President’s Report – Thad C. Hasbrouck

An English proverb, ‘Time and tide wait for none,’ seems appropriate, as 2021 flew by in spite of the ongoing COVID pandemic. Here we are back on standard time with the cold of winter upon us. Reflecting on the past year, the Hasbrouck Family Association’s work has continued in good fashion.

Plans for the Jean and Abraham Houses projects are moving toward completion in 2022, described later in this newsletter. Four academic scholarships are being awarded to deserving college students of Huguenot Street lineage. Membership has grown to over 300, a cause to celebrate!

The holidays are coming - gifts of ‘something Hasbrouck’ would be greatly appreciated by your family members! HFA has an online store with a wide variety of merchandise. Partnering with Zazzle, the store has something for everyone. Know that all profits from the sales go to the HFA general fund that supports the work we do to sustain the family houses, their furnishings, and academic scholarships.

Zazzle fully guarantees satisfaction with all purchases. Here is the store link: https://www.zazzle.com/store/hfa_hasbrouck_store

Take a look – there are many items from which to choose – you help HFA with your purchases and make someone in your family happy – a win-win!

Another wonderful holiday gift for Hasbrouck family members is a life membership. With the 300th Anniversary sale expiring at the end of December, now is the time to purchase. See the details in the next article.

Wishing you a joyous holiday and a happy, healthy new year!

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300th Anniversary Life Membership Special

To celebrate the 300th Anniversary of both the Abraham and Jean Hasbrouck Houses in 2021, the HFA Board of Directors established a special discount on the purchase of HFA Life Memberships. Until the end of 2021, life memberships are half-price!

Life Membership for someone under age 65 is normally $350. For 2021, the price of Life Memberships one through four is $175 each. A bundle package of 5th, 6th, etc. can be purchased for $87.50 each.

Life Membership for 65 or older lists for $200. 2021’s discounted price for one to four Life Memberships is $100 each. Purchasing a bundle package (5th, 6th, etc.) is $50 each.

The savings in this 300th Anniversary Life Membership Discount offer are amazing! The more members a person signs up, the greater the savings. Families are encouraged to sign up everyone. Parents and grandparents – sign up your children and
grandchildren. Friends – sign up additional friends and those with an interest in history.

For life memberships one to four, go to the HFA website, select either the Become a Member or Gift Membership button to the right and complete the memberships. To sign up the 5th and more life members, please email the HFA Office (hasbrouckfamily1957@gmail.com) and provide contact information for instructions.

Don’t wait – this offer ends on December 31st!

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HFA Annual Membership
The strength of HFA is found in its membership. If you opt to not take a life membership, keeping up to date your Annual Membership ($20) is ever so important. Online at the HFA website, membership startup and renewal can be easily completed, including auto-renewal. Being a part of this great organization is to be a part of the preservation of our family heritage.

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The 2021 HFA Annual Reunion Recap
Because of the ongoing COVID pandemic, the HFA Annual Reunion was held virtually on Saturday, October 23, 2021. At 10:00 AM, twenty-one attendees were logged in on Zoom to participate in the 64th annual meeting and reunion.

As members came online, they viewed a video of the group photos of many previous annual reunions. Viewers saw themselves, as well as parents, grandparents, and of course, lots of cousins.

In the business meeting, the President’s Report highlighted HFA activities of the past year. Restoration projects at both Hasbrouck Houses were described, as well as the awarding of larger scholarships for 2021, the European genealogy research currently underway, and the donation by an HFA member of a circa-1815 portrait of Abraham Hasbrouck (of the Strand in Kingston). HFA is working with the owner of the Colonel Josiah Hasbrouck House (Locust Lawn) on some restoration work there.

The Treasurer’s Report, given by Rebecca Hasbrouck, highlighted the strong financial position of HFA with assets valued at over $6 million. The two accounts have diverse portfolios.

Liselle LaFrance, President of Historic Huguenot Street, reported on the state of HHS. Due to COVID, HHS staff continue to work remotely. Thanks to the U.S. Small Business Administration’s Paycheck Protection Program, all staff has been retained. Virtual programs have been successful, keeping people connected to HHS. Tours on the street have been held by appointment with small numbers of people per tour. School groups have begun to return to the street, visiting the Abe House in hands-on tours. HHS is appreciative of the ongoing support of HFA.

At the close of the business meeting, reunion activities followed. The Rev. Dr. David Brechter, pastor of St. Remy Reformed Church, led us in a brief worship service, as we would have done at the
Walloon Church on Huguenot Street had we met in person. His sermon and prayer were appreciated. Following the worship service was a virtual video tour of the Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck Houses. Events ended shortly after 11:00 AM.

Huguenot Street Happenings – Liselle LaFrance

It was wonderful to see the site bustling with activity during the late summer and fall.

Director of Public Programming Kara Augustine and her team developed diverse offerings to meet varied interests. Pathway to the Ballot Box, an immersive theater experience exploring 300 years of local women’s history, funded by the New York State Council on the Arts and Humanities New York, was successful by all measures. Justin Wexler’s Nature Walks and the evening Haunted Walking Tours continue to draw sold out audiences. On-site tours were offered by reservation. As the year winds down, tours are now offered on weekends only, and Holiday on Huguenot Street is scheduled for the first weekend in December.

Additionally, HHS offered an array of online exhibits and virtual programs, including a popular series of Luunape language workshops.

The Delta variant brought about a surge in COVID cases in Ulster County, so that the Fall Harvest Gala became a virtual event, thanks to the extraordinary efforts of Annual Fund Manager Alivia Messina. A financial success, the gala offered the premiere of a film highlighting historic homes and landscapes in Western New Paltz, including Hasbrouck family houses. It is now available as a program that can be viewed online through the end of the year: [https://www.huguenotstreet.org/calendar-of-events/virtual-house-tour](https://www.huguenotstreet.org/calendar-of-events/virtual-house-tour).

A $350,000 grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities allowed the Curatorial staff, led by Josephine Bloodgood, to embark on a major collaborative digitization and conservation initiative with partners from the Haviland-Heidgard Historical Collection at the Elting Memorial Library, the Reformed Church of New Paltz, and the Town of New Paltz.

Perhaps the biggest news was the awarding of a $500,000 Save America’s Treasures grant from the National Park Service. The grant requires a 1:1 match, and funds will be used to restore the Bevier-Elting House.

Site Supervisor Renzo Cinti and his team are now preparing the houses for the cold winter ahead.

Please consider the Shop on Huguenot Street when doing your holiday shopping: [https://historic-huguenot-street-museum-shop.myshopify.com](https://historic-huguenot-street-museum-shop.myshopify.com). Great gift ideas include jigsaw puzzles of the street’s houses, Cat’s Meow houses, and a 2022 calendar highlighting recent programs and events.

Abraham Hasbrouck House

As most HFA members know, the west wall of the Abe House has been restored to its appearance at the completion of the third phase (south room). The Abe House will be presented as it was in 1750. Finishing touches on the façade will be completed in 2022.

Seen in the above photo - on the left, the opkamer (upper) room door is elevated several feet above ground level. When first built, there were steps from the door to ground level, with the original entrance to the cellar kitchen to its left. The Dutch stoop had a porch floor with seating and rails on each side, as well
as steps to ground level. While shop drawings for the stoop are underway, a sketch of the stoop and cellar hatch are shown here. A similar stoop will be constructed for the center room door, though at ground level. Fabrication and installation will be done in 2022 fully bringing the facade to its 1750 appearance.

The back of the house, the east wall, is an enigma. Its original appearance is not overtly clear. Study continues to determine how its restoration will look.

Jean Hasbrouck House

Most readers are aware that the Jean Hasbrouck House roof project was completed in the Fall of 2020. The bright new color of the Alaskan Yellow Cedar shingles has begun to ‘tone down’, taking the gray patina for which cedar roofs are known. Details about the roof can be found in the February 2021 HFA Journal.

Three new projects at the Jean House are in their early stages.

The first involves work to be done on the west wall (back of the house). After the 1786 renovations to the Jean House, the entrance to the cellar was located at the back of the house. Cellar steps are built into the ground, with a stone retaining wall. Atop this is an outlet-like covering. Rebuilt an unknown number of times, the covering is badly in need of restoration. John Stevens has developed shop drawings for this. Singles for this cover were purchased at the time of as those for the house roof, so it will have Alaskan Cedar shingles to match the house roof. Another part of this project is repointing the west wall. The existing mortar pointing is not historically accurate and has the wrong type of mortar applied. The existing mortar will be removed and replaced with the proper type of mortar in a style similar to that on the north wall. Neil Larson, our HFS historical architecture consultant has developed a detailed project scope and a request for proposal for the wall and cellar cover.

The second project is the renovation of the 1830 barn seen at the back edge of the Jean House property. While it is a 19th century barn, beyond the historical interpretation period of the house, the barn provides much needed storage space for HHS. Elements of this project include repairs to roof rafters and the installation of a new roof, as well as the rebuilding of the north wall. This work will stabilize the structure and extend its life well into the future.

Third is a replacement for the very old furnace at the house. From its days as ‘The Museum’, when the Jean House was the only museum building on the street, the house had a heating system for the first floor. As with furnaces in our own houses, with time the furnace wears out. The current one, in place for decades, needs to be replaced. With concern that it won’t survive the winter, the furnace will be shut down and the water drained; four space heaters will be used on the first level to maintain some level of heat and keep humidity in control. With the house not on tour during the winter, this short-term solution will meet the needs while a more permanent heating solution is studied and developed. (As a note, the Abraham House does not have a heating system and uses space heaters for the winter months.) In both houses, electrical outlets have been installed in discreet locations for such purposes as space heating.
The 1814 Col. Josiah Hasbrouck House, that he called Locust Lawn because of the many locust trees on the property in Plattekill, having been closed for an extended period due to the COVID pandemic, opened for tours at the end of July. Also, several planned programs were offered. The ‘1830s Victorian Weekend’ on August 7th was a success. Attendees experienced life in the time-period of President Martin Van Buren with craft demonstrations, and a variety of living history displays throughout the property. On the grounds of Locust Lawn, another special event, ‘Living History Day’, took place on September 27th. This was a hands-on event celebrating arts and crafts of the past. There were activities for people of all ages.

HFA is pleased to have the capacity to support Locust Lawn with projects. As with any house, maintenance and repairs are necessary. When a house is over two-hundred years old, its upkeep is critical.

Locust trees, from which the house got its name, have aged and in some cases had to be removed. HFA provided funds to purchase new, young locust trees several years ago; these trees have matured to a level whereby they have been planted along the front of the property.

Also at the front of the property are two stone pillars and curved walls marking the original driveway. Two years ago, a drunk driving accident demolished one of the pillars and damaged the adjacent wall, including the wall’s curved capstone. John Delamater, an HFA Vice-President, has been working with the owner of Locust Lawn on solutions to the repairs of these historic objects. We look forward to seeing the restored pillar and wall.

The Locust Lawn mansion is an impressive house. By its design, the roof is on two levels, atop the third floor and portions of second floor. (See the above photo.) In the roof design are interior gutters. They are an integral part of the roof structure, not separate items fastened to a fascia board, as is commonly done on today’s houses. Visually, not seeing gutters provides a clean appearance for the house. However, if the gutters begin to fail due to age, the risk of leaks is great. A plan has been developed to repair the two roof levels, including rebuilding the interior gutters. With John Delamater as our liaison, HFA is pleased to be a part of this critical repair to keep Locust Lawn an amazing architectural gem.

If you’d like to catch up with ‘LoLa’ find them: on Facebook: facebook.com/LocustLawn or Instagram: @locustlawnmuseum.

Another Hasbrouck House on Huguenot Street
This is an updating of an article that was published in the February 2001 edition of the HFA Journal, originally written by Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

Most of you are certainly aware of the two historic Hasbrouck family stone houses owned by HHS on Huguenot Street in New Paltz and built by the sons of Jean and Abraham Hasbrouck in 1721. But in fact, there are three Hasbrouck houses on the Street. The third one (see photo) was owned and occupied by HFA member Richard Relyea Hasbrouck until his death in 2015. It has remained relatively unknown to the larger Hasbrouck family as it is a private home and is about a half mile north of the HHS-owned houses, at 193 Huguenot Street.

Jacob Hasbrouck, Jr., a grandson of Jean the Patentee, built the house in 1786. Born in 1727, he never knew Jean (who died in 1714); but he grew up in the Jean house on Huguenot Street, continued to live there after his marriage to Jannetje DuBois in 1751, and inherited it when his father died in 1761. With his business at the house, he was storekeeper to the community as his father had been for many years. During the Revolutionary War he became a major in the Ulster County militia and was known thereafter as Major Hasbrouck. In 1786, at age 59, he turned over the store at the Jean House to his 31-year-old elder son, Josiah. (Josiah later became a member of the U.S. Congress (1803-05 and 1817-19) and in 1814 built Locust Lawn, in nearby Gardiner, NY.) On a large family landholding just north of the
village, Major Hasbrouck built a substantial Dutch-style stone house with three rooms and a central hall; he moved there with his wife and 19-year-old younger son, Jacob J., where they operated a farm. A 1798 tax assessment listed the house, barn, hay house, storehouse, 1,600 acres of land, and five slaves.

Major Hasbrouck died in 1806 and his wife in 1807; Jacob J. inherited the property. He was married in 1793 to Margaret Hardenberg, (who died in 1796) and in 1799 married Ann DuBois. Jacob J. ultimately had ten children and needed more living space. In 1812 he built a five-room stone addition across the rear of the house (a traditional Dutch-style expansion technique) with a salt-box roof that went from the top of the new rear wall all the way to the ridge of the original house, thus maintaining a neat, straight line to the end-view of the house.

Jacob J. Hasbrouck (1767-1850) was an influential man in the community. Besides running the farm, he was town clerk for many years, was twice elected to the State Assembly, and was a local leader of the Democratic Party. Influenced by the increasingly popular Federal style of architecture, he altered the house in that direction with plastered ceilings, frescoed walls, new trim, and other changes; but it was ultimately not enough to satisfy him. Around 1823 he built an elegant brick house about four miles north of the village and left the older house to his eldest son, Maurice. At his death in 1850, Jacob J. was the wealthiest landowner in the New Paltz area.

Maurice (1800-77) married Jane DuBois in 1825, continued to run the large (400 acres), prosperous farm and made no material changes to the house. His eldest son, Jacob M., was apparently not interested in running the farm (he later became the first mayor of New Paltz in 1887), but his second son, Abraham M., was. When Abraham (1839-1910) married Eliza LeFever in 1870, Maurice turned the farm over to him and moved to a smaller house nearby. Abraham maintained the prosperity of the farm until his death. He was also a trustee of the New Paltz Academy (from which he had graduated) for twenty-five years.

Influenced by popular trends of the period in rural architecture, Abraham made extensive renovations to the house, most notably the 1876 addition of two tall, pointed dormers. He also redesigned the entrance door and front porch and built an arched plaster ceiling in the front of the hallway.

Abraham’s only child was a daughter, Laura, who inherited the farm at his death in 1910. She valiantly maintained the house through two wars and the Great Depression even as the farm’s economy steadily declined. She was ultimately forced to sell the farm (it no longer exists) but retained ownership of the house although she rented it for some time. She recognized the historical significance of the house and spent considerable effort preserving it. She rebuilt decaying fireplaces and chimneys, repointed exterior joints, removed plaster ceilings from the dining room and kitchen, and built a new staircase in the hallway. In the early 1940’s a fire damaged the kitchen and north-side roof which she faithfully repaired.

Laura was intent on keeping the house in the family and ensuring its continued preservation. This was a problem because, although she had married Rev. Franklin Dwight in the 1930’s, the couple was childless. So, when she died in 1964, Laura willed the house to Richard, who was a collateral cousin. (He is a descendant of Maurice’s brother, Huram. His father, Walter, was a president of HHS and supported Laura in her historical interests regarding the family and the house.)

Richard carried on Laura’s legacy. Due to his efforts, the house was placed on both the State and National Registers of Historic Places in 1999. Richard arranged for the house and five surrounding acres to be owned by a family trust after his death. Historic Huguenot Street released its residuary beneficiary of the trust, while receiving financial and tangible assets. Currently, two of Hasbrouck’s children reside on the property.

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European Ancestry Research Undertaken
As you are aware, Hasbrouck genealogy in the US has been quite extensive, with nearly all Hasbrouck’s
(with all the numerous spelling variations) tracing their lineage to either Jean or Abraham, the first of our family to emigrate to the American colonies. However, our European ancestry has not been tracked, despite numerous attempts by family members over the years. With some assuredness, we know that Abraham and Jean’s father was named Jean. There is one reference to their mother, named Esther. And we are reasonably sure that they were from the area of Calais, in what is now France. HFA has contracted with Trace Genealogy to conduct the family search in Europe, currently with French genealogists. The first stage of this research is to verify information about Jean and Esther, the parents. If that is successful, the next stage will be going back more generations. Stay tuned!

The HFA Gavel

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Hasbroucks Hold Family Reunion

Over seventy members of the Hasbrouck family arrived in New Paltz on Friday and Saturday of the past week to attend the 8th annual Family Reunion. Although the family reunion was new to old members, distance prevents many people from coming to the reunion. Following a luncheon at the Old Fort, the Hasbrouck reunion was held in the Founding Room of the Dutch Reformed Church. Mr. Thad Hasbrouck and his brother, Mr. Donald Hasbrouck, made a very fine gavel to be used at future meetings.

Thanks to the ongoing research of family history by Donna Hasbrouck, she came across an article from 1964 about the presentation of a gavel to Ken Hasbrouck, founder and then president of HFA. The newspaper article highlighted the activities of the annual meeting and noted activities that were being done at the Abe House, then the sole focus of HFA. The gavel was made by Thad M. and Donald H. Hasbrouck, using wood removed from the Abe House in a restoration project. They are the father and uncle of Donna and the HFA president. This article led the president to do some searching through materials in the HFA office, where the gavel was found in a storage box. At the recent annual reunion/meeting, it was used to open and close the meeting, and will be so used for the foreseeable future.

A Recipe from As Our Ancestors Cooked

In this edition of the HFA Journal, we draw from Ulster County old recipes in Alice Hasbrouck’s As Our Ancestors Cooked cookbook. Copyrighted in 1976 by Huguenot Historical Society, the cookbook was republished with special permission by HFA in 1999. (The book can be purchased from HFA through our website, or from the HHS Museum Shop, also online or in person at the DuBois House shop on Huguenot Street.) It must be noted that old recipes often were short on directions, as it was understood what steps were needed. Ingredients were locally grown.

As winter approaches, the days grow shorter, the temperatures colder, and we draw closer to the fireplace. With apples harvested, it’s a good time for some comfort food.

**Apple Fliters (fritters)**

Pare your apples and cut in thin slices and mix them with your flour. Stir in a quart of milk and 4 eggs, a little salt and saleratus* to make a thick batter, fry in plenty of lard.

*Saleratus is sodium bicarbonate, the main ingredient of baking powder.

Your doctor may not be pleased with this recipe, but a hot apple fritter on a cold day will taste great!

New Members – Welcome to HFA!

Anne Arpin, Fernandina Beach, FL
Bobbie Williams, Chandler, AZ
Carolyn Hassenkamp, Bridgewater, NJ
Donna Lane, Houston, TX
Geraldine Boneske, Greenfield, NY
John F. Hasbrouck, Trenton, NJ
Joseph Hopper, Newburgh, NY
Joseph Sixta, Jackson Heights, NY
Louisa Sabino, Staten Island, NY
Margaret Casey, Norwich, NY
Matthew R. Hasbrouck, Ewing, NJ
Michael Green, Mount Kisco, NY
Samuel Nickelsen, Sarasota, FL
Thomas Prol, Asbury Park, NJ

Members who have left us

Robert W. Hasebrook
Lawrence Hasbrouck, III