

# Locust Grove Archives

## Finding Aid

Series: **Locust Lawn Collection**  
Subseries: **Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck**

**Completed by Angela Stultz**  
**February 28, 2011**

**Volume:** 2 cubic feet in 4 boxes

**Acquisition:** Bequest of Annette Innis Young

**Access:** Monday thru Friday, by appointment with the Curator

**Copyright:** See Curator for details

## Biographical Sketch

Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck was born in 1795, the daughter of Captain Philip Dubois Bevier and Ann DeWitt of the Town of Rochester. Hylah, in her youth, attended Sarah Pierce's Female Academy in Litchfield, Connecticut.

In 1821, when Hylah was 26, she married Levi Hasbrouck. Levi and Hylah spent the rest of their lives at Locust Lawn, a farm located in Gardner, New York which Levi had inherited from his father, Josiah Hasbrouck, upon Josiah's death in 1821. Levi and Hylah had seven children, five of whom survived to adulthood. Their first daughter, Sarah Maria, was born in November 1823. A second daughter, Ann Bevier, was born in 1827. A son, Josiah, named for his paternal grandfather, was born in 1825 but lived for only four years; Josiah's death must have been expected for a second son, born in 1828 while his brother was still alive, was also named Josiah. The Hasbrouck's had two more daughters, Louisa, born in 1831, and Laura Tallmadge, born in 1834.

Hylah was a member of the Ladies' Mount Vernon Association of the Union, the Foreign Missionary Society and the Ulster County Agricultural Society. The family belonged to the Dutch Reformed Churches at New Paltz and Hurley. Trade cards and invoices indicate Hylah's interest in home furnishings and she shopped at several specialty shops in Manhattan.

Hylah's husband, Levi, died at home on March 7, 1861, aged 70. Levi left the farm to his son Josiah but provided in his will that Hylah should remain at Locust Lawn and she should also have the use of "the old stone house at New Paltz Village". She was awarded pew 39 at the Dutch Reformed Church in New Paltz. After Levi's death, Hylah remained at Locust Lawn along with her two unmarried daughters, Louisa, then 33 and Laura, 31. Her son, Josiah, nominally supervised the farm but he traveled frequently and actually spent most of his time away from the farm.

Hylah died at the age of 79 in 1874 and her funeral was held at Locust Lawn. The bequests listed in her will reflect her interest in religious organizations. She provided for gifts to the American Bible Society in New York, The American Tract Company in New York, the Foreign Missions Society and the Dutch Reformed Church in New Paltz. There were additional gifts to the Board of Domestic Missions and to the General Synod of the Reformed Dutch Church to be used for the education of "indigent young men preparing for the gospel ministry." The fund was to be known as the Louisa Hasbrouck Scholarship. She also provided for other family members including the children of her deceased daughter Sarah, her nieces and her namesakes, who by 1871 numbered five women or girls named Hylah. Also provided was a bequest to the Dutch Church "to be used for paying for the bread and wine at the communion as is necessary to put away the necessity of a collection on that day" for she had "often been so horrified after the solemn scene to hear the rattling of money."

## **Scope and Content Note**

The papers of Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck are section of the larger Locust Lawn Archives, which are in turn a component of the primary museum collection at Locust Grove. Hylah's great grand-daughter, Annette Innis Young, inherited both the house at Locust Lawn and the personal possessions and archives of several generations of the Hasbrouck family. In 1958 Miss Young transferred Locust Lawn and its contents to the Huguenot Historical Society to operate as a museum. Her family papers were scattered throughout the house, and between the 1970s and 1990s an attempt was made by staff and volunteers to organize part of the Locust Lawn Archives. In 2010 the Huguenot Historical Society transferred the house, grounds, and collections at Locust Lawn to Locust Grove, reuniting the Hasbrouck family papers for the first time in fifty years. Re-organization of the archives was completed in 2011.

Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck's papers include correspondence, bills and receipts, legal documents, insurance papers, tax records, and ephemera.

While this collection is remarkable in its own right for its completeness, it also significant for its connection to the art and artifact collections at Locust Lawn, many of which were purchased and used by Hylah and her family.

In general, artificial series and arrangement groupings have been created, since no discernable order from the creator was evident. See the arrangement note for more information about arrangement by series.

## **Series Description**

### **Series 1: Correspondence (1799-1873)**

#### **1 Box**

Spanning the years from 1799 to 1874, Hylah Hasbrouck's correspondence consists mainly of letters written to her from her sisters, her aunt Hylah DeWitt, her husband, children and friends. This correspondence is filed chronologically and is followed by one folder of undated correspondence to Hylah and a folder of empty envelopes.

### **Series 2: Personal Papers**

#### **2 Boxes**

This series consists of a variety of material arranged alphabetically by subject. Because these papers were not arranged by their creator, subject categories have been artificially created to improve access.

## **Arrangement Note**

In general, artificial categories have been created for the Locust Lawn Archives in general and the Hylah Bevier Hasbrouck Papers in particular. However, some overall trends present in the Young Archives were used as the basis for these categories.

### **Correspondence**

Letters in the Young Family Archives were often grouped chronologically and so this arrangement protocol has been applied to the entire collection. Correspondence is not divided other than by year, and letters continue to be housed in their original envelopes (if they survive).

### **Personal Papers**

All categories in the Personal Papers sub-category have been artificially created.

## Box and Folder Lists

### Box 1

#### Series 1: Correspondence 1799 – 1874; Undated; Empty Envelopes

- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1799
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1800
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1803
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1807
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1811
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1813
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1820
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1823
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1824
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1826
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1845
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1848
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1852
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1853
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1855
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1857
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1860
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1861
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1862
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1863
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1864
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1865
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1866
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1867
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1870
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1871
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1872
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1873
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-1874
- \*Correspondence to Hylah Hasbrouck-Undated
- \*Correspondence – Empty Envelopes

**Box 2**

**Series 2: Personal Papers "A-Pa"**

- \*Account Books
- \*Book Inventory
- \*Calling Cards
- \*Certificates
- \*Check Books-1862-1866
- \*Clippings
- \*Diary-1867
- \*Estate Bequests
- \*Etiquette Notebook
- \*Floral Dictionary
- \*Inventory-Estate of Elizabeth Bevier
- \*Mortgage (Estate of Levi Hasbrouck)
- \*Music Book
- \*Notes and Lists
- \*Pamphlets
- \*Papers of Elizabeth Bevier
- \*Papers of Esther Bevier
- \*Papers of Hilletje DeWitt
- \*Papers of Sarah Bevier
- \*Papers of Sarah Maria Hasbrouck

**Box 3**

**Series 2: Personal Papers "Pe-W"**

- \*Pew Conveyance
- \*Poetry Book
- \*Purchase of Burial Plot
- \*Receipts-1840-1873
- \*Recipes
- \*Scrap Book
- \*Scrap Book
- \*Travel
- \*Trade Cards
- \*Travel
- \*Will of Hylah Hasbrouck

**Box 4**

**Series 2: Personal Papers Oversized Papers**

\*Deed-1824

\*Agricultural Society Certificates-1844