



MAYBEE SOCIETY

Communicator

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Issue 3

FROM THE PRESIDENT

Just a few days ago I had an experience that, like many others, makes "family hunting" so very enjoyable and so much fun! I had traveled across the state to attend a Tillicum picnic and to celebrate the 60th anniversary of my first graduation from the University of Washington. (The Tillicum House was an independent men's fraternity). When we arrived I noticed a couple that I did not know, and then I noticed their name tags which identified them as Bill and Mary Lou MAYBEE (special guests of our host). I, of course, introduced myself as George MAYBEE Martin and we all became immediate friends and learning more about our family. Bill's full name is Archie William Maybee and many years ago I had met his father. But that is only part of the story - I soon learned that Mary Lou had lived in Lake City, a suburb of Seattle, and her family had been close friends of my oldest sister Mary Raymond and her family. Many times a coincidence has led me to members of the family and added joys! I am certain that all of you could relate similar crossings of the trails. Bill and Mary Lou have now joined our group. It is also interesting to note that Bill's family came from Monroe County, Michigan as did Belva Perry's family. And I like that word Tillicum which is a Northwest Indian word meaning "friend"!

Many Maybees do travel and it has been wonderful to have so many of you come through Yakima for a visit-all joyous times. I was sorry to miss Creta and Grover Ensley on Father's Day, but my children took me to the mountains for the day. Creta called me from Florida and also several times enroute and we had good telephone visits and later they visited Belva Perry in Everett. Our society brings us many grand

friends everywhere and how wonderful it is to visit-and the time simply flies!

Many of you have sent us names and addresses of family members and as a result the membership is growing. And of course more members mean more information about the tribe. As this was written we have 55 members. Perhaps we can double that before the year is over if we all keep working.

Postage rates and costs of printing and supplies all require funds and we find it necessary to start our annual dues at \$10. The membership fee can remain at \$20 for the present. We also appreciate donations. Keep writing and keep the information coming.

George Maybee Martin





THE MABIE BROS.

PIONEER SHOWMEN OF THE WEST

The Mabie Brothers Circus, one of the earliest in the United States, was founded by Edmund F. Mabie (1810-1867) and Jeremiah Mabie (1812-1867) who grew up on a farm in Putnam County, New York. According to the research of George Maybee Martin, the brothers were the great great great great great grandsons of Seigneur Pierre Mabilille de Nevi, the French Huguenot.

In 1839 or 1840 the brothers enlisted the aid of Seth Howes, who had some previous circus experience, and organized the Howes and Mabie New York Circus. After a few years of touring in the East and Midwest, the beauty of southern Wisconsin and its abundant pasture for circus horses, as well as the attraction of the expanding audience in the midwestern states which were being settled, caused the brothers to buy a thousand acres near Delavan, Wisconsin in 1847 and move their headquarters to that frontier village. They adopted the title "Grand Olympic Arena and United States Circus."

Delavan had been organized in 1836 as a Baptist temperance colony and did not cordially welcome a circus in its midst, considering it an evil institution and a waste of customers' money. However, the Mabie's won favor by becoming active church members and civic leaders.

For the next fifty years Delavan was to become the winter quarters of 28 circuses which travelled throughout the South and the Midwest and the West Indies, many of them being off-shoots of the original Mabie Circus or founded by former Mabie performers or associates with financial help from the Mabie brothers. The Mabie's arrival in Delavan also launched the Wisconsin circus dynasty which saw over 115 shows organized in the state over the next 100 years, including the Ringling Brothers show founded in Baraboo in 1884. It was also in Delavan that the P.T. Barnum circus was formed in 1871 by the famous Bridgeport, Connecticut, museum owner. Both of his partners, Dan Costello and William Coup, had been with the Mabie show.

Some circuses carried their own games of chance and the "grifters" or gamblers had to make suitable arrangements with the local sheriffs and constables. These practices probably encouraged the bad reputations that circuses often carried. However, some shows kept themselves strictly "Sunday School", avoiding the association with gambling. The Mabies appear to have been in the latter group, and in fact did not put on shows on Sundays.

It appears that the original Mabie performance consisted of equestrians, acrobats, trapeze artists, magic acts, and talking and singing clowns with the addition of one trained buffalo. But by 1853 a menagerie had been added. This was the largest circus in America for several years before the Civil War and it never had a losing season. In 1863, with admissions of 10 cents and 25 cents, their show grossed \$118,000 in the May to October Season. It originated the "after-show concert" and was one of the earliest to feature a side show. It was one of the first to carry its own dining tent in lieu of arrangements with the local innkeepers. In 1862 the Mabies conducted an indoor winter circus in Chicago.

In the early days of the circus, the Mabies set up a round-top tent, 85 feet diameter. Lights were candles chandeliers were four strips of board with holes for the candles. When the wind blew, grease would run down on the ringmaster. The circus travelled in 42 horse-drawn wagons over primitive dirt (frequently muddy) roads.

The Mabies dared to go into Texas when it was pretty wild. The Texans were prone to pull their shooting irons if the program was not exactly as specified in the advertising posters. On one occasion the only clown suddenly left the show. To avoid shooting, Jere Mabie pressed his acrobat, Pete Conklin, into service as a clown and Pete became one of the all time greats. Pete introduced pink lemonade when he prepared his beverage from water in which an equestrienne had dyed her costume.

On another occasion in Texas, a sheriff informed Jere Mabie that, unless he was provided with tickets for himself and three doomed prisoners, he would schedule their hangings at circus time, thus offering a competitive attraction for the circus crowd. So, sheriff and prisoners saw the show and at the close Pete Conklin announced to the audience that immediately after the concert the hangings would take place.

At the age of forty, Edmund Mabie married 17 year old Laura Buckley, a performer in his circus, said to have been one of the top equestriennes in circus history. His younger brother Jeremiah followed by marrying, also at the age of forty, 18-year-old Anna Mary Field.

The circus was sold in 1865 to Adam Forepaugh for \$42,000 and transported to Chicago on the same day that Lincoln was assassinated. The Forepaugh circus sold out, in 1892, to Barnum and Bailey.

By Alice McDowell, Member # 6



ROBERT MUTRIE

R. Robert Mutrie (our member #23) has become known to many of us through his book "6,000 New York Ancestors: A Compendium of Mabie Research". He has been gracious enough to write to us a little bit about his interest in the family and how the book evolved:

"I send these remarks along to show how a person can go from an amateur to a published writer, in hope of encouraging other members of the Mabie family to come forward with their work. Too much gets thrown into a box and eventually thrown out.

When I was a very young lad of fourteen my aunt told me that we were the great-grand-children of royalty, and an encouraging British history teacher showed me how to pursue the research. I became deeply caught up in genealogy and letter writing--a hobby that at the time (1964. was definitely the preserve of the very few. I brought to it all the initiative and enthusiasm of youth. I can still remember, when, at the age of sixteen, wrangled a rusty old Chev out of my parents so that I could visit my correspondents in person. I interviewee people five times my age and kept careful hand printed records which I have maintained to this day. My first genealogy was published when I was eighteen.

From the start, I was completely enamored with the idea of noble and royal connections and had found three lines of descent by 1973 when I stumbled across a single page of paper written out by a Mabee granddaughter in the mid 1800's showing a line of descent from a Seigneur Pierre Mabilie. This launched me on a fourteen year quest for my connection to the French Peerage. From the start I was aided by much

more experienced researchers and I became increasingly surprised that nothing had been published on this major New York Family. My work blossomed from that one page to volumes, what I call my "umbrella tree" for all the families that became involved in the descent.

I researched the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record* from Volume I, Number 1, from cover to cover, all the way up to the present, over 100 volumes. I spent two most enjoyable one week trips at New York and took in the records of the New York Genealogical and Biographical Society b3 day. I drew out all of the Mabie connections which I could find and notes the many discrepancies between sources. It was then that I decided to differentiate between primary and secondary sources. The latter was nice to find but really need the former to verify them. Secondary sources are an excellent starting point, but beware the pitfalls of speculation.

When I discovered the work of Royal Mabee and Frederick Secord in the most obscure museums, unpublished, my desire to publish became a priority. There have been over 100 years of work on this family, so much of it in isolation at different times, all with no clear direction.

By 1986, I had shopped the region for printers and had found one who had proven himself with two previous of my publications, a three hundred page family tree, and a 150 page book of short stories. Each had sold 500 copies and this encouraged me to complete the book of the Mabie family.

With dogged determination, I spent many a night in front of the typewriter translating family charts into printed text, a task I completed in five months. It was in my pre-word processor days when I found Liquid Paper a valuable companion.

Afterwards, I turned the manuscript over to someone who had never seen it before and the proofreading went on while I prepared the index. Then for a month afterwards, I ran checks against the source records and read the work literally.

On Jan 13 1987, the book was delivered to the printer who was instantly overwhelmed, but he had the first 100 copies off the press on March 8th. The balance came in June.

This year (1988), I have just completed a history of the village of St Williams and have every intention of

continuing to publish well into the future. I encourage you all, to make manuscripts of your work and then run copies, even if only on a photocopier. Your work is important and should not be underestimated. You will be pleasantly surprised at the response you will receive.

Bob Mutrie



Bob, is one of our young members. He was born the 5th of September 1951, Hamilton, Ontario, Canada. He certainly is an inspiration to many of us who are still procrastinating the writing of our life stories. We certainly hope that whether you send them in to share, by publication in "The Communicator", or whether you send them in for the files, that you will make an extra effort to get your life stories sent in to us so that we may keep them as part of our Maybee heritage.

ALLAN MAYBEE-- BACK TO THE BEGINNING

Several of our members had read the article by Boyd Gibbons in the "National Geographic", August 1986 that mentioned Allan Maybee, a history teacher in Wyoming. Because we were interested in knowing more, we wrote to him. He is now member # 48 of the Maybee Society. Following are excerpts from two of our letters from him and from newspaper clippings about him:

"So, I am not alone. Although I came from a large family, 6 boys and 6 girls, our family was broken up by the State Dept.. My father, Charles was a disabled veteran and simply had no way to support such a large group. As a result, 6 of us were farmed out to an orphanage in Lincoln, Nebraska and later we went into a series of foster homes. I'm happy to say that we all did excellently and took the emotional trauma in stride. We all have professional careers and are contributing to society.....

You have no idea how important my name is to me, since I have had to defend it since I first went into an orphanage at the age of 6. When I first began to make the rounds of foster homes, each family wanted to adopt me and change my last name, but I refused to change this strange last name that was hung on me. As a result I was never adopted and have been on my own since I was 16 years old. I have managed to earn a B.S. degree from Nebraska Wesleyan University and two Masters degrees from the University of Nebraska. I am currently a teacher and a counselor for the Riverton, Wyoming Public Schools.

" ...According to the general description of a "Maybee", I do seem to fit in. I am 5'11" (not very tall), education is critical to me, and I am unusually strong. When I take to the trail, I usually walk more than I ride a horse because I like the feel of mother earth on my feet. When I did the Santa Fe trail, I calculated that I walked 750 of the 1,300 mile total. I am excited about my ancestors following the trace to Oregon. I have ridden a horse and walked every inch of the trail from Independence, Missouri to Oregon; City, Oregon. I have an almost uncontrollable urge to travel these historical routes. My life seems to have only two distinct parts, that is, planning to follow a trail or following a trail."

Projects and accomplishments of Allan Maybee:



Besides a devoted educator, Allan is a tremendous organizer, totally dedicated to his goals. He is an accomplished artist and a gifted writer, having had many of his articles, illustrations and photographs published locally and nationally.

His professional career has involved human services of one sort or another."

In 1970 he founded and coached the University of Nebraska Rowing Team, that grew from an athletic oddity in the Midwest to the number 5 team in the nation in 5 short years.

In 1975 he received a national bicentennial grant to lead a group of horseback riders 2,200 miles across the entire length of the legendary Oregon Trail. He continues to provide numerous programs in Wyoming

and nationally, concerning this special bicentennial project.

In 1978 Mr. Maybee led a group of 7th calvary riders and three women from Independence, Missouri to Santa Fe, New Mexico, 1,200 miles across the entire length of the Santa Fe trail. This project captured the imagination of the National Geographic magazine. A special section of the National Geographic Book, "Trails West" was dedicated to the riders of the trail. The group also appeared in the movie "The Santa Fe Trail", which was released in 1980. Several newspapers in California, Wyoming, Nebraska and Missouri followed the group's progress in a weekly journal with illustrations provided by Mr. Maybee. A book "People of the Sun", written by Marc Simmons and photographed by Pulitzer prize winner, Buddy Mays was dedicated to Allan and his group.

Having had experience with an Allan Maybee project previously, The National Geographic was again on hand to record the 500 mile trip in 1985 when Allan led a group of Second Calvary riders and several women from Ft. Laramie to Fort Bridger via the Oregon-California trail. This adventure, reported by Boyd Gibbons and photographed by Jim Amos appeared in the August 1986 issue of the National Geographic.

His current project, supported and endorsed by several states as a centennial project, was following the 1825 route of William Ashley from the Henry's Fork on the Green river to St. Louis. We have been fortunate to have someone send to us some of the daily newspaper accounts of this journey as they were reported by Allan. The second phase of the project is titled VOYAGE OF THE CENTENNIAL MESSENGER--JOURNEY BACK TO THE BEGINNING. Carrying 100 pound packs of beaver skins in a voyageur cruizer to St. Louis 2,500 miles downstream; following the Wind, Big Horn, Yellowstone, Missouri and Mississippi rivers. He is also planning the production of a film to be produced by the BYU studios that hopefully will be aired on the Discovery Channel. In the future he looks forward to riding the Mormon trail from Omaha to Salt Lake City, taking a Medicine Wagon Show out across the plains, doing the Bozeman trail and reriding the Santa Fe trail.

In one of his current newspaper reports he writes: "Now it is our turn. We have willingly accepted the challenge and are confident of our success because the alternative is unacceptable and unthinkable." Allan, although many of us are too old to go with you in body, we want you to know that we are with you in heart and spirit.

QUERIES

Do you know the names of the parents of HARRIET SAXTON who married DANIEL MABIE about 1840 in Wyoming Co., NY, and whose sister SYLVENIA SAXTON married RESCOME MABIE , an older brother of Daniel Mabie, about 1831.

I think the Saxton Family had come from Otsego Co., Ny before moving to Boone Co. Illinois in the 1830's and 40's. they seemed to travel with MABIES. Harriet had brothers John, Jacob and Asa.

Mrs. Frances Thomas, 85 Gardenia Court, Upland, CA 91786.

Irene L. Shrope, member #17 is searching for descendants of the Maybies that married into the Tallman line. She enclosed a page of records that she asked we include in this newsletter. She hoped that it would be of help to someone and possibly someone could help her. She is aware of the fact that the birthdates for Betsy (Eliza) and Peter are both given as 1794 and that one is a year off, but which one?

Daniel Mabie. Sr. (Reverend),
Born 20 September, 1759 at Carmel, Putnam County, New York
Died 3 May, 1843 at Castile, Wyoming County, New York
Father Peter Mabie
Mother - Susannah Sunderland

Married Rachel Booth about 1779 in Putnam County, New York

Rachel Booth,
Born 15 May, 1762 at Putnam County, New York
Died 12 March, 1832 at Castile, Wyoming County, New York

Children	Born	Married
Susanna Mabie	1780	never married
Jacob Mabie	9 Sure, 1781	Mary "Polly" Tallman
Levi Mabie	26 Dec, 1782	Sally Elmore
Permillla Mabie	1784	Giles Tallman (1st wife)
Rachel Mabie	4 April, 1786	Joel Park
Esther Mabie	21 Feb 1789	Charles Tallman
Daniel Mabie, Jr.	1792	Isabel Kedzie
Betsy (Eliza) Mabie	30 Apr 1794	Giles Tallman (2nd wife)
Peter Mabie	11 Feb 1794	Mary E. Moore (birth date must be wrong)
Jeremiah Mabie	17 July 1796	Esther _____
Edith Mabie	1798	
Amelia Mabie	between 1800 and 1810	
Mary (Polly) Mabie	2 Jan 1801	
William Mabie	26 Apr 1803	

Four members of this family married children of Mary (Gorham) and Rescom Tallman who lived in Castile, Wyoming County, New York 1810-1830. Are there any descendants of these families who have any records of the TALLMAN Family? Particularly in need of names of the parents of both Mary Gorham and Rescom Tallman. I also need the birthdates of the eight children of Mary (Tallman) and Jacob M able (1781-1846) If anyone can help I will be most grateful.

Irene L. Shrope, 2441 Blueberry Drive , Oxnard California 93030

These families had lived in Delhi, Delaware County, New York prior to moving to Wyoming County which was then Genesee County.

COMMUNICATIONS

Creta Ensley sent us an excellent article on the '76 house by Howard I. Durie. It has been carefully footnoted, but we find that those pages containing the references are missing. If you can help us to contact Mr. Durie, or if you have a complete copy of "Andre's Prison - The '76 house - A History", please contact Creta Ensley at Villa Magna, Apt 605, 2727 So. Ocean Blvd., Highland Beach, Florida, 33487.

COMMENTS

Bob Mutrie's soft covered book on St. Williams should be off the presses. For more information contact:
R. Robert Mutrie, P.O. Box 110, St. Williams, Ontario, NOE 1PO

WELCOME NEW MEMBERS

BARBARA & RAY MARTEL, #47
P.O. BOX 1418
SARASOTA, FLORIDA 34230

Barbara, from the Van Orden branch of the family, is from New Jersey and lived in her old family home. She experienced what most of the rest of us only dream about. Searching through some of the treasures there, she found two family bibles. One of them goes back into the 1700s. She was able to help Maile Ho with information about the East Coast branch of the family. She and her husband Ray also researched in original records in nearby repositories as well as taking vacations to some of the spots where the families lived, on the East Coast, for further research.

ALLAN MAYBEE, #48
PARADISE VALLEY ROUTE
BOX 2434A
RIVERTON, WY 82501

You will read more about Allan elsewhere in this newsletter.

MR & MRS THOMAS BRYANT, #49
2696 RED ARROW HIGHWAY
BENTON HARBOR, MICH 49022

Thomas and Cindy Bryant are descended from Joel Mabie born in 1834, in NY.; Joel is the son of Jeremiah Mabie and Lois Evans.

MELVIN R. MAYBEE, #50
P.O. BOX 2-333
WEAVERVILLE, CA 96093

Mel is the brother of Allan Maybee, #48. He has been interested in the family history and genealogy. He sent to us a picture of a large handcarved "Maybee Coat of Arms", in beautiful color.

ELIZABETH SEVY, #51
10421 62ND PL. W.
EVERETT, WA 98204

Elizabeth is grand-daughter to our member #5, Esther Ness and grand-niece to George Maybee Martin our president. Elizabeth is very interested in quilting. A book written by Nancy Ann Twelker for the Washington Centennial called "Women and Their Quilts" will feature a quilt by Elizabeth's great grand mother, Janet Dove Maybee Martin. Elizabeth is interested to know if any other Maybee's have old quilts or pictures of old quilts from the family.

DONNA T. H. HABLITZEL ; 52
1075-91 SPACE PARK WAY
MOUNTAIN VIEW, CA 94043

Donna adds another Turneure to our Family association. Her great-grandfather Giles Turneure was involved in family genealogy and a handwritten copy of his research was given to the State Historical Society of Wisconsin.

RUTH PORS, #53
706 SO. APPLE AVE.
MARSHFIELD, WISCONSIN 54449

Ruth Pors was one of those names we kept running across as a contributor of Mabie genealogy and we were certainly pleased to have her join us as a member. She too is a descendant of Jacobus Mebie and Veronica Christiana Fedley (Van De Erwaerde) and of the elusive Jan Pieter Mebie and Dorothea Pikkert.

MARILYN SPITTLE, #54
16987 DEER PATH DR.
STRONGSVILLE, OHIO 44136

I (Belva) knew Marilyn many years ago, but until we looked more deeply into the line, we had no idea that we were related. What a shame we did not find this out before she moved halfway across the country.

JOSEPH MAYBEE

"He settled in Parish, Oswego Co in 1820 in what we used to call a howling wilderness, no roads, could not get away from home without a compass, built him a log house married a girl from Connecticut -a Yankee..... and settled down for life, clearing his own farm all alone. Two other families in the town of six miles square. Raised a little corn the first year and that he had to carry six miles to the grist mill to get ground. Shot deer for meat. Have heard him say that the wolves used to come around the house nights to pick up the crumbs and bones they threw out. The first cow he had, he left mother at home with a woodchuck for meat while he went to Otsego County were he was born - 80 miles on foot and drove the cow home. Was gone only 3 days and nights." This is an excerpt from the description of the life of Joseph Maybee, by his son Joseph.

THANK YOU

I hesitate to say THANK YOU. Not because I do not greatly appreciate all that all of you are doing, but because so many have been so generous, that I could not possibly mention you all. Many answer queries, take time to share with others what they have spent years in researching, contact possible new members and write words of encouragement, without a hint of criticism to us that are trying.

I would like to say "thank you", though, to Alice McDowell, who did such a masterful job of researching and sorting through the information on the Mabie Circus to provide us with such a concise and complete history on a subject in which we all have interest.

We were excited and interested in have a copy of Maile Ho's compilation, but only few copies were made and those who have would not ever want to part with such treasure, but both Melvin Van Orden and Barbara Martel volunteered to let us use their original long enough to make a copy and Barbara and Ray Martel even delivered their copy to us here in Everett..."thank you". The book is all that we expected it to be and is full of items of interest. She shows the line all the way back to Adam and reveals some exciting insight into the line.

"Thank you" to Maile who has given permission for us to use and share this information. We are in the process of indexing it, but it may take some time.

"Thank you" to Allan Maybee who responded with information about himself, and "thank you" to Robert Mutrie who has written encouraging the rest of us in our work.

Belva Perry

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