



# Hotchkiss Family News

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Volume VII Issue I

Lin Meeker, Editor

## 2009 Reunion to be Held in Valley Forge, PA

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### 2009 Reunion

#### "The Revolutionary War, Part I"

The reunion will be Aug 14-16 in Valley Forge, PA. Don Hotchkiss is organizing this year's reunion. Don will discuss the beginnings of the Revolutionary War, what led up to the battles that occurred in 1775-1776 and ending with the events of December 1776 with Gen. George Washington's time in Valley Forge.

Don will concentrate on the battle of White Plains, NY in Sept. 1776, follow Washington out of New York, thru New Jersey and into Pennsylvania and Valley Forge.

Those that attended the Gettysburg reunion will remember what a fine job Don did. Don would like anyone who lives in the general area that can help by providing information on motels, restaurants, other sights to see. If you have suggestions, please contact Don Hotchkiss or Lin Meeker, Editor. (addresses listed on page 4). We'll narrow of tour from many choices in the area. Valley Forge is just northwest of Philadelphia, PA.

Make your plans to attend, much more detail will be in May's newsletter: Gen. George Washington and his troops spent the



famously bitter winter of 1777 on this very land, and although no battles were fought

here, thousands died from starvation and cold due to inadequate supplies. However, the strategic location of the encampment did allow Washington to guard the Continental Congress, which was then convening in nearby York, Pa., with the British in control of Philadelphia. It also afforded time for Gen. von Steuben to employ his Prussian military methods to turn the ragtag soldiers into a fighting army by spring. Over 200 years later, the 3,600-acre National Historic Park is now a peaceful and well-maintained tribute to that period. It's possible to visit the historic buildings or

### How Many Hotchkiss Men Served in the Revolution?

We've added several to our list, some are Sarah's descendants. I'll bet there are more, but we need your help. Looking for those who served with Hotchkiss' name is fairly easy, but descendants of Hotchkiss women are more difficult to find. If you know of Hotchkiss descendants that do not carry the

Hotchkiss name, please forward to the editor, the name and as much information about their service that you have (dates of birth & death, spouses name, what state they served for and the regiment if you have it. The more information the better.

So far we've identified **94** Hotchkiss men who served: Descendants of John—41 Descendants of Samuel—12 Descendants of Sarah—6 Descendants of Joshua—25 Descendants of Thomas—4 Descendants of Daniel—6

This reflects most of the men with the Hotchkiss name who fought. However, our Hotchkiss women married and had sons who served. We have a found a few, but if you are a descendant of Sarah Hotchkiss, Samuel's daughter, who married Jeremiah Johnson, there are more Hotchkiss descendants to find. Plus the daughters of

John: Ruth Sackett

Samuel: Mary Tuttle

Joshua: Martha Brooks, Hannah Peck, Abigail Winston, Mary Atwater

Thomas: Sarah Turner, Dorcas Youngs, Lydia Johnson

Daniel: Elizabeth Matthews, Rebecca Ives, Jemina Andrews have descendants who served in some capacity.

#### Action Notes:

- Plan now to attend the 2009 reunion, meet all your family there.
- Volume II, the Joshua Hotchkiss Book, is still available. Contact Lin Meeker
- Consider having a Hotchkiss male in your family take advantage of the DNA test to help determine Samuel's sons lineage.
- Send your Hotchkiss women's history and their sons during the Revolutionary War to the editor.

**Let's find them all!** Send information, married names, dates, children & places to the editor and we'll add them to the list. Note, it is generally the 3rd or 4th generation from Samuel, the immigrant who served.

## Notes from Joan, HFA Genealogist

Thank you to all the cousins who sent Christmas cards. It was great to hear from them. My apologies, also, for keeping their checks for some months until I accumulate \$75-100 to deposit. Sometimes it takes a while. I am still working as many hours as I can fit into my day correcting errors I found in the first read-through. Most are 'stutters' - ss-aa- usually. My near-7 year old granddaughter loves finding them in my emails to her. I still have high hopes to have John published this year, but with Jo-Ann's wedding in April and her father being here from Arizona for most of that month... now I'm not sure. I will try to do my darndest.

## Hotchkiss DNA Project

The Hotchkiss DNA Project is ongoing. We are still encouraging more Hotchkiss men to participate. We have 67 test markers complete for these sons of Samuel, the immigrant: John, Joshua, Thomas and Daniel. We are trying to connect a group of Canadian Hotchkiss' which surely descend from Samuel, but which son is still being researched. DNA evidence will prove the connection to which son, and hopefully the whole line can be researched and proven.

We are also looking for male Hotchkiss descendants the descend from Samuel's son, Samuel to have a comparison for that line.

If you have questions or would like more information on how to participate, please contact Ross Hotchkiss at 905-469-9148 or by email hotchi@pathcom.com

Many large families are developing DNA studies, it has been a boon to genealogy. Please consider participating.

## Your Donations Are Appreciated

Our mailing list is nearly 600 strong. If you have not yet made a donation or if you have not made a donation this year, please consider doing so. It is wonderful to be able to communicate with all of our Hotchkiss cousins. As you know mailing costs have gone up twice in the past year and will go up again in May. The HFA operates on donations in lieu of dues. Some cousins have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. Your donations support record keeping for the Hotchkiss family line, the newsletters which are published three times a year, and the incidental costs of preparing our books for publication. Donations are encouraged. Every little bit helps. Thank you. Please send your donation to:

Mrs. Joan Johnson, 36 Beach Dr.,  
Prospect, CT 06712-1603

**Thank You** for your support.

## Condolences

### Ruth (Dudley)(Dahlin) Manweiler 526-113-467-2

Woodbridge, CT: Ruth Manweiler, age 100 died Oct 29, 2008. She was the beloved wife of the late Harold Manweiler and Roland Dahlin, Sr. She was born Dec 14, 1907 in Ansonia, daughter of Charles & Charlotte (Cox) Dudley. A member of the First Church of Christ, Congregational, past president of the Homemakers Club, several Grange organizations. She was also a member of the Daughters of the American Revolution. She leaves her family, son, Rolly Dahlin, Jr., his wife Jeanne of Branford; 3 daughters, Shonnie DelloRusso, her husband Al of Orange, Edee Lockyer, her husband Harvey of Woodbridge and Carol McGrath her husband Ned of East Aurora, NY; 9 grandchildren: Douglas & Donald Lockyer, Dean Smith, Erik & Karl Maeder, Raymond & Richard Dahlin, Linda Dahlin Marvin, and Rebecca Maeder Doll; 15 great grandchildren and 5 great great grandchildren.

### Stanley R. Hotchkiss 526-(10)22-264

Past President of the Hotchkiss Family Association, Stanley R. Hotchkiss died Jan. 6, 2009 at his residence in Port Arthur, Texas where he resided for the last 5 years. Previously he lived in Nokokis, Florida for 20 years and before that, Thomaston, Connecticut. He owned & operated the Hotchkiss Funeral Home & worked in the family real estate and insurance business with his late brother, Edward H. Hotchkiss, also a past president of the HFA. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruth. Survivors are son, James Hotchkiss, his wife Tammy and grandchildren Emily & Jacob of Port Neches, Texas and daughter Charlotte Hotchkiss & grandchildren Chad, Cory and Joann of Pennsylvania.

#### Please Note—

We try to include information on the passing of our Hotchkiss cousins. With only 3 newsletters each year, they are not always timely. My apologies to family members for any I've not included. Send information to the editor for any Hotchkiss cousin you'd like included here.

### Hotchkiss Products

Cousin Bob Hotchkiss is closing out Hotchkiss products: mugs, hats, visors, Westward Ho CD's and baby hats. He has discounted these products to move them out. Please contact him directly for stock and pricing. You can reach him at (see below)



bhot@twobeesspecialty.com  
or 541-471-4399 Pacific time.

### Another Hotchkiss Author A Pair of Kings and A Joker By James M. Hotchkiss, Jr.

Jim writes, "This is a profusely illustrated biography of my grandfather, W.J. Hotchkiss, a great man in the business world and also the leader in creating the Golden Gate Bridge. Thrill to the triumphs of W.J. Hotchkiss in his business empire of farming, canning and lumber.

Read and become a believer that the Golden Gate Bridge might never have been built without his efforts. W.J. is the founder and leader of the Bridging The Golden Gate Association.

Laugh out loud at the incredible neurotic behavior of W.J.'s nincompoop son, Marius. Then rejoice as all of the family's greatness recurs in Marius' son, Miller.

It is on sale for \$15.95 at [www.lulu.com](http://www.lulu.com) In the search box type in 'pair of kings' or "James Hotchkiss"

### Hotchkiss Author Writes about the Revolutionary War The Whipmaker's Son By Clarence Hotchkiss

Clarence "Hocky" Hotchkiss, wrote the Whipmaker's Son, a novel based on Captain Gideon and David Hotchkiss as characters and based in their life's timeframe. Events include the Lexington-Concord and Fort Ticonderoga battles. Several members of the Hotchkiss family are mentioned and daily activities of the times are described.

Another book the author has written is the Pres Redway Story also of the Revolutionary War era.

We hope to have Clarence at the 2009 Reunion to speak about his research and writing his books based in the Revolutionary War era.

### Did You Know These Facts about the American Revolution ?

- The largest army ever commanded by George Washington was one of about twenty-six thousand men.
- The warning spread on the night before Lexington and Concord was, "The Redcoats are coming." To have said, "The British are coming" would have made no sense because everyone in the colonies was considered British.
- In June 1775 the British warship HMS Margarettta was boarded and captured by a group of Patriots armed largely with axes and pitchforks.
- King George III paid seven pounds for each German mercenary he hired and promised the ruler of the German states from which the man came an additional seven pounds if the man was killed.
- The war had been in progress for eighteen months before the first flag with "stars and stripes" was adopted by the Patriot forces.
- What is known as the Battle of Bunker Hill was actually fought on Breed's Hill. The Patriots intended to take Bunker Hill as well, but the British attacked before they could.

2008

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### Editor's Correction

## President of the Hotchkiss Family Association

The President of the Hotchkiss Family Association, Jim Hotchkiss did not announce his intention to step down next year, only that if someone else wanted to take on the job, he would step aside. Our by-laws indicate that we hold elections every two years (next election will be 2010). If you are interested in serving in any capacity, please let someone on the board know.

**Hotchkiss Family  
Association Website**  
[www.Hotchkissfamily.org](http://www.Hotchkissfamily.org)



## Coat-of-Arms

This rendition of the Hotchkiss coat-of-arms is printed in six colors on 11" X 14" parchment, a handsome gift. The cost is \$6.00 each plus \$4.00 handling and postage fee for mailing to one address. It will be mailed to you with good protective backing. Enclose a gift card with your order if you wish it to be shipped to someone else. Send your order to: Mrs. Brenda Hotchkiss

P O Box 63  
Mexico, NY 13114

*Make checks payable to: Hotchkiss Family Association, Inc.. Your order should include your name, address, check, number of copies requested, & note your family relationship.*



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A lesser known story of the Revolutionary War

## The Lowly Palmetto Defeats the Royal Oak

Reprinted from It Happened in the Revolutionary War by Michael R. Bradley, published by TwoDot a registered trademark of The Globe Pequot Press

Two lines of one of the most popular songs sung by men of the Royal Navy during the eighteenth century were “Hearts of Oak are our ships. Jolly Tars are our men.” Indeed, English oak was widely known among shipbuilders and sailors as the best wood in the world for warships. Tough and long lasting, the wood was so desirable that trees still standing in the forest were often blazed with the mark of the Broad Arrow making them “Royal Oaks,” the property of the king.

Along the Carolina coast stood large numbers of another kind of tree, the palmetto. Most settlers treated it more as a weed than a tree. Its wood was soft and spongy, unfit for fires and impossible to saw into planks. Structures built of palmetto logs simply rotted away in three or four years. No one had a kind word to say for the palmetto tree, yet the lowly palmetto was destined to defeat the Royal oak.

The year 1776 would prove to be a roller-coaster year for Americans. The British evacuated Boston, and the thirteen colonies declared independence, forming a national government. But independence had to be made a reality, and the British were not going to allow that to happen easily.

As the citizens of America tried to make their independence more than just words on paper, the British sent a military expedition of ten warships and thirty transports, loaded with 2,000 men, to the southern colonies. Originally, the expedition planned to reinforce a group of Loyalist Americans in North Carolina, but this group was defeated and dispersed in a battle at Moores Creek Bridge. Gen. Henry Clinton and Adm. Sir Peter Parker then chose Charleston, South Carolina, as their alternative target.

In South Carolina great excitement spread with the word that the Crown’s forces were coming. Many people in the colony had not yet decided which side to support in the war, but they were certain they would defend their homes. Soon, two regiments of troops had been raised, and their rosters read like a Who’s Who of South Carolina society, The colonels of the regiments were Christopher Gadsden and William Moultrie. Other officers included Charles Cotesworth Pinckney and Francis Marion. These units were not a part of the Continental Line, the regular American army; instead they were South Carolina troops under the orders of the governor of that state.

Time was short, so defenses had to be constructed in a hurry. Colonel Moultrie was in command on Sullivan Island. He ordered two cribwork fences of palmetto logs to be built 10 feet high and 16 feet apart. The space between these two fences was then to be filled with sand. Both palmettos and sand were readily available on the island. Atop the palmetto-and-sand walls, twenty-five cannons were mounted, protected by yet more sand-and-palmetto barricades.

On the morning of June 8, 1776, the British fleet led by the fifty-gun *Bristol* and the fifty-two-gun *Experiment*, sailed over the bar into Charleston Harbor. Fort Moultrie, as the sand-and-palmetto fortification was called, was far from finished. The fort was designed to be a square, with bastions projecting from each corner, but not a single wall of the fort was complete. For some reason the British fleet and accompanying troops did nothing for the next three weeks, while every day South Carolina axes felled palmettos and shovels made the sand fly.

One June 21 Gen. Charles Lee of the Continental Army came to inspect the fort and the state forces who had gathered to defend it. Lee was a professional soldier who had served in the British Army, and he had little use for amateurs. After a brief look around the still unfinished fortification, Lee told Colonel Moultrie that it would only take a half hour of bombardment to make the fort nothing but a pile of matchsticks and sand, which would serve as a grave for any troops in it. Colonel Moultrie replied, “Then, Sir, the survivors will hide behind the ruins and whip the British anyway.” On June 28 Moultrie got his chance to make good on those words.

On the morning of June 28, as soon as the tide was

right, seven of the largest British ships sailed into line 400 yards from the fort. A smaller ship, *Thunder*, armed with fifteen-inch mortars, opened fire from 1 1/2 miles away. The huge shells from this “bomb vessel” came whistling down and promptly buried themselves many feet deep in the marshy soil. Cannons from the warships began to fire as well, and soon seventy cannons were assaulting the fort. Moultrie fired back slowly and deliberately, and soon the British Navy found it had a formidable opponent.

American cannonballs struck the hulls of the British ships, sending jagged splinters 3 and 4 feet long flying among the crowded crews. Other balls raked the British decks side to side or bow to stern. Sails were ripped to shreds and masts were cut off so that ships lost control and ran aground.

The British fire, however hit the spongy palmetto logs and simply disappeared through them and into the tons and tons of sand piled behind the logs. The only visible damage the British accomplished was to shoot down the flagpole inside the fort. Because the troops in the fort were under the command of state authority, the flag on the pole was not the recently adopted Stars and Stripes of the young nation, but a blue banner bearing a silver crescent, a symbol long associated with South Carolina. On seeing the flag fall when the pole was shot in two, Sgt. William Jasper cut the flag loose from its rope halyards, tied it to a staff used to ram powder down the barrel of a cannon, and jabbed his makeshift flagpole into the sand of the fort wall.

In a last flurry of shots, the British flagship *Bristol*

was heavily damaged, and the officer commanding the fleet, Adm. Sir Peter Parker, literally had his pants shot off. That was enough, he decided. The surviving British ships sailed away, leaving one of their number hard aground and burning. Almost one hundred British soldiers had been killed and more than three hundred were wounded. Thirty-seven South Carolina men were killed or wounded. It would be four years before the British returned to Charleston.

Today, the state seal of South Carolina shows a mighty oak lying in front of an erect palmetto, and the crescent on the state flag has been joined by a depiction of the lowly tree. In South Carolina it is still remembered that the lowly palmetto once defeated the Royal oak.



Dating back to 1765, the South Carolina State Flag reminds us of its role in the American Revolution and maintains its place in the annals of the Civil War with a design that was formulated as a National banner when the state seceded from the union on December 20, 1860.

Components of the current state flag were first seen in 1765, on a banner carried by South Carolina protesters of the Stamp Act. The banner that the protesters hoisted displayed three white crescents on a blue background. Ten years later in 1775, Colonel William Moultrie was asked by the South Carolina Revolutionary Council of Safety to design a banner for the use of South Carolina troops. Colonel Moultrie chose a simple and direct design that displayed the crescent (new moon) on a blue field. The new flag was the same blue color of the soldier's uniforms and the silver crescent echoed the symbol that the soldiers wore on the front of their caps.

## From Litchfield (Connecticut) Nov. 18, 1791 Stop the T H I E F !

Stolen from the subscriber, on the night of the 16th instant, a brown HORSE, about eight years old, about thirteen hands and a half high, short neck, with a star on his forehead, and a natural trotter. Said Thief is supposed to be one DAVID CLARK, who is about five feet six inches high, light complexion, light eyes, wears his hair tied up, his face much torn with the small-pox. He took with him also (unpaid for) a new twilled grey coating surtout, with white metal buttons, two new strait bodied coats, one blue, the other a striped elaside cloth, with a good metal button; two new vests; two new Holland shirts; two paid of velvet breeches; a paid of silk and worsted stockings; a pair of new plaited shoe and knee buckles; a pair of new boots, and plaited spurs; a new saddle, bridle, and portmanteau: He has an old surtout, which he will probably use as a cover to the whole.—Any person who will take up said Thief and Property shall have TEN DOLLARS reward, and reasonable charges paid, by informing the subscriber, or bringing said Thief &c. to Litchfield. DANIEL HOTCHKISS