

**From:** Craig Van Steenbergen [mailto:cvansteenbergen@mharrisinc.com]  
**Sent:** Tuesday, November 18, 2014 6:15 PM  
**To:** jeh49341@chartermi.com  
**Subject:** Hoyt Family Reflections of September 11

Hi John – I hope that you are well. I am a direct descendent of Simon Hoyt. Please see my roots per the attached document. I am 55 years old and currently live in Fairfield Co., Connecticut. I saw your name and contact information on [www.simonhoyt.com](http://www.simonhoyt.com) and was interested in contacting you. I saw that you had a request for stories as they related to 9/11.

On that morning I was in New York and in my midtown office with a full view World Trade Center twin towers. However, prior to the attack, I headed out to a project in Manhattan to view construction progress of a building that I was involved in. I am an Architect in NYC. Upon completing our walkthrough and leaving the site, we were all alerted to the fact that a plane had hit one of the towers. We started back to the office, but quickly realized that we should be heading back away from the direction of downtown, as we could see the sky full of smoke. No public transportation was operating and I started walking out of Manhattan, across the bridge and into the Bronx. That was my only option. On my way I stopped off in a bodega and saw the 1<sup>st</sup> tower collapse via a TV behind the counter. I also came across a bus that I thought I could board, until I saw that it had been commandeered by law enforcement to bring police personnel down to the Trade Center site. I continued through the Bronx to Yonkers, where I knew that I could catch a bus. Meanwhile, I had passed a public high school where everyone was outside and in shock. That is where I first learned of the attack on the Pentagon. I actually had business in Yonkers and attended a wake that afternoon for a friend (I had originally planned to attend that evening). Not only were we mourning a friend, but the events of the day. A friend from my old neighborhood in Yonkers eventually gave me a lift to where I could get a ride with another friend back to the train station where my day began that morning. Waiting at that train station were EMS personnel waiting for commuters that may have needed aid. It was good to be home. Over the course of the next several weeks in NY was very difficult. There were posters everywhere for those that were missing that were never to be found, and we all attended many services for those that we knew that perished in the attack. I couldn't bring myself to actually visit the site for 2 months.

Ironically I am currently involved in the construction on the WTC site and walk the project several times per month. New York is rebuilding bigger and better. However, we will miss forever those that lost their lives that day.

Sincerely,

Craig Van Steenbergen, AIA  
Senior Associate

Merritt & Harris, Inc.  
90 John Street, Suite 503  
New York, NY 10038