PRESIDENT’S REPORT

Our annual reunion is fast approaching, and a reservation form is enclosed with this newsletter. Note that, for ease of mailing, we have a single, two-sided form for dues/contributions, reservations and proxy voting. Please be sure to fill out both sides of the form. For details on the reunion schedule see the separate item on page 2. Annual members, please send in your dues promptly to spare us the time and expense involved with follow-ups to delinquents. Our life memberships are a bargain at $300 ($150 for age 65 and older).

On the form we are asking again for special contributions for the Jean Hasbrouck House. The latest cost estimate for restoration requirements is around $570,000 – a challenging amount to raise! (See separate item for details.) Since it’s our family’s house and a critical, visible, touchable piece of our heritage, we’re asking for your help in financing this project and otherwise caring for the house, which – unlike the Abraham House – has no endowment to provide financial support. Please indicate your contribution on the line for that item on the dues/reservation form. As you’ll see on the form, we’re also looking to your generosity for contributions to our General Fund (which pays for our activities other than the Abraham House) and our Endowment Fund (the income from which feeds the General Fund). As mentioned previously, our income is shrinking with the current low interest rates – a threat to our programs. Please mail back your forms to reach us no later than October 3, so that we can meet the caterer’s deadline for a luncheon headcount.

With the annual membership cycle starting in October, I’m also asking for your help in recruiting new members for HFA. Ask your relatives to join. Give memberships to your children and help them to develop an interest in their fascinating cultural heritage. The longer-term health of our organization depends on having younger members enthusiastic about carrying on its objectives as the older ones inevitably fade from the scene. One potential aide for interesting young people in their Huguenot origins is a new issue of Calliope, a history magazine for children, devoted entirely to the story of the Huguenots (all in Europe except the last page, which features New Paltz). It’s available for about $5 through the HHS Museum Shop. I found it interesting reading as an adult and would recommend it for about sixth grade and up. The Shop also has a 22-page illustrated booklet for younger readers titled Old New Paltz and an adult-level issue of Christian History magazine about the Huguenots. Call them at 845-255-4544 if you’re interested.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.
ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion this year is on Saturday, October 11, in New Paltz. We will have registration, coffee/pastries and socializing beginning at 9AM in Deyo Hall, and house tours will be available starting at 10AM. Also at 10AM HHS Executive Director Jack Braunlein will update us on what’s going on with HHS. At 11:15AM we’ll proceed to the French Church for our traditional short memorial service. Afterwards we’ll stop outside the Jean House to view the buttressed north wall and hear what’s being done about it, then proceed to the Abraham House, where Neal Larson will take us through the display he created there for the current tour season. At 12:45PM we’ll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by lunch and our annual business meeting. We should be finished by 4PM. (Please make lunch reservations on the enclosed form.) Bring your HFA or HHS membership card for free house tours and a 10% discount (except on books and music) at the HHS Museum Shop.

If you are visiting Huguenot Street for the first time, we strongly advise you 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 to visit Huguenot Street. The houses can be visited only on guided tours and are closed Mondays. Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House) is not open for regular tours, but HHS can provide a private tour for members at 3PM on Friday, October 10. Mark the enclosed form if you’re interested. Feel free to 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)
Days Inn (845-883-7373).
You can also get information on bed & breakfast inns in the area (including a Hasbrouck house in Stone Ridge) 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!

MEMBERSHIP DUES

Enclosed is our annual membership dues notice. If your mailing label has an L on it, you are a life member and owe no dues. If you think you are a life member and don’t have an L on your label, contact our office for follow-up. Annual members who don’t have a 03 on their mailing label owe dues in arrears at $15/year as determined by the year on your label. Please send in your dues now; reminder notices are expensive! If you don’t want to bother with annual dues, life memberships are $300 ($150 for age 65 and over).

If you wish to maintain your membership and feel you cannot afford the dues, please tell us your situation and request a waiver. We especially don’t want to abandon long-time members whose current financial condition makes the dues a hardship.

Unlike the unincorporated family associations, membership in HFA does not include membership in The Huguenot Historical Society (HHS) although it does include all the benefits of HHS membership* except voting rights. If you want membership in HHS (and we encourage it), annual dues are $20 for individuals or $30 for families. You can send them a check at 18 Broadhead Avenue, New Paltz, NY 12561.

*Main benefits are (1) free house tours, (2) 10% discount at museum shop (except for books and music), (3) HHS newsletters, and (4) one free research request to HHS Library/Archives.

MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS AT OUR BUILDINGS

Jean Hasbrouck House

The examination of the house which highlighted the serious condition of the north wall has revealed the need for other actions as well. The total restoration project includes (1) tearing down the exterior wall and rebuilding it with its original stones; (2) replacing the interior plaster of the wall; (3) repairing the south wall and chimney; (4) grading the foundation; and (5) treatment for insect infestation. The latest cost estimate for all this is about $570,000. HHS is applying for grants
from a wide variety of government and foundation sources, but it’s doubtful that grants will cover the full amount, so our own fundraising efforts are vital as well. The HHS trustees have decided not to initiate the restoration work until half the funds have been raised, so there is only routine maintenance going on this year. However, work is proceeding on a furnishings plan based on an interpretation period beginning in 1766, when a store was opened in a front room.

Locust Lawn
Work continues on the roof and chimneys. The furnishings plan has been completed.

Abraham Hasbrouck House
HHS reports favorable reaction by visitors to the format of the temporary display (see photos) in place for this year’s tour season. In keeping with the recommendations of the Historic Structure Report (which finds that the house cannot be authentically interpreted in any particular historic period) the display focuses on the construction and architectural features of the house, which is an outstanding example of the Dutch-style stone house. The tour guides and information panels also cover the family’s occupation of the house and how life was lived in this type of house. A few typical items of furniture are displayed and explained.

HHS is enthusiastic about this format for the Abraham House because it is very different from all the other houses and broadens the scope of the visitors’ educational experience on Huguenot Street. Approval of this approach is not unanimous, however. (See Open Letter to Members on page 4.) Some members feel the focus should be more – or primarily, as in the past – on the Hasbrouck family’s experience in the house, including its traditional furnishings. Over the next few months the HFA officers will be discussing – both among themselves and with HHS – how to proceed for next year’s display and for developing an overall interpretation plan based on which the restoration project can be finished and the house displayed optimally. We welcome your input for this deliberation. Attendees at the annual reunion next month will experience the current display and be asked for comments and suggestions. It’s a critical item for HFA and for the interpretation of Huguenot Street as a whole.
AN OPEN LETTER TO MEMBERS

I am appalled to learn of the removal of furnishings from the Abraham Hasbrouck House. People love to see and have explained to them how various artifacts were used. The house and furnishings were ongoing over three centuries. The antiques gave a warm and lived-in look. Removing them destroys its beauty and charm.

I know the restoration cost a great deal, necessarily. The architects are proud of their expertise, justifiably. But this stripping action has no heart and no soul. Who but the architects will cherish an empty house with little but echoes of its past?

The house as I knew it was a work of art and love. Please keep it that way.

Family members, what is your opinion?

Eleanor Hasbrouck Rawlings

COLONIAL STREET FESTIVAL

HHS Historical Interpreter Caitlin Shuster explains Abraham House displays including Helene & Robert Anderson’s famous model with roof removed for interior viewing. Panel above it shows first phase of construction (center section, 1721).

A dire forecast of rain with thunderstorms discouraged some people from coming to the Festival on August 9, but those who did were well rewarded. The bad weather considerately held off until after it ended at 5PM, and there was even a fair amount of sunshine. The Colonial Street Festival on Huguenot Street is the Huguenot Historical Society’s biggest event of the year. There were so many things going on simultaneously throughout the day (stone house visits, craft exhibits, colonial-era military reenactments, entertainment, children’s activities and more) that it was impossible to cover it all. Certainly there was something interesting for visitors of all ages to do every minute. All the historic houses on the Street were open, many staffed at least partly by their family members. HFA could muster only three volunteers: veterans Richard Hasbrouck demonstrating his fish-net-making skills and Fran Ryder explaining the Abraham House, plus Robin Romano, who was assigned to the Deyo House, apparently because of her prior experience there.

Richard Relyea Hasbrouck demonstrates fish net making.

Let's hope more of our members will be available next year; visitors say talking to actual Huguenot
descendants adds a lot to their experience on the Street. In addition to the New Paltz houses, Locust Lawn and the Terwilliger House were also open with shuttle-bus service provided from Huguenot Street.

The Colonial Street Festival is a fascinating treat for all ages. You should mark your calendar for the next one on August 14, 2004.

Long-time HFA member Frances Ryder with furniture display at the Abraham House

SLAVERY ON HUGUENOT STREET

We are justly proud of the accomplishments of our Huguenot ancestors, but one important and embarrassing element of their society has been ignored until quite recently: slavery. Most Americans are well aware of the prevalence of slavery in the South; it was a major cause of the Civil War. But far fewer realize that it was a firmly entrenched institution in the North as well (although it was generally phased out there some years before the Civil War). Slavery was already established in New York when New Paltz was founded in 1678, and for about 150 years African slaves provided much of the labor on which the town's prosperity was built. Information about slavery is abundant in the records of New Paltz and its families. Slaves are mentioned in the Deyo and DuBois families before 1700. In 1703 the town included 9 slaves in its total population of 130. The 1755 census listed 28 slaveholders and a total of 78 slaves over the age of 14. By 1790, 302 slaves comprised 13% of the town's population of 2,309. There were 77 slaveholding households. Eleven of them held 7-14 slaves each with the largest holdings in the DuBois, Freer, Hasbrouck, Vandermark and Wynkoop families. Gradually rising humanitarian concerns in the New York legislature led to a series of restrictions on slavery beginning in 1773 and culminating in the Manumission Act of 1799, which established a process for the gradual abolition of slavery in the State - by 1848!

Because of the vast differences in land, climate, and economic strengths between the North and South, the structure of slavery in the two areas was very different; and for many slaves it was worse in the North. We are all familiar with the plantation-type economy typical of the ante-bellum South, where large groups of slaves lived and worked together and had a sense of community. The opposite was the case in the North. Most slaveholdings were small (typically 1-5 slaves), consistent with the much smaller farms prevalent in the North. As a result slave family members were usually owned by separate masters and forced to live apart from one another. They had relatively little contact with other slaves. Large gatherings of slaves were prohibited because of fear of rebellion and violence. As a result slaves lived and worked more closely with their masters in the North than in the South (although in an equally inferior status). Although conditions varied from place to place, most lived in cold, dark, wet, crowded, uncomfortable basements, attics, kitchens or outbuildings without adequate lighting, bedding or other elementary amenities. Relations between slaves and masters were in some cases quite humane and compassionate, but official records in Ulster County generally indicate a significant amount of hostility. Slaves were frequently beaten and/or whipped for their misdeeds; and in the case of public offenses their owners were also fined,
further alienating relationships. Despite the prospect of severe punishment slaves frequently ran away, motivated sometimes by harsh treatment and at times in order to try to visit separated family members and loved ones. The frequency of newspaper ads offering rewards for runaways indicates the extent of the problem. In New Paltz it reached such proportions that a group of owners formed an association which raised money to search for and apprehend escapees. In all, it must be concluded that, although many slaves accepted their lot with resignation, owner-slave relationships in general were to varying degrees adversarial. (To be continued. The information in this article is based on research by HHS archivist/librarian Eric Roth and contained in his paper, The Society of Negroes Unsettled: A History of Slavery in New Paltz, NY, which can be viewed at the HHS website: www.hhs-newpaltz.org.)

HASBROUCK GENEALOGY BOOKS AVAILABLE

Kenneth Hasbrouck's The Hasbrouck Family in America consists of six volumes published between 1952 and 1990 and represents the results of Kenneth's extensive genealogical research supplemented with a number of articles about family history. In recent years we have computerized and updated this genealogy and rewritten some aspects of the family history. However it will probably be several years still before we are able to publish our updated version of Kenneth's massive work. In the meanwhile these volumes comprise the only Hasbrouck genealogy in print and are still a valuable reference source for anyone seeking genealogical or historic information about our family. HHS is now in the process of turning over its inventory of these books to HFA, and we are offering them to our members in return for a minimum contribution just slightly above our own cost for shipping and handling (postage alone for a full set is about $12). We will send you the full six-volume set for a contribution of at least $30 and any lesser order for a contribution of at least $20.

For members not familiar with the volumes some further description is in order. Volumes 1 and 2 are bound together in a hard cover; this is the third edition, published in 1986. This combined work has 854 pages and contains the basic genealogy and family history. The subsequent volumes are thin books (hardcover except Vol. 6) containing additions to the genealogy and a smattering of historical items: Vol. 3 (1974) is 174 pages; Vol. 4 (1984), 75 pages; Vol. 5 (1987), 62 pages; and Vol. 6 (1990), 38 pages.

For long-time members who just bought the initial volumes, here is the opportunity to complete your set. For other members it is a great opportunity to acquire the initial volumes or the whole set. There is ample inventory of Volumes 1&2, 5 and 6 but only a small supply of Volumes 3 and 4; so if you want those volumes, don't delay. All orders should be accompanied by contribution checks (see terms underlined above) and sent to our office (P.O. Box 176, New Paltz, NY 12561-0176). We will ship the books as soon as they are available.

ARTISTIC EXPRESSION A SPECIALTY IN THIS FAMILY

Among HFA's more outstanding families is one which presently features three generations of artists - each in a different field and all very talented. The senior member of the trio - who has obviously passed on her artistic genes - is Eleanor Hasbrouck Rawlings. She has been well known for many years for her paintings, needlework designs, American decorative art, and Japanese bonsai art. (Her 1978 painting of Huguenot Street was reproduced on note cards which are still sold today at the HHS Museum Shop.) Her granddaughter, Liesl Odenweller, is a classically trained singer specializing in operatic roles. We featured her in the May '00 newsletter, and she sang at the French Church service at last year's Colonial Street Festival.

Now it's the middle generation's turn to take the spotlight. (See our photo of all three on page 3 of the September '02 newsletter.) Jane Rawlings Odenweller - Eleanor's daughter and Liesl's mother - is an established poet, who has won several national poetry contests. She has just completed her most ambitious work - a novel in verse! Available this month under her maiden name (Jane Rawlings), it is titled The Penelopedia and is written in a fast-moving, unrhymed free verse.
Penelope was the faithful wife of the wandering Odysseus in Homer's Greek classic, The Odyssey. Jane starts her novel where Homer leaves off, with the return of Odysseus, and creates an adventure story in which Penelope has her own odyssey before returning to her husband. This unusual work has earned critical acclaim, as typified by this comment in Booklist:

"A novel in rolling lines of verse a la Richmond Lattimore's translations of Homer may seem unlikely to be a page-turner, but that is what this startlingly inventive book is....Perfectly blending form, style and content, Rawlings makes an unforgettable character out of a mythic cipher."

So if you're looking for some reading that's innovative and intriguing, see what Penelope is up to!

Further blending her love of history and poetry, Jane is a trustee of Macculloch Hall Historical Museum in Morristown NJ, where she helped found a summer poetry reading series. She also writes and lecturers on women's history. The collection of artistic talents in this family is quite remarkable, and all three generations are currently active in contributing to the public's enjoyment of their varied specialties. And Liesl is expecting a baby daughter soon; the fourth generation is on the way!

DOES ALL THAT TALENT COME WITH THE NAME?

One of the HHS Scholarship winners last year was Rebecca Hasbrouck from Beaver Dam, WI, who has achieved an outstanding record in academics and student leadership at Taylor University in Indiana.

This year there's a different Rebecca Hasbrouck in the news, making a name for herself in a similar way. She was named by the SUNY New Paltz School of Business as the outstanding accounting student of the year for 2003. She was also a scholarship winner and graduated summa cum laude with a B.S. degree in accounting. Now she's working at an accounting firm in Newburgh while also pursuing an MBA degree in accounting at SUNY New Paltz and spending some time as a tutor and teacher's assistant - quite an ambitious schedule!

Rebecca is a 12th-generation descendant of Abraham Hasbrouck and has deep roots in the New Paltz area. It appears that members of all 12 generations have lived in the area. Rebecca comes from a long line of builders. Her great, great grandfather, Henry Hasbrouck, worked on the Mohonk Mountain House. Her great grandfather, Stanley Hasbrouck, Sr, was a prominent building contractor and built a number of buildings in New Paltz, including the firehouse and the village garage. His son, Stanley, Jr., helped on those buildings and went on to a long (and still continuing) career as a builder. He has a special interest in historic buildings. He did the 1974 reconstruction of the French Church on Huguenot Street; and in the '80s, with help from his son, Stanley, III, he did a complicated restoration job on the front columns of the Dutch Reformed Church plus other construction projects there. Stanley, III - Rebecca's father - works as a project manager for construction firms and is currently doing a senior citizen development in Poughkeepsie.

Since Rebecca is an only child, it looks as if this long line of builders is coming to an end. However, that depends on how you define the term. Instead of houses, Rebecca is building a reputation - as a smart, industrious young lady headed for success in whatever she sets out to do.
A HASBROUCK REUNION IN MONTANA

On June 27-9, 32 descendants of Jacob Wayne and Carrie Yeager Hasbrouck had a family reunion at the home of the couple’s youngest daughter, Beth Hasbrouck Clark, in the Bitterroot Valley of Montana. Attendees came from Montana, Washington, Arizona, Colorado, Connecticut and Mississippi. They included the two survivors (Beth and Lucile) from Jacob & Carrie’s five children and the widow (Gladys) of a third. In all, four generations were represented, ranging in age from 91 to 3 (see photo).

Jacob & Carrie are representative of the westward migration of Hasbroucks as the country expanded. His great grandparents (Josephat Hasbrouck and Ida Schoonmaker) were still in the New Paltz area in the 1820’s but apparently moved to Iowa (we know that Ida died there). Jacob and his wife were both born in Iowa in the late 1800’s and lived together briefly there and in Michigan but spent most of their lives in Montana, where Carrie had relatives.

As evidenced above, their descendants have spread widely around the country. But they enjoyed returning to their roots to share the fellowship of their extended family and pay tribute to the hardy couple that made it all possible.

AND ANOTHER IN OHIO

For the last 50 years the descendants of Fred L. (A 7TH-generation descendant of Jean) and Mary St. Clair Hasbrouck have held an annual reunion, which has kept their family ties strong despite considerable geographic dispersion. They usually meet in Ohio, where Fred and Mary spent their lives. Last year they celebrated their 50th reunion on Huguenot Street, which many had never visited before. (See the report in the Sept. ’02 newsletter.) This year they were back in Ohio for the weekend of June 13-15 at Maumee State Park near Toledo. There were 26 attendees from 11 families with three generations represented. The families socialized and enjoyed the park facilities.

The families added to a family tree of Fred & Mary’s descendants initiated at last year’s reunion and expect to complete it at their next reunion. The only planned event was the Saturday night dinner, at which – as established by tradition – a representative of each family gives a report on that family’s activities for the past year. Thus everyone is informed about the whole extended family and able to experience a close bond with all these relatives. It’s a successful formula that should contribute to popular reunions for years to come.

MORE PHOTOS ON WEBSITE

Additional photos related to several items in this newsletter are (or shortly will be) posted on our website (www.hasbrouckfamily.org), so take a look. The photos on the website are in color.

We welcome our new members:
Barbara Carroll, Monmouth Junction, NJ
Judy Van Vleet, Great Falls, MT

We have received notice of the following member death:

Lynn Carhart, Latham, NY