



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

# JOURNAL

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## 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 this page. 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 \$350 (\$200 for age 65 and older).

On the form we are asking again for special contributions for the Jean Hasbrouck House. (See separate item about the house status for details). 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). Our General Fund income is still insufficient to fund all the things we should be doing. Please mail back your forms to reach us no later than October 2, so that we can meet the caterer's deadline for a luncheon headcount.

With the annual membership cycle starting in October, I'm again 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. As mentioned previously, a potential aide for interesting young

people in their Huguenot origins is an 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 \$4.50 through the HHS Museum Shop. I found it interesting reading as an adult and would recommend it for about fifth grade and up. Call them at 845-255-4544 if you're interested.

Strained finances are leading to delays in many HHS projects, including those at all three Hasbrouck houses. See the details in Our Houses on page 2. The financial situation forces HHS to cut expenses, including staff, resulting in a shortage of human as well as financial resources available to sustain and grow the many activities of HHS and thereby attract the increasing level of public interest and support needed to ensure its long-term viability and success.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

## ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion this year is on Saturday, October 10, in New Paltz. We will have registration, coffee/pastries and socializing beginning at 9AM in Deyo Hall. Dawn Elliot will be with us to demonstrate the fishnet-making skill she learned from Richard Relyea Hasbrouck. At 10AM HHS Executive Director Eric Roth will update us on what's going on with HHS. At 10:45AM we'll proceed to the French Church for our traditional short memorial service. Afterwards we'll visit the Jean and Abraham Houses for an update on what's happening and planned at each one. In

between, we'll be passing by a cultural exhibit near the DuBois Fort and can stop for a quick look. At 12:45PM we'll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by lunch, some version of the HHS historical skit, *The Founding Mothers* (including Abraham Hasbrouck's widow, Maria Deyo), 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 for books and music) at the HHS Museum Shop. While in Deyo Hall, you can visit the exhibit "A Notion to Sew", displaying the needlework of Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck and her daughters from Locust Lawn plus related historical information.

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 on Wednesday. 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)

Rodeway Inn (845-883-7373).

You can also get information on bed & breakfast inns in the area (including a Hasbrouck house in Stone Ridge – see June '08 newsletter) from the Chamber of Commerce (845-255-0243).

Mark your calendars for October 10 and plan to come and find out about your extended family!

### **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 09 on their mailing label owe dues in arrears at \$20/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 \$350 (\$200 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 \$35 for individuals or \$50 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 books and music), (3) HHS newsletters, and (4) information requests to HHS Library/Archives requiring up to 30 minutes staff time.

### **OUR HOUSES**

#### **Abraham Hasbrouck House**

The scope and complexity of the restoration project here is proving to be beyond what can be accomplished with available resources by the initial target date of May 2010, which is now being slipped to mid-2011. In the near term, painting of windows and shutters will improve the outward appearance of the house, and work is proceeding on a furnishings plan. However, we are still studying options for rafter stabilization. And we have done nothing yet about an electric/lighting plan other than to recognize the need for one and the necessity to coordinate the rafter work and electric/lighting with other plans being formulated for the interior. And at this point we can only guess at the cost of the overall project, but it will probably

be in the neighborhood of \$100,000 more than the Anderson Fund can provide by May 2010. We want the Abe House project to provide results equivalent to what was achieved at the Jean House, and we are confident it will justify the delay (as happened at Jean).

#### Jean Hasbrouck House

The top item here is the need for a new roof, which is likely to cost over \$100,000 and require a specific financing effort. This was initially envisioned for this year; but due to the current economic conditions, it won't gather steam before next year. However, this is already HFA's fundraising emphasis, and our early start gives you the opportunity to spread out donations over several years and provide a higher level of total support. Meanwhile, HHS will be seeking grants to help cover the cost of the project and doing patchwork repairs until enough funds are available to begin the roof replacement.

More currently, rear-door hardware and transom windows have been installed, and curtains added to the bed in the Andre Bevier room (see photo from Richard Heyl de Ortiz). The research conducted by HHS to ensure authenticity of the beds in the Jean House will be covered in a subsequent issue.

#### Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House)

Our June newsletter outlined the framework for a plan to move this property (including the Terwilliger House) toward eventual self-sustaining status (under HHS oversight) with its own board of directors and financial support. The critical step in this direction was the appointment of HHS's Kevin Van Kleeck as part-time site manager. However, Kevin has decided to return to school and, though continuing part time with HHS, will be unable to perform the site manager function. HHS has no one available to replace him, so progress on the site will be delayed. More immediately, however, painting of the exterior should be accomplished this year.

## HASBROUCKS HAVE BLACK SHEEP TOO

Although our database entry for Lewis Benjamin Hasbrouck (1849-1874) says he was a lawyer who was shot by cattle thieves on the frontier, the *Legends of America* website tells a different story: "A horse thief operating in Kansas, L. B. Hasbrouck, was captured with several other horse thieves near Caldwell." While they were in jail awaiting trial, a lynch mob stormed the jail on July 29, 1874 and lynched Hasbrouck, along with two others. Apparently our database needs to face the unpleasant facts on this ancestor!



Jean Hasbrouck House: Andre Bevier room showing new bed curtains

## HASBROUCK SITES IN NEVADA

Richard T. Hasbrouck from New Mexico has made us aware that there is a Hasbrouck Peak (also called Hasbrouck Mountain) in southwestern Nevada. It is 6,226 feet high and located ten miles southwest of Tonopah, about halfway between Carson City and Las Vegas.



This is mining country, and among numerous mines in the area are/were four named Hasbrouck, as well as several mining companies with that name. Mining (mainly for gold and silver) in the area started around 1900 and lasted until the '80s. But exploration activity continues there, and higher gold prices could lead to resumed production. A 2006 report indicated that "the current mineral inventory at Hasbrouck Mountain is 459,000 ounces of gold."



Hasbrouck Mountain

Richard enlisted the services of the Nevada State Library and the State Archives to try to discover which Hasbrouck(s) these places were named for, but they were unable to find anything definite. Official maps from 1913 did not show the name, so it must have originated later than that year. There is a likely candidate, found in the 1910 Nevada census: Edwin Hasbrouck, age 45 (so born in 1865). He is listed as a quartz miner, born in Iowa, single, no children, living in/near Tonopah. This Edwin is not in our database, which is missing quite a few family members who moved west and lost contact with their eastern relatives. Our best guess is that the mountain was named for him and that the various mines (all nearby) and associated mining companies took the name of the mountain. (No family connection could be found with any of the mines or companies.)



a Hasbrouck mine

If anyone has any knowledge of this Nevada family connection, please let us know. It is always interesting to learn how our family spread so far and wide from its New Paltz roots and to discover the often fascinating stories involved in this migration.

### **PRESIDENTIAL COVERUP (CONCLUSION)**

Our June edition introduced this story and covered President Grover Cleveland's secret operation to remove a cancerous tumor from the roof of his mouth with related anesthetics and tooth extractions performed by Dr. Ferdinand Hasbrouck of New York City. It ended with Dr. Hasbrouck back on shore but two days late for another critical operation and the President recuperating at Gray Gables, his summer home in Massachusetts.

Dr. Hasbrouck's delayed assignment was to assist a prestigious Manhattan doctor, Leander P. Jones. Pressed to explain why he was appearing so late without any prior notification of a delay, he confided what had happened. Insulted at being preempted and inconvenienced, and annoyed at having to deal with an angry client, Dr. Jones passed on the story to a reporter friend, E. J. Edwards of the *Philadelphia Press*, who promptly visited Dr.

Hasbrouck and probed for details. Persuaded that the story was now publicly known – at least in outline – and proud of his own role in it – Dr. Hasbrouck gave Edwards a full account. Being a conscientious reporter, Edwards sought to confirm this sensational story with the primary authorities: Drs. Bryant and Keen, Mr. Lamont and the White House. They reacted with outraged denials, branding Edwards as a scandal-mongering scoundrel and calling Dr. Hasbrouck a vicious liar – an unknown dentist who was called in for a routine extraction job and fired for bungling it! Dr. Bryant blamed Dr. Hasbrouck for breaking the code of medical secrecy and henceforth would not communicate with him. He sent Hasbrouck his \$250 fee by messenger with no note attached. The *Philadelphia Press* withheld the story pending further investigation, and ultimately concluded that they had sufficient confirmation to publish it on August 29. Official denials continued, and by that time rumors of the operation and discrediting rebuttals had largely defused its impact.

continued his recuperation under the pretext of a summer vacation with his much younger wife, who was then seven months pregnant with their second child. And, of course, he was working on his August 7 speech to Congress. He returned to Washington on August 5 and was able to personally direct the strategy for the repeal of the Sherman Act. The House voted overwhelmingly for repeal on August 28, just a day before the *Philadelphia Press* article appeared. Resistance was stronger in the Senate, where western silver-producing states had greater representation; but repeal was finally voted by a narrow margin on October 30. In the meantime, the President's excellent recovery and healthy appearance had assuaged concern about his condition, and talk of a secret operation faded away. Official confirmation of the operation did not come until 24 years later – nine years after Cleveland's death – when Dr. Keen wrote his authentic account of the event in *The Saturday Evening Post* in 1917.



Meanwhile President Cleveland had overcome further adversity and was on his way to political victory. He had a rubber plug installed to fill the hole left in the roof of his mouth. When Dr. Bryant removed the plug to check the healing of the wound, he found that some cancerous tissue had regrown. So on July 17 a follow-up operation was performed in secret on *Oneida*. This one was much simpler, lasting only a few minutes. The President took it well and

**LAUGHING GAS!**

This wonderful discovery for the relief of pain was first made by Priestly in 1776. The discovery of the anæsthetic use of it for the painless extraction of teeth was made in 1844, by Dr. Horace Wells, of Hartford, Conn., and to him *alone* is due the honor of being the originator of this great discovery.

**DR. HASBROUCK**

was for several years the operator for the Colton Dental Association. He has given the gas to more than 50,000 people in the past 16 years, and his experience is second to none in this country.

**OFFICE,**  
**952 BROADWAY,**  
Cor. 23d Street.

We don't know whether the official denunciations of Dr. Hasbrouck had any subsequent negative impact on his practice; but we suspect that it had little long-term effect. His



son, James Foster Hasbrouck, also became a dentist (and professor of oral surgery at New York University). The two shared an office on 38<sup>th</sup> Street in Manhattan for some time. An obituary of Ferdinand noted that he was one of the first to use nitrous oxide as an anesthetic (starting around 1874) and that he lectured on its use for many years at the New York College of Dentistry. He died in August 1904 from stomach cancer at age 70 – eleven years after his not-so-secret medical encounter with President Cleveland.

**HFA IMMINENT CENTENARIAN TURNS POETIC**



Eleanor Rawlings about 1992

On November 30 Eleanor Hasbrouck Rawlings and her family will celebrate her 100<sup>th</sup> birthday. As far as we know, that will make her HFA’s only centenarian (please tell us if you know of others). She may also be our most long-standing member, having joined HFA and HHS in the ‘50s. (Again, if you know of any other surviving members of that era, please let us know.)

Eleanor, an 8<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of Abraham, had an active interest in the Abraham Hasbrouck House and was frequently a hostess

there with her friend and HFA founding member, Helene Hasbrouck Anderson. She is known for her artistic talent, or more accurately, her multi-talent. She painted water-colors, did decoupage, made decorated paper lampshades, did stitchery (including tapestry), as well as linen samplers for cross-stitch/crewel work, and designed patterns on canvases for stitching the HFA coat of arms. She was an expert in the art of bonsai (growing dwarf trees in artistic shapes), gave lectures/demonstrations to garden clubs and introduced this art to Bermuda. But Eleanor is best known to Huguenot Street visitors for a single work – a Grandma Moses-type painting of the Street (see photo) done in 1978 to celebrate the bicentennial of New Paltz. The original work now hangs in the Visitors Center in the DuBois Fort. And it was copied onto note cards, which for many years have been sold in sets (10 for \$11.95) in the HHS Museum Shop. They are still available in the Shop or by e-mail order (from [shop.huguenot.org](http://shop.huguenot.org)) — probably the Shop’s most long-standing sale item.



Huguenot Street by Eleanor Rawlings (1978)

As she closes in on centenarian status, Eleanor’s eyesight is problematic and her hand not as steady as in former years. However her mind is still sharp, and that is what she is using now to continue her artistic expression. She has long been interested in poetry, but never did much in the way of composing. However, last fall as she contemplated the season, a poem

popped into her head, and “virtually wrote itself,” she said. As we again approach autumn, here it is:

### OCTOBER

My love affair with summer  
Is very nearly over.  
Birdlings seek a warmer sun;  
A bee has left her clover.  
Butterflies have vanished.  
The hills with color ring.  
The air is effervescent – begins to sing.  
And my heart also.

She also produced another poem, useful as an every-day reminder to us all:

### HAVE A NICE DAY

Maybe it isn't a nice day,  
But it's the only one we have.  
Yesterday has blown away,  
Tomorrow ... is tomorrow.  
If you can make someone laugh,  
That's a good day.  
Teach someone a long-time skill,  
Do a job to help a friend,  
Pick up the phone to show you care,  
Write a letter, say a prayer.  
With a little help from you and me,  
Any day can be a great day.

We hope Eleanor's muse will continue to inspire additional output from her. Most of us find it hard to imagine being 100, let alone creating poetry at that (or any) age. But it's not surprising for Eleanor, considering the many talents we've described (in past issues) in her family line, including father, daughter and granddaughters. And Eleanor now has great grandchildren, so there may be still more talent to write about in the future.

### ANOTHER HASBROUCK STONE HOUSE IN NEW PALTZ

Certainly the most well-known Hasbrouck family stone houses in New Paltz are the Jean

and Abraham Houses on Huguenot Street, owned by HHS. Some of you may remember from our Feb 2001 newsletter an article about a third such house – at 193 Huguenot Street, a bit north of the other two. It was built in 1786 by Col. Jacob Hasbrouck, Jr, a grandson of Jean, and is still owned and occupied by one of his descendants, HFA member Richard Relyea Hasbrouck. But very few people realize that there is a fourth Hasbrouck stone house in New Paltz, still farther north at 315 Old Kingston Road. This is the Petrus Hasbrouck House.



Petrus Hasbrouck House (1765) at north edge of New Paltz

Petrus Hasbrouck, born in 1738, was a son of Solomon and grandson of Abraham. He inherited the northern half of his father's property along the east side of the Wallkill River. In 1765 he married Sarah Bevier and established a farm on 82 acres of the property with buildings consisting of a two-room-plan stone house, Dutch barn and hatters shop. During the Revolutionary War he was a second lieutenant in the second company of New Paltz militia, belonging to Col. Johannis Hardenburgh's regiment, which served from 1775-1782 and was involved in considerable fighting.

Between 1776 and 1782 Petrus and Sarah had ten children – 8 boys and 2 girls. Around 1790 he made a one-room addition to his house. Petrus remained on the farm, occupying the house until his death in 1799. It then passed to his fourth son, Samuel (1779 -- 1853), although the second son, Simon (born



1768 -- a bachelor and possibly disabled) lived there too. In 1811 Samuel married Lydia Crispell, and between 1812 and 1818 they had four children; but the youngest two died in childhood, leaving two daughters. Having no male heir, Samuel chose to relocate and sold the house to William W. Deyo. But it was actually still in the Hasbrouck family because William was married to Samuel's niece, Sarah Hasbrouck (1791 -- 1853). Sometime between 1858 and 1875, however, it was sold to a Mr. I. Walsh and passed out of the hands of Huguenot descendants.

After several intermediate owners -- the house in 1931 belonged to Wally and Martha Waldron, who raised fighting cocks and had as many as 40 pens for them on their property. In that year the Huguenot link was reclaimed when the property was purchased by Elton and Viola Le Fevre. By that time the original outbuildings were gone; only the stone house survived from Petrus Hasbrouck's time. The Le Fevre's son, Herb, lived in the house as a youth, inherited it from his parents, and is the current owner. Herb lives in Tarrytown and rents out the house. HFA consultant Neil Larson lived there for about four years (around 1996 -- 2000) and provided most of the information for this article. The 1 1/2-story house lies at the end of a long, heavily wooded lane, so it is not visible from Old Kingston Road; but it is interesting to discover that there is a fourth 18<sup>th</sup>-century Hasbrouck stone house in New Paltz -- not on Huguenot Street, but close to it. (In fact, it was included in a large 1720's property subdivision which extended north from the Hasbrouck property at 193 Huguenot Street.)

**PAST EDITIONS OF THE HFA JOURNAL**  
**AVAILABLE**

Our newsletter often includes references to articles in previous editions. We have extra copies of most of these issues, and they are available on request. Send it by regular mail (see address on masthead) or e-mail and specify which editions you want. Or you can request a specific article; and if we can find it, we'll send it.

**OLD NEW PALTZ DAY**

Please visit our website ([www.hasbrouckfamily.org](http://www.hasbrouckfamily.org)) to see a photo slide show (in color) of the activities at Old New Paltz Day on Huguenot Street. Two samples are shown here.



HHS re-enactors portray "The Founding Mothers".



Loom weaving demonstration

**WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS**

Marc Carey, Albany, New York  
James Hasbrouck, Blackstone, Virginia

**WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE**  
**FOLLOWING MEMBER'S DEATH**

Doris Barnard Hasbrouck