



# Hotchkiss Family News

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Lin Meeker, Editor

## 2013 Reunion in Lyons, New York

### The Lyons NY Reunion, a Big Success

The Lyons Heritage Society was instrumental in making our reunion fun and informative. The Society has made big strides in making the Hotchkiss Peppermint Building a wonderful museum that honors our Hotchkiss ancestor.

A group from the society met us Friday evening and gave us a preview of our weekend



activities. They hosted us at the museum with punch and peppermint delicacies. Pat Alena, aka "Peppermint Patty" as she is known at the museum welcomed us and regaled us with stories of the museum's challenges and triumphs. If you at-

tended the 2002 reunion (2002 if memory serves) you can easily see all the hard work they've done. The building has been spruced up and is filled with the workings of the factory, and information about Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss and his brother Leman. The arti-



facts of the industry they began and the many awards they won internationally for their mint oils are carefully preserved. As a group many of us walked from the Hotchkiss building through the town square to a little bar & grill at the corner of the town square. On the way



we walked past the charming bandstand from the 1880 era, and the county courthouse.

Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss was quite the businessman. He marketed his products in the U.S. and Europe, even controlling prices of the area peppermint crops. His essential oils won many awards, including first prize medals at world's fairs and exhibitions held in Austria, England, France, and the U.S.A. Imagine the excitement of the time through this article from the **Geneva Gazette, 19 September 1851: "The State Fair**

*The State Fair at Rochester the present week has doubtless brought together a greater concourse of people than ever before assembled on a similar occasion. Even at this point, which is a considerable distance from the scene of attraction, train after train of a length and weight which would seem to baffle the*

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#### Action Notes:

- Please Fill out & return the HFA Survey
- Have a Hotchkiss male in your family participate in the DNA project
- Send your email address to [dlmokdoki@aol.com](mailto:dlmokdoki@aol.com)

### Get Your HFA News on the Internet

The newsletter is posted at [www.hotchkissfamily.org/](http://www.hotchkissfamily.org/) It includes more pictures (in color) than the printed version. Please send your email address to the editor's email address at the bottom of this message. Your email address will not be shared with anyone. You will receive an email from the editor. You'll see: "To read the latest Hotchkiss Family Newsletter, click [HERE](#)" The newsletter (a pdf file) can be opened by both PC's & MAC's. Postage has gone up, so help HFA to save money by sending your email address today listing your name as well. Those, who do not have email, will be sent a hard copy. Send your email address to the editor at :

[dlmokdoki@aol.com](mailto:dlmokdoki@aol.com)

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*power of half a dozen locomotives, has swept by, crowded to the utmost with living freight. Indeed, one would almost be led to suppose that the eastern counties had become depopulated by the tide of humanity rushing westward to participate in the Farmers and Mechanics Festival. Notwithstanding, as the President of the Society himself informed us, arrangements had been made in Rochester for feeding and lodging one hundred thousand strangers, we believe thousands will have had not to lay their heads," and will have come away hungry. In a list of stock and articles on exhibition, published in the Advertiser of Tuesday, we subjoin the following from our own vicinity: H. G. & L. B. Hotchkiss, Lyons - samples oil peppermint."*

On Saturday a number of us went on the tour to the Sodus



Point Lighthouse Museum and winetasting tour. The visit to the Sodus Point Lighthouse was very enjoyable. The museum is full of interesting exhibits from life on and around Lake Ontario from the 1870's. From there we visited the Young Sommer Winery, a fairly new winery that had some delightful dessert wines.

Saturday evening we met at the Phelps Hotel for the annual business meeting, dinner and program. The Phelps Hotel is an historical landmark which was built in 1867 by Peppermint Magnate, Leman Hotchkiss at a cost of \$26,000. From 1868 to the present day, this grand old building is reminiscent of the graciousness and charm of days gone by. It no longer offers lodging, but it still offers the tradition of excellent food and friendly



## Hotchkiss Men's DNA Project Is Ongoing

The Hotchkiss DNA project needs more participation to be effective. 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)

*Editor's note: A number of other families have used this approach to sort out and help differentiate the different family lines, for instance from Samuel's sons and those Hotchkiss' still 'across the pond'.*

According to their website, 90% of genealogists choose Family Tree DNA – with the largest DNA database. More records are added everyday. We have at least one person in the DNA project for each of Samuel's sons so we need more male descendants of Joshua, Samuel and Thomas to step up.

Ross says, "based on working with another of my family lines, it appears we will need 5 to 10 men per line to get results that would allow us to trace lines using the DNA markers." **Participation is quick and easy. Contact Ross at the above email address for more information.**

service. Over 36 people joined us for a delicious dinner followed by the annual brief business meeting.

*There are currently about 650 members of HFA on the mailing list. We are hoping to increase the number of members who will receive the newsletters via email. Going 'green' allows us to send all each member via email a URL to click on to go directly to the latest newsletter. If you have not already done so, please send an email to the editor, Lin Meeker at [dlmokdoki@aol.com](mailto:dlmokdoki@aol.com). List your name and email address and you will receive your newsletters via email. You can read it online or print it to read.*

Reunion attendees received a vial of original Hotchkiss Peppermint Oil left when the doors were closed in 1984 and were donated by the Lyons Heritage Society. A bag of mints and a vial of peppermint oil was also given to each attendee by Essex Labs who purchased the Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss' formula.

HFA members introduced themselves. Jim Hotchkiss spoke of previous reunions, one had a parade of Hotchkiss automobiles. There were three in the parade (there are only 5 in the US). Other notable mentions were: Ruth Ward donated a petit point of the Hotchkiss Coat of Arms made by her great aunt, Nellie Davis to HFA.

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There are very few of the Joshua books left for sale each member should consider donating one to your local library or genealogy society.

After dinner, Richard Kelley, presented a program that in-

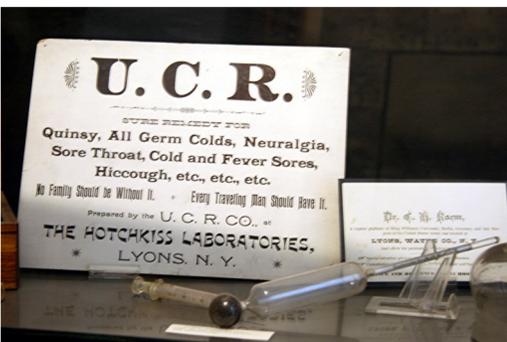


cluded Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss and younger brother Lem-an Beecher Hotchkiss. He showed Lem-an's green peppermint bottles, and the cobalt bottles of Hiram. Your editor won a cobalt bottle from Dick's collection for having come the farthest. *Editor's note: I'm thrilled to have it.*

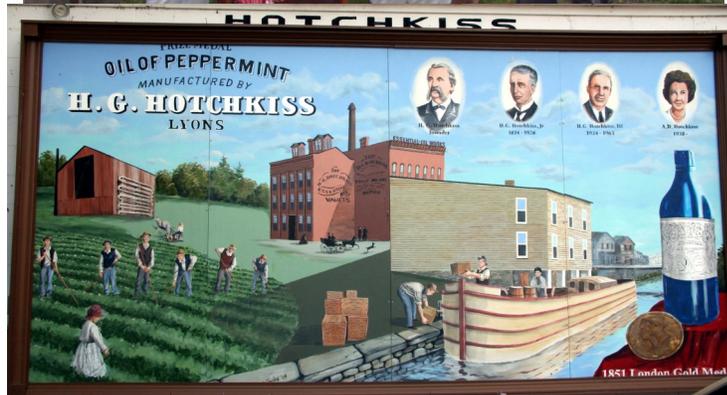
Lyons Heritage Society member, Pat Gorthy talked a little about her book, Peppermint Summer. *"This book is great for children learning about the Erie Canal. It is set in the 1860's and tells the story of a 10 year old girl Emily Taylor. Emily makes the journey from Rochester NY along the Erie Canal to her grandparents peppermint farm in the town of Lyons, Wayne County New York. She travels with her kitten, Sasha."* The reading level of this book is 3rd - 5th grade and can be purchased through Amazon.

On Sunday we visited Hiram Gilbert Hotchkiss' 42 room mansion on Butternut Street. A private residence now that has had many uses over the years. The present owners are still restoring it to its former grandeur. After our tour there, we had a private tour of the Wayne County Museum which is the former sheriff's residence that also housed the jail,

built in 1856. The museum includes Lyons Pottery & Clyde Glass, a Military Room which includes memorabilia from the War of 1812 to the Vietnam War,



and a child's bedroom from 1856. The museum was three floors of interesting artifacts. Before some of us all departed, we were able to take part in the dedication of 1/3 mile section of the Erie Canalway Trail as Hotchkiss Lane. It runs right behind the Hotchkiss Building.



Mural by the front of the Hotchkiss Building.

### Notes from Joan, HFA Genealogist

I'm still shooting for December but perhaps January or even February will be more realistic. In some cases I have had to renumber families who were out of sequence which takes quite a bit of time especially the family that had 17 children. I'm working on the 8th generation which is quite large as is the 9th. From there on there are fewer families. *Editor's note: We hope to give details in the next newsletter*

### Donations

The Hotchkiss Family Association operates on donations in lieu of dues. An annual donation of \$10 or more supports record keeping for the Hotchkiss family lines, newsletters published two/three times a year, and more important, the incidental costs of preparing our books for publication. We preserve hundreds of records. Please give today to insure the preservation of our ancestors records. Hotchkiss Family Association  
c/o Joan Johnson  
36 Beach Drive  
Prospect, CT 06712-1603.  
**Thank You** for your support.

2013

**Hotchkiss Family  
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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.*



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## **-Hotchkiss Passings-**

### **James L. Hotchkiss**

James L. Hotchkiss, 81, of Phoenix passed "Home" on July 4, 2013. James was born on June 16, 1932 in Fergus Falls, MN to Leonard and Mary (Mandelke) Hotchkiss. The family moved to North Dakota where Jim farmed with his parents for years outside Cando. Jim worked in Denver and then in Arizona as a mechanic and truck driver. Jim enjoyed gardening. He is survived by five nieces from his sister Margaret, five nieces and nephews from his sister Muriel, eight nieces and nephews from his brother Bill, favorite nephew Rick and his dog Maxi. He was preceded in death by his wife and his companion Anka, his sisters Margaret and Muriel, his brother Bill, his parents Leonard and Mary, Muriel's twins, Marilyn and Carolyn, and Daisy who made sure Uncle Jim got his walks. Visitation was July 20, 2013.

### **Nellie Treat Johnson**

Nellie Treat Johnson (725-334-111-1) slipped into eternal rest Oct. 1, 2012 surrounded by her loved ones after a long courageous battle with cancer. Born Oct. 17, 1941 daughter of the late Gordon and Alice (Downs) Treat. She was also predeceased by her beloved husband Richard G.

Johnson Sr., brothers-in-law Harry E. Johnson and Richard Boncek and many other cherished family members and friends. She leaves behind her loving children: Patricia (Sterling), their children David (Rosie) Unan, son Richard Jr (Lori) their children Brendon and Myra Johnson and her son Gordon, his children Tyler, James and Jeremiah Johnson. She is also survived by sisters Betty and Gloria Treat and many treasured nieces, nephews, cousins and friends. Aside from being a wonderful wife and mother, Nell also provided exceptional care for her disabled brother-in-law Harry for over 30 years. When she moved to Deep River in 1967, she found many ways to serve her community. She was active in the Congregational Church as a Sunday school teacher, Superintendent, the first female deacon and chairman of the Board of Deacons. She was active in American Legion Post 61 Aux., the Saybrook VFW Aux, Deep River Veteran's Memorial Green, the Town Hall Restoration Committee, and Soroptimist Club to name just a few. She was named Volunteer of the Year by the Deep River Rotary Club. She was an avid member of the CT Genealogical Society, The Platt Family Association, the Hotchkiss Family Association and cofounder of the Treat Family Association. She will be sorely missed by all those who knew and loved her.



Reunion 2013—A few people had to leave before this was taken, but this is a nice picture from the Saturday evening dinner and festivities at the Phelps Hotel, courtesy Bradley Smith. Check the HFA website for more pictures.



### Hotchkiss Family Association 2013 Survey

The board of the Hotchkiss Family Association wants to encourage more participation in the HFA and would like your opinion on the following subjects.

Please take a couple of minutes to fill out this survey and forward it back via mail to Lin Meeker, 9986 E. Elk Lake Drive, Rapid City, MI 49676 or by email to [dlmokdoki@aol.com](mailto:dlmokdoki@aol.com)

Presently the HFA operates on donations in lieu of dues. Donations have continued to wane over the past five years. Our mission is to insure that our records are safely stored, that we continue to gather, publish and make those records available to HFA members, and publish a newsletter three times a year.

1. \*Do you prefer to make a donation each year or would you prefer to have a dues amount set for each year (\$5-\$10/yr).

2. \*How often should reunions be held? Presently according to the bylaws we need to hold a reunion every year. Would you be more likely to attend if reunions were held every two years? \_\_\_ every three years? \_\_\_

3. How important is the location of the reunion? Rate 1-5, 5 being most important:

\_\_\_\_\_

4. Would you be more likely to attend if the reunion were held in any of these areas? Check as many as apply. Please rank each 1-5 using 5 as the most likely location for you to attend. California \_\_\_ Midwest (Chicago perhaps) \_\_\_ New York \_\_\_ Connecticut \_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_ (please list)

5. Would you be interested in serving on the board of the Hotchkiss Family Association, Inc.? (all positions are volunteer) Yes \_\_\_ No \_\_\_

\*Would require a change in bylaws.

Comments (are welcome and encouraged) \_\_\_\_\_

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