



# Hotchkiss Family News

March 2010

Volume VIII Issue I

Lin Meeker, Editor

## 2010 Reunion to be Held in Connecticut

### Reunion in Prospect Aug 13-15

Prospect area will be the site of the reunion in August. Final plans are being made for dinner on Saturday evening. A list of local sights will be in the May newsletter. We look forward to seeing all our cousins. While scaled back a bit this year, there will be plenty of time for catching up with Hotchkiss cousins. There are Holiday Inn Express motels close by. Set aside the weekend now and make your motel reservations.

### History of the Hotchkiss Reunions

*Is your ancestor listed here?*

The first "get-together" meeting of the direct descendants of Gideon Hotchkiss was held at the home of Willard F. and Julia A. Sessions at Burlington Center [Conn.], Aug. 1880.

The following were present:

Mr. & Mrs. W. F. Sessions & son, George?

Mr. & Mrs. Deforest Pettibone

Mr. & Mrs. David Birge

Mr. & Mrs. Warren Root

Mr. & Mrs. John Scantlin

Mr. & Mrs. Julius Case

Of these, the only ones thought to be living at present are George Sessions and Mrs. Charles Birge.

[written between 1929-1930]

The first regular meeting was held ½ mile north of Burlington Center in the Methodist Camp Ground woods. There were about 40 present. It was voted to hold the reunions at the home of the members. The membership kept growing every year, more coming from Cheshire, Prospect and this

vicinity. In 1883 Mr. Sessions moved to Bristol, and many meetings were held there, also at the home of Mr. Warren Root in Southington.

In 1896 the members were invited to the home of David B. Hotchkiss in Prospect, over 100 being present. In 1903 the reunion was held again at Mr. Sessions' place in Bristol, and 225 sat down to the tables.

During these years the meetings had been opened to all descendants of the "original Samuel" the first Hotchkiss in America to whom lines of ancestry could be distinctly traced, so with the rapidly increasing membership it became necessary to find larger accommodations for a greater number of people.

Lake Compounce in the town of Bristol, seemed to be an ideal place, and for many years reunions were held there. When this became too popular as a picnic ground and when trolley connections were changed so that it was inconvenient to reach the Lake, members were invited to meet in Cheshire, the home of many Hotchkiss descendants, both of the past and present.

Many pleasant meetings were held at the Grange Hall there, but some members of the association expressed a desire to go to Prospect, where Gideon Hotchkiss lived and is buried, so in 1929 Prospect Center was chosen for a meeting place. In spite of the fact that this little town cannot be reached except by automobile, and that the roads at that time were not particularly good, the attendance was exceptionally large and the occasion a most enjoyable one, as the coolness and beauty of this hill-top added much to the pleasure of all.

The majority of the members come from New Haven County at present time, though many names are still on the list from the western and central parts of the state.

Invitation cards are sent to our three hundred people annually and

into at least 15 states as Hotchkiss descendants in other parts of the country still like to continue their membership in the association, even though they are too far away to attend often.

Many names have been prominently identified with the Hotchkiss reunions, those of past years no longer living having been the Birge family of Harwinton, the Willard Sessions family of Bristol, the Roots of Southington, Emerson Hotchkiss of Kensington and his brother Elton Hotchkiss of Waterville, Charles T. Hotchkiss of Cheshire, who was one of the most loyal attendants at meetings and especially well informed on Genealogy, B. S. Hotchkiss of Waterbury, Mrs. Edward T. Shannon of Waterbury, many times Regent of the local DAR, Judge Cowell, well-known jurist, E. A. Hotchkiss of Naugatuck, the Andrews families of Cheshire and Meriden, David B. Hotchkiss of Prospect, Rollin Bird and his sister Miss Eleanor Bird of Waterbury, William Cook of Wallingford, Frederick H. Brown of New Haven, Mrs. Alta Downs of Bethany, Mrs. Charles Vinal of Middletown, the late Rev. Leonard Todd of Bethany, Thomas Gilyard of Seymour, Mrs. Jennie Vene Clapp and her sister, Mrs. Curtiss of Bristol, Mrs. Rhoda Fitzsimons of Prospect and Watertown, and many others familiar to residents of Waterbury and vicinity.

### Original List of

### Hotchkiss Association Members

### Charter Members – 1880

*All in Connecticut except as listed*  
Charles T. Hotchkiss of Cheshire  
David Birge & wife of Bristol  
Charles Birge & fam. of Kensington  
William Barber & fam. of Harwinton  
John Baldwin & wife of Winsted  
De \_\_\_\_ & wife of Springfield, MA  
Mrs Julius Case of Collinsville  
Mrs Lucretia \_\_\_\_ of \_\_\_\_

### Inside this issue:

<i>Update from Joan</i>	3
<i>Project "Hotchkiss Patriots in the Revolution"</i>	2
<i>4 Queries from Researchers, CAN YOU HELP?</i>	3
<i>Hotchkiss DNA Project</i>	2
<i>Body Art—Hotchkiss Style</i>	2
<i>Willard Hotchkiss</i>	4

### Action Notes:

- Order your CD of Hotchkiss Men in the Revolution
- Have a Hotchkiss male in your family participate in the DNA project
- Plan to Attend the 2010 Reunion in Connecticut

Henry Birge of Southport  
John Birge of Milford?  
Bud Pettibone of Bristol  
Mrs Willard Sessions & son of Bristol  
John Scandlin? & wife of Bristol  
Mr & Mrs. \_\_\_\_ Rider of Plantsville  
Mr & Mrs. Fred \_\_\_\_ of New Britain  
Mrs. Chauncey Laffin of Illinois  
Mr & Mrs Sidney Bouchard of Bristol  
Mrs. Isac? Graham & daughter of New Haven  
Mr. & Mrs. C. Hull  
Mrs. Hattie Case  
Mrs. \_\_\_\_ Stoddard

## Hotchkiss DNA Project

The Hotchkiss DNA Project is ongoing. We encourage more Hotchkiss men to participate. 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](mailto:hotchi@pathcom.com)

We now have at least one person in the DNA project for each of Samuel's sons:

John 144-3 DNA# 89710  
 Samuel Jr. 239-5 DNA#125061  
 Joshua 526-2 DNA#84975  
 Thomas 614-5 DNA#94905  
 Daniel 7--- DNA#125058

We have four others from the John line:

111-1 DNA#124270  
 143-1 DNA#163166  
 156-2 DNA#169089

And unknown DNA#101517

With five people from John's line we have a number of mutations but all are unique to one person. As a result we cannot yet use DNA results to sort out lines that are not yet proven but we have been able to prove these five are all related through Samuel's first son, John.

Based on working with another of my family lines, it appears that we will need five to ten men per line to get results that would allow us to trace lines using the DNA markers.

So now that we have a good base of DNA data it's time for more of you to join the DNA project. You can contact Ross if you need assistance on how to enroll. Participation is quick and easy.

To see the Hotchkiss DNA results connect to:

[www.familytredna.com/public/hotchkiss/default.aspx?section=yresults](http://www.familytredna.com/public/hotchkiss/default.aspx?section=yresults)



### Clarence Hotchkiss Reports on Body Art - Hotchkiss Style

It's hard to believe, but three of my grandsons have had the Hotchkiss Coat of Arms tattooed on their bodies. All are college students.

Sam, shown on the left chose his back, Max, below, his chest. Joe chose his leg and unfortunately, the editor received only pictures of Sam & Max. Sorry, Joe.



## Participate in the HFA Revolutionary War Book Project

Choose a Hotchkiss patriot to write about [see the full list in the Sept. 2009 newsletter]. Sign up with Don Hotchkiss (via phone or email). He'll provide you with ideas for research and a format to help put your Hotchkiss ancestor's story together.

Don or Lin Meeker can help with information from Nellie Cowdell's, Samuel Hotchkiss: the First Six Generations.

The deadline for sign-up is May 2010, deadline for stories will be announced in the May newsletter.

Here are the Hotchkiss' whose descendants have committed to writing about:

123-21 Harris Hotchkiss  
 144 Ladwick Hotchkiss Sr  
 144-1 Lemuel Hotchkiss  
 144-3 Ladwick Hotchkiss Jr  
 237-2 Elihu Moulthrop h/o Mary Hotchkiss  
 238-1 Samuel Hotchkiss  
 238-2 Josiah Hotchkiss  
 238-5 Hendrick Conrad Bail h/o Sarah Hotchkiss  
 239 Enos Hotchkiss  
 239-1 Elihu Hotchkiss  
 526-11 Asahel Hotchkiss  
 526-12 Russell Riverius h/o Charity Hotchkiss  
 526-2 David Hotchkiss

Is your ancestor represented? We need volunteers for write-ups on Samuel's children: Sarah-4, Thomas-6, and Daniel-7.

Books will be published on demand and sold as a fund raiser for HFA. Don is starting things off with a chapter on his gggg-grandfather, Captain Ladwick Hotchkiss, Sr. 144.

### William Madison Hotchkiss

William Madison Hotchkiss passed away in Lakota, Iowa on 21 May 2007. He was born 13 Sep 1914. Our condolences to Barb Hotchkiss, his daughter. William was a descendant of Samuel, son of Samuel, 238-(10)

#### *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.*

### Newsletter Ideas and Articles Welcome

Your ideas for Hotchkiss Newsletters are welcome. Send your ideas, pictures and articles to the Lin Meeker, Editor. See page 4 for email or snail mail address.

If you no longer wish to receive the newsletter or if you have additional cousins to add, send that information to Lin also.

**Hotchkiss Query – #1****Can You Help?**

I have long known of the link between the Hotchkiss and Travis families. William Jewett Travis, Sr. married Mary Elizabeth Hotchkiss. One of their sons, Ralph Messiter Travis was my grandfather.

I am trying to track down a Travis genealogy, possibly prepared by someone in Boston, that William was alleged to have in his possession. I am thinking that since no Travis seems to have the document, possibly it remained with Mary Elizabeth and may be in possession of someone in the Hotchkiss families.

If you have any information that might help, please contact him.

Barry Travis

Sacramento, CA

[barrytravis@sbcglobal.net](mailto:barrytravis@sbcglobal.net)

**Hotchkiss Query – # 2****Can You Help?**

I'm searching for information on Henry Hotchkiss and his wife Lucy (Meeker) Hotchkiss. The only info I have been able to uncover about this couple is from a 1902 book titled Compendium of History & Biography of Northern Minnesota. It was written at the time when it was popular to go to towns within an area and ask people to give them information on themselves. The bio is on Adelia E. (Hotchkiss) Sanderson, who resided in Osakis, MN with her husband, Henry H. Sanderson. Adelia was a very successful medical practitioner. She was the first woman MD in northern Minnesota. On the 1880 census of Osakis her occupation was listed as "Doctress".

In this biography she said she was born in Broome Co., NY on 4 Nov 1829 and secured her school education in Marion Co., Ohio. Her parents were Henry and Lucy (Meeker) Hotchkiss. On 25 Apr 1851 Adelia married Henry H. Sanderson in Oberlin, OH.

They had 5 children.

I have searched census, marriage & birth records in NY and OH and cannot find any information on Henry & Lucy Hotchkiss. Family history says that there was some connection between Lucy and Ezra Meeker [of Oregon Trail fame] of Washington state but I haven't found that connection either. I would certainly like to find family information on this Hotchkiss family and am happy to share what I have. If you can help, contact:

Kathi Judkins Abendroth

1538 NW 60<sup>th</sup> St

Seattle WA 98107-2328

206-784-3644

[Ksunset33@comcast.net](mailto:Ksunset33@comcast.net)

**Hotchkiss Query – # 3**

Joan Johnson, our HFA genealogist came across photos of a front door on which has been engraved the Hotchkiss coat of arms by Herbert L. Hotchkiss M.D. The address in 1977 was Walnut Grove Rd., Memphis, TN.

She has no Herbert M.D. of Memphis in the file. Can any Hotchkiss cousin help us place him? Contact Joan Johnson with any information you have. Thank you.

**Notes from Joan, HFA Genealogist****The Hotchkiss Family - The Line From John**

I have finished going through data that cousins of John have sent to me and am now working my way through folders that contain all kinds of odds & ends from magazine & newspaper articles, obituaries etc. for known cousins, and some for unplaced Hotchkiss'. I keep hoping some of the many hundreds in that file will be placed eventually.

Thank you for your patience, this is BIG project.

If you send Joan an email, please use at least 12 point type so that she can easily read them

**Hotchkiss Query – # 4****Can You Help?**

Don Hotchkiss, our military genealogist, has two requests. If you have a Revolutionary War or Civil War ancestor, Don would like to talk to you. He's interested in any letters, diaries or photos that you could copy and share.

Second, Don Hotchkiss and Mark Dunkelman are looking for descendants and more information about two Hotchkiss members of the 154<sup>th</sup> New York Volunteers from the Civil War.

Cpt. Arthur Hotchkiss spent the last part of his life in Colorado as a rancher and judge. He had quite a large family. Arthur's brother Corp. Ephraim died in Dec 1863 in a POW camp in Richmond, VA. We're looking for descendants of George Washington Hotchkiss (144-345-1) and Steven Hotchkiss and his brother Orange (123-213) as well.

All of these men served in the 154th NY Vols. Orange or Steven died of small pox in an Army hospital during the war and the surviving brother deserted from the hospital. Nothing further is known of him. He may have gone to Ohio and died there as one story goes. George Washington Hotchkiss, 6'2" moved to Cattaraugus County NY and had children.

Two of his boys drowned with two of their cousins on the Allegheny River. Only the dog managed to swim to shore from the overturned raft the boys had made. It was witnessed by an Indian woman.

All the boys and George W. Hotchkiss are buried in the same cemetery (Steamburg) as Don's g-grandfather, James Hotchkiss (144-346-2) and gg-grandfather, Isaac Samuel Hotchkiss (144-346).

If you have any information, no matter how seemingly insignificant regarding any of these men, please contact Don Hotchkiss.

Email: [cpth65eng@aol.com](mailto:cpth65eng@aol.com)

702-875-1893

2010

James A. Hotchkiss, President  
Samuel II 239-8(10)4-212  
Mexico, NY  
Email: Majorjim1@msn.com

Stuart E. Hotchkiss, Vice President  
Joshua 526-255-122-1  
Email: stuh@verizon.net

Donald L. Hotchkiss, Jr., Vice President &  
Genealogist for Military Service  
John 144-346-222-51  
Email: cph65eng@aol.com

Joan A. Johnson, Genealogist  
Joshua 526-113-461-2  
36 Beach Drive Prospect CT 06712-1603  
Email: hotchkissfamilyasn@yahoo.com

Janet Hotchkiss, Recording Secretary  
Email: janandjonh@yahoo.com

David A. Strong, Treasurer  
Joshua 526-234-633  
Email: david.strong@snet.net

Lin Meeker, Corresponding Secretary & Editor  
Samuel 238-153-312-2  
9986 East Elk Lake Drive  
Rapid City, MI 49676  
Email: dlmokdoki@aol.com

## Charting the Way

*Taken from 'Methodist ministers to dedicated professors, here's a look at 50 folks who've helped guide Northwestern University'*

Willard E. Hotchkiss(1905-1917) A professor of economics, he was one of two professors who took the idea of starting a school of commerce to President Abram Harris, who in turn got members of the Chicago business community to support the idea. Hotchkiss was appointed dean of the school, which opened in 1908 with six professors and 255 students. Success was immediate, and before long the school was virtually self-supporting. In 1912 the trustees introduced courses on the Evanston campus under the auspices of the Dept. of Economics.

*[Editors note: I tried to determine the line this Willard descended from, but found a couple of Willard's who were in education but all the dates did not jive. If you have additional information, please contact the Editor.]*

**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.*



Hotchkiss Family Association  
c/o Lin Meeker  
9986 East Elk Lake Drive  
Rapid City MI 49676