at a church strawberry festival. She had attended St. Mary's Seminary in St. Mary's City – Maryland's first institution of higher learning for women. They had daughters in 1898 (Dorothy), 1900 (Laurel) and 1909 (Eleanor – still an active HFA member at age 97).

As a surgeon, Edwin did more than wield a scalpel. He invented an operating table with a mechanical device for raising and lowering it – a primitive process by today's standards but an innovation at that time. His medical reputation was such that he was elected president of the Washington Medical and Surgical Society. He was also an active Mason and held several official positions in that society. And he found time to

organize and serve as president of the Potomac Ornithological Club. On a field expedition with the US Geological Survey he discovered a new species of screech owl, which is presently found in Kansas, Oklahoma and Texas. In 1916 the AOU officially recognized it as Hasbrouck's screech owl (scientific name: *otus asio hasbroucki*). In Volume 4 (1984) of his *Hasbrouck Family in America*, Kenneth Hasbrouck made a one-sentence reference to the existence of a Hasbrouck's owl, but there was no information about the Hasbrouck involved. Now we know!

In World War I Edwin joined the Army as a surgeon (see photo) and served at the Wilbur Wright Aviation Field (now Wright-Patterson Air Force Base) in Dayton, Ohio. He was there during the flu epidemic of 1918, which strained the resources of the medical services. After the war he decided he was too old (54) to start a new private practice, so he joined the Veterans Administration as an examining physician and served in that capacity until retiring in 1936 at age 70.



Edwin M. Hasbrouck as an army surgeon in World War I (age 51)

Edwin continued to enjoy hunting and fishing – and, of course, birds. He served as a volunteer with the Department of Birds in the National Museum of Natural History, a unit of the Smithsonian Institution. In

conjunction with his hunting he amassed a collection of stuffed North American fowl, which he eventually donated to the US Fish and Wildlife Service. And he returned to writing articles for *The Auk*. All together, between 1888 and 1948 he wrote seventeen of them although there was a hiatus between 1930 and 1944.

Edwin was an active outdoorsman well into old age. His last item in *The Auk*, at age 82, described making the first sighting ever in the Washington area of a Wilson's phalarope (a shore bird) while fishing in a boat by himself. But age inevitably took its toll; and after a long illness he died at his Washington home in May 1956, less than two months before his 90<sup>th</sup> birthday. His legacy survives through the contributions he made to the field of ornithology and through the intelligence and talent that his genes passed on to his descendants, as exemplified in our newsletter accounts.

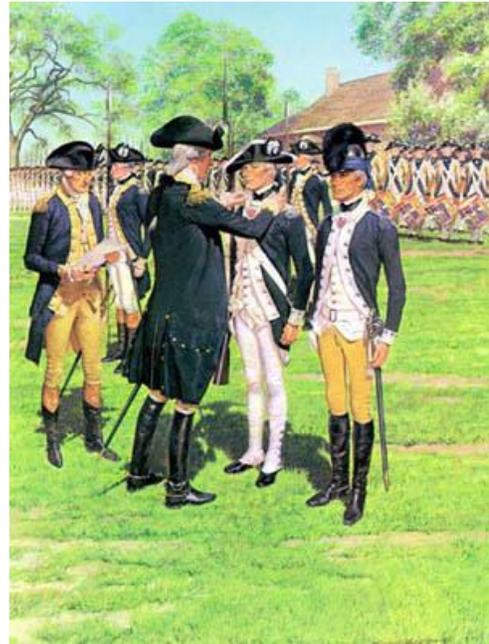


Edwin M. Hasbrouck around 1950 (age 84)

### **THE PURPLE HEART AND ITS HASBROUCK CONNECTION**

Last fall on November 10 the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor was dedicated at the New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site near Newburgh, NY. Its purpose is to collect and publicize the stories of Americans killed or wounded in action while serving their country – all

of them recipients of the Purple Heart, probably this nation's most well known military medal. On its face is a profile of George Washington, above which is his family coat of arms (also adopted by the City of Washington). But few people know why Washington is represented there, and that is an interesting story, which at least tangentially involves our family.



General Washington presenting the first Purple Hearts (Military Order of Merit) outside the Hasbrouck House in Newburgh, May 3, 1783



Modern version of the Purple Heart

The current version of the Purple Heart is a "reincarnation" of the original and, except for basic shape and color, is quite different from the earlier one,

which traces back to the Revolutionary War. After his victory at Yorktown in October 1781, General Washington moved north to Newburgh, NY (about 18 miles south of New Paltz), from where he could keep a watchful eye on the British still occupying New York City. For his headquarters site he chose the house of Col. Jonathan Hasbrouck, a family friend who had already hosted other senior officers before his untimely death from an infection in 1780. His widow, Tryntje (DuBois), continued this hospitality. Washington maintained his headquarters here until the cessation of hostilities in August 1783; it was his longest continuous stay in any location during the entire war. (For more information about Jonathan and the house, see the February 2000 newsletter and HFA's pamphlet about the house, available from our office.)

On August 7, 1782, as a morale-building and performance incentive measure, Washington created a "Badge of Military Merit" for enlisted men who had performed bravely in combat. The award was in the shape of "a heart in purple cloth, or silk, edged with narrow lace or binding." Thus was born America's first military decoration. It was particularly noteworthy in that it was specifically for enlisted men, emphasizing the democratic roots of Washington's volunteer citizen army. This was in sharp contrast to Europe, where medals were generally awarded only to officers.



Original Purple Heart, issued as the  
Badge of Military Merit

In nearby New Windsor, where the American forces were encamped (a cantonment), boards of officers periodically reviewed the qualifications of recommended candidates. Two men – both from Connecticut units – were selected as the initial recipients. Sgt. Elijah Churchill was cited for leading two daring and successful raids on forts in British-occupied Long Island. Sgt. William Brown was selected for leading what was expected

to be a suicidal attack on fortifications at Yorktown, which his team breached in 15 minutes with little loss of life. At a ceremony at the Jonathan Hasbrouck House on May 3, 1783, General Washington personally awarded the two their badges.

The names and deeds of the recipients were to be entered in a Book of Merit. However, there is no surviving record of this book. There was only one other documented award – to Sgt. Daniel Bissell, who was sent by Washington on a short spy mission which turned into an amazing 13-month saga worthy of separate coverage in another newsletter.

No awards were made after the Revolutionary War, and the decoration was virtually forgotten until 1932, when it was resurrected by Army Chief of Staff Gen. Douglas MacArthur to mark George Washington's 200<sup>th</sup> birthday. It was revised to its present design (see photo) featuring Washington and his coat of arms, and renamed the Purple Heart. The criterion for the award was technically not changed, but a stretched interpretation in fact changed it considerably. The original award required "a singular meritorious act of extraordinary fidelity service." For the revived award it was decided that a wound "received in action with an enemy" could be construed as resulting from such an act. Thus it is that the Purple Heart has since been awarded to servicemen/women wounded or killed in action, which, due to the nature of war, unfortunately makes it the most frequently (1.7 million) awarded military medal.

Only one of the three original awards still survives – Sgt. Churchill's, which was passed down through generations of his family. It is now on display at the National Purple Heart Hall of Honor. Knowing its Hasbrouck connection, you might like to see it along with the Hall of Honor and the cantonment where it is located. The New Windsor Cantonment State Historic Site is on Route 300, about three miles south of Newburgh, where you can also visit the Jonathan Hasbrouck House (Washington's Headquarters State Historic Site). Call (845) 786-2701 for details about both.

**We welcome our new members:**

Marilyn Maury, Beaumont, TX  
Phoebe Linnabary, Knoxville, TN

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

Alison Morrow