



# Hotchkiss Family News

October, 2011

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Lin Meeker, Editor

## 2011 Reunion Report & 2012 Reunion Announced

### Reunion 2011

The reunion was small but dedicated officers made sure we had one. Officers, president James A. Hotchkiss, vice president Stuart Hotchkiss, treasurer David A. Strong, historian-genealogist Joan Johnson, and Coat of Arms custodian met on a beautiful day at the Red Lion Inn, Stockbridge, MA, on August 16, 2011.

This kept our chain of 128 reunions in tact. This should have been the 131<sup>st</sup>, but three were cancelled: 1916 during the polio epidemic, 1918 during the world-wide flu epidemic, and once during World War II due to gas rationing. In 1955, the reunion was planned for August 20, the Saturday following the devastating Connecticut flood on "Black Monday," August 15. The reunion was to be held in Cheshire where Ruth & Mabel Hotchkiss, Ruth and Nellie Cowdell met with those who were able to come. Thus there was a mini-reunion that year.

Officers reports were given, revealing that donations have been minimal and that annual dues may need to be considered to maintain the newsletters,



and the gathering of genealogical materials.

Joan Johnson spoke of how anxious she is to complete the John genealogy. At present she is printing Hotchkiss items from ancient newspapers through New York Biographical and Historical Society that has given a great deal of information regarding the life, times and business associations for John's descendants in Connecticut. She hopes to do the same for other states. Joan would like the members' feedback on this by note or email as soon as possible. Your input is desired. If that information is not wanted for the book on John's descendants, she will wrap up "John," print the manuscript for proofreading then send the manuscript to the printer.

David Strong, Mary Jane Strong, and Joan Johnson will pursue the best way to print this third genealogy of

the Hotchkiss family – *The Line From John*. Different publishing options are available now and we do not want to have a supply on hand so book orders may be printed on one-time printing basis.

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### Action Notes:

- Put August 4-5, 2012 on your calendar to meet in Yorktown
- Have a Hotchkiss male in your family participate in the DNA project
- Donate \$10 to the HFA

## 2012 Reunion in Yorktown

The 2012 reunion to be held at Yorktown, Virginia August 4-5. As you may know this is part of an historical triangle that includes Jamestown, Williamsburg and Yorktown, all within about 25 miles of each other. A great place to plan a vacation, take your children and/or grandchildren to learn about the history of our country. Plus our vice president of military records will give us the second half of his program on the Hotchkiss' who served in the Revolutionary War. There were some 86 Hotchkiss men and another 23 men married to Hotchkiss women who served in the military in the Revolutionary War. There will be more information about the reunion in the Feb/Mar issue of the newsletter, but set the dates aside and check out the area. <http://www.williamsburg.com/> and click on Historic Yorktown.

*Let the American youth never forget, that they possess a noble inheritance, bought by the toils, and sufferings, and blood of their ancestors; and capacity, if wisely improved, and faithfully guarded, of transmitting to their latest posterity all the substantial blessings of life, the peaceful enjoyment of liberty, property, religion, and independence."--Joseph Story, Commentaries on the Constitution, 1833*

## Hotchkiss Men's DNA Project Needs You

We are still requesting more participation in the Hotchkiss DNA project. The more men that get tested, the more results, the better. 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)

According to their website, 90% of genealogists choose Family Tree DNA – with the largest DNA database. As of October 8, 2011, they have a total of 348,889 records.

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

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.

Ross says, "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."

Participation is quick and easy. Contact Ross for more information.

## The Hotchkiss Building in Lyons, NY

On July 18, 2011, the historic H.G. Hotchkiss Essential Oil Building in Lyons, NY has finally come into the ownership of the Lyons Heritage Society. Lyons is in Wayne County, NY, about 40 miles east of Rochester, NY. The Hotchkiss Family Association Annual Reunion was held there in 2002. Realizing that there may be others who are unfamiliar with this Hotchkiss building Stu Hotchkiss has posted some information and pictures at the Yahoo Hotchkiss Group online. Briefly, this building was the main office of Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss aka "The Peppermint King" who bottled world famous peppermint oil. His GG-Granddaughter was Anne Hotchkiss (1914-2010) who never married, was the last to run the business until it was sold in 1982. Hiram's brief biography, Anne's obituary and pictures of the building are in the "files" at Yahoo.

The building had passed from Wayne County to the village of Lyons and finally to the Heritage Society who will be pursuing renovating and keeping it open as a museum. They received an

<http://www.lyonsheritagesociety.org/>

## Lisette C. Hotchkiss Parshall

The first woman to be honored as a pioneer in the women's suffrage movement from Wayne County [NY] was Lisette C. Hotchkiss Parshall (1840-1913) of Lyons. Her name is inscribed on the "Suffrage Memorial Tablet" in the New York State Capitol Building in Albany.

Parshall was the daughter of H.G. Hotchkiss of the famous H.G. Hotchkiss International Prize Medal Essential Oil Co.. In 1860, Lisette Hotchkiss married William Henry Parshall and had three children: Lisette (Tudy); DeWitt III, and Anne Amelia. Lisette became a widow at the age of 31 after her husband died in 1871.

*Continued on page 5*



anonymous donation of \$5000. and the HFA donated \$500. to help in the restoration of the building.

Notice in the picture below at the back of the building a canal boat in the canal. Hotchkiss was able to ship his oils in glass bottles all over the world using the calm waters of the canal to connect to other shipping points.

Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss at the left.



**Joan's Query**

**Will the person who contacted Joan about printing John in China contact her again, please? Unfortunately the contact name is lost in the address file.**

**-Hotchkiss Passings-****Mrs. Alcine R. Gager**

Mrs. Alcine R. Gager, 93, of Southbury passed away April 19, 2011. She was the widow of Dwight Clark Gager who died July 28, 1986. She was born in Ansonia on June 17, 1917, the daughter of William and Alcine Rippere. She attended Chase Collegiate School, Lasell College and Smith College where she graduated with a B.A. in art history. She was Trustee Emeritus of the Chase Collegiate School, an active volunteer at Griffin Hospital and the First Church of Christ in Woodbridge. She leaves two daughters, Linda Clark Gager of Pacific Palisades, CA and Susan Gager Jackson of Far Hills, NJ. She was predeceased by her brother George Hotchkiss Rippere [716-217-121].

**Harley Norman Hotchkiss**

**Harley Norman Hotchkiss**, - July 12, 1927 – June 22, 2011 was a Canadian business and community leader who was best known for his contributions to health and sports development in Canada. He was one of the original owners that brought the National Hockey League's Atlanta Flames to Calgary in 1980 and remained a team owner until shortly before his death. He served as chairman of the board of the National Hockey League 1995-2007, and was inducted into the Hockey Hall of Fame as a builder in 2006.

A graduate of Michigan State University in 1951 and a geologist by trade, Hotchkiss moved to Calgary in 1951 and began a long career in the oil and gas industry. He served as president of Alcon Petroleum into the 1960s, and started his own companies, including Sabre Petroleum with long-time business partners Byron and Doc Seaman. His peers remembered him as an "icon" in the industry.

A noted philanthropist, the Univ. of Calgary's Hotchkiss Brain Institute is named in honor of his contributions. He also supported Hockey Canada, investing in the growth of the sport across the country. He was named an Officer of the Order of Canada in 1997, elevated to Companion in 2009, and named to the Alberta Order of Excellence in 1998.

In 2009, Harley Hotchkiss along with Paul Grescoe wrote a memoir titled "Hat Trick - A Life in the Hockey Rink, Oil Patch and Community". He was a generous supporter of the Hotchkiss Family Association.

**Donald Lansing Devendorf**

Donald Lansing Devendorf, age 95, passed away in his sleep while vacationing in Florida, February 5, 2010. Born in Albany, NY, October 14, 1914, the son of Helen Hotchkiss Devendorf and Norman Leroy Devendorf. Surviving are his wife of 68 years, Jean, son David (Shari) and daughter Susan (Donald), 4 grandchildren and 4 great grandchildren.

While working for the Federal Aviation Administration, he was called to serve in WWII as a civilian, working in radio communication in Kodiak, AK. In 1977 he retired as Flight Service Station Manager in Lansing, MI. After retiring from the FAA, he worked 10 years as a radio engineer at Michigan State University radio station, WKAR. Attending the Hotchkiss Family Reunions was something he always looked forward to, enjoying both the history and the people. 156-233-611

**Alice Emma Hotchkiss**

May 5, 2011, Memorial services for Alice Emma Hotchkiss, 90, of Las Cruces, N.M. were held at the VanRenssealaer & Son Funeral Home, on May 7, 2011. She was formerly of Conewango Valley. The Rev. Bruce Fish officiated.

**Arthur Glenn Hotchkiss**

July 10, 2010, Arthur Glenn Hotchkiss passed away surrounded by his family. Glenn was born in Hobbs, New Mexico on May 11, 1938 and lived there until his parents moved their family to California in 1943.

He served in the U.S. Air Force in the late 50's. He retired from the J M Equipment Co after 42 years in 2003. Glenn married the love of his life in 1957. He and Peggy shared 52 years of happy memories.

He was preceded in death by his parents, Alva & Marguerite Hotchkiss; brother Howard; sister Shirley Hotchkiss and his loving wife, Peggy Webb Hotchkiss.

Glenn is survived by his children, Randy & Lynne Hotchkiss of Washington; Kathy & Brad Wade of Denver; siblings: Florence Glenn of Delhi; Walter L Hotchkiss of Turlock; Joyce Hotchkiss of Turlock; Linda Cox of Delhi, four grandchildren and numerous nieces and nephews.

*\*Hendrick Conrad Bail, originally a Hessian soldier, was captured, after being exchanged, deserted the British army and served in the Continental Line for three years, serving in General Lafayette's Light Infantry Division during the Yorktown campaign. He was the husband of Sarah Hotchkiss. 238-5\**

2011

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



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## 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  
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## Looking for Descendants of Jesse Hotchkiss of Harwinton, CT

Nancy Grenier reports that she has several pictures of the Jesse Hotchkiss Family and is looking for assistance in helping to identify them. Jesse and Hila (Marsh) Hotchkiss had the following children:

Albert b 1834 m Rosetta Preston

Martha b1831 m Lauren Morris

Candace b1829 m Riley Weed

Eliza b1833 m James O. Hotchkiss

Ruth b 1842 unmarried

Hila b 1837 m Andrew Merrell

Harriet b 1840 m Martin Merrell

Elmore/Elmer b 1845 m Emily Fenn

Mary Jane b 1847 m Wilbur Merrell

Elmina b 1851 m Thomas B. Williams

You can contact her at [Nagg12@bellsouth.net](mailto:Nagg12@bellsouth.net)

### Chauncey C. Hotchkiss, 1852 - 1920

Joan, our genealogist is asking if anyone has any books by Chauncey that they would like to donate to the Hotchkiss Family Association. He descended from Thomas, the 6th child of Samuel & Elizabeth (Cleverly) Hotchkiss.

Write or email Joan.

### Your Donations Are Appreciated

The Hotchkiss Family Association operates on donations in lieu of dues. An annual donation of \$10 supports record keeping for the Hotchkiss family line, the newsletters which are normally published three times a year, and the incidental costs of preparing our books for publication.

Presently we are working on a two volume set on the descendants of Samuel's first son, John. This is a huge job. The labor for gathering, proofing and preparation of this book is done on a volunteer basis. The newsletter, the planning and organization of our reunions each year are also volunteer activities.

It is wonderful to be able to communicate with all of our Hotchkiss cousins. Many cousins have been very generous and it is greatly appreciated. All of your donations help. Thank you.

Please send your donation to: Mrs. Joan Johnson, 36 Beach Dr., Prospect, CT 06712-1603.

**Thank You** for your support.

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### Lisette Hotchkiss Parshall

Subsequently she and her children traveled extensively in Europe, Russia and South America, a very courageous and farsighted adventure for a widowed mother in the 1880's. She encouraged her children in the arts. Tudy became an accomplished weaver of tapestries and DeWitt became a famous landscape artist.

In the 1890's, Mrs. Parshall became very interested in Women's Suffrage, as well as social and educational improvements. She had progressive ideas and was a very inspiring leader.

She was the first woman to be elected to the Lyons Board of Education and was president at the time of her death in 1913.

In 1902 Mrs. Parshall helped organize the Political Equality Club (which eventually became the Lyons Civic Club after much opposition to the name.)

She became active in the suffrage movement in the 1890s. She represented Lyons, as well as Wayne County, at many conventions and suffrage meetings across New York state. At her request, suffragettes such as Susan B. Anthony, Carrie Chapman Catt, Dr. Anna Shaw and Harriet May Mills came to speak in Wayne County.

*Some material taken from the Finger Lakes Times, March 27, 2011 by Larry Ann Evans.*

### QUERY

Looking for information on Hiram Clemons and his wife, **Fidelia Hotchkiss** (1848-?) 526-113-16 ( Samuel, Joshua, Stephen, Gideon, Jesse, Asahel, Dyer, Charles) who lived in Torrington, CT, then Milford, CT, please write to Yvonne Keeping at [ykeeping@binternet.com](mailto:ykeeping@binternet.com)

### QUERY

From our unplaced file: Ebenezer (or Edward) Hotchkiss, b. ca 1840, d. 6/1889. In 1860 was living in Brooklyn NY. Served in the Civil War. In the 1880 Brooklyn census, Ebenezer, 39, b. NY; Annie, 35, b. Ireland; John, 16; Alice, 11; Joseph, 8; Edmund, 6; Robert, 4; Veronica, 1 month, all born NY. Alice married Matthew Raftery in 1891. He d. 1909. Any information will be helpful.

Query from William Hotchkiss Raftery. Contact at:

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

## Notes from Joan, HFA Genealogist

### The Hotchkiss Family - The Line From John

John is going much slower than I would like. Dick's brother died suddenly just after Easter so we've been busy with necessities which set me back some. Believe me, I am trying my darndest to get John moving. I still have to go through Shirley Nixon's file cards; her husband was on the John line. Please read Joan's comments in the 2011 Reunion Report on page 1.

Thank you for your patience, this is BIG project! If you send Joan an email, please use at least 12 point type so your message is easy to read.

### Editors Note

*Your editor would like to remind all the members of the Hotchkiss Family Association that you are welcome to send items of interest, obituaries of Hotchkiss', queries about your Hotchkiss ancestors to be included in this publication.*

*I offer my apologies for not publishing a newsletter since the June 2010 edition. My sister had a very unexpected health issue borne of what was to be a minor outpatient surgery. This called me out of town for more than ten months to care for her and oversee my elderly mother's care. My sister has now happily returned to work. The whole episode reminded me of how much my family means to me. My husband kept the home fires burning and came to visit me.*

*I hope you all welcome and enjoy this latest issue and will consider a small donation to keep our newsletter coming three times a year. If you have never attended a Hotchkiss Family Reunion, plan now to attend the upcoming 129<sup>th</sup> reunion next August. They are fun and informative. The Hotchkiss Family has a wonderful history of helping to build our country and serving it in every conflict to preserve our freedoms. Lin Meeker, Editor*

## Frederick Treat Strong

### Past President of the HFA

Mr. Frederick Treat Strong, 99, Woodbury, CT, died Tuesday July 6<sup>th</sup> 2010 at Waterbury Hospital, surrounded by his family. He was the widower of Sylvia Hotchkiss Strong, to whom he was married for 62 years and who passed away in 1999.

Mr. Strong was born May 18, 1911 in Woodbury, a son of the late Frederick and Julia (Peck) Strong. Fred graduated from Woodbury High School, Cushing Academy and Yale, where he graduated in 1933 with a degree in Industrial Engineering. Fred retired in 1976 after a 43 year career with American Brass, Metal Hose Division. His interests included family, genealogy, Woodbury, chess, and bridge.

Mr. Strong was an honorary Chairman of the 350th anniversary of the signing of the 1st Indian deed in



1659, and descended from 12 of the original 17 who bought the land that year. He was Historian of the town of Woodbury since 1988.

He served in many Woodbury civic organizations, including the Woodbury Cemetery Association and Woodbury Board of Education. In 1950 Mr. Strong became a charter member of the Old Woodbury Historical Society served as President and was a longtime member of the Board of Directors. He was active in two major restoration projects, the Hurd House & the District 2 School House. He was a member of North Congregational Church since 1924 and served in various capacities, including Deacon and Chairman of the Standing Committee. He has been the current Church Historian for more than 20 years.

Mr. Strong was a Co-author of 3 books: "Woodbury Schools 1674-1955"; "Homes of Old Woodbury" written in conjunction with the Tercentenary of Woodbury in 1959; and "150 Years in an Old New England Parish," a historical review of the North Congregational Church 1816 to 1966.

He was a member & Past Governor of the Society of Mayflower Descendants in Connecticut, member and past President of the Oliver Wolcott Sr. Branch of the Sons of the American Revolution, member and past President of the Connecticut Society of Genealogists, member and past President of the Hotchkiss Family Association (served most recently as Treasurer), a member of the Society of the Cincinnati, member of the Descendants of the Founders of Ancient Windsor and a member of the Strong Family Association.

On June 16, 2010 Mr. Strong was honored for his lifetime of service to Woodbury with the James J. Clark Community Service Award.

Fred is survived by his son and daughter-in-law, David A. & Mary Jane Strong of Watertown CT; 3 grandchildren, David L. Strong of Arlington, VA; Julia H. Strong & her partner, Ann Odoy, of Bethany CT; and Jennifer Strong Ebbert & her husband Frank of Arlington, VA; 2 great grandchildren, Leo & Sylvia Ebbert, both of Arlington, VA. He also leaves a number of nieces and nephews: Frank Strong of Fairport, NY; Nancy Jefferson of Glastonbury, CT; Ellen Parker of Middlebury, CT; Robin Fenn of Middlebury, CT; Berkeley Hotchkiss of Saratoga, WY; Ann Johnson of Carbondale, CO; Judith Hotchkiss of Deer Isle, ME; Sue DeSimone of Woodbury CT; and Todd Hotchkiss of Birmingham, AL, as well as numerous great and great-great nieces and nephews.

*Excerpted from the Rochester Democrat And Chronicle on July 8, 2010*

*\*Private Thelus Hotchkiss, 131-72 married Sarah Scoville. As a Teamster in the Revolutionary War, he transported cannon and supplies to West Point, NY and took supplies south to Yorktown when Washington went south in 1781.\**