



HASBROUCK FAMILY  
ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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

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## PRESIDENT'S REPORT

### Our Houses

Spring is back with us again (at last), and so is the tour season on Huguenot Street. With its north side safely buttressed the Jean Hasbrouck House is open for tours as usual. The initial phase of the restoration project there is getting underway with drawing of specifications and solicitation of bids from contractors. Depending on how long that process takes, actual work on the house will commence either in the fall or next spring.

The situation at the Abraham Hasbrouck House is complicated by our attempt to address the persistent dampness problems there. The south room is displayed with traditional furniture, but the other rooms remain as they were last year – empty except for the illustrated educational wall panels explaining the house, plus Helene Anderson's model of the house (with roof removed to show the interior) and a lineup of period furniture along a wall in the north room. Because of potential damage to furnishings from dampness, no additional items will be displayed until that problem is solved. (The tour guides' interpretation of the house should still make it an interesting place to visit.) We have hired a firm recommended by a Smithsonian preservationist to address the dampness problems and are following their initial recommendations; but the situation is complex, and it will be a lengthy process involving work on and in the house itself as

well as the surrounding area, both above and below ground. Initial steps include (1) measuring temperature and moisture at various spots over time to determine what is happening, (2) measuring wall movements (observed cracks indicate vertical movements probably due to water-caused erosion), (3) testing effectiveness of the present underground drainage system, (4) improving capture of runoff from gutters by replacing catch-barrels with a better system (to be determined), (5) removing the maple tree on the east side next to the herb garden (already done) and (6) selective regrading of the land around the house. Based on measurements and test results our experts (Landmark Facilities Group) will recommend a follow-up course of action.

### Genealogy Books

We are continuing to accept requests for any or all of the six volumes of Kenneth Hasbrouck's The Hasbrouck Family in America. However, we have run out of Volumes 3 and 4. We are maintaining a list of those requesting these volumes; and if there is enough demand to justify the effort, we will arrange for a run of unbound or paperback copies of the books and send them to those on the list. So if you request a full set of books, we'll send Vols. 1&2, 5 and 6 and add you to the list for Volumes 3 and 4. Requests for a full set require a

contribution of at least \$30 -- \$20 for fewer books.

### Membership Renewal

Dues (\$15/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 04 on your mailing label, you're 7 months delinquent by now. Income tax preparation is no longer a distraction, and the Bush tax cuts must have saved you enough to pay your HFA dues. So get yourself up to date! We need your support.

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.

## UPCOMING EVENTS

### Colonial Street Festival



This is HHS's biggest event of the year and will be held this year on Saturday, August 14 from 10AM to 5PM. (Admission fees

vary from \$10 for adults to nothing for children through age 5.) The houses of Huguenot Street and the Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn) 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. A tent will be set up Friday evening on the Street for overnight visitors who want to plan mini-reunions or just socialize with friends and other visitors. 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.

## HFA Annual Reunion

Our reunion day this year is Saturday, October 9, in New Paltz. It will probably follow the usual format: registration/socializing and service in the French Church in the morning followed by a look at the restoration work at the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses, 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 9 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. 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 [hhsoffice@hhs-newpaltz.org](mailto:hhsoffice@hhs-newpaltz.org).

## HFA SCHOLARSHIP WINNER IN FRANCE



Robin Atkins surveys Dijon from a 15th-century tower. The steeple belongs to Notre Dame Church across the street.

For the first time one of our Gertrude Hasbrouck scholarships is helping to finance a student's studies in the land of our Huguenot ancestors. 2003 scholarship winner Christa Robin Atkins, a Hasbrouck descendant and junior at Susquehanna University in Pennsylvania, was accepted into the program of the Institute for the International Education of Students (IES) to

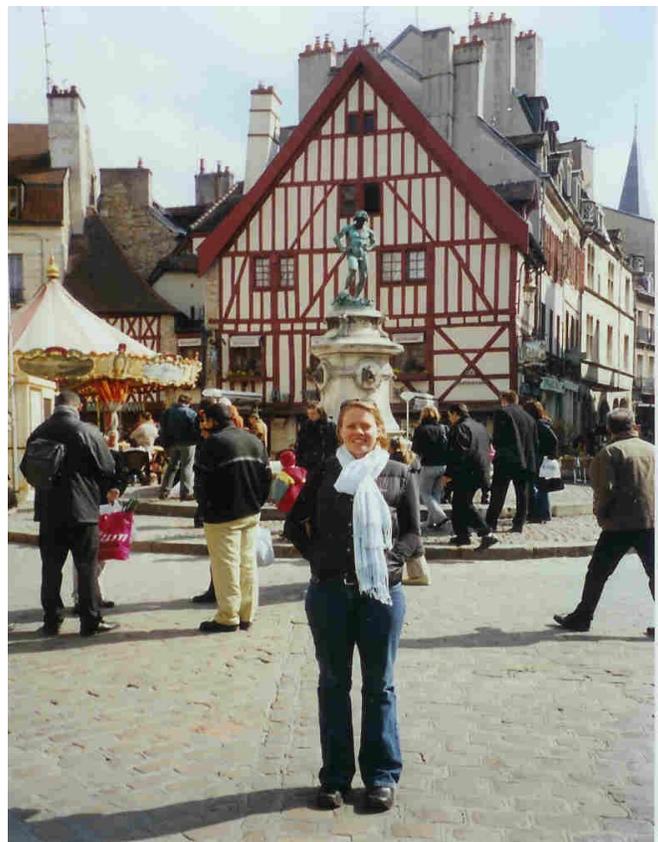
spend the winter/spring semester in France. She went over in January and has been reporting to us about her experience there. The intensive program fits her double major of Global Management and French. It has several elements: academic, practical, cultural and travel. Academically, Robin is taking courses at a prestigious business school in Dijon. All except one are in French, so her language skills had to be good right from the beginning. On the practical level she has an internship at France's third-largest bank. Her managers there must think highly of her because they have put her out in front, dealing with walk-in customers and helping them with a variety of services.

As for French culture, Robin is immersed in it. Working in a French business and dealing with employees and clients provides great exposure. She lives with a French family – probably the best learning experience of all – and has great rapport with them. Socializing with students from France and other countries is also very rewarding. And there are special opportunities. Dijon is famous for its cuisine, and Robin is learning to prepare a number of specialty dishes while attending cooking courses offered through the IES. She has also taken school-sponsored history and culture-oriented trips in Burgundy and Franche Comte and learned about the production of wine, cheese, salt and tools. Further afield, she was able to visit Brussels and Bruges on an IES trip.

Besides the school trips, Robin is traveling about on her own and has managed a ski trip to Chamonix and visits to Strasbourg and Montpellier. She'll spend some time in Paris before returning home at the end of May.

With all these activities there's still one more, which Robin hadn't anticipated. There are no classes on Thursdays, which are reserved for sports. When her fellow students learned that she competes on the crew (rowing) team at Susquehanna, they

recruited her to participate with them in Dijon. So she's having another enjoyable experience while simultaneously keeping in practice for competition back at home.



Robin Atkins in Dijon's picturesque Place Francois Rude

From the foregoing account it is obvious that our scholarship winner is making full use of an extraordinary learning opportunity that extends far beyond the classroom. The outstanding record that brought her the scholarship shows that Robin is highly deserving of this opportunity, and HFA is pleased to have helped make it possible.

### **A NEW GENERATION TAKES OVER IN MARSHALL, MI**

Our February newsletter listed the death of Rachel Bushong of Marshall, Michigan. A Hasbrouck descendant, she

was the owner/preserver of a historic Hasbrouck stone house outside of Marshall. Rachel and her house were featured in our May 2000 newsletter. The house was built around 1840 and is listed on the National Register of Historic Places. Rachel lived there for 62 years until her death at age 90. Her only child, Tom, predeceased her by a year; but her grandsons, Eric and John, will see to the preservation of the house. Eric inherited it, but John is living there. He is an antiques collector like his grandmother and has a loving appreciation of the fine antiques with which she furnished it. We are happy to learn that the house is remaining in the family and is in good hands.

**HISTORIAN ED FLECKENSTEIN  
CONTRIBUTES TO NEW YORKER  
ARTICLE – AND MUCH MORE**



Ed (left) and George Fleckenstein at German American gathering

HFA member Ed Fleckenstein is an interesting personality for many reasons, one of them being his love of history; and at age 84 he has witnessed a lot of it. He is a life-long resident of Weehawken, NJ – a small town facing midtown Manhattan across the Hudson River and including the western end of the Lincoln Tunnel. His intimate knowledge of Weehawken’s history has led to his appointment as town historian and chairman of its Historical Commission.

In its February 16/23 issue New Yorker magazine published an article titled “Route 3”, describing the area along this major New Jersey traffic artery leading to the Lincoln Tunnel into New York. Since the road ends at the tunnel in Weehawken, the writer sought Ed’s assistance for details about the town’s most famous historic events: construction of the tunnel and the fatal duel between Aaron Burr and Alexander Hamilton.

Ed is very knowledgeable about both. He was one of the first to walk through the tunnel even before its 1937 opening ceremony, which he attended. He supplied interesting information about its history for the article. The site of the Burr-Hamilton duel – the Weehawken dueling grounds on a ledge above the Hudson—no longer exists. After numerous topographic alterations the location is now a construction side lot for the tunnel. As the New Yorker put it, “enterprise and time had painted out the past.” But Ed is one of the few people who can point out where the ledge used to be, and he is very familiar with the duel and its site, where at least 70 duels were fought. Dueling parties rowed over from Manhattan because the practice was illegal in New York but was not barred until later in New Jersey.

Ed Fleckenstein is himself a piece of local history. In this era of increasingly transient populations and rapid change, it is astonishing to learn that Ed and his brother, George, still reside in the house where they were born more than 80 years ago! Their paternal grandfather immigrated from Germany in 1886 and created a successful meatpacking business in Jersey City. Their father continued in the business, which was eventually managed by George, while Ed became a lawyer. His German background and love of history led him to become active in German American organizations in New Jersey and New York and to chronicle the history of German immigration to America as well as the impact of these immigrants and their descendants on the subsequent

development of this country. He has written more than 50 installments so far on this subject for a widely read German American newspaper, which hopes to combine them into a book when the series is completed. He is also prominently involved in annual Von Steuben Day parades (named after the German general who trained George Washington's troops), which celebrate German/American friendship – including the biggest one, in New York City (see photo).



Ed (waving) and George Fleckenstein on float at New York City Von Steuben Day parade

Ed's link to HFA comes through his long association with Helene Hasbrouck Anderson, one of HFA's founding members and most active supporters, even after her death in 1994. (Her bequest to HFA completely supports the Abraham Hasbrouck House.) Ed first met Helene when he was only a few hours old. The Andersons lived across the street from the Fleckensteins, and Helene was a good friend of Ed's mother (both were musicians), so she immediately came over to see baby Ed. The two families remained close friends for the rest of Helene's life. In later years Ed became Helene's lawyer and — after her husband's death — her investment adviser. When she could no longer drive, Ed often drove her to meetings, most of them related to HFA. Ultimately Ed became a life member himself, and he seldom misses our annual reunions.

Ed and Helene had other interesting neighbors. Frank Sinatra's parents lived next door, and Ed recalls looking out his window and seeing Ava Gardner and Elvis Presley there for parties. Frank would use Ed's driveway to escape from the press when he came to visit.

Still active at 84, Ed Fleckenstein is a walking history book and has experienced much of that history himself. HFA is lucky to have him as an always fascinating source of education and entertainment.

### HASBROUCK PARK IN KINGSTON, NY AND ITS ORIGINS



Winter view from Hasbrouck Park to Rondout Lighthouse, where Rondout Creek meets the Hudson River

In our May '01 issue we reported on Hasbrouck Park in New Paltz. The nearby City of Kingston (15 miles north) also has a Hasbrouck Park and many family connections. It was here that Jean and Abraham arrived from Europe. Since Kingston was the largest town in the area and a commercial and political center (first meeting place of the NY State legislature and first capital of NY State), it attracted a number of Hasbroucks from New Paltz. In terms of local influence, two stand out – a father and son.

Abraham J. Hasbrouck, a fifth-generation descendant of his namesake,

was a prosperous merchant, ship owner, exporter, and an incorporator of the Delaware and Hudson Canal Company, which was an important factor in boosting Kingston's commercial growth. He was known as "Abraham of the Strand", and Hasbrouck Avenue is named for him. (Several years ago HFA helped restore his vandalized grave monument in the Albany Avenue Cemetery. There is an article about him and the monument in the February '00 newsletter.)

Abraham's eldest son, Joseph, died at age 23 after an accident boarding one of his father's ships. His younger son, Jansen (born in 1810 and named after his mother, Helena Jansen), lived 81 years and became just as prominent as his father. After graduating from Yale he took over Abraham's business in 1834, ran it successfully, and became a banking executive as well: incorporator/director of the Kingston National Bank in 1836, founder/president of the National Bank of Rondout in 1848, and president/trustee of the Ulster County Savings Institution. In his twenties he was also an officer in the Sixth Division of New York Infantry and aide-de-camp to its commanding general. Jansen Avenue is named for him.

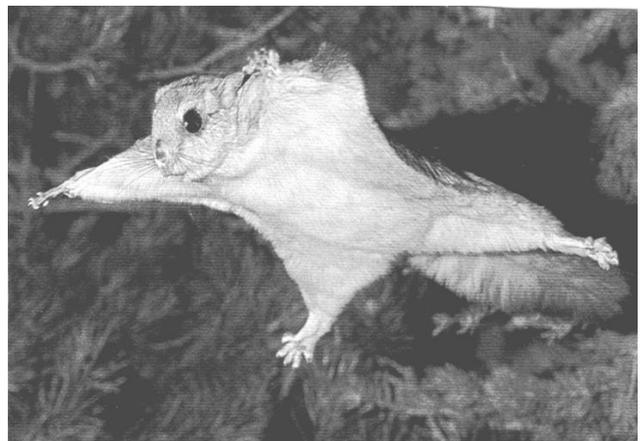
At the time of his death in 1891 Jansen owned a number of properties, including a tract overlooking the Hudson River in Kingston. In 1920 four of his children who inherited the property gave it to the City for a park, and on April 20, 1920 Hasbrouck Park became Kingston's first downtown, city-owned park. There is no surviving record of whether it was named for Jansen specifically or for the donors collectively, but it's clear that the park wouldn't have existed without Jansen's ownership of the land.



Summer view down the Hudson River from Hasbrouck Park, Kingston, NY

Today the 45-acre Hasbrouck Park, located off Delaware Avenue, is a versatile recreational resource. It features a stone building, basketball court, softball field, skating rink, sledding hill, fitness trail, nature trail, tree nursery, and there's still that scenic Hudson River overlook (see photos), now featuring a picnic pavilion. It is a valuable, lasting legacy of one of our more illustrious ancestors.

### **FLIGHT WITHOUT WINGS – SOME INTERESTING PETS**

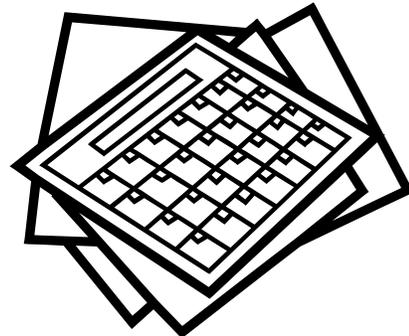


Following her mother's earlier precedent, HFA member Holly Watson recently acquired two orphaned baby flying squirrels and raised them as household pets. (When a girl, her mother had pet

squirrels on the Michigan farm featured in our May '03 issue; they cavorted in the balm tree described there.) Holly had to feed her babies every 3-4 hours with a syringe for the first two weeks until they could eat on their own. One is pictured on the back of her son, Matt. He loved to “fly” repeatedly back and forth between Matt and the room curtains. (Flying squirrels actually glide rather than fly. A membrane located between the wrist of the front leg and the ankle of the hind leg allows the squirrel to glide from one spot to another – see photo. The tail is used like a rudder as a steering aide. Adults can normally glide distances up to 160 feet.) Eventually Holly gave the squirrels to a couple with similar pets (sugargliders) who could provide them more space to exercise and no need to cage them.



Flying squirrel on Matt Watson's back



**EVENTS CALENDAR**

(Your attendance is invited)

- June 5                    HHS Annual Meeting in New Paltz  
                                  (10AM through lunch)
  
- August 14                Colonial Street Festival on Huguenot  
                                  Street (Volunteers needed at  
                                  Hasbrouck houses)
  
- October 9                HFA Annual Reunion in New Paltz

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

- Eleanor Ashworth, Burlington, NJ
- Leah Hasbrouck Delamater, Modena, NY
- Louise J. Hasbrouck, Linden, NJ
- Dorothy Wells, Holland, PA