



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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

Telephone 845-255-3223

Website: www.hasbrouckfamily.org E-Mail: info@hasbrouckfamily.org

© Copyright 2019 Hasbrouck Family Association Inc

June 2019

PRESIDENT'S REPORT

A June '06 newsletter article featured several campus buildings named for Hasbroucks, including Hasbrouck Hall at SUNY New Paltz, the student center/dining facility at the center of the Huguenot Complex, a cluster of dorms named for the other patentees: Bevier, Crispell, Deyo, DuBois and LeFevre. That situation is now changing. Somewhat over a year ago a group of student activists submitted a petition to the SUNY-New Paltz management demanding that the Huguenot names be removed as unsuitable because the patentees were slaveholders. Furthermore, African-American students, they said, objected to having to live in buildings honoring men who benefited by exploiting the enforced labor of their enslaved ancestors. A similar petition some years ago fizzled. This one was better organized and more aggressively pursued. A resolution for the change was discussed among various campus organizations, and input was invited from interested parties. HHS and some present-day Huguenot descendants responded with dissenting views. On behalf of HFA, I wrote:

"Should we remove the names from the Washington and Jefferson Memorials (or demolish them) because they were slave holders? That probably applies to almost all of the Founding Fathers. Acceptance of slavery was an unfortunate but pervasive cultural/social/economic milieu in that era. The men who endorsed "All men are created equal" certainly gave no thought to including under that the non-whites in the country (not to mention the women)! Fortunately we have progressed a long way since then (although more is still needed), but it is unrealistic to project the standards of our

current value system onto those of long ago who lived (honorably by the standards of that era) under a different system."



Huguenot Housing Complex at SUNY-New Paltz;
Hasbrouck Hall at center

Ultimately, campus sentiment favoring an emphasis on diversity/change and stimulated by the activists, prevailed. In March the resolution squeezed by the College Council on a 4-3 vote and was then unanimously approved by the Board of Trustees. The prevailing view was summarized by SUNY Chairman H. Carl McCall:

"President Christian is to be applauded for his leadership on bringing together the campus and community to question the historic names on these residence halls and select new names that best respect local culture."

The five residence buildings will be renamed for well-known local-area geographic features. Hasbrouck Hall will become Peregrine Hall, and the whole cluster will be the Peregrine Complex, named for the peregrine falcon, a once nearly extinct raptor (appropriate?) now making a strong comeback locally and symbolic of "resiliency and hope." The names will be in place for the fall semester.

In a move to be more inclusive, SUNY President Don Christian announced that a

diversified campus group “is developing concepts for a contemplative space and other ways to present a more complete and honest history of the campus and surrounding community for future students and visitors. That includes the history and lasting impacts of slavery, especially northern slavery; the contributions of enslaved Africans and their descendants; the history and legacy of indigenous people before and after European settlement; and the many positive contributions of Huguenot descendants to civic and educational life in New Paltz and beyond.” No details are available yet.

Regretfully, this edition of the newsletter has shrunk to six pages. I’ve been involved in an unusually high number of projects recently and just haven’t had the time to research and write the usual 8 pager. Hopefully we’ll return to normal for the September edition.

We’re still refining our modernized website, www.hasbrouckfamily.org. Take a look and tell us what you think (including new ideas).

This newsletter is our main vehicle for communicating with our membership, and we welcome your input. If you have any family-related stories or other information of possible interest to the overall membership, please send it by US Mail or email it to www.info@hasbrouckfamily.org.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

MEMBERSHIP DUES

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 19 on your mailing label, you’re 8 months delinquent by now. But it’s never too late to get yourself up to date! We need your support. If you wish to maintain your membership and feel you cannot afford the dues, please tell us your situation and request a waiver. We don’t want to abandon members whose current financial condition makes the dues a hardship.

OUR HOUSES

Abraham Hasbrouck House

As reported previously, we’re working on restoring the house to approximate its appearance in our chosen 1760-75 period of interpretation. Many changes have taken place since then – both exterior and interior – so the restoration is a major, multi-year effort. The interior portion was completed in 2012, and our primary effort now is exterior restoration to reflect that era. Last year we restored the north and south walls/windows, and our current project is the west wall (front, facing Huguenot Street). This job is more complicated than the north/south walls since it involves the long side of the house and requires removal/replacement of several 19th century windows and adding back a door which used to give entrance to the north room (opkamer). We have a signed agreement for construction of the door and windows and a chosen contractor for their installation. In both cases we are continuing with the firms who did outstanding work on the north and south walls.) Design drawings have been completed, and a formal agreement for the job will follow. Construction of windows and door can proceed, but installation will not take place until next spring to avoid interference with scheduled HHS tours and special programs there. (The house will not be on the tour schedule next year.)

We’re still seeking approval for plans for a modest regrading of the ground around the house to direct runoff of surface water away from it and reduce the perennial moisture problems there.

HFA historical consultant Kate Johnson and HHS Curator Josephine Bloodgood are continuing to work on their priority list for period furnishings items to enhance the interior displays in the house and add interest/value to the visitor experience. We’ve already added a number of items, which you can see when you visit the house (including our reunion on October 12).

Jean Hasbrouck House

The long-awaited roof replacement project will finally take place this year! Bidding for the project (3 bidders) will be completed this month and a contractor chosen shortly after. The shingles will be installed on skip sheathing, which will permit leaving the original sheathing boards in place. From the inside, the roof will look exactly the same. The project is expected to be completed by late fall. (Timing is uncertain because excessive summer heat can cause shingles to split.)



Jean Hasbrouck House awaiting roof replacement

HHS has solicited and approved a proposal from the Landmark Facilities Group to conduct an assessment (with recommendations) of the mechanical, electrical, and fire protection systems for the Jean Hasbrouck House. The results will be used to develop an improvement program. HFA will be a party to the formal agreement and pay for the project (about \$5,000). This project marks the first significant example of our increased support for the Jean House enabled by Harriet Hasbrouck's magnificent bequest.

Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn)

The top restoration priority now is remediation of gutter problems on the upper roof. Locust Grove (the building owner) will arrange for the work, and HFA will probably contribute toward meeting the cost. Last fall HFA contributed \$2,000 and suggested it be used for replacing locust trees which have disappeared over time from the front lawn. Young trees have

been purchased and are now growing in a protected environment. They will be put out on the edge of the lawn when judged to be of appropriately durable size.

The last newsletter publicized "repair cafes" at the house. The one scheduled for June 23 has been postponed until July 28 (noon to 4PM). For those unfamiliar with repair cafes, volunteers from the community fix broken items for free. This process is meant to prevent waste and help teach self-sufficiency. Tea and snacks will be available in the Terwilliger stone house close to the mansion. Bring your things that need fixing!

For more information on the repair cafe and other future events, visit www.facebook.com/LocustLawn and/or contact the caretaker, Hasbrouck descendant Dawn Elliott, at (845) 901-0935 or email elliott.dawn4@gmail.com. The house is not open for tours, but you can arrange for a private tour with Dawn – even better!

ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion in New Paltz this year is on Saturday, October 12 and will probably follow our traditional format: continental breakfast/socializing in Deyo Hall followed by our business meeting, service in the French Church, tour with updates at the Jean and Abraham houses, a catered luncheon* at Deyo Hall and an update from HHS along with a return visit by reenactor/historian Jeff Tew. If you are coming from a distance and want to visit Huguenot Street in some detail, plan to spend at least two nights here because the reunion will take up Saturday. The Street is open every day except Wednesday from 10 to 5. The houses can be visited only on guided tours leaving from the Visitor Center. Visit the HHS website (www.huguenotstreet.org/visit) to see the various tour options and their times, or call 845-255-1889 for the details.

If you will be a first-time visitor, contact us to help with your planning. The Hudson River 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 four good motels: America's Best Value Inn, close to Huguenot Street (845-255-8865); Hampton Inn, also close – new and pricey (845-255-4200); 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), including a Hasbrouck House B&B (The Inn at Stone Ridge).

HHS is offering a wide variety of other programs and events in the New Paltz area during the year for adults, children and families. You can see the schedule on their website: www.huguenotstreet.org. Bring your HFA (or HHS) membership card whenever you visit to get free house tours and a 10% discount at the museum shop.

*Thanks to Harriet Hasbrouck's generous bequest, we are able to provide our expansive reunion luncheon to attendees without charge. Thanks, Harriet -- we'll be thinking of you!

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 e-mail (see information 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 and archives. Call them (845-255-0180) 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.

SCHOLARSHIPS

With HFA participation, HHS has a college scholarship program, and now is the time to apply. To be eligible you must be (as of September '19) an upper class undergraduate student (entering freshmen are not eligible) or a graduate student and be able to document your Huguenot heritage. The top-rated applicants will receive \$2,000 scholarships from HFA. Contact HHS for detailed requirements: 845-255-1660 or www.huguenotstreet.org/internships-scholarships. The deadline for applications is August 31.

GRANDSON OF GEN. JOSEPH HASBROUCK'S SLAVE – BELOVED FRIEND OF JOHN BROWN

Josiah C. Hasbrouck, Sr.'s mother was a freed slave of Joseph Hasbrouck ("General Joe") of Guilford. A New York census record gives his birth about 1818, Ulster County. It is from Josiah Jr's obituary that we learn his grandmother was a slave of General Hasbrouck.

In the mid 1800's, New York State law dictated that African-Americans must own at least \$250 in real estate or a house in order to obtain the right to vote. Determined to help would-be voters secure this right, abolitionist and real estate baron Gerrit Smith devised a "scheme of justice and benevolence" that he hoped would provide refuge to black families. In 1846, Smith divided 120,000 acres of untouched land that he owned in the Adirondacks into 40-acre plots and began granting them to three thousand free African-Americans living in New York State. While this untouched land was not worth \$250 per lot, Smith believed with cultivation it could achieve that value, and in turn provide black men with a means to vote.

Gerrit Smith made three grants of land in North Elba to Hasbroucks: John Hasbrook, Lot 257, west half, Township 11, eighty acres; Josiah Hasbrouck, Lot 9, southeast quarter, Subdivision 4, Township 12, thirty-five acres; and Simeon G. Hasbrouck, Lot 98, northwest quarter, Township 12, forty acres. Josiah's was rather isolated land - it certainly was not the choicest of the Gerrit Smith lots.



Timbuctoo

Josiah Sr. appeared in Fishkill, NY in the 1840 Federal census. Around 1847 he and his wife, Susan (nee Johnson), moved their family to North Elba. They settled in a community later referred to by the abolitionist John Brown as Timbuctoo. They built a cabin and began the battle for existence. Very few of those endowed with land were actually able to stay and carve out a life on their plots. Census reports from 1850-1870 show that there were only thirteen black families listed in North Elba. The few families that settled the area did so through grueling labor and were able to clear and cultivate the land, ensuring the right to vote. Josiah Sr.'s family was one of the few to endure the conditions and trials of the North Country. He lastly appeared in North Elba in the 1855 New York State census with Susan and their eight children. In the 1860 Federal census he is found in New York City, working as a waiter; in 1865 he was in Sag Harbor, NY as a cook. By 1870 he had relocated to Glastonbury, CT where he owned property and was once again engaged in farming. The 1870 census indicates that he remarried a Connecticut native, Caroline. He ultimately returned to Long Island and lived in the Eastville section of Sag Harbor. Eastville was a multi-cultural community of blacks and a band of the Montaukett/ Montauk tribe. He and

his grandson, Charles, died in the Seawanhaka steamship boiler explosion disaster on June 28, 1880. They were reported missing for several days before their bodies were recovered. Josiah was the ship's cook and Charles a waiter. Caroline remained in Sag Harbor after his death and died there on July 13, 1885. Josiah appears to have had some prominence in the community; a 1905 newspaper account of an Eastville house fire referred to the dwelling as the "Josiah Hasbrouck house".

In 1849 John Brown purchased land near the North Elba settlement and made it his mission to help settlers adjust to a new way of life and learn the skills they would need to survive on the land. Young Josiah Jr.'s education was provided by Brown's daughters, Sarah and Ann. Josiah Jr. recounts a time when his father was lost for three days in snowdrifts and Brown organized a search party and rescued him. When famine struck Timbuctoo, Brown came to their aid. Josiah Jr.'s obituary indicates that the Brown family remained in North Elba for a time after the hanging of John Brown for his involvement in the raid on Harper's Ferry in 1859. The obituary also states that Josiah Jr. attended John Brown's funeral and, after that, he worked "for seventeen years" with the widowed Mary Brown, but that length of time is in error since Mary Brown left North Elba for California in 1863, four years after her husband was buried. It also states that Josiah Jr. accompanied Mary Brown as far as Malone, NY on her journey to California. By 1865, all the Hasbrooks* were gone from North Elba except Josiah Jr., whom the census listed as "In Army." By 1870 only two blacks were left, one being Josiah Jr. The fondness between the Hasbrook and Brown families is best expressed in letters written to Josiah, Jr. 50 years after the Brown family's departure by John's son, Salmon and his wife.

On September 1, 1864, at age twenty-three, Josiah Jr. enlisted in Company B, 26th Regiment, U.S. Colored Infantry, organized at Riker's Island in New York City. The unit was engaged in the battles at Johns Island, Honey Hill, and Tulifinny in South Carolina. He was discharged on August 28, 1865. For a short time he remained in the South, going about telling his

people they were free and giving aid as needed. He eventually returned to the Adirondacks and became comfortably settled on an 80-acre farm



Josiah C. Hasbrook, Jr at Memorial Day wreath ceremony

he had purchased before his enlistment. He married Jane Ann Hazzard from nearby Bloomingdale on November 4, 1868. Josiah Jr. and Jane became the parents of two daughters and five sons. In 1871 they moved to Westport on Lake Champlain and then to Middlesex, VT. He joined the Grand Army of the Republic

(G.A.R.) post in Worcester, VT, and was later elected as its commander. The family's last move was to Amherst, MA, where he served as a mail carrier for eight years. After that he established a lumber and kindling business. In Amherst he joined the E. M. Stanton Grand Army post. He is pictured with the gathering of the G.A.R. post at Amherst Town Hall on Memorial Day, around 1895.

Oddly, Josiah Jr. appeared in the 1900 Indian Population Census in Amherst, giving his tribe as Montauk as well as the tribe of his father. This record also said he had white blood - his grandfather? There is no evidence of Native American heritage in his genealogy. Although no proof has been found that Josiah Sr. was awarded membership in the Montauk tribe, his granddaughter Lena (by daughter Harriet), married Montauk "Chief Charley Buckskin" Butler. Josiah Jr. and his brother are cited on the Montauk roles in *The History & Archaeology of the Montauk* (Volume III, 2nd Edition) by Gaynell Stone.

Josiah, Jr. died on July 25, 1915 at his home in Amherst, leaving his widow and sons Stephen, Lloyd, and Carroll. He was buried at Wildwood Cemetery in Amherst. Skipping back to the beginning of this article and Josiah Jr's grandmother's enslaved service for General Joe, it was interesting to discover that General Joe's great-grandson, Philip Bevier Hasbrouck** (1870-1924), is also buried in Wildwood Cemetery. Josiah Jr. and Philip were living in Amherst at the same time. One wonders, did their paths ever cross -- could Josiah have delivered his mail or sold him firewood or lumber?

*Josiah, Jr. changed the spelling of his family name to Hasbrook.

**See June '06 newsletter. Philip became a "living legend" at what is now UMass at Amherst during his 29-year tenure there (1895-1924), the last 14 as head of the Physics Department. The massive Hasbrouck Laboratory there is named for him.