

Anita Smith Mention of Elias Hasbrouck

Woodstock History and Hearsay

Transcribed by Janine Fallon Mower

"A half mile from route 212 on the Mink hollow road there stands one of the oldest houses in Woodstock Township built soon after the revolution by Elias Hasbrouck. At that period this locality was the most populated section of Woodstock and here the first town meeting was held in 1790. Elias Hasbrouck was elected Supervisor; John Row Clerk, Petrus Short, Samuel Mower and William Snyder Assessors: Row and Mower were made Constables: Zackary Short, Collector, Andreas Riselar and Bement Lewis Overseers of the Poor; Petrus Short, William Snyder, Hendrick B Krom and John Longyear Overseers of the Highways.

The grandson of one of the Huguenot founders of New Paltz, Elias Hasbrouck was born in 1741. He became a merchant in Kingston, having his place of business as well as his home near the corner of Main and Wall Streets. When the Revolution began, Hasbrouck was one of the first patriots in Kingston to sign the Articles of Association. In 1775 he received a commission as a Captain of the Line in the Third Regiment. He recruited his own company and led it to Albany where they became part of the American Army under General Richard Montgomery, and marched under him to Montreal. From there Captain Hasbrouck was ordered back to Ulster County and was appointed Captain of the Scouts and Rangers guarding the frontier which included Ulster County. He was one of the few soldiers who tried to defend Kingston when it was burned by the British General Vaughn. He sometimes served as quartermaster supplying food to the French as well as the American Armies along the Hudson River.

Although his house had been burned by the British soldiers he tried, after the war, to reestablish his business in Kingston. However, by 1787 he had moved to Little Shandaken where he built himself a home, and farmed the land. The exterior of the house has been changed to stucco but the old outlines remain as they were and much of the interior is believe to be as it was one hundred and seventy years ago. Captain Hasbrouck died when he was fifty and he and his wife Elizabeth are buried in a little cemetery on the east side of the entrance to Mink Hollow. A lane has been run across his grave but the stone has been reset a few yards away. Here, quite neglected, is the grave of our first Town Supervisor and most distinguished early citizen. (Pg. 118.)