



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

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## PRESIDENT'S LETTER

The most important news in this edition is also the saddest: the death of Gen. Sherman Hasbrouck on March 13. Sherman was 103 years old and was the last of HFA's founding members. (See separate article about him in this issue.) The burial of his cremated remains will take place on his 104<sup>th</sup> birthday, June 18, at the West Point Cemetery, and all HFA members are invited to attend. The ceremony will be at 10AM, but you should be at the cemetery entrance at 9:45 for the vehicular procession to the gravesite. After the burial his widow, Clara, will host a reception and lunch at the Hotel Thayer on the Academy grounds. She needs a headcount for the hotel; so if you plan to attend that function, let her know (845-687-0209).

Huguenot Street opened for tours on May 1. The Abraham Hasbrouck House will not be open this year due to the ongoing restoration project; however, Ken Shefsiek at HHS will make special arrangements for HFA members who want to see the stripped-down interior. You can contact him at 845-255-1889. Now visible are interesting elements of the original construction and later modifications which will be covered up when the restoration is finished. As mentioned in the last issue, restoration work at the Abraham House is suspended pending an update of its

Historic Structures Report (HSR) to assess recent discoveries about the house, get additional information, and then reevaluate how to proceed with the project using our improved knowledge. The major activity right now is completion of detailed architectural drawings conforming to American Historic Buildings Survey standards, but that is just the first of numerous elements of the HSR update. Meanwhile, this year's HHS schedule includes an HSR for the Jean Hasbrouck House (the rear gutter was just replaced there) and extensive work at Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House) on the roof, chimneys, siding and sills.

Meryl Brown is now working on data entry for the tenth generation of the family in our genealogy computerization project. This generation has more entries than any other – either earlier or later – so it's very time consuming, but she's making progress. Keep sending your updates, but note our policy elsewhere in this issue, which includes significant restrictions on non-Hasbrouck names.

Our apologies are extended to Robert David Hasbrouck of Boxborough, MA, who, despite a generous gift to our Archives fund, was inadvertently omitted from the donor list in our last issue. We are embarrassed!

I still hear occasional reports of people who think that HFA is basically just for Abraham descendants. Not so! It is true that HFA was founded primarily to purchase the Abraham House (HHS already owned and maintained the Jean House); but another important objective was the creation and maintenance of a genealogy for all the Hasbrouck family, and Jean's descendants have always been important to our membership. When we incorporated in 1995, we purposefully restated the scope of our activities to include all family-related historic sites. Since then we have devoted considerable effort to the Jean House as well as those of Josiah (Locust Lawn) and Jonathan (Washington's Headquarters Site), both descendants of Jean. Thanks to the benevolence of Helene Hasbrouck Anderson, the financial requirements of the Abraham House are well taken care of, but other family properties are not so fortunate; and we expect to do selective fundraising for some of them as well as for our own operating budget, including our important genealogy. So hearken to our call, both Abraham and Jean descendants – we want and need you all!

Hearken also to this call! I'm still receiving virtually no input or feedback from the membership. Please send in articles, stories, photos, etc. about interesting Hasbrouck-related people and places (current or historic) and help to broaden our coverage of the family.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

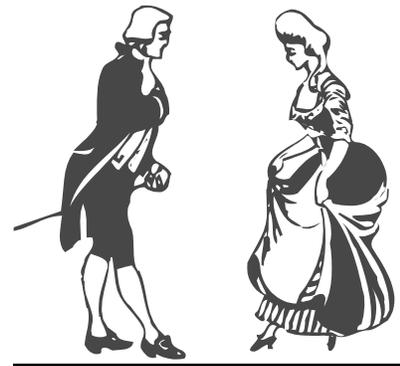
## HFA OFFICE

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 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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS



## Colonial Street Festival

This is HHS's biggest event of the year and will be held this year on Saturday, August 10 from 10AM to 6PM. (Admission fees vary from \$10 for adults to nothing for children up to age 12.) The houses of Huguenot Street (except for Abraham Hasbrouck's) will be open to visitors, and

there will be historical reenactments, period arts & crafts and dancing demonstrations, children's programs, and live music. 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.

One of the most impressive experiences for outside visitors, they tell us, has been the opportunity to talk to actual descendants of the Huguenot families. If you can lend a hand for all or part of the day, please contact Eleanor Sears (845-338-6492) or the HFA office.

A traditional fundraising activity for this event is the raffle of a beautiful colonial-design quilt. You can expect to receive an HHS mailing about the festival with raffle tickets to sell, or buy yourself. There's no obligation, of course, but it's for a worthy cause – support for the many activities and programs of HHS. You don't have to be present to win.

## HFA Annual Reunion

Our reunion day this year is Saturday, October 12, in New Paltz. It will probably 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 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 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 12 and plan to come and meet some relatives you never knew about!



## GENEALOGY POLICIES

In the process of updating and computerizing the Hasbrouck family genealogy left to us by Kenneth Hasbrouck, we have adopted some policies to provide uniform record keeping and prevent the genealogy from spreading to an unmanageable size. You should be aware of these policies in submitting your family information.

- 1) Since it is a Hasbrouck genealogy, we will follow female lines for only one generation.

Example: Jane Hasbrouck marries John Smith. We will list Jane's children (since they are a Hasbrouck's children) but not their children or subsequent generations,

who belong more properly in a Smith genealogy. However, we will always be happy to have these people as HFA members and to help any who are interested in tracing their Hasbrouck/Huguenot ancestry. It would be nice to keep track of female lines too; in fact, Kenneth did follow some through the smaller early generations, and we are keeping all he recorded. However, the proliferation of names and lines over the generations is beyond our capacity to handle with our available resources.

- 2) Adopted children who carry the Hasbrouck name will be treated for succession purposes the same as Hasbroucks by birth, but the adoption will be noted in their genealogical record. The same applies to stepchildren who take the Hasbrouck name.

### **ANOTHER TOWN NAMED HASBROUCK WITH A SPECTACULAR FAMILY MURDER IN ITS PAST**

Our last edition had an item about Hasbrouck Heights, NJ and mentioned mail confusion with Hasbrouck, NY around 1890. There's no confusion now. The hamlet of Hasbrouck, NY is no longer on postal maps or on many road maps either, but it still exists by that name within the Town of Fallsburgh in Sullivan County's Neversink River Valley. It was named for Anthony Hasbrouck (1788-1840), who had come there from Stone Ridge and became one of the County's most prominent citizens. He was a wealthy man and active in politics. He was town supervisor of Fallsburgh in 1827, 1830 and 1834, and he often represented Fallsburgh at Democratic county conventions. He was elected to the State Assembly in 1833. In 1838 he ran for Congress. He lost but did better than the rest

of his party's slate despite running against a popular, well-connected opponent.

Anthony and his wife, Rachel, occupied a handsome stone house (see photo) built before 1800 and owned previously by her mother, Catrina Hardenbergh DePuy. And in this house on December 20, 1840 he was murdered in front of his family by Cornelius Hardenbergh, a relative of his wife and a member of Sullivan County's most prestigious family. The story of this sensational murder and its aftermath is laid out in exquisite detail in James Quinlan's 1873 History of Sullivan County and will be summarized in our next newsletter.



The Old Stone House (Anthony Hasbrouck House) in Hasbrouck, NY

The community was first settled in the late 18<sup>th</sup> century and the first businesses established there around 1800 to serve the surrounding farming vicinity. The first Dutch Reformed Church in the area was built there in 1828. The post office was established in 1846, and this is when the community was named Hasbrouck in memory of Anthony. An 1873 Gazetteer of Towns listed Hasbrouck as a section of Fallsburgh and stated, "It contains two district schools, a grist mill, two saw mills, two stores, two blacksmith shops, a wagon shop, a shoe shop and about ninety inhabitants."

The community retained its dependence on a slowly declining farm economy; the post office closed in the 1930's. New life was injected in the mid-20<sup>th</sup> century with the addition of a smelting plant (which now makes oil tanks), an egg factory (now closed) and a campground. In 1971 an active civic group was formed under the name of The Concerned Citizens of Hasbrouck and Vicinity. Their most ambitious project has been the purchase and restoration of Anthony Hasbrouck's house. In 1976 they paid \$23,000 for the house, which was then covered with stucco and in a run-down condition. As you can see from the photo, the outside of the house (now called "The Old Stone House") has been beautifully restored. Inside restoration is not yet finished, pending additional fundraising; but the building is used as a meeting place for the Concerned Citizens and is open to the public at occasional events sponsored by the group.

The house is a Dutch-style, two-story stone house with thick walls (the windowsills are two feet deep). The downstairs has a center hall with a large room on each side. The upstairs is unusual for this style in that it is full sized with a full attic above it. It contains four rooms and still has its original flooring. The addition at the left side of the house was the kitchen. Adjoining the house are a picnic pavilion and a playground.

The Concerned Citizens' ultimate objective (when funding is available) is to complete the restoration, fill it with local antiques and open it to the public as a combination museum and community center. In the meanwhile, if your travels take you close to Fallsburgh, ask for directions to Hasbrouck and see this interesting piece of family history. The house is located off Route 42 on Hasbrouck Road (careful, there's also a Hasbrouck Drive and Hasbrouck Hay Road) at the corner of Benton Hollow Road. The interior will be accessible during

bake/rummage sales there on Memorial Day weekend and again June 22-3.

## **HISTORY REVERSED – A HASBROUCK DONATES NEW PALTZ LAND**

In 1677 our ancestors purchased what is now New Paltz from the Esopus Indians. Recently HFA member Richard Relyea Hasbrouck gave a little of it back – not to the Indians, who are long gone, but to the Wallkill Valley Land Trust. He donated seven acres of his property along the Wallkill River – “a wonderful fishing place,” he said – with the sole condition that he and his descendants could still fish there. The land is at the confluence of the river and a tributary – an important area for fish and wildlife and a welcome addition to the Trust, which seeks to preserve property in the Wallkill's watershed area. It's a win/win arrangement for all concerned. Congratulations, Richard, on a great move; may the fish keep biting for you! (One of Richard's hobbies is making colonial-style fish nets. You can watch him do it as one of the craft exhibitors at the Colonial Street Festival on August 10.)

## **UPDATE ON GEORGETOWN**

The February newsletter mentioned Georgetown, Colorado, an old mining town named after George Palen Hasbrouck. Georgetown was in the national news recently. In keeping with the town's frontier image, the voters elected an ex-stripper as mayor. However, whatever she may have revealed before, she apparently did not show a talent for municipal management; and she was deposed in a recall action. Georgetown will have to rely on its other attractions to keep the tourists coming.



## **TIMELINE ON PURCHASE OF THE ABRAHAM HASBROUCK HOUSE**

We recently received a 1957 newspaper article about the purchase of the Abraham Hasbrouck House and did further research into the details of this acquisition, which was rather complex. Here is what happened:

The house passed out of Hasbrouck family ownership in 1882 when it was purchased by Jesse Elting. In 1918 it was acquired by Ivar Evers, a painter who lived there until his death in 1955. He rented some of the space to several families, and the house was in disrepair when he died. His family wanted to sell the house with its adjoining two acres of land; and Kenneth E. Hasbrouck, who had recently assumed the leadership of HHS, wanted to acquire the house (as well as the other stone houses on Huguenot Street) for the Society. During the 1955-7 period he solicited donations for this purpose from Hasbrouck family members and raised \$6,000. At the same time the New Paltz Reformed Church (across the street from the Abraham House) wanted to acquire land behind the house for an education building. Kenneth and the Church reached an agreement for the Church to buy the entire property and then sell the house and some land around it to HHS while retaining the land it needed for its new building. Aided by a loan from the Jamison Memorial Fund (a foundation) and the \$6,000 Kenneth had raised, the Church purchased the property from the Evers family for \$28,850 on

July 30, 1957. Then Kenneth started planning with interested Hasbrouck family members to raise additional funds and negotiate the purchase of the house. On October 12, 1957 the Hasbrouck Family Association was formed with this objective as well as subsequent restoration/maintenance of the house and maintenance of a family genealogy (which Kenneth was assembling) plus historical records of the family.

It took until mid-1961 for HFA to negotiate the sale price (\$21,000 including the \$6,000 provided in 1957) and raise the funds. The closing took place on August 29, 1961. Since HFA was (until 1995) an unincorporated association, it could not own real estate. Therefore, although HFA had negotiated the purchase and provided the funds, the acquiring entity was HHS. This was facilitated by the fact that Kenneth Hasbrouck at that time was president of both HFA and HHS and could represent both organizations. After the purchase HFA took charge of the restoration of the house, which involved a lot of hands-on labor from the members as well as continuing financial contributions.

This was the first stone house acquired by HHS since its initial purchase – the Jean Hasbrouck House in 1899. Kenneth used this precedent to inspire the other families to acquire their ancestors' stone houses for HHS and ensure their preservation in the New Paltz National Historic District that we enjoy today.

## **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).



Brig. Gen. Sherman Hasbrouck around 1955

## **WE LOSE OUR LAST FOUNDING MEMBER GENERAL SHERMAN V. HASBROUCK DIES AT 103 – END OF AN ERA**

Not only was Sherman involved in the formation of HFA, he was one of the four officers elected at its initial meeting on October 12, 1957: Kenneth Hasbrouck, President; Sherman, Vice President; Helene Hasbrouck Anderson, Secretary; and Marcelle Hull Littell, Treasurer. He was instrumental in negotiating the purchase of the Abraham Hasbrouck House (see separate item in this issue), and then spent many hours in a “labor of love” helping to restore the house, which was then in dilapidated condition. Sherman remained active in the affairs of HFA. Although he was

never president, he was a vice president for decades and a participant in our annual meetings until quite recently. He remained interested in our activities to the end.

Sherman was unusually well connected with the Hasbrouck family. Although his direct male ancestry traced back to Jean, his paternal grandfather, DuBois Hotaling Hasbrouck, married Mary Hasbrouck, a descendant of Abraham, so that Sherman was then a descendant of both brothers. He was born June 18, 1898 in Stone Ridge (about 12 miles west of New Paltz), where his family had lived for generations. He grew up there, and his detailed recollections of life in those early years (as well as his subsequent military service) make fascinating reading. They are contained (along with much essential family history) in the 1992 book Earliest Records of the Hasbrouck Family in America, which is available from the HHS Museum Shop – “must” reading for anyone interested in our family’s history.

Sherman showed leadership potential at an early age. He was Class President of the first graduating class at Kingston High School in 1916. Fascinated by war stories he heard from an uncle and the local doctor, both Civil War veterans, Sherman decided to join the Army and won a competitive appointment to West Point in 1918. With classes accelerated due to World War I, he graduated in 1920 and served interesting assignments in the Philippines, Japan, and Central/South America as well as U.S. military posts during the years before World War II. During that war he was promoted to brigadier general and commanded the artillery of the 97<sup>th</sup> Infantry Division on its sweep across the Rhine River, through Germany, and on into Czechoslovakia at the end of hostilities in Europe. Soon afterwards, Sherman was sent to Japan, where he was military governor of two prefectures until

March 1946 and left with high praise from General MacArthur. He was then assigned to the nuclear weapons development program until August 1947, followed by five years with the U.S. Delegation of the United Nations Military Staff Committee. In 1952 he returned to a senior position in the nuclear weapons program until his retirement in 1955. His service was so valuable that his active duty was extended for five years beyond the normal maximum of thirty years. During his distinguished career he was awarded the Legion of Merit, Bronze Star, Commendation Medal, and several foreign decorations.

In 1953 Sherman married a widow, Mary Louise Bonthron. Upon his retirement two years later he designed and built the stone country house outside Stone Ridge where he lived for the rest of his life. His wife died in 1981, and in 1984 he married another widow, Clara Morthland, who survives him. Sherman and Clara were active supporters of the Frost Valley YMCA. Besides this and his HFA activities, Sherman served for a time as chairman of the Ulster County Red Cross and board member of Kingston Hospital. He also loved hunting, fishing and gardening and engaged in all three until past his hundredth birthday. In fact, his final outing was a fishing party to celebrate his 103<sup>rd</sup> birthday last June. He was mentally sharp and physically resilient until his final year. At age 101 he was still able to attend West Point's Founder's Day dinner in New York and present the address traditionally given by the oldest attending graduate. Last September he became the oldest living graduate of the Military Academy.

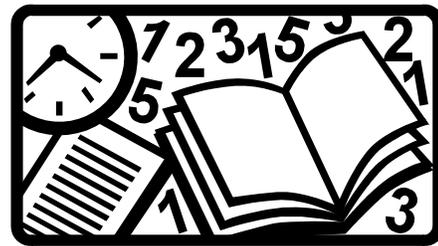
Those of us privileged to know Sherman will remember him for his warm personality, sharp wit and readiness to lend a helping hand. He has been an integral part of HFA since he assisted in its birth, and he is irreplaceable. We mourn his passing and hope we can live up to the high standards he exemplified.

**We welcome our new members:**

David Scott Hasbrouck, Quincy, IL  
 Jeanne Shimabukuro, Temecula, CA

**We have received notice of the following member deaths:**

Eleanor Day Cottrell, Lake Forest, IL  
 Elizabeth B. Grim, Sun City, AZ  
 Gen. Sherman Hasbrouck, Stone Ridge, NY



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

- June 8** HHS Annual Meeting in New Paltz
- August 10** Colonial Street Festival on Huguenot Street (Volunteers needed at Jean Hasbrouck House and Locust Lawn)
- October 12** HFA Annual Reunion in New Paltz