



Hotchkiss Family News

June 2009

Volume VII Issue 2

Lin Meeker, Editor

2009 Reunion All Set For Valley Forge, PA

2009 Reunion

"The Revolutionary War, Part I".

The reunion is shaping up to be an exciting and informative weekend, not to mention a chance to visit with Hotchkiss cousins you seldom see. For anyone who attended the 'Hotchkiss' in the Civil War' program and tour in Gettysburg won't want to miss Don Hotchkiss' program on the Revolutionary War. He is preparing a Friday evening program on events that led up to the Revolutionary War 1775-1776 through the events of December 1776 with General George Washington's time in Valley Forge. He will also have CD's to give out and lots of information to share. Snacks & beverages will be available before our Friday evening program as part of the hotel's Manager's Reception. Appetizers, beverages and a cash bar will available at our Friday evening Hotchkiss Family mixer too.

On Saturday, after breakfast, we'll meet in the banquet room for a short program before heading out for the day. We'll depart on a motorcoach bus for **Valley Forge National Historic Park**. We'll enjoy an educational program called "Riding Through History." This three-hour program is designed to



give a hands-on history lesson by getting you out into the park to see for yourselves what the winter encampment was like for George Washington and the soldiers of the Continental Army. A park guide will get the bus and take you on a guided tour of Valley Forge, featuring stops at a reconstructed encampment site and a visit to the original building used by General Washington as his headquarters. After this tour, we'll have a little time to spend outdoors in the park as the Valley Forge Recreational facilities include designated picnic areas, and a six-mile multi-use trail. We will have a boxed lunch for the group. Next we'll depart Valley Forge Park and head to the **Brandywine Battlefield** for a three-hour tour of this historic site. The Brandywine Battlefield Historic Site brings to life the largest engagement of the Revolu-

tionary War, fought on September 11, 1777, between the Continental Army led by General George Washington and the British forces headed by General William Howe. On the grounds of the park is Washington's headquarters.

Saturday evening we'll enjoy a BBQ buffet on the hotel grounds (inside if it rains). This will include hamburgers, chicken, hot dogs and all the fixins'. Sunday, after another 'cook to order' breakfast, you'll have time to visit or take other nearby tours on your own. Suggestions include: **Washington Crossing State Park**, where Washington crossed the Delaware River into New Jersey on Christmas Eve, about an hour away. **Monmouth Battlefield State Park** is also about an hour away. Both Pennsylvania and New Jersey offer a list of historical sites close by that can be found on the internet or through your local AAA office. There are many historic sites in the area that would make a wonderful vacation tour.

Also the **King of Prussia Mall** is nearby with 9 department stores and 350 retail

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Action Notes:

- Send in your registration for the 2009 Reunion by July 10.
- 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. See Page 2
- It's not too late to send your Hotchkiss women's history and their sons during the Revolutionary War to the editor, do it today.

shops (I understand there is no tax on clothes or shoes in Pennsylvania).

Contract commitments require that we make the deadline for reservations July 10. If we do not have enough attendees we must cancel so please get your reservations in to Joan Johnson early and definitely by July 10.

Notes from Joan, HFA Genealogist

Joan doesn't have any special requests at this time but is still working on the book of John's descendants. He was the first child of Samuel, the Immigrant. This is quite an undertaking and is likely to be a two volume set.

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 are not yet sure which Hotchkiss son you descend from write the editor and we'll see how we can help.

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 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 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.

Hotchkiss' Serving Today

Captain Derek M. Hotchkiss, son of Bob and Bobbi Hotchkiss of Grants Pass, Oregon was activated with the Oregon Army National Guard and left for Iraq in April. He will be stationed at Camp Victory at the Baghdad airport. Your thoughts and prayers for his safe return are welcome.

SAN FRANCISCO'S GOLDEN GATE BRIDGE, ANOTHER HOTCHKISS SUCCESS STORY

By JAMES M. HOTCHKISS, JR.

For decades Californians had dreamed of a bridge across the Golden Gate, a link between San Francisco and the entire northern half of the state. The dreams began the long and arduous route to fulfillment in January, 1923 with the formation of the Bridging the Golden Gate Association. The head of the powerful Executive Committee was W.J. Hotchkiss, 143-131-61.

It took fourteen long and difficult years to produce a bridge. The opposing interests were powerful and dedicated. They included scheming politicians, crooked lobbyists, the War Department, earthquake alarms, taxpayer revolts, legislative roadblocks, and early environmentalists. The greatest opponent was the Southern Pacific Railroad, which happened to own all the important ferry service in the area.

At the age of sixty-five, W.J. had found his public service cause. He was the only businessman involved, and he planned to have a successful businesslike operation. Eight years earlier he had merged his highly successful canning business into the newly formed Del Monte Corporation. He would apply all the skills he had learned in this and his other businesses.

The other four members of the Executive Committee were carefully chosen. There was a powerful state legislator, the leader of regional enthusiasm for the bridge, a popular San Francisco politician, and a military officer, also from San Francisco.

With a good foundation of popular and political support, W.J. joined chief engineer Strauss stumping the northern half of the state to rally further support for the bridge. Again and again in meeting rooms and back rooms he told the story of the great financial benefits that would come to Northern California. He even explained in detail the profit to be made from collecting tolls.

Why was the soldier on the Executive Committee? The land at both ends of the bridge was owned by the federal government as military bases, and the federal government also had power to control what went in between. There was concern that an enemy could block the harbor by blowing up the bridge. On December 20, 1924, the War Department sent a telegram to W.J. Hotchkiss that the bridge project had been approved. Without that approval, the bridge could never have been built.

Local guidebooks will tell you that the bridge was the world's longest and tallest single span suspension bridge of its time. Each of the massive cables was over thirty-six inches in diameter. They will also say quite correctly that this is one of the most beautiful objects

that mankind has ever created. The bridge is there for all to see and wonder at for decades. The work done by W.J. was behind the scenes, the hard fought political and economic battles. These days we could perhaps call them the software of the bridge.

Chief engineer Straus understood. In his 1937 report after construction was completed he wrote, "The services that Mr. Hotchkiss rendered the Association were invaluable. He gave it not only his own time but the necessary financial support, and, together with the writer, carried the principal burden during the long and trying preorganization period.

Another Hotchkiss Author Hat Trick: A Life in the Hockey Rink, Oil Patch and Community By Harley Hotchkiss and Paul Grescoe

Below is an excerpt from an article about Harley from the Induction Showcase for the NHL Hall of Fame. His book, titled above, is available at Amazon.com.

As one of several owners of the Calgary Flames' franchise, Harley Hotchkiss is used to experiencing excellence, but when you delve further into his biography, you quickly realize how extraordinary his story truly is. Born in Tillsonburg, Ontario, Hotchkiss earned a degree in geology from Michigan State University after serving in the Second World War. The Bachelor of Science degree spawned a career that has allowed Hotchkiss to manage his own oil, gas, real estate and agricultural enterprises.

In 1997, Harley Hotchkiss was appointed an Officer of the Order of Canada. In 1998, he was awarded the Alberta Order of Excellence.

Hockey has long been a passion for the successful entrepreneur. A member of the Michigan State hockey team while earning his degree, Hotchkiss



The owners of the Calgary Flames head home after their team's triumphant Cup win in 1989. Pictured from left to right: Harley Hotchkiss, Norman Kwong, Sonia Scurfield, Daryl Seaman, Byron Seaman and Norman Green.

was part of the group that purchased the Flames in 1980 and was instrumental in overseeing the construction of the Pengrowth Saddledome, built for the Flames and also home to the 1988 Winter Olympics Games.

1791 Horse Stealing

Last issue we had a story of Daniel Hotchkiss' horse and several articles of clothing stolen from his Litchfield CT home. Daniel wasn't the only Hotchkiss to lose his horse to thieves. [written here in the spelling usage of the time]. As it appeared in the Connecticut Courant, Hartford, Connecticut.

Stolen out of pasture on the night of the 30th of April laft, a dark bay HORSE, 13 1/2 hands high, natural trotter, fhod round, mane natural to the near fide, ftar in his forehead, carries tail to the right while moving. Whoever will take up faid horfe and thief, fhall received a reafonable reward and all neceffary charges paid, by

SAMUEL HOTCHIKSS.

Briftol, May 1, 1791

Did You Know These Facts about the American Revolution ?

- The Rev. Mr. Peter Muhlenburg rose in the pulpit of his Woodstock, VA, church to preach one Sunday in 1776. Taking as his text, "To everything there is a season," the parson delivered a fiery sermon, then threw off his clerical robe and stood before the congregation dressed in the uniform of a Patriot officer. Instead of calling on sinners to repent, he called on men to enlist.
- One of George Washington's bodyguards, Thomas Hickey, plotted with the British to kidnap Washington. The plot was discovered, and Hickey became the first American soldier to be executed.
- Only forty-nine U.S. Marines were killed during the entire war..
- Henry Dawkins was arrested in 1776 for making counterfeit American money. However, his copies were so much better than the originals that Congress hired Dawkins to make the real thing for them.
- Henry Laurens of South Carolina was captured by the British while traveling to Holland as an ambassador for the Patriot cause. He was imprisoned in the Tower of London for several months. After the surrender of the British army at Yorkshire, Virginia, in 1781, Laurens was exchanged for Lord Cornwallis, the commander of the surrendered army.

2009

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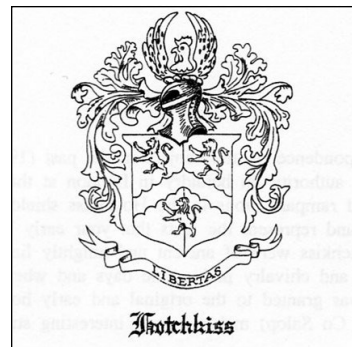
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Closing out small supplies of
these items. They will be availa-
ble at the Reunion
at Valley Forge.



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.

**Hotchkiss Family
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www.Hotchkissfamily.org



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