



HASBROUCK FAMILY

ASSOCIATION

JOURNAL

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PRESIDENT'S REPORT

Our annual reunion (October 10) 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, see the separate item in next column. 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 roof. (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**.

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/grandchildren and help them to develop an interest in their fascinating cultural heritage. Get them to look at our website and participate in our Facebook site. Contact some of our Facebook "friends" and try to interest them in joining HFA; so far, very few of them have done so. 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.

Robert W. Hasbrouck, Jr.

ANNUAL REUNION

Our reunion this year is on Saturday, October 10, in New Paltz. At the reunion we will have registration, coffee/pastries and socializing beginning at 9AM in Deyo Hall. At 10AM we will hold our annual business meeting. 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. At 12:45PM we'll meet back at Deyo Hall for a group picture followed by lunch (please make lunch reservations on the enclosed form), a status/outlook report from HHS and two Hasbrouck-related historical vignettes by HHS re-enactors. Then we invite you to linger on your own and visit the exhibits in the Visitor Center at the DuBois Fort and the newly reorganized museum shop there.

If you are visiting Huguenot Street for the first time, we strongly advise you to spend at least one night here because the HFA 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 Wednesdays. (Bring your HFA or HHS membership card for free house tours and museum shop discounts.) 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 during the foliage season, and accommodations are already getting scarce for that weekend. New Paltz has three good motels:

America's Best Value Inn (845-255-8865), the closest to Huguenot Street
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). More lodging is available in nearby Highland, Poughkeepsie, Newburgh and Kingston.

Mark your calendars for the October 10 reunion and plan to come and find out about your extended family and details of your Huguenot heritage!

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 15 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 \$50 for individuals or \$75 for families (up to 5 people). You can send them a check at 88 Huguenot Street, New Paltz, NY 12561. *Main benefits are (1) free house tours, (2) 10% discount at museum shop, (3) discounts for HHS programs and events, (4) HHS newsletters, and (5) use of research library and archives by appointment.

OUR HOUSES

Abraham Hasbrouck House

Remedial work to eliminate the moisture problems in the chimneys will be completed soon. A study is still in progress to determine steps to eliminate moisture coming through the walls, mostly on the north side. Detailed planning is underway for restoration on the south side involving elimination of the lower windows and changing the upper windows to shuttered openings, recreating its appearance in the 1760-75 interpretation period for the house.

Jean Hasbrouck House

HHS is awaiting results (coming this fall) of two grant applications totaling \$98,000 for replacing the roof plus related work. In addition, they have been adjusting the furnishings in the house to better match the interpretation period (1750's except northeast room 1790's).

Locust Lawn (Josiah Hasbrouck House)

The June behind-the-scenes tour went well with 15 attendees.

Two sides of the house have been repainted. The other two sides are scheduled for next year. Additional white picket fencing to replicate the historic appearance of the property should be installed this fall. The property sits on a sharp bend in the road from New Paltz. Cars occasionally fail to make the turn and crash into the stone wall and pillars at the front entrance. They had to be rebuilt again recently after another crash incident.



Painting activity at Locust Lawn

**COAT OF ARMS ITEMS AND OTHERS
AVAILABLE ONLINE – EXCELLENT FOR
CHRISTMAS PRESENTS**

Our internet users can now obtain a number of attractive items decorated with the Hasbrouck coat of arms. Items currently available include tiles, mugs, magnets, badges, note/greeting cards, a keepsake box, a golf shirt, several types of tee shirts, a tote bag and several jewelry items. See and order these items online at www.cafepress.com/hasbrouckfamily. You can also see the full line of CafePress products at www.cafepress.com. If you see another item there that you'd like to have decorated with our coat of arms, let us know, and we can probably arrange it. Other Hasbrouck items (including an \$11.95, 13"x16" coat of arms print suitable for framing) are available at the HHS Museum Shop and can also be ordered by phone (845-255-1889) or regular mail. Online sales are scheduled to begin in mid-September; see www.huguenotstreet.org. See also publications available directly from HFA on our website (click on HFA Store). If you are interested in jewelry with the Huguenot Cross,

the Museum Shop has a small collection, and the National Huguenot Society offers a larger one at www.huguenotcross.com/gehucr.html.

WE LOSE A LONG-STANDING MEMBER



Richard Relyea Hasbrouck

Richard Relyea Hasbrouck died on August 16 at age 87; he had experienced deteriorating health in recent years. Richard was an 8th-generation descendant of Jean. His father, Walter, served a term as President of HHS. In 1964 Richard inherited the historic stone house at 193 Huguenot Street (half a mile north of the HHS properties), built by Major Jacob Hasbrouck, Jr., a grandson of Jean, in 1786 (and featured in our Feb. '01 newsletter). Its previous owner, Laura Dwight, was a friend of Walter; and when she died childless, she willed the house to Richard, a collateral cousin. Since then he has lovingly maintained the house in excellent condition and fostered its addition to both the National and State Register of Historic Places in 1999.

Richard was a lifelong member of the Reformed Church of New Paltz (across the street from the Abraham House) and was active in several capacities there. He was also a regular volunteer with both HHS and HFA for

many years, and we have missed his active involvement more recently as his health declined. Now we mourn his loss and extend our sympathy to his widow, Vivian, and their family. Based on Richard's expressed wishes, the family has asked that memorial gifts be sent to HFA, designated for the Jean House roof.

AN IMPORTANT VICTORIAN-ERA LEGACY
– THE JULIA LAWRENCE HASBROUCK
COLLECTION



Julia Lawrence Hasbrouck
(courtesy of Stone Ridge Library)

Julia Lawrence Hasbrouck diligently kept a diary for nearly four decades, using it to chronicle her role and responsibilities as a 19th century wife, mother and daughter. Julia's meticulous entries, written between 1838 and 1873, reflect her opinions and views of these experiences. Her seventeen diaries, as well as daguerreotypes, portraits, school composition books, piano forte sheet music and two diaries kept by Julia's daughter, comprise *The Julia Lawrence Hasbrouck Collection*, now housed in the Ulster County Hall of Records after lying forgotten in a library closet for decades. The chronological scope of Julia's writing, paired with her descriptive and

personal style, provide a detailed account of private and public life of the early Victorian era as experienced by a white, middle class, northern woman. The diaries relate not only the factual aspects of the time but also the thoughts, beliefs, attitudes and relationships that are integral to the study of social history.

Julia Lawrence Hasbrouck (1809-1873) was one of eleven children born to Samuel Adams Lawrence and Catherine Remsen. Records can trace the prominent Lawrence family to Hertfordshire, England as early as 1580. Around 1655, baptismal records show them well established in South Hampton, Long Island. The family is listed in *Famous Families of New York; Historical and biographical sketches of families which in successive generations have been identified with the development of the nation*, published in 1902. Descendants of the distinguished Lawrence family include the namesake of Sarah Lawrence College, the Lawrenceville Cement Company, and the founders of Columbia County. According to the author of *Famous Families of New York*, Julia's father, Samuel, "...was an importer and thereafter, director and president of many corporations and institutions. He was an influential friend and backer of DeWitt-Clinton, a United States Senator, presidential candidate (1812) and Governor of New York (1817-1822), who was largely responsible for the construction of the Erie Canal.

In 1835 Julia Lawrence wed Garret DuBois Hasbrouck (1810-1888), a fifth-generation descendant of Jean, who owned a dry goods store in Greenwich Village near the Lawrence house. They had three children: a daughter (also Julia) in 1836 and sons Louis (1837) and Remsen (1839). Although the Hasbroucks were well respected in Ulster County, their position in New York society was not equivalent to that of the Lawrences.

Julia and her family lived in New York City, then moved to rural Stone Ridge, near New Paltz, a transition that her diaries describe as a difficult one. The move was necessitated by her family's economic losses during the Panic of 1857; and Julia, like most



Garret Hasbrouck
(courtesy of Stone Ridge Library)

middle class women of her period, had little power over the financial choices of her husband, but was profoundly affected by them. Julia's diary vividly expresses her tension, building on the lives of middle class women who were charged with raising responsible children and creating an emotionally sustaining home environment, but had little power over the world they inhabited. And amidst all this, she had to deal with the loss of both her sons (in their early twenties) to tuberculosis.

In her diaries, Julia relates with vivid description and surprising depth many aspects of her private and public life. She writes about the arts, her religious values, current events, social etiquette and interactions, philosophy, the changes and development of New York City, literature and family life. Her readers see how a sensitive and perceptive woman of the mid-19th century views the dramatic realities of life at that time: child mortality, death in childbirth, the threat of tuberculosis, the physical effects of the required dress, the changing religious trends, financial and political events, war, the tides of social etiquette and much more. The arts, religion, social mores and strata, ethics, literature,

jurisprudence are all woven together in *The Julia Lawrence Hasbrouck Collection*.



L-R: Louis, Remsen, young Julia in 1843
(courtesy of Ulster County Historical Society)

This article (lightly edited) appears by permission of its author, Susan Stessin-Cohn, who is presently co-historian of the Town of New Paltz (NY) and is intimately familiar with the Collection. In our next newsletter we'll continue her article with more details of the diaries and their significance. Meanwhile, you can get immediate exposure by visiting Ms. Stessin-Cohn's blog about Julia and her writings at:

<http://frommypenandpower.wordpress.com>.

OUR LAST LIVING WORLD WAR II VETERAN?

Joseph O. Hasbrouck, born in 1917, is a 9th generation descendant of Abraham and an uncle of HFA Vice President John Delamater. He may also be our family's last surviving World War II veteran. If you know of any others, please tell us. We'd like to learn of their wartime experiences and life after as well.

Joseph was born and grew up in Modena, NY, a hamlet about 4 miles south of New Paltz and the home of Delamater's family since 1855. He attended the first two years of high school in New Paltz and the last two at Riverside Military Academy with seasonal campuses in Georgia and Florida. Afterward he attended Packard Commercial School in Manhattan for two years before returning to



Staff Sergeant Joseph O. Hasbrouck in 1943

Modena to work for his father, Joseph E. Hasbrouck, Jr., who owned the J.E. Hasbrouck Coal, Feed and Lumber Company.

With America involved in World War II, Joseph was drafted in 1942. He was assigned to the Army Air Corps and sent to communications school in Illinois, after which he went to California and joined the formational cadre of the 354th Fighter Group. He soon developed a severe case of hay fever and asked for a transfer but was turned down. Eventually the Group moved to an airfield near Portland, OR, and his hay fever disappeared. The Group trained with P – 39 Airacobras, one of the few fighter planes available in the early stages of the war. Joseph used his recently learned communications skills as a specialist in that field and became a staff sergeant and team leader. With two corporals and a private first class working under him, Joseph's team was responsible for maintaining the communications equipment on six planes in the 353rd Fighter Squadron, one of three which comprised the 354th Fighter Group. He maintained this position for the rest of the war, being with the 354th from its formation until well after the end of the fighting.

In October 1943 the Group traveled to Camp Kilmer, NJ and embarked for England on a troopship, arriving there in early

November. They soon settled at Boxted Airdrome near Colchester, northeast of London, and were excited to learn that they would be the first unit to be equipped with the newly developed P – 51B Mustang fighters, which they soon confirmed to be a “pilot's dream” -- fast, maneuverable and with an operating range greater than any other available fighter. The last feature was especially important because, until this point, American bombers attacking German-controlled areas deep in Western Europe did not have fighter escorts with enough range to protect against opposing German Luftwaffe fighters all the way to their targets and back. The P- 51B filled this gap.



P-51B Mustang

To reflect their status as the first unit flying the new fighters, the 354th became known as the Pioneer Mustang Group. On December 1, only 20 days after receiving their planes, the Group flew its first combat mission in its new role as escort for the bombers. Two weeks later came their first raid over Germany. In February they were authorized to descend and attack targets on the ground which they might encounter on their way back to Boxted. On March 3, 62 fighters from the Group escorted bombers all the way to Berlin for the first time

On April 17 the Group moved from Boxted to an “advanced landing field” close to the English Channel, and it was evident that the long-awaited Allied invasion of continental Europe was approaching. The tempo of operations accelerated, and the 354th was increasingly assigned to attack ground targets in addition to its long-range bomber escort missions. But when D-Day arrived on June 6, the Pioneers were disappointed not to be included in supporting the now-famous dawn

invasion across the beaches of Normandy. However, that night they were in action escorting paratroopers and gliders dropping on the nearby Cherbourg Peninsula and were aloft again before dawn on another mission.

On June 14 the Group started to displace to a forward airstrip built by Navy Seabees just inland from the invasion beaches and only ten miles from the front lines fighting. But there were dangers on the English side of the Channel as well. On June 13 the Germans launched a terror bombing campaign against the London area with new V-1 rockets, called "buzz bombs" by the Allies because of their characteristic engine sound. When the rocket dived to its target, its fuel flow stopped, and the sudden silence alerted listeners to its impending impact. Many of the rockets fell short of their targets, and the 354th was often in their path. On one such occasion, Joseph was working on a plane when it appeared that a buzz bomb was heading his way. He leaped from the wing to seek shelter, and broke several bones in one foot. (He was wearing soft Indian moccasins purchased at the 1940 NY World's Fair because combat boots were not allowed on the aircraft surfaces.) This proved to be his only war injury. Told that if he went to a hospital, he might subsequently be assigned to another unit, he chose to stay. (The full extent of his injury was not discovered until an x-ray some years later.)

Joseph's movement to the French airstrip also proved perilous. He was on a transport plane with doors removed for a recent paratroop drop and flying low over the Channel because of bad weather. Watching the water rush by a short distance below, he feared being sucked out of the open doors and was relieved when the pilot aborted the trip and returned to England. The next day he made the flight safely to the new base.

By July 3 the entire Group had completed the move to the French airstrip. On July 4 General Eisenhower came to visit and was taken on a flight over the Cherbourg battlefield in a Mustang the group had customized as a two-seater. From this time forward the Pioneers dropped their bomber

support role and concentrated on providing close support (dive bombing, strafing, aerial protection) for the ground troops, starting with their breakout from the beachhead at St. Lo in late July. In mid-August they displaced to a former German airbase in Brittany, and in early September they celebrated their 500th combat mission and their destruction of 500 enemy aircraft.

For the rest of the war the 354th operated to provide close support for General Patton's Third US Army as it advanced across France, Germany, and ultimately into Czechoslovakia and Austria. Two highlights along the way:

In November the Pioneer Mustang Group was dismayed when higher headquarters took away their Mustangs and substituted P-47 Thunderbolts. These slower, heavier fighter-bombers were heavily used in ground support roles during the war and were considered capable of absorbing more damage from enemy fire than the Mustangs. The Group dutifully transitioned to the Thunderbolts and performed admirably with them. In mid-December came the unexpected, large-scale German counterattack known as the Battle of the Bulge, and the Group supported Patton's rapid, hard-fought advance to break the German siege of Bastogne, Belgium and rescue the 101st Airborne Division, surrounded there, in the most famous battle of the "Bulge."



P-47 Thunderbolt

In February 1945 the Pioneers were delighted to have their Mustangs restored. Once more enjoying the speed and better handling qualities of their favorite plane, the Group used them effectively through the end of the war in May. They ended up at a German airbase in Bavaria at Herzogenaurach, better known now as the world headquarters for both Adidas and Puma sportswear. The 354th Pioneer Mustang Group had compiled an outstanding record. In 1,384 missions the pilots had destroyed about 956 enemy planes, (including 701 in aerial combat – more than any other fighter group in Europe). Few units receive a Presidential Unit Citation, but the Pioneers received two – one for their effective long-range support of bombers before D-Day and another for “extraordinary heroism in action” on August 25, 1944, when each squadron fought separate actions over France and, although outnumbered in all three, inflicted such damage that the Germans withdrew.

With the war over, commanders had to create activities to keep the troops occupied while they awaited transfer back to the USA. Joseph taught business classes to the pilots, aided by his time spent prewar at Packard Commercial School. He also had a chance to do some sightseeing; he especially remembers Innsbruck, Austria and Mt. Ste. Michel in France. Eventually he went to London with a group of men from his squadron for shipment home. Due to some kind of bureaucratic lapse, he and one other were left behind when the rest embarked on a troopship. To make amends the two were later sent home, not crowded into the hold of a troopship, but in a cabin on the liner Normandie, which had been converted for military service during the war. Joseph was discharged at Fort Dix, NJ in November 1945 and returned to work for his father in Modena. He eventually took over the business but sold it in 1968 and moved to Fort Lauderdale, Florida, where he worked in a lumber yard. There he fell in love with a fellow employee; he and Barbara were married in 1973. Because of the company’s nepotism rules, they had to

leave it. They moved to Lake Wales, where he also worked for a nearby lumber company until retiring at age 70 and moving to his present location in Leesburg, FL. Wanting to stay active, he worked part time for a modular home builder and then for TruValue Hardware. He lost Barbara to cancer in 1990 after 17 years of marriage. Now 98, he needs a walker to get around (mostly related to his war injury) but is still sharp mentally and enjoying life with the help of friends and neighbors. We look forward to his centennial celebration in two years!

While researching the 354th Fighter Group for this article, we discovered that there was a Lt. Ralph C. Hasbrouck from East Orange, NJ in its 355th Squadron. He arrived as a replacement pilot in September 1944 and flew with the Group through the end of the war. Joseph was in a different squadron and had no knowledge of him. Our database shows him to be a 9th generation descendant of Abraham, born in 1922. Soon after the war (October 1945) he married Muriel Kopriva. Between 1947 and 1954 they had three boys and a girl (Ralph C., Charles, Glenn T. and Susan). He was a police officer and died at Orange, NJ in 1964, at age 42. We would like to have more information about Ralph. If you know anything about him or his descendants, please let us know.

WE WELCOME OUR NEW MEMBERS

Marianne Adams, Pleasant Hill, IL
Don Hasbrouck, Elm Creek, NE
Robert Isabella, Newburgh, NY
Carroll Tabora, McLean, VA

WE HAVE RECEIVED NOTICE OF THE FOLLOWING MEMBER DEATH

Richard Relyea Hasbrouck (see item on pg. 3)
Norma Romm
Elizabeth Sheldon