



**HASBROUCK FAMILY**  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

There has been a lot of activity in recent months relating to our Hasbrouck houses, and it's critically important even though it's mostly on paper! We have now received the final version of the Historic Structure Reports (HSRs) for both the Jean and Abraham houses. (An HSR for Locust Lawn was completed in 2000 and a landscape master plan in 2002.) These comprehensive reports reflect intensive examination of each house's history and present condition as well as recommendations for the future. They will serve as the basis for HFA/HHS planning and decision-making with respect to the ongoing restoration and interpretation of the houses.

All the startling findings we have reported to you over the past two years have been affirmed in the final reports: the revised chronological order of the three sections of the Abraham House (center, then north, then south), the wide array of paint colors used in the earlier years at the Abraham House, and – most astonishingly – the 1721 initial construction date for both the Abraham and Jean houses, indicating that they were built by sons Daniel and Jacob (respectively) after the deaths of both patentees! Whereas the Jean House apparently incorporates elements of an earlier (1678) house almost certainly built by Jean, there is no evidence (yet) of an earlier house on the Abraham House site. The HSR points out the probability that Abraham did live at this site because (1) it was on his assigned 3-acre lot and (2) it was on the street, as were all the other patentee houses. So consideration is being given

to further digging on the site in hopes of discovering traces of an earlier house there.

As mentioned in the last newsletter, the HSR recommendation for interpreting the Abraham House (mainly architectural) is different from the museum-type, single-period presentation always used throughout Huguenot Street. This year we are experimenting with a hybrid approach designed by Neil Larson showing the architectural development of the house but also featuring display panels about the history of the house and its Hasbrouck family inhabitants, supplemented with a few typical pieces of furniture and artifacts from the collection formerly displayed there. The house is open for tours, and we invite your comments. If this presentation is successful, we will refine and expand it for next year.

Based on the HSR and detailed architectural drawings to required specifications. Our architect, Kenneth Barricklo, submitted documentation on the Abraham House for the Historic American Buildings Survey (HABS) maintained by the National Park Service. He received an acknowledgment letter praising the "exceptional" quality and organization of the submission. "Rarely are records as complete or meticulous as yours." High praise indeed from the HABS staff, which handles hundreds of such submissions from all over the country! Like all HABS documents, this submission will be kept at the Library of Congress and available online to the public.

Further examination at the Jean House has revealed the need for additional work beyond the

critical condition of the north wall. Included are repairs/restoration of the south wall and chimney plus grading of the foundation and a few smaller tasks. The cost of the entire project is now estimated at almost \$570,000! HHS is applying for grants from a number of sources, but success is far from assured, and at best such grants can cover only a fraction of this huge amount. So we are still asking for your contributions to this project. Any amount at any time is greatly appreciated. (Write your check to Hasbrouck Family Association and mail to our address on the masthead.)

In conjunction with this big restoration project the Jean House will be prepared for interpretation in 1786-1820, a period recommended in its HSR and including the commercial aspects of its history. (A store was established in a front room in 1786 and operated there for many years.)

With respect to ongoing restoration work, the gutters for the Abraham House have been completed, but slight warping of some pieces occurred during this period, and installation is being delayed pending any modifications necessary to ensure that they function properly. At Locust Lawn scheduled restoration of the eastern chimneys and western roof has also been delayed because the HHS crew had to be diverted to the Freer House to repair a serious leak there. Pending fundraising, no significant work is planned this year at the Jean House. The temporary buttresses will keep the north wall in place.

We'll be updating and correcting our genealogy records for some time. You can help by requesting a family tree printout from us and correcting errors as well as filling in missing pieces. If any of your ancestors did anything noteworthy, let us know, and we'll add it to our records.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## **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.



## **HFA Annual Reunion**

Our reunion day this year is Saturday, October 11, 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 11 and plan to come and meet some relatives you never knew about!



### **SCHOLARSHIPS**

The deadline for scholarship applications 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).

### **UPCOMING EVENTS**

#### **Colonial Street Festival**

This is HHS's biggest event of the year and will be held this year on Saturday, August 9 from 10AM to 5PM. (Admission fees vary from \$10 for adults to nothing for children through age 5.) The houses of Huguenot Street 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. Time periods for volunteers are 9:30-12:30, 12:30-3:00 and 3:00-5:30. 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.

### **STILL MORE CORRECTIONS**

Neil Larson's research for the HSR revealed that – contrary to what we reported earlier – Isaiah Hasbrouck did live in the Abraham House until his death in 1909; he was the last Hasbrouck occupant. His only son, Gilbert, lived in Poughkeepsie and sold the house out of the family in 1911.

### **REVOLUTIONARY AND CIVIL WAR VETERANS IN THE FAMILY**

In publishing our updated genealogy we would like to include a list of family members who fought in the Revolutionary and Civil Wars, cross-referenced to their genealogy entries. At present we have no organized information whatever about Civil War veterans and only a sketchy and incomplete list from Kenneth's genealogy (Vols. I&II, p. 24) on Revolutionary War vets. With the aid of a few members we have discovered some additional names not on Kenneth's list (we now have about 30), and we're hoping you members

can add more. Please send us any details you have about ancestors (including female lines) in these two wars. Those of you who are members of the DAR or Colonial Dames probably have excellent documentation on such ancestors, and we'd especially love to hear from you. Also members who research genealogy on the internet can probably find us more names.

### **A MICHIGAN FAMILY TREE**

In 1834 Hiram HasBrouck, a sixth-generation descendant of Jean, decided to move to Michigan. He staked a land claim near Clark Lake in southern Michigan and started a farm. On his second visit to the area he got off the train at Adrian, the nearest station (which was nevertheless about 40 miles from his property), and walked there through the wilderness. Shortly after starting his hike, he cut a branch from a balm tree growing by the roadside and trimmed it into a walking cane to use on the long journey. While at the farm, he planted a maple tree. Before doing so, he stuck his freshly cut cane into the ground. After the planting he walked away, forgetting about the walking stick.

Hiram returned to New Paltz and came back about two years later with his wife, Rebecca DuBois, their children, and several black slaves. The whole group made the hike from Adrian to the farm, and the slaves built the farmhouse and barn. When Hiram went to inspect the maple he had planted on his previous visit, he was surprised to find another tree growing nearby. It was his forgotten walking cane!

The tree kept growing and furnished shade for Hiram's family and several generations of his descendants on the farm, which passed initially to his son Cornelius, who served in the 9th Michigan Infantry in the Civil War. His wife, Cornelia, was an excellent cook. Pies were her specialty, and after baking, she placed them on the windowsill. Early on, Indians living nearby noticed the pies, assumed they were meant as gifts, and took them. After consultation with the Indians (who were basically friendly), Cornelia volunteered to bake a few extra pies for them, and relations remained friendly. However, Cornelia always kept a hot

poker handy to intimidate any who were drunk or disorderly when they came to collect.

Eventually the farm was passed to Cornelius's youngest son, Jesse Guy HasBrouck. By then the balm tree had grown to a height of around 100 feet; it was the tallest tree in the area – quite an accomplishment for an erstwhile walking stick! (A type of balm or medicinal resin can be obtained from these trees.) When it was 100 years old in 1934, the tree and its unusual story were publicized in the local press, which noted its deteriorating condition. The photo of the tree with Jesse and his Clydesdale horses reflects this, but its size is still impressive.



Jesse Guy HasBrouck and his Clydesdales with the balm tree that grew from Hiram HasBrouck's improvised walking stick.

Jesse died in 1942, and the farm property was split among his three children. His son, Lineol, inherited the farmhouse and the tree; but by that time old age had taken its toll, and the landmark tree finally had to be cut down around 1945. Soon afterward the family's ownership of the land began to decline also as pieces of the

property were sold by Jesse's children. Today Lineol's daughter, Sheryl James, still owns and lives on a small piece of Hiram's original property. The rest, along with the remarkable balm tree, is now a fond memory and an interesting episode of family history.

### **THERE'S MORE**

There are a couple of notable sidelights to the preceding "Family Tree" story:

After slavery was ended in Michigan and Hiram's slaves given their freedom, one couple, named Peter and Katie DuBois, remained for a long time with the HasBroucks. Eventually they moved to the nearby city of Jackson, where they lived for many years.



Jesse Guy HasBrouck and his bride, Gertrude Wooderson on their wedding day, April 19, 1905.

Jesse Guy HasBrouck was married to Gertrude Wooderson (see photo). In one of Gertrude's cookbooks granddaughter Holly

Watson found a poem describing a farm wife's life in the days of the poet's grandmother – the generation of Hiram and Rebecca in the mid-19th century. Is this your idea of a perfect day?

### **A PERFECT DAY**

Grandmother, on a perfect day,  
Milked the cows and fed them hay,  
Stopped the hogs, saddled the mule,  
And got the children off to school,  
Did a washing, mopped the floors,  
Washed the windows and did some chores.

Cooked a dish of home dried fruits,  
Pressed her husband's Sunday suit,  
Swept the parlor, made the bed,  
Baked a dozen loaves of bread.  
Split some fire wood and lugged in,  
Enough to fill the kitchen bin,  
Cleaned the lamps and put in oil,

Stewed some apples she thought would spoil.  
Churned the butter, baked a cake,  
Then exclaimed, "For heaven's sake  
The calves have got out of the pen."  
Went out and chased them in again.  
Gathered the eggs and locked the stable  
Back to the house and set the table,  
Cooked a supper that was delicious  
And afterward washed up all the dishes.  
Fed the cat and sprinkled the clothes,  
Mended a basketful of hose,  
Then opened the organ and began to play,  
"When you come to the end of a perfect day."

### **WE ARE ALL DEYOS**

It is hardly surprising that there was so much intermarriage among the families in our close-knit Huguenot community, especially in its early years. Many of us find other patentee names in our family trees, and a few have been able to find them all! (If you're among them please let us know. We'd like to create a list and publish it. The patentee names are Bevier, Crispell, Deyo, DuBois, Freer, Hasbrouck and LeFevre.) The special Deyo connection is quite obvious when you think about it, but it is seldom

emphasized in accounts of our family history. Jean Hasbrouck married Anna Deyo in Mannheim in 1669. Abraham came to America on the same ship with Anna's sister, Maria, in 1675 and married her in Hurley the next year. Since we are all descendants of these two marriages of Hasbrouck brothers to Deyo sisters, we all have Deyo genes as well as Hasbrouck. With that head start, how many patentee names can you find in your family tree? How many other closely related New Paltz names – like Gerow, Magny, Schoonmaker and Terwilliger?

### **THIS LADY PROVES THAT ACTIONS SPEAK LOUDER THAN WORDS**



Phyllis Hasbrouck distributing leaflets for her DOERS projects.

Like most of us, HFA member Phyllis Hasbrouck was dismayed by the plight of the thousands of Afghan refugees uprooted by the fighting there in late 2001. Unlike most of us, she decided to do something about it. She and a friend learned that the Mennonite Central Committee – a charity they favored because of its record of efficient aid programs without proselyting — was planning to send aid to these refugees. She learned what items were needed and organized a blanket drive in her home town of Madison, WI. She and a few friends publicized it

at the popular weekly farmers market, on local radio, and by distributing leaflets. They collected 711 blankets plus \$5,500 in contributions for food! But that was just the beginning. In December 2001 they conducted another drive to collect and also assemble relief kits and school kits plus more blankets and cash contributions. They got friends to involve their churches and social organizations in the project. They found that people enjoyed doing good things together, and hundreds turned out for events where they assembled kits, sewed bags to hold them, and packed them for shipment. By June 2002 they had raised over \$21,000 for Afghan refugees.

To manage all this activity Phyllis and her friends created an organization, aptly named DOERS (Doers Offering Emergency Relief Support). Late last year they conducted a drive on behalf of Afghan war widows featuring sale of handicrafts and Afghan carpets. The proceeds provided classes in sewing and literacy for 18 widows; each graduate received a sewing machine and work bench.

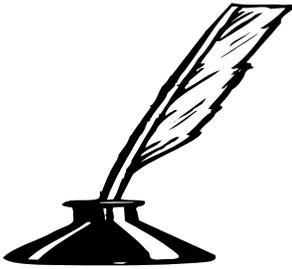
Now DOERS is responding to the great postwar needs in Iraq by supplying needed materials and raising funds for the All Our Children Fund, a campaign by 8 North American charities (and endorsed by Jimmy Carter) to provide critical health care to vulnerable Iraqi children. Supplies and funds are dispersed by local affiliates of the 8 charities which are on the scene, accustomed to working with the local people, and best able to assess and respond to their needs. If you would like to help Phyllis and her DOERS with these urgent relief efforts, send a check to DOERS, P.O. Box 25925, Madison, WI 53711. (Checks to directly aid Iraqi children should be made out to the Mennonite Central Committee, with "All Our Children" in the memo. Checks to support DOERS in its work should be made out to DOERS.)

Phyllis Hasbrouck's achievements were recognized with an item in the May edition of Reader's Digest (page 29), which mentions that by now DOERS have sent out 927 blankets, 456 kits and \$23,400. HFA salutes Phyllis and her DOERS friends for the magnificent service they are performing. And it all started with an idea

shared between two friends! But Phyllis and her crew have amply demonstrated what can happen when an idea is in the minds – and hands – of people who really are DOERS!

### A HASBROUCK FEATURED IN POETRY

The poem, entitled Hasbrouck and the Rose, by Phelps Putnam, dates from about 1927. The Hasbrouck of the title is less than heroic. He is not specifically identified; it is probably just as well.



Hasbrouck was there and so was Bill  
And Smollet Smith the poet, and Ames was there.  
After his thirteenth drink,  
the burning Smith,  
Raising his fourteenth  
trembling in the air,

Said, “Drink with me, Bill, drink up to the Rose.”  
But Hasbrouck laughed like old men in a myth,  
Inquiring, “Smollet, are you drunk? What rose?”  
And Smollet said, “I drunk? It may be so;  
Which comes from brooding on the flower, the  
flower

I mean toward which mad hour by hour  
I travel brokenly; and I shall know,  
With Hermes and the alchemists – but hell,  
What use is it talking that way to you?  
Hard-boiled, unbroken egg, what can you care  
For the enfolded passion of the Rose?”  
Then Hasbrouck’s voice rang like an icy bell:  
“Arcane romantic flower, meaning what?  
Do you know what it meant? Do I?  
We do not know.

Unfolding pungent Rose, the glowing bath  
Of ecstasy and clear forgetfulness;  
Closing and secret bud one might achieve  
By long debauchery —  
Except that I have eaten it, and so  
There is no call for further lunacy.  
In Springfield, Massachusetts, I devoured  
The mystic, the improbable, the Rose.  
For two nights and a day, rose and rosette  
And petal after petal and the heart,  
I had my banquet by the beams  
Of four electric stars which shone

Weakly into my room, for there,  
Drowning their light and gleaming at my side,  
Was the incarnate star  
Whose body bore the stigma of the Rose.  
And that is all I know about the flower;  
I have eaten it – it has disappeared.  
There is no Rose.”

Young Smollet Smith let fall his glass; he said,  
“O Jesus, Hasbrouck, am I drunk or dead?”

### WASHINGTON’S VERY LAST HEADQUARTERS



Rockingham – George Washington’s final headquarters.

Jonathan Hasbrouck’s house in Newburgh, NY served as General George Washington’s headquarters in the final period of hostilities in the Revolutionary War – from April 1, 1782 until August 18, 1783. Here Washington received the Congressional proclamation of the end of hostilities, issued a cease-fire order to the army, and negotiated with the British regarding their departure from New York and release of prisoners. We had assumed that the Hasbrouck House was his final headquarters, but we have learned otherwise.

In late July the Continental Congress called for Washington’s presence in order to honor him and to get his advice in the drafting of a peace treaty with Britain. (In June Congress had moved to Princeton, NJ from Philadelphia to escape riots there by unpaid troops.) Thus Washington left the

Newburgh house and established his really final headquarters at Rockingham (also known as the Berrien Mansion, built about 1710) at Rocky Hill, NJ, four miles north of Princeton. Here Martha and he entertained Jefferson, Madison, Hamilton and members of the Continental Congress. Here (on October 31) he received news of the signing of the Treaty of Paris, which officially ended the war. And here (on November 2) he wrote his farewell order to the army.

On November 10 George Washington left Rockingham. (Martha had started home to Mount Vernon a few days earlier.) He went to New York City to ensure that the British departure went smoothly. That accomplished, he bade farewell to his senior officers in an emotional ceremony at Fraunces Tavern (still open to the public) on December 4, resigned his commission to Congress (by then at Annapolis, MD) on the 23rd, and finally returned to his beloved Mount Vernon on Christmas Eve. Thus, while Washington's headquarters was at the Jonathan Hasbrouck House at the end of hostilities, it was at Rockingham at the official end of the war.

Like Jonathan's house, Rockingham was reoccupied by its widowed owner and later fell on hard times before being designated as a state historic site. Even recently it was threatened by New Jersey's budget crisis. The building has been moved three times, most recently in 2001 to a site in Kingston, NJ, close to its original location. An ambitious restoration program was planned but then delayed by a cutoff of funds while the building – not weatherproofed after partial dismantling for the move – deteriorated seriously. Happily, the restoration is now underway, and the house should be open to the public by autumn. If you are interested in seeing it, call 609-921-8835 for information.



## EVENTS CALENDAR (Your attendance is invited)

- June 14 HHS Annual Meeting in New Paltz
- August 9 Colonial Street Festival on Huguenot Street  
(Volunteers needed at Hasbrouck Houses)
- October 11 HFA Annual Reunion in New Paltz



### **We welcome our new members:**

John DeNaples, Greensboro, NC  
 Roger Graham, Nashville, TN  
 David Joseph Hasbrouck, Havertown, PA  
 Joshua S. Hasbrouck, Penndel, PA  
 Kevin Douglas Hasbrouck, Jacksonville, FL  
 Ronald L. Hasbrouck, Cropseyville, NY  
 Thomas Hasbrouck, Gorham, ME  
 Tracy Kerr, Austin, TX

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

Wilfred P. Hasbrouck, Arvada, CO  
 Edna I. Matthews, Nyack, NY