



HASBROUCK FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

HFA was well represented by Neil Larson, John Delamater, John Thorn and Robert Freehill at the Park Service's anniversary open house at the Washington's Headquarters site (the Jonathan Hasbrouck House) in Newburgh on February 17. We had an information table and display board, and Neil autographed copies of the booklet he wrote for HFA about the house. (Members received this booklet with the February newsletter. Extra copies may be ordered from our New Paltz office for \$6 postpaid.) Also, related to the booklet, there is a minor error under "2000 Expenses" in the financial report in the February newsletter: the \$5,000 expense listed for the Jean House booklet was actually for the Jonathan House booklet. The Jean House booklet was paid for in 1999.

We said we would report in this issue on Adam Schenkman's new book about Jonathan Hasbrouck. Publication of the book has been slightly delayed, so our report is postponed accordingly.

We had one other happening – or rather mishappening – during the winter. Our computer hard drive crashed. Fortunately we didn't lose any data, and it has been repaired, but Meryl couldn't do any meaningful work for about a month on the genealogy, which is

already seriously delayed by our change of software.

Our sole surviving founding member, General Sherman Hasbrouck, will be 103 years old on June 18. He's one of the very few people who have lived in three centuries. He's increasingly frail these days, but at least he's still with us. Congratulations from us all, Sherman, on still another birthday, and many thanks for all that you've done for HFA over the many years since that organizational meeting in 1957!

We have news of another long-time member from Germany. Some of our older members may remember Erwin vanHazebrouck, a German diplomat, whose ancestors came from the town of Hazebrouck in France. (Ours came from Calais.) He visited New Paltz and helped Kenneth Hasbrouck in researching our family's European background. If you have Volume 1 of Kenneth's *The Hasbrouck Family in America*, you can see him pictured there in Illustrations #13 and 15 on a visit to the town of Hazebrouck. Now elderly and in poor health, he lives close to a daughter at the Baltic coast of northern Germany, and his wife of many

years, Marianne, died on February 19. Our condolences and best wishes go out to this old friend and life member.

I've still received no input from members for this newsletter. Please help me to enliven it more by submitting information about interesting family-related people and places, both current and historic.

We're also looking for anyone interested in becoming an officer of HFA. In particular, Thad Hasbrouck is looking for some relief in his job as treasurer, which requires at least elementary computing and accounting skills. If you have any interest in this or any other officer positions, please contact us for details on what is involved.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## **HUGUENOT STREET ACTIVITIES**

### **Abraham Hasbrouck House**

South end (east roof) with new shingles.



The houses of Huguenot Street opened again for tours on May 1 except for the Abraham Hasbrouck House, which is still in the midst

of its extensive restoration project. The new roof should be finished this month. The drainage project and most of the inside work has been completed, but there is still much to do, especially with respect to gutters, windows, chimneys, lighting, and strengthening of the east wall. So no one is predicting just yet when the house will be open for tours – possibly not at all this season. But if you visit the Street, stop by to view the work in progress. The new roof with its large shingles, for example, looks startlingly different from the old, but it is more historically authentic. One very surprising discovery was made during the winter. When the covering material was removed to reveal the joining of the north and central sections of the house, it was apparent from the construction that the central section was the original one. It had been assumed for many years that the north section was built first. In addition, it appears that the central and south sections were probably built at the same time.

### **Abraham Hasbrouck House**

West roof showing old shingles and repair work underway on the roof support beams



At the Jean Hasbrouck House the electrical service has been upgraded, siding is being replaced on the south wall, gutters are being replaced and the fireplace restored.

## **HFA OFFICE**

Our New Paltz office will continue to be open by appointment only until such time as visitor volume justifies arrangements for regular office hours. 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. (Warning: the archives are not well organized yet; they fell into disarray in being split up and moved several times after Kenneth's death.) 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 Coastal 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.

## **UPCOMING EVENTS**

### **Stone House Day**

Stone House Day has been renamed The Colonial Street Festival in New Paltz and will be held this year on Saturday, August 11 from 10AM to 6PM. (Admission fees vary from \$10 for adults to nothing for young children.) The houses of Huguenot Street will be open to visitors, and there will be historical reenactments, period arts & crafts and dancing demonstrations, children's events, and live music including an appearance by folk-icon Pete Seeger, who is himself a

Huguenot descendant. It's a great day of entertainment for the whole family, so be sure to mark it on your calendar. The festival is organized and run by volunteers from HHS and the family associations, and we need HFA members to help with this effort. If you can lend a hand for all or part of the day, please contact Eleanor Sears (845-338-6492) or the HFA office.

### **HFA Annual Reunion**

Our reunion day this year is Saturday, October 6 in New Paltz. It will follow the usual format: registration/socializing and service in the French Church in the morning followed by an onsite review of the restoration work at the Abraham Hasbrouck House, lunch at The Locust Tree Inn, 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 on Columbus Day weekend, 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). Mark your calendars for October 6 and plan to come and meet some relatives you never knew about!

## **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. If you are interested, contact HHS for detailed requirements and an application: (845)255-1660 or [hhsoffice@hhs-newpaltz.org](mailto:hhsoffice@hhs-newpaltz.org).

## **HHS Trip to Europe**

To avoid duplication HHS has set a policy that it will have priority for sponsoring trips to Europe in even-numbered years with family associations having priority in odd-numbered years. The Deyo and Schoonmaker families sponsored trips this year, and HHS is planning a 15-day trip starting in mid-April, 2002 with an itinerary of Amsterdam – Leiden – Bruges – Calais – short stop in Hazebrouck – Lille – Heidelberg – Mannheim - Strasbourg – Geneva. This trip will probably fill up early (the one last year sold out in two weeks); so if you are interested, send a note to David Lent at HHS (18 Broadhead Ave., New Paltz, NY 12561), and he will send you details as soon as they're available.

## **TRAVEL BOOKS BY EDWARD HASBROUCK**

The February 2000 HFA Journal had a feature on HFA member and international travel expert Edward Hasbrouck with mention of his book, *The Practical Nomad: How to Travel Around the World*. Edward has recently published an updated Second Edition of this popular book and has just come out with a new book: *The Practical Nomad Guide to the Online Travel Marketplace*, priced around \$18. It shows the reader how to cut through the jungle of websites to find the best travel deals online,

avoid scams, and use the internet while traveling. It also offers tips on consumer protection, privacy, security and safety. With the rapid growth of the internet as a convenient and effective source for travel planning, this new book provides a valuable tool for getting the most out of it. Check out Edward's books at your local bookstore or (of course) online. And you can learn more about Edward online too; visit his website at <http://hasbrouck.org>.

## **BEQUESTS/GIFTS TO HFA**

Many charitable organizations are now emphasizing "planned giving", which focuses on bequests by will and sizeable gifts during one's lifetime offering tax advantages. We urge you to consider HFA as a beneficiary if you are planning charitable gifts and/or bequests, especially if you are making or revising your will. Gifts and bequests both cut estate taxes by reducing your taxable assets, and gifts provide an immediate income tax deduction as well. Your gifts and bequests can help HFA maintain and expand its various programs, such as maintenance and promotion of historic family sites, genealogical research and records maintenance, family-related historical research, scholarships, and fostering Huguenot heritage and ideals.

Gifts and bequests sometimes have restrictions based on the particular priorities of the donor. These are usually acceptable to HFA, but we would urge donors to consult with us beforehand. For instance, at present we would prefer not to have additional funds restricted to the Abraham Hasbrouck House since Helene Anderson's generous bequest has provided well for that one purpose. Our greatest need is for other preservation purposes and unrestricted gifts, which can

be used where most needed. We would be happy to discuss any ideas you might have for potential gifts/bequests and help to structure them to the optimal satisfaction of you and HFA. Please contact any HFA officer or our office if you are interested, either now or in the future.

## **OTHER HASBROUCK SITES IN NEW PALTZ**

The Hasbrouck houses on Huguenot Street are not the only Hasbrouck sites in New Paltz. At the northwest edge of the SUNY campus is four-acre Jean Hasbrouck Memorial Park. It has a baseball field on one side and a children’s playground on the other.



View from the playground: Hasbrouck Ave. at left rear and university building at right rear.

The land there was owned by Jean Hasbrouck, the Patentee, and was passed through the generations to Jacob, Jacob Jr., Josiah (the builder of Locust Lawn), Levi, and finally to sixth-generation Josiah, who, having no male heir, willed it to his sister, Laura Hasbrouck Varick. In 1923 she gave it to the Village of New Paltz as a park in memory of her father, Levi (1791-1861).



The Village made an agreement with the State to maintain it for joint use by the two entities. The park is bordered on the south by Mohonk Avenue and on the north by Hasbrouck Avenue, which is also named for Jean, the Patentee.

The other New Paltz site is one-block-long Hasbrouck Place, which is just south of the tennis courts at the Middle School and accessed from Orchard Lane. It is named for Stanley Hasbrouck, Sr., a builder who once owned this area and built the houses which are there now. He also built the original firehouse in New Paltz. His son, Stanley, Jr., specialized in historic restorations and did extensive work for current owner Richard Relyea Hasbrouck on the Major Jacob Hasbrouck House, which was featured in the February newsletter.

## A HUGUENOT PRIMER

Most HFA members are familiar with the history relating to the founding of New Paltz by our Huguenot ancestors and the path taken by Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck from Calais to Mannheim (in the German Pfalz or Palatinate) in the 1650's and to Kingston and Hurley, NY in the 1670's. But most of us are probably less familiar with the Huguenot saga as it unfolded in France. Having some knowledge of this history is important to an understanding of our heritage and the conditions which led our ancestors and thousands of their compatriots to abandon their native country and seek a new life abroad. A number of books have been written on this subject, but few of us have time to read them; so here, for your enlightenment, is a capsule summary of what happened.

It all started with John Calvin (born in 1509), a Frenchman, who studied in his early twenties to become a Catholic priest but switched to law instead and became first a Christian humanist and then a radical Protestant. Since that was a dangerous position in Catholic France, he moved to Geneva and in 1534 began writing *The Institutes of Christian Religion*, which became the definition of faith for his followers. It stressed individual freedom of conscience and separation of church and state, both revolutionary ideas at that time. But it's surprising that it became popular because it also featured the doctrine of predestination and called for a disciplined, austere lifestyle with severe limits on gambling, drinking, singing and dancing. Many Frenchmen came to Geneva to study under Calvin and returned home to serve as Protestant ministers. Despite Catholic persecution the French Calvinists increased in number, mainly due to their tight organization, zeal and dedication as well as the disgust of many with the moral corruption of the Catholic Church of that era.

They became known as Huguenots, but surprisingly, there is no definitive explanation for the origin of the word. The most common theories are that it is a corruption of the Swiss-German term *eidgenossen*, meaning confederates, or the Flemish *huis genooten*, meaning house fellowship, which was appropriate since they had to meet secretly in members' houses. Calvinism in France appealed first to the educated middle class and then to the nobility, which gave them sufficient power to achieve a degree of tolerance and protection by the French kings, who, though Catholic, found their support useful against the kings' enemies, both internal and external. However, the Catholic majority continued to vigorously oppose the Protestants and to try to influence the kings against them. They succeeded in a big way in 1572 when they convinced 22-year-old King Charles IX and his mother, Catherine de Medici, that the Huguenots were a serious threat to the crown.

"Kill them all!" the young king cried, and that's what they tried to do. Early on the morning of a religious holiday, The Feast of St. Bartholomew, the Catholics around Paris began a systematic slaughter of Protestants in what became known as the St. Bartholomew's Day Massacre. The killing went on for a week and spread through the countryside. Pope Gregory XIII was so pleased with the results that he produced a medal to celebrate the event. However, despite the thousands of deaths, the Huguenot movement survived with sufficient strength and leadership to battle the Catholics in the Wars of Religion until 1594. The last of the wars was called the War of the Three Henrys. It pitted King Henry III, Henry of Guise and Henry of Navarre against one another in a struggle for the French crown. In the end Henry III arranged the assassination of Henry of Guise, only to be assassinated himself

eight months later. Thus, the crown came to Henry of Navarre, who was a Huguenot. Recognizing that he would not be accepted by Catholic France, he converted to Catholicism, but he was obviously sympathetic to the Huguenots. In 1598 he issued the Edict of Nantes, basically a Huguenot bill of rights, which with some exceptions, gave them approximately equal status with Catholics.

The Edict, not surprisingly, was unpopular with Catholics and was frequently violated, but on an overall basis it worked until King Henry was assassinated by an ultra-Catholic fanatic in 1610. He was succeeded by his son, Louis XIII, who had no Huguenot ties and was influenced by the Catholics around him, particularly Cardinal Richelieu, to clamp down again on the Protestants. The religious battles began anew in 1621, and in 1628 the last and strongest Huguenot stronghold at La Rochelle was captured. Yet, in victory Cardinal Richelieu wanted to make use of the skills of the industrious Huguenots, and in the subsequent peace treaty he reaffirmed the principal provisions of the Edict of Nantes. However, Louis XIII ignored increasing violations of Huguenot rights by his governors, and from then on conditions deteriorated steadily for the Huguenots. A prime example of the persecutions was the dragonnade system initiated by the governors: Huguenot towns were forced to quarter brutal troops with orders to prod them into conversion. Men were beaten and imprisoned, women were raped, and all were forced to attend mass. Children were taken from their families to be raised Catholic. Louis XIV was even more hostile than his predecessor. He formalized the dragonnade system; and in 1685, to popular acclaim, he revoked the Edict of Nantes. Thereafter it was open season for just about any type of persecution of the Huguenots.

The objective of all this was not to force out the Huguenots, but to force their conversion. The Catholic kings wanted to retain the skills of the Huguenots and to impress the Pope with their conversion rates. In fact, there were severe penalties for flight. But although many less religious Huguenots converted, large numbers did choose to flee, and there were waves of emigration during the 16<sup>th</sup>, 17<sup>th</sup> and 18<sup>th</sup> centuries. No one knows for sure how many fled, but estimates run from 200,000 to 500,000. They went to areas open to Protestantism, mainly England, Holland, the German principalities (where our ancestors went initially), North America and South Africa. In what is now the USA they settled along the East Coast, especially in New York and the Carolinas. New Rochelle, NY was named for the Huguenot stronghold in France. Although Huguenots represented only a very small percentage of the population, their contribution to the success of this country has been considerable. Twenty-one U.S. presidents were of Huguenot descent, including Washington, both Adamses, both Roosevelts, Truman and Eisenhower. Military descendants include both Grant and Lee, Davy Crockett at the Alamo, Pershing in World War I, Eisenhower and Chennault of Flying Tiger fame in World War II. In the arts there are Longfellow, Whittier and Thoreau; in education, Vassar, Bowdoin and Gallaudet; in business, the duPonts and Tiffany; explorers John Fremont and Charles Lindbergh; in government, William Howard Taft, John Foster Dulles and many governors, senators, congressmen, etc. In all, as you can see, the Huguenot emigration turned out to be a bonanza for this country.

It is interesting to note that by far the heaviest exodus of Huguenots came after the revocation of the Edict of Nantes in

