



Hotchkiss Family News

February 2020

Volume XV Issue I

Lin Meeker, Editor

HFA 2020 Reunion Plan to Attend

Hotchkiss 2020 Reunion Plans Are Firm

Plans are set. August will be the 138th anniversary (140th was in error in the Sept 2019 issue) of the Hotchkiss Family Association. Don Hotchkiss has planned a wonderful event filled with interesting tours and time for fun. Plan on attending our reunion on August 14, 15 & 16 at Gettysburg, PA. The registration form is included in the newsletter. You can download it from the website. If you have problems, just send me, the editor an email and I'll send it to you separately.

The weekend will include tours of the military cemetery where two Hotchkiss' are buried, the Visitors Center, Gettysburg Cyclorama, a battlefield tour with our own Hotchkiss Gettysburg expert, a ghost tour and an Eisenhower Home tour. Friday evening will feature a 'Welcome' get together. During the weekend we'll see the reenactors camp with 'show and tell', and a meal or two at historic taverns. We'll have our evening program on Saturday. Sunday is a tour of the Eisenhower Home.



Don has set up a block of rooms at The Inn at Herr Ridge with breakfast included. There are only a few rooms left so act today. There are other hotel/motels in the area as well. Mark your calendar today! Plan to make it a family affair; bring your children and grandchildren. Visiting historic sites helps us to appreciate our history. For the on the schedule

and registration form, *see page 5-6*



As mentioned in the September News, a few additional ideas for making the weekend into a memorable vacation could include: Independence Hall and the Liberty Bell in nearby Philadelphia, about 2 1/2 hours away. The new Museum of the American Revolution there is getting rave reviews. Here are a couple of examples of what you can see there.

Climb aboard a 45-foot replica ship and experience the war at sea through the story of James Forten a 14 year-old free African American, who later became a prominent abolitionist and Philadelphia businessman.

See one of the most iconic surviving artifacts of the Revolution – General George Washington's War Tent, called the "rock star of the collection" by the New York Times.

Design your own soldier uniform with an interactive display, and learn about how soldiers displayed their loyalties and ideas of liberty by engraving mottos on their equipment, or by choosing a particular fashion of fighting clothes.

Chart the action of the War on an interactive map that highlights the encampments, advances, and encounters of the American army and the British and Hessian army at the Battles of Trenton and Princeton and lots more, check it out at <https://www.amrevmuseum.org/visit>

Hope to see you all in Gettysburg!

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REUNION

ACCOMODATIONS:

Friday 8/14 & Saturday, 8/15. – \$149.00 HFA Room Rate + 9% resort fee per night + 11% tax. Call for your reservations (717) 334-4332 and indicate you will be checking in on Friday Aug 14 for 2 nights. Refer to the HFA Reunion to receive the special discount rate. Your registration and reservations must be made by July 4, 2020.

Note: We have booked the entire Inn for the weekend. Please check out the Inn's website at www.InnAtHerrRidge.com to see the great rooms and all the amenities.

Please PAY the hotel directly for your room.

Email or Address Change? Send an email or note to the Editor, address on page 4. Email addresses are not shared and you receive notice of newsletters by blind copy.

The Next Hotchkiss Book

The HFA has published 4 books (one a 2 volume set). Information is being gathered on Samuel's other four descendants: Samuel², Sarah, Daniel and Thomas. There is a family group sheet that you can fill out for each generation (as much as you know) from your family back as far as you know. Go to <http://www.hotchkissfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/09/HFA-News-Septmeber-2019.pdf>, scroll down to the two page family group sheet and print. You'll want copies to use for each generation. Send copies to Lin Meeker, HFA Genealogist (address on page 4). As you gather names, dates & places, be as complete as you can, but you may have some blanks the farther back you go. We will fill in those blanks. Descendants of these four siblings are the main focus, but the book will also include the latest information on Samuel (c1622-1663). Information from the first six generations book on these four children and has been entered into a genealogy database. The process to enter several boxes of records received from HFA storage has begun.

This large scale project will take time. Please consider contributing your family line. Your questions and comments are welcome and encouraged.

Hotchkiss Passings

Ross Macklyn Hotchkiss - Sept 2, 1940-Sept 25, 2019

It is with great sadness that we announce the passing of Ross Hotchkiss on Wed., Sept. 25, 2019 in Oakville, ON, at the age of 79. Ross was a devoted husband of 55 years to Rita, and a loving father to Lisa (Bryon), Michael (Lisa), Candice (Glen) and Todd (Alisha). Proud grandfather to Tess (Jeff), Eden (Banan), Alex, Carly, Taylor, Michelle, Carolyn, Nicole, Summer, Paige, and great-grandfather to Cordelia, Calliope, Mohammad and Sofia.

Predeceased by his parents, Jack Hotchkiss and Treva Hotchkiss Smyth (nee Chute), his brother, Paul Hotchkiss; sister, Doreen Locker; sister-in-law, Cecile Schooley and brothers-in-law, Ted Schooley and Bill Dertinger, Ross will be missed by his sister, Roma Demeyere (Cyril), close family members Myrna Hotchkiss, Lu Dertinger, Mary Buckley, Ken Locker (Virgii) and his any nieces, nephews, cousins and friends.

Ross lived a full life, filled with many accomplishments. A graduate of the Univ. of Western Ontario, he had a successful and fulfilling career with IBM. After retirement, he pursued many interests, including volunteering, travel, genealogy, birding, investing and reading. He served for over 25 yrs with the Soc. of Saint Vincent DePaul. Ross' faith was best reflected in his commitment to service to others. He will be remembered for his integrity, strong work ethic, analytical mind and love of family and friends.

Ronald B. Frame 1954-2019 155-24(10)-913

Ronald B. Frame, age 64 of Litchfield Park, AZ died Sept 4, 2019, in Goodyear, AZ. He was born Sept. 24, 1954, in Erie, PA to Eleanor and Harry T. Frame. Ron's ancestry traced back to

the Mayflower, of which he was very proud, and it instilled in him a deep love of country. He attended USC, where he was initiated into the TKE fraternity, forming a relationship with fraternal brothers that continued throughout his life. He loved life, and always said, "Live life, and don't sweat the small stuff! Get over it! Life is so short. Enjoy and appreciate who and what you are!" He loved the ocean, especially as he and his family were flying through the waves on his Baja 32 ft twin 502. He was passionate about music, attending concerts and collecting memorabilia from famous bands and artists. He loved baseball and traveled many miles to attend spring training and home games with family and friends. As an Atlanta Braves fan he attended the Hall of Fame induction of Greg Maddux. He also loved NASCAR and USC football. He is survived by his wife and love of his life, Linda; daughter Allison; son Andrew and granddaughters Keira and Madeline.

Joan Woolson 1931-2019 111-892-412

Joan Woolson, age 87 of Boone, IA died at her home on Monday, February 25, 2019.

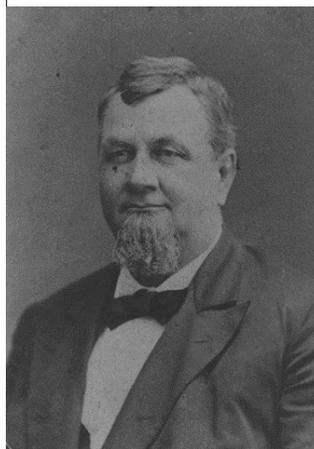
Joan (Olson) Woolson, was born in Omaha, Nebraska on August 16, 1931, the daughter of Wilbur and Josephine (Jackson) Olson. She graduated from Boone High School in 1949 and graduated from Waldorf College in Forest City, Iowa, in 1952. After graduating, Joan taught elementary school at Jordan.

On December 7, 1952, Joan married Fred Woolson in Boone, Iowa. In earlier years, Joan served as a Cub Scout leader and Campfire girl leader. She later volunteered for numerous organizations, knitted thousands of hats for newborn babies and cancer patients for area hospitals. Joan was a member of the I.S.U. Faculty Wives Club. She enjoyed knitting, crocheting, and playing piano for the Salvation Army. She is preceded in death by her parents. Joan is survived by her husband, Fred of Boone; four children, Emmet (Debora) Woolson of Blacksburg, Virginia, Eric (Debora) Woolson of West Des Moines, Lura (Mike) Stukenholtz of Boone and Christine (Mark) Walter of Urbandale; eight grandchildren, and five great-grandchildren.

Healing Benjamin's Legacy

by Jeffrey Hotchkiss

Benjamin Berkeley Hotchkiss (1826 – 1885)



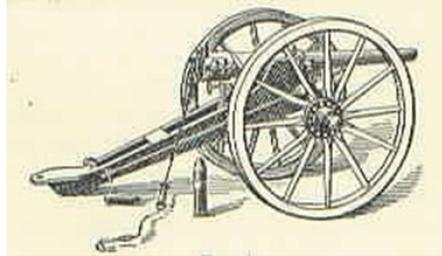
Visiting Paris on New Year's 1980, I found the Hotchkiss Arms Company in the phone book, at No.52 Champs-Élysées. Had it been a work day, I might have stopped in to introduce myself as a descendant of the founder.

Thirty years later in Maine, I discovered that his first successful product had

been used in an infamous massacre, and that I wasn't really his direct descendant.

Benjamin Berkeley Hotchkiss invented an early breech-loaded rifled light cannon. He emigrated to France, because the US Army was not buying large quantities of arms right after the Civil War. France was beginning hostilities with Prussia, and needed his advanced weapons. His company, Hotchkiss et Cie, manufactured several models of cannons and machine guns.

The US Army did, however, have a requirement, during the Plains Indian Wars, for a highly mobile light cannon that could fire accurately at long range as well as rapidly mow down charging fighters at close range. The Army purchased a total of 56 of these new guns from Hotchkiss et Cie.



The 42 mm Hotchkiss Mountain Gun

In 1877, a single Hotchkiss Mountain Gun broke the stalemate between the Army and the Nez Perce, at the Battle of Bear's Paw Mountain in Montana, preventing Chief Joseph's band from escaping to Canada to join up with Sitting Bull.

Four of these guns were later used at the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre, where soldiers of the 7th Cavalry killed hundreds of Lakota men, women and children on a cold winter day of horrific bloodshed. General Nelson Miles was furious at this outcome, and brought court-martial against the officers in charge. But because the massacre was politically popular, he was overridden by President Harrison, and instead Congressional



Soldiers of the 7th Cavalry posing with three of their Hotchkiss guns the day after the Wounded Knee Massacre

Medals of Honor were awarded to twenty of the soldiers.

The soldiers were thrilled with their guns' performance, but the Lakota survivors called them "Hotchkill".

When I was young, my father always talked about "great uncle Benjamin" and his inventions. On discovering the Wounded Knee connection, I began to dig deep-

er. I'm eternally grateful to Lin Meeker and the late Joan Johnson for their help in my research. It turned out that I was descended from a completely different branch of the family tree – Samuel's son John, while Benjamin was descended from Joshua.

As I understand it, Benjamin left his first wife, Maria Bissell Hotchkiss, behind in Connecticut when he moved to France, and married again there without divorcing Maria. She thus inherited his fortune and used some of it to found the Hotchkiss School in Lakeville. I have not as yet connected with any of his descendants.

Clarifying my relationship with him was very helpful, but did not end

Support Your HFA

Thank you to those who have donated to the HFA to fund the website and newsletter. Costs have risen for printing and mailing. **We encourage those who have email to send their email address to the Corresponding Secretary.** You will receive an email, an overview of the newsletter & a link to the newest issue. Email addresses are not shared. **The Hotchkiss Family Assoc. operates on donations in lieu of dues.** Please give today to insure the preservation of our ancestors records. Make your check payable to the Hotchkiss Family Association and mail to: Hotchkiss Family Assoc.

c/o David Strong
15 Old Middle Rd Turnpike
Woodbury CT 06798

Thank You for your support.

my exploration of the history. It had sparked a keen interest in promoting healing from intergenerational trauma. I wrote about it for the organization I volunteer for here in Maine ([part 1](#) and [part 2](#)), and eventually connected with a descendant of the officer who gave the order to fire at Wounded Knee, as well as some of the Lakota descendants of the massacre's victims.

The Wounded Knee Massacre is the subject of legislation before Congress, called the Remove the Stain Act, to rescind the medals awarded to the soldiers. I have signed a joint statement in support of this legislation.

Believing that great opportunities for healing can arise from greater awareness, I continue to connect and research. The Army acquired 56 Hotchkiss Mountain Guns, but so far I've only accounted for 5 of them used against Native people, as told above. Some of them were used in the Spanish-American War, and some were sold to other countries later on. I do suspect that they were used against Native people in more than these two events.

History affects each of us differently. We bring unique perspectives and knowledge. Informed by experience with great projects of healing and truth, I have approached this topic in my own way. I welcome your questions, knowledge and perspectives.

Jeffrey Hotchkiss lives in Portland, Maine, and would enjoy hearing from you at jefreiki@maine.rr.com.

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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 \$7.00 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, PO 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.



There is a generation chart you can fill out and return to the Editor.

<http://www.hotchkissfamily.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/HFA-News-Novr-2018-11-19-compressed-1.pdf>

HFA Books -The Line of John, First Child of Samuel Hotchkiss

John was one of Samuel’s most prolific children. His descendants are represented in 2500+ pages in a hard bound two volume set. Less than 10 copies are left. To purchase your two volume set, mail a check for \$200.00 (includes shipping) made out to the Hotchkiss Family Association. Mail to: David Strong, 15 Old Middle Road Turnpike, Woodbury, CT 06798.

Please make sure your mailing address is included.

ADD

Family members to the mailing list. It arrives by email with a link to the HFA website where they can read the entire newsletter, print it if they prefer and share it with their family. Send their email to the editor at dlmokdoki@aol.com

Hotchkiss Family Association
c/o Lin Meeker
5915 White Ibis Run
The Villages FL 32163



138th Annual HFA Reunion Registration Form

Please return this entire page with your check by May 30, 2020. Please send your completed registration form and check (made payable to: HFA) to David A. Strong, Treasurer, 15 Old Middle Road Turnpike, Woodbury, CT 06798.

Below are your choices for paid activities. Please make your selections, add up the costs and enter the total. Your check, made payable to: HFA, should agree with that total.

Your Name*: _____

Guest Name*: _____

*As you wish them to appear on your NAME TAG

- | | |
|---|----------|
| 1. Friday Dinner* _____ (Kids under 12, \$10.00) \$32 per person | \$ _____ |
| 2. Saturday Breakfast (Included for folks staying at the Inn, otherwise \$10.60 per) | \$ _____ |
| 3. Saturday Box Lunch (You will select your items Friday Night) \$12.72 per person | \$ _____ |
| 4. Saturday Dinner* (Kids under 12, \$10.00) \$35.00 per person | \$ _____ |
| 5. Saturday Activities: | |
| a. Tour of Visitor Center and Cyclorama \$13.50 per person | \$ _____ |
| b. Battlefield Bus Tour w/ Guide \$17.40 per person | \$ _____ |
| c. Optional Private Ghost Tour (20 people min) \$7.00 per person | \$ _____ |
| 6. Sunday Breakfast (Included for folks staying at the Inn, otherwise \$10.60 per) | \$ _____ |
| 7. Sunday Breakfast W/ Speaker program \$3.50 per person | \$ _____ |
| (Note: Breakfast Cost Included for folks staying at the Inn, for others, \$14.10 per) | \$ _____ |
| 8. Sunday Optional Eisenhower Farm Tour \$9.00 per person | \$ _____ |

*Select one Friday Dinner:

- a. Roasted Herb & Butter Basted Chicken Breast, Pan Jus # _____
- b. Dry Rubbed New York Strip, Port Wine Reduction # _____
- c. Kids Meal Chicken Fingers and fries # _____

*Select One Saturday Dinner:

- a. Pecan Crusted Pork Rib Chop, Caramelized Apple Jus, Herb Scented White Rice # _____
- b. Roasted Midwestern Prime Rib, Natural Pan Jus, Red Skinned Mashed Potatoes # _____
- c. Kids Meal Burger and fries # _____

TOTAL COSTS: \$ _____

PLEASE SEND THIS FORM AND YOUR CHECK (made payable to HFA) to:
David A. Strong, Treasurer, 15 Old Middle Road Turnpike, Woodbury, CT 06798

Annual Meeting Logistical Contacts:

Donald L. Hotchkiss Email: Donhotchkisslv@yahoo.com
Phone (702) 875-1893 (Cell) or (702) 295-1194 (Ofc)

David A. Strong Email: david.strong@snet.net
Phone: (203) 343-2907



Registration:

Hours: Friday, Aug 14, 4 PM to 7 PM. Upon registration you will receive an updated schedule, name tags and information on the location of events. You will also receive information about transportation to and from the venues.

Dress: For all events, except the Banquet, dress is business Casual. For the Banquet, gentlemen should wear a coat and tie, period correct clothing or Military Mess Dress uniforms. Ladies should dress in accordance with the significance of the evening.

Awards and Recognitions: Awards and recognitions will be presented at the Banquet on Saturday Evening.

Special Guests:

James A. Hotchkiss, HFA President
Lin Meeker, HFA Secretary, HFA Genealogist
David A. Strong, HFA Treasurer

Don Hotchkiss, Guest Speaker, Tour Guide, HFA VP Military Historian

Schedule of Events

Friday, Aug 14

Registration – Inn Lounge 4 PM to 7 PM
Dinner with Guest Speaker 7 PM to 9 PM

Saturday, Aug 15

Breakfast: Herr Ridge Restaurant 7 AM to 8:30 AM
Grave Dedication at Nat Cem 8:45 AM to 9:15 AM
Tour 1: Gettysburg Visitors Center 9:30 AM to 12:00 PM
Lunch – On your Own **OR** Box Lunch 12:00 PM to 12:30 PM
Tour 2: Battlefield Bus Tour 1 PM to 4 PM
Dinner with Awards and Guest Speaker 7 PM to 9 PM
Optional **Private** Ghost Tour of Gettysburg 9:30 PM

Sunday, April 14

Breakfast w/ Guest Speaker 8 AM to 9:30 AM
Optional Eisenhower Farm Tour 9:30 AM-11 AM

