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MARION PUTMAN JESMAIN, MEMBER #118

Marion P. Jesmain passed away about 1 a.m., June 26, 1997, in her own home and in the arms of her husband, Doug. She had been in the hospital since early May, but in late June Doug took her home knowing there would be no cure.

Marion was born July 31, 1908, on the family farm next to the Woestina Church and just up the road from the Jan Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Jct., NY. Marion was a descendant of Jan Mabee in the Jacob line; her grandmother was Catherine Eliza, the daughter of Simon Mabee.

As a young girl, Marion attended grade school in Rotterdam Jct., spending many days playing at the Jan Mabee Farm. To attend high school, Marion had to walk across the Mohawk River bridge and catch the Amsterdam trolley into Schenectady. She graduated from Nott Terrace High School. Not one to be idle, Marion soon found a job with the Mohawk Power and Light Co. preparing customer bills.

Marion and Douglas Leo Jesmain were married on April 22, 1926. After marriage, Marion continued to work until Marilyn was born in 1931. In the early '40's Marion went to work at Wallace's Department Store and soon became the leathergoods buyer, traveling to New York City twice a month. After 18 years she retired from Wallace's, spending much of the remainder of her life as a homemaker and family researcher of the Jan Mabee line.

When George Franchere inherited the Jan Mabee Farm in 1972, Marion and Doug Jesmain managed the Farm, working with the tenants and maintaining the property as if it was their own. They spent a lot of their time cleaning, making repairs and supervising all contractual work personally. They did this until 1992 when George gave the Farm to the Historical Society.

In addition to her husband, Doug, survivors include her sister, Catharine Toman, her daughter, Marilyn Ann Underwood, three grandchildren, Aaron, Rebecca, and Caleb Underwood, one great granddaughter, one niece and two nephews.

Marion Putman Jesmain is buried in the Putman plot of the Cobblestone Church Cemetery, which is in the town of Rotterdam just outside of Schenectady. Marion and Doug were married 71 years. Doug was 91 years of age on March 19, 1997.

WILLIAM FREDERICK MAYBEE 1917-1997



Our member, William F. Mabee, #66, died on Friday, August 29, 1997. He had turned 80 on August 20, 1997. William, born in Fairport, NY, the son of Frederick Simmons Mabee and Caroline Elizabeth Aldrich, married Katherine Kohler in 1946 and in 1947 he was a graduate of Syracuse University. He was a World War II veteran.

William and Katherine have two children, a son, David DeSenda (formerly William Mabee) of Los Angeles California, and a daughter, Marcia Mabee of Marcellus, NY. William lived in Skaneateles 45 years and in Arizona for 20 years. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Skaneateles and a member of the Church of Christ of Arizona. He was a Scoutmaster and was active in Little League baseball. He was a member of the Skaneateles Country Club, The Sun Lakes Country Club and the Skaneateles Rotary Club.

Frederick retired as a sales representative with Duro Arts Supply in Syracuse, NY. He formerly operated an International Harvester Dealership in Skaneateles.

Services were held at the First Presbyterian Church and he was buried in Penfield, Cemetery.

IT NEVER RAINS BUT IT POURS

Donald R. Acheson explains, "It has been difficult getting back to my family tree. Julie and I spent the first week of June in Flint, MI. Julie flew back the last week of June. My Mother-in-law celebrated her 94th birthday on June 23. I didn't feel well and decided not to go. ... It was lucky I stayed behind. We had a storm that pulled two wires out of our house. I lost better than 50% of my electricity. Our refrigerator and air conditioner both were out. Three days later my water heater sprang a leak. My Mother used to say, 'It never rains but it pours'. That was her way of expressing good luck and bad luck."

VIEW OF THE PALATINE SETTLERS FROM THE SCHENECTADY NEW YORK SETTLERS AND EARLY COLONIAL DOCUMENTS

by Charles C. Stoodley

"Two articles on the Palatine Settlers (1710) appeared in consecutive issues of the Maybee Society, *Communicator*, newsletter (June, September 1996)." Charles Stoodley has written the following article to present *The View of the Palatine Settlers from the Schenectady, NY Settlers and Early Colonial Documents*:

"Initially sponsored by Governor Robert Hunter and taken up as a cause by the British monarch, Queen Anne (1702-1714), the German Palatine émigré's were promised land on the Schoharie creek, west of Schenectady in present Schoharie County, New York. This land was offered by the then owners, the Mohawk Nation of the Five Nations League of Confederacy. To the Palatines, Schoharie was the Promised Land. But as with many dreams of bounty and good fortune in the new world, the Palatine's dream went from bad to worse. By the time Professor Jonathan Pearson wrote his compilation of first and early settlers and their descendants (1872, 1873) of the Albany and Schenectady area, the 'early Colonial documents,' written by the English, who had taken over the old Dutch colony in 1664, the 'view' of the Palatines is that they were or could be 'unruly'. Notwithstanding these people wanted to live in peace and prosper just as the early Dutch settlers had. A case in point was the mention in the *Communicator* article continued in Issue 31, page 2, wherein the English Governor Robert Hunter 'issued a patent to Adam Vrooman.' However unfair the legal claim of these men {the five partners} it was upheld by law and warrants were sent to arrest the most riotous of the people including Jon Conrad Weiser."

From the Vrooman standpoint:

"Historian Jonathan Pearson had respect for the Vrooman family of Schenectady, NY; ... and this is true of his subject and ours, Adam, son of Hendrick Meese Vrooman, born in 1649 in Holland, was naturalized in the province of New York in 1715. ... In 1683 built a mill on the Brandy-Sand Kil where the Brandywine mills now (1873) stand. In 1688 bought lands of the Mohawk Sachems at Fort Hunter when Schenectady was attacked and burned by the French and [Praying Mohawk] Indians. He saved his

life by bravery in defending his house which then stood on the West corner of Church and Front Streets.... His first wife, Engeltie Blom Vrooman, tried to run for her life in the middle of the night on that wintry 9 Feb. 1690 and she and her infant child were murdered. Adam, with the help of his frontiersmen sons, Barent, Wouter and Hendrick (?), continued to load and fire. At last, outnumbered, he was called to come out and surrender or face being burned alive. His sons were taken prisoners and carried as prisoners of war into Canada. He married a second time and in 1697 he brought his sons and family back from Canada. In 1714 he obtained a patent for lands in Schoharie, upon which he settled in 1715. Soon after Adam Vrooman settled, 'some of the Palatines attempted to drive him off. He commenced a stone house 23 feet square with the help of his sons, and had proceeded as far as the second story floor beams, when one night his unruly neighbors, led by one Conrad Weiser, entirely demolished it. He then retired to Schenectady and petitioned the Governor (Hunter) for redress. The Governor commanded the Sheriff (Adams) of Albany to arrest said Weiser and succeeded, it is presumed, in stopping the opposition to Vrooman's cultivating his land [Doc., History, Vol. III, 412]. In 1726 he received an additional patent for 1,400 acres for his son Pieter, called Vrooman's land in Schoharie. By June 1730, Adam Vrooman's will was proved and his son Pieter Adamse Vrooman had settled and was long since established on his, Vrooman's Land.

Getting it right involves reading between the lines in recorded views of Historians. I have attempted here to give more information to aid in understanding a complex issue."

CCS (signature)???

We very much appreciate the time Charles spent in researching this information. He presented the story of the Palatines from the standpoint of the people who had already settled in the area or who were given land grants by Governor Hunter as well as the standpoint of early historians. This gave us a much broader picture. As an editor, I have tried to trim the story to fit our pages and still reflect both sides of the issue. Charles also helped us become better acquainted with the Vrooman Family. If you are interested in the complete article, including the bibliography, please drop Charles or Belva a note and we will be happy to send it to you. BMP

A NEW BABY BOY TO LOVE

Wyatt Garrett Fox, son of Troy and Shawna Gordon, #125, was born September 13, 1997. He weighed 11 lb. 5 oz., 23 1/2 inches.

FLORIDA IS BEAUTIFUL IN MARCH

REMINDER: Florida Reunion at Tarpon Springs on March 14, 1998.

PORTRAIT OF THE MABIE CHILDREN

After Royal A. Mabee alerted us to the existence of a portrait of Mabie children, several of us attempted to see it while visiting the Smithsonian Museum Gallery of Fine Art in Washington D.C., but did not succeed. De Brenner, #101, was able to persevere. She compiled and presented the following information for the program of Third Southwest Florida Mabee, Mabie, Maybee Family Celebration in Florida in March. She had individual copies made of the 'Portrait' made for the cover of each program that day.



THE MABIE CHILDREN

"This 48" by 60" oil on canvas painting is magnificent. In 1992, Maybee Society members, De and Hal Brenner, #101, with daughter, Susan Edginton, #102, requested a private showing of this masterpiece. It is now stored in the Archives of National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC. The painting was retired to storage 20 Nov 1987. As many of you know, the painting was exhibited by the National Collection of Fine Arts at its Opening, 3 May 1968, accepted by the Smithsonian Art Commission 3 December 1963, as a gift from Mr. and Mrs. William A. Sturm. Ownership of the painting is listed as: 'Painted for John and Eliza Jane Mabie (Richfield, Bergen County, New Jersey) to Mrs. Irene May Mabie (Mrs. Sturm's Mother) to Mrs. William A. Sturm (Mrs. Sturm's Grandfather is the child in the center in the red dress, age 5 at the time, who died in 1910 at age 57) and finally a gift from Mr. and Mrs. William Sturm to what is now called the National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution.' Documentation by Mrs. Sturm and Royal Mabee indicates although the children are seated in a wooded landscape carpeted with leaves and flowers, the itinerant artist, who reportedly painted the children in 1852, did so as they slept on a couch. He later completed the scenery. As we studied the scene, we agreed such was entirely possible as the two younger children do indeed seem to be placed like paper dolls onto the background. On the right side one sees mossy rocks and earth to the left a vista opens onto a woodland stream and large trees. Distant light illuminates water and hills and a path of blue-gray sky. A description on file with the Institute dated 11 December 1963 gives us the following account:

'...The oldest child, a girl in a white tucked and tiered dress with lacy pantaloons and pink ribbons, turns to the right, towards the brothers; her face is seen in profile. She extends a bouquet of flowers but gazes straight forward. One brother, has curly hair medium length, his dress is red calico. The older boy, on the right, sits on a stone, his knees turned toward the center and gazes directly out. Clothed in gray pants, blue shirt with white collar, black buttoned shoes, he holds a yellow straw hat; and has short hair. ...They are, Anna Marie Mabie born 23 September 1842; John Henry Mabie, born 1848 and George Whitfield Mabie, born 23 Feb 1845. Their parents were John Mabie and Eliza Jane Ossa. The approximate time of the painting, 1853, allows the children would then be about ages ten, four, and seven. ...

He (John) married Eliza Jane, 22 April 1841, the daughter of Samuel Smith and Eliza Ossa of Westchester County. ... The children: Anna Maria, wife of Charles Sageman, married in Hackensack, February 1868; George Whitfield; John Henry; Mary Eliza, wife of William Newcomb; and Charles Edgar who died at the age of fourteen.... Children, John Henry and George Whitfield Mabie, were founders, with George Whitfield as first President, of the Lake Placid Club.

For your information, it is possible to see this painting by requesting an appointment with a two week (preferred) advance notice. Write to: Mr. Mark Palombo, Museum Specialist, National Museum of Art, MRC 210, Smithsonian Institution, Washington DC 20560 of call Mr. Palombo at 202-357-1855. The painting is identified by *The Mabie Children* Code Number 1963.12.11. Mr. Palombo is extremely knowledgeable and accommodating. If you would like to receive as 8x10" black and white photograph (\$10 each), submit request in writing to: Rights and Reproductions Registrar's Office, National Museum of American Art, Smithsonian Institution, Washington, DC 20560. Identification *The Mabie Children* Code Number 1963.12.11. 8x10" Note: Technology today may be offering additional types of copies. Inquire." De Brenner

THE MABEE FARM

From the *Schenectady County Historical Society Newsletter*, we learn, "The New York State Preservation League has given the Mabee Farm project \$10,000 in cash, so that we may complete the preparation for the Historic Structure Report - the one that Howard Bliss did such a splendid work on. The completion of this report will give the Mabee Farm status when it seeks further funding for such things as repairs for the buildings, moving and re-erecting the Dutch Barns, and completing archaeology searches.

Kathy Johnson's patience and persistence got us this grant, and we are grateful to her. Due to pressures of an advancement in her occupation, Kathy will take a six-month leave of absence from the Mabee Farm Committee. John van Schaick has agreed to take up the project during her absence." They also expressed their appreciation to Elsa Church who gave the Mabee Farm an 1820 clock.

CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AND HELP THE MABEE FARM

The Mabee Farm Committee has some items for sale that they believe will be of interest to the family members. Purchasing these items will help the Mabee Farm Committee with the expenses of maintaining and improving the Jan Pieterse Mabee Farm; and will make nice Christmas gifts.

- Postcards showing the Mabee House and the cemetery, \$1.
- One lapel pin with the Mabie coat of arms, \$3.50
- One lapel pin with a replica of Jacob Mabee's branding iron, \$3.50
- A set of Historic documents relating to the family's history, \$10.
- Sourdough Jack Mabee's Sourdough Starter Kit, \$3.
- A full-size apron with a replica of Jacob Mabee's branding iron at the top, \$6

Please include extra for shipping and send request to the:
MABEE FARM COMMITTEE
SCHENECTADY CO. HISTORICAL SOCIETY
32 WASHINGTON AVE.
SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

THE VAN DYKE FAMILY

For those of us interested in the early history of the Dutch in New Jersey, the book *The Van Dyke Family of New Jersey: A Glimpse of the Dutch Settlement of New Jersey*, by Paul Van Dyke is more than a genealogy of his family. The book carefully explains the events that were happening at the time each of his ancestors entered upon the scene starting with the golden age of Dutch exploration and helps us understand the motivation of the Dutch East India and the Dutch West India companies. Mr. Van Dyke guides us through the early difficulties between the Dutch and English. He tells of the founding of New Utrecht, the family's move to New Jersey and more to the ninth generation of the family in America.

The book is based on primary sources, has excellent pictures and the text and appendices are filled with copies of original records. Statistically, it is 8 ½ by 11 paperback, 246 pages, illustrations, maps, bibliography, appendices and indices at the cost of \$23.50, plus \$4 shipping and handling. Order # V052 from Heritage Books, 1540 E. Pointer Ridge Pl., Bowie, MD 20716. The book itself is a delight and reads more like a historical novel.

CARLETON MABEE AND SOJOURNER TRUTH

Carleton Mabee, #175, was interviewed on July 11, 1997, by Fox-TV about *Sojourner Truth* in connection with an exhibit the Ulster County Historical Museum in Kingston, N.Y.

MABILLE TO MABIE

Mary Lou Bach, #179, asks a question that is of interest to us all. "HELP!!! Can anyone help me?? I am researching when the de Mabelle name was changed to its various spellings. I am especially interested in the Mabie spelling." Write Mary Lou if you can shed some light on this.

MRS. MARY LOU BACH
906 PORTER ST.
MEADVILLE, PENNSYLVANIA 16335
Phone: 814-337-0125

ANCESTRAL RECORDS AND PORTRAITS

A compilation from the archives of Chapter I, the Colonial Dames of America

The National Society, Colonial Dames XVII Century was founded in 1915 by Miss Florence Taney.: Their object is "To aid in the preservation of the records and of the historic sites of our country; to foster interest in historical colonial research; to aid in the education of the youth of our country; to commemorate the noble and historic deeds of our ancestors, the founders of our great Republic; to maintain zealously those high principle of virtue, courage and patriotism which led to the independence of the Colonies and the foundation and establishment of the United States of America; to maintain a Library of Heraldry and preserve the lineage and Coats-of-Arms of our Armorial ancestors and to develop a library specializing in the seventeenth century American Colonial data." In keeping with some of these goals, their Chapter One compiled a two volume book that introduces us to some of those early Americans entitled *Ancestral Records and Portraits*. In the 800 plus pages of the book you will find the names of many early Americans. Although some families have dates, positions, intermarriages, descriptions of arms, crests and mottoes included, we found no Mabilles of any spelling. We did find Schuylers, van Schaick and Du Bois mentioned. Any American woman of good moral character, eighteen years of age or over, is eligible for membership, provided she has been invited by the Society and is the lineal descendant of an ancestor who lived or served prior to 1701 in one of the Original Colonies in the geographic area of the present United States of America. Some of the areas of service by your ancestor, that might qualify you are: Colonial Governor, civil and church officials, signer of the Mayflower Compact; landowner, Freeman, planter or founder any school. This book is a reprint (1910), 8835 pp, 2 vols, illustrated, indexed, paper, \$57 plus \$4 shipping and handling. You can order it from Heritage Books; their number, C545.

Heritage Books
1540 E. Pointer Ridge Pl.
Bowie, MD 20716;

MABIE BROTHERS CIRCUS: 150 YEARS OF THE CIRCUS IN WISCONSIN

The Circus World Museum in Baraboo is using as its theme this season - 150 Years of the Circus in Wisconsin, with a strong emphasis on the Mabie Brothers and Delavan. The museum will direct a filmed documentary on the subject.

The Clown Hall of Fame has moved to Milwaukee. It is now located in a downtown building adjacent to convention centers.

There was a special article featuring the Circuses of Delavan, including the Mabie Brothers Circus, on August 10, 1997, in *The Week*, Walworth County's Newspaper.

REUNION IN DELAVAN WISCONSIN

By Jon von Briesen

"On Tuesday morning, 19 August, your correspondent (with brother, Ted von Briesen, set out from the Milwaukee area for the charming town of Delavan in southeastern Wisconsin. This morning had the event most appealing to us, from the menu of a two-day celebration of the 150 years of the Circus in Wisconsin. The rich and most interesting history began with the establishment of the Mabie Brothers Circus at Delavan in 1847. ...



MABIE CENOTAPH, family plot of Edmund Mabie, Spring Grove Cemetery

The event we selected was the guided tour of the Spring Grove Cemetery in Delavan, final resting place of many circus greats and site of the Mabie family plot. Our excellent Virgil, Mr. W. Gordon Yadon, took the tour to several graves of famed performers (a number of whom were associated with the Mabie Circus) and of some of the rogues that traveled along with the circus. (One such fellow, who later got religion, was a 'candy butcher,' or concessionaire. He explained the source of his income as 10 percent of all sales and 20 percent of all the profits from shortchanging).

Now that he is out of earshot, I can safely praise the vast and detailed knowledge of Gordon Yadon, without fear of contradiction arising from his modesty. Gordon spoke without notes for

most of an hour and a half, without even a moment's hesitation at the recall of a date in the performer's career or of a show's history. He had a most appreciative audience of circus history fans. The group included a few retired clowns and other performers.

We paused at the gravesite of William Coup, who organized the original Barnum Circus in Delavan (1870-1871). Wanting the Barnum name for his traveling show, this entrepreneur went to visit the retired showman back East. Barnum liked the idea and sold his name for 5% of the take. He even invested in the undertaking.

We learned the origins of pink lemonade. Gordon had no reason to doubt the tale of the vendor using the rinse water, made pink from soaking a batch of long johns, to make a batch of lemonade. This innovation, later much imitated throughout the circus community, arose in the Mabie Bros. Circus. ...

The Delavan Historical Society, some years ago, used the profits from an event to purchase metal markers to indicate graves of circus performers and personnel. A number of these grace the Mabie family plot which is centered on an imposing columnar cenotaph. Most interesting was the marker at the center of the plot, bearing simply the name 'Lizzie'. Lizzie Montgomery, we learned, was a former slave. The Mabies met her in New Orleans. They became very fond of her and she traveled with and served the Mabies for many years.

Some of your readers may be interested to know that, by coincidence, some of my Tallman ancestors rest in a plot within the view of the Mabie Cenotaph. Charles Benson Tallman (my great grandfather) and both of his wives lie here. He was son to Daniel Mabie Tallman. (Daniel's mother was Esther Mabie a daughter of Rev. Daniel Mabie and Esther Booth.) Daniel's family were early settlers in neighboring Rock Co. Daniel's eldest son, Alexis, is memorialized on the Civil War monument located in Spring Grove Cemetery. Alexis had been killed while on duty as a sharpshooter in Sherman's army, near Kennesaw Mtn. In 1864. Later that day we were to learn that the G.A.R. post in Clinton, Wisconsin (Rock Co.), was named in honor of Alexis W. Tallman."

NOW THE BIDDING BEGINS

From an article in the *Wall Street Journal* by G. Bruce Knecht we learn that publishers are bombarding an unknown author, Jessie Lee Brown Foveaux, with calls and flooding her with gifts as they will soon bid for her life story. Homespun life stories seem to be all the rage with the public; the publishing world, television and movies are racing to uncover them. Some examples are *The Bridges of Madison County*, *The Christmas Box* and *Having Our Say: The Delaney Sisters First 100 Years*. Our member #117, George Franchere suggests that writing our life stories may be something for each of us to consider

WORK ADDRESS FOR DAVID WAYNE MABIE

David Wayne Mabee has added another step in his list of accomplishments. He is now Culinary Arts Instructor at "Tec Prep", Albany Vo-Tec Center in Albany, NY.

SOME THOUGHTS ON THE FAMILIES OF JAN PIETERS MEBIE AND ANNA BORSBOOM

by President John A. "Jack" Mabee

"Prior to the early 1700's the Dutch naming system was used in New Netherlands. (See articles on *The Dutch Naming System*, by Rosalie F. Bailey in newsletters 24 & 25 of the *Communicator*). The patronymic was the predominant naming system, but the place name was also used, often with the patronymic. Under either system, people with the same surname were not necessarily related. People from many different families had the same patronymic or came from the same town or village, but they were not related to each other. Other evidence is necessary to show a relationship. Thus, not all people named Pieters (zen) or Jans (zen) were brothers and sisters and not all people from Naarden or Norden were related. Other evidence, such as baptismal records, deeds or wills, is needed to show relationship.

Fortunately, under the Dutch System, women usually retained their patronymic, or maiden name, even when they remarried, and that name was usually used in the records. Aechtje Jans married Abraham Willemszen van Amsterdam in April 1647. Their first son, Willem, was baptized in 1648 and a second son Abraham in 1650. Abraham Willemszen was a ship's carpenter. About this time Abraham Willemszen van Amsterdam must have died as the rest of Aechtje Jan's children were by Pieter Casparszen van Naerden. Marritje was baptized in 1652, Jan in 1654, Engeltje in 1656, Metje in 1658, Caspar in 1660 and Tryntje in 1662. (All of these records are from the NYGBR collection of baptisms and of marriages. There is no marriage record for Aechtje and Pieter.)

In 1650, Pieter was a witness for the baptism of Aechtje and Abraham's son, Abraham. Nothing more is known of this younger, Abraham. Pieter Casparszen appeared in the official records a number of times, through 1662, and then nothing is heard of him. He is thought to have died in 1664. Aechtje Jans, widow of Pieter Casparszen van Naerden, was still living on Broad Street in 1686. She was last listed in the church records as a witness for Caspar's son Peter, in 1689. (It is interesting to note that Tryntje Pieterese was listed with her mother in 1686) and that Engeltje Pieters and Jan Jansen Moll were listed on Broad Street at that time.

Here we have Willem Abrahamszen living in the same household with Pieter Casparszen and Aechtje Jan's children. Willem was six years old when Jan was born and well may have become Jan's idol. They most likely played and romped together as children. As it happened, Willem Tietsoort was in Schenectady before 1680 and Jan was there in 1684 at the latest.

Previously there was no connection between Willem Abrahamszen and Willem Tietsoort. Through independent research and the process of elimination, the Tietsoort (Teachout) family had tentatively claimed Abraham Willemszen and Aechtje Jans as the parents of their Willem Tietsoort. We now have a letter Willem Tietsoort wrote to Jan Mabee in 1706, addressing him as brother, asking Jan to help him retrieve land from the Indians. This letter helps to verify the connection and it also helps to verify that Jan Mabee of Schenectady was a son of Pieter Casparszen and Aechtje Jans.

Regarding Jan's ancestry, three Dutch letters provide information supporting Jan's relation to Pieter Casparszen and Aechtje Jans. These were from Myndert Steen in May 1706; from Willem Tietsoort in October 1706; and from Engeltje Steens in July 1707. (Engeltje Moll married Myndersz Steen October 10, 1704. NYGBR Marriage Collections, p. 102. This letter has not been completely translated.)

As an aid to raise money to make necessary repairs on The Mabee Farm, the Mabee Farm committee has reproduced some of these early historic documents including: A copy of the original deed when Jan Mabee bought the farm from Daniel Janse van Antwerpen; a copy of Jan Mabee's will with a typed copy for easier reading; a copy of Jacob Mabee's will; a copy of a bill from Catherina Mabee to the Expeditionary Forces to Crown Point, dated August 1755; a copy of an original early Dutch letter from Trientje Kouenoven to Jan Mabee in 1718 with a typed translation. You can receive these 8 papers for \$10 plus shipping from the Mabee Farm Committee, % Schenectady County Historical Society, 32 WASHINGTON AVE., SCHENECTADY, NY 12305

Jan Mabee had property in Schenectady before the massacre in 1690. In 1697 he obtained land on Schoharie Creek from Rode, an Indian Sachem. In 1716 he purchased part of the 'fifth or Wolf' flat across the river from the Farm. It is significant to note that Jan still owned all this land when he made his will in 1725.

What did Jan do? From whence did he come? There are very few records of Jan Mabee. One official Albany Court record was in 1684 when a small proceedings was settled in his favor. He married Anna Borsboom about this time, but church records before 1684 are missing. Over the years he purchased considerable land, so he had attained some wealth. But, how? At one point he paid a fee to practice as a surveyor; this job is very helpful when one owns land, but isn't likely to generate much wealth. So, what did he do? Probably he engaged in illegal fur trade with the Indians. During this period, the authorities in Albany reserved this very lucrative occupation for themselves, so there were very few records of those early clandestine fur traders.

Jan's father-in-law, Peter Borsboom was often documented in the records. He was in Fort Orange as early as 1639; he was fined for trading powder and liquor with the Indians; he sold his brickyard in Albany in 1661; and he was a first settler in Schenectady in 1662. Now we can see

why Jan might have settled in Schenectady and why he might have been a fur trader.

Peter Borsboom had four daughters. Only Anna, Maritie and Tryntje are of interest to us here. When Maritie lost her first husband in 1691 she had two children living, ages 19 and 14. This gives some idea when Peter Borsboom had his family. (As an aside, Maritie Borsboom was known as an Indian trader in 1724.) Tryntje Borsboom married Jan Olivier and had a daughter, Margrietje, baptized in New Amsterdam, July 7, 1706. In 1709 a Catherina Olivier married Frans Couwenhoven. This Couwenhoven family probably accounts for two of the old Dutch letters written to Jan Mebie in 1718 and 1723.

Much appreciation goes to Derick Sayers and John van Schaick for inventorying the original papers that were donated by George Franchere (along with the Mabee Farm and artifacts to the SCHS) John also has been instrumental in translating the 'Dutch Letters' - (original) letters written in old Dutch and preserved all these years; to Howard Bliss for his draft of the Mabee Farm Historical report and to all the family members who have contributed information about the Mabee, Mabey Maby, Mabie, Maybee, Van Orden families. Data from these people, Bob Mutrie and Jonathan Pearson and data taken from other sources found in the Schenectady County Historical Society and the New York State library were used to prepare this report. I didn't mention Maile Ho, Theodore Langdon Van Norden or Royal Mabee, but their considerable efforts and published works provide invaluable source material for family research. The Tietsoort family data was provided by Robert Teachout of Rutland, Vermont." Jack

Three generations of Mabilles have seen service in that African territory under the Paris Missionary Society. Dr. Smith had written a most interesting biographical account of these highly esteemed friends of his. Of Adele, 'Ma Rona: Our Mother' he quotes a lovely French accolade, 'There ran in her veins blood which for all time will be associated by history with a gay and indomitable courage,' (written by Henry Seaton Merriam about another French lady). Adele's portrait, used as a frontispiece in Dr. Smith's book, certainly bears a remarkable resemblance to my sister, Edith and to me. I fain would claim her as a far-distant relative. Her family were Huguenot in persuasion. For several generations, before its first member became an African missionary, her branch remained in France; ours went to Holland to find refuge." Catherine Mabie's book about her experiences as a Missionary to the Congo was published in ????. Include picture???

At the request of Ross Mabey, #202, Mike O'Connor and Tobie Openshaw (both of South Africa) searched for Mabeys there. Mike found 38 references to the name Maby and 126 references to the name Mabilles. Most of the "Maby" references were to the Maby brothers who apparently were involved in building the railway from Durban to Charlestown, where it met the other construction gang building from Johannesburg to Charlestown. Most of the documents refer to applications for importing laborers from Zanzibar and Zululand and to reports of maltreatment of the said laborers. The family appears to have been from England. As for "Mabilles", Mike thinks that the most important death notice was of Francois Louis Mabilles who died in 1835. Tobie was going to the archives and was going to delve further into the early immigrants there.

MABYS, MABEYS AND MABILLES IN SOUTH AFRICA



In Catherine Mabie's book, *Congo Cameos*, she writes, "One afternoon when we were having tea in the home of Dr. and Mrs. Smith (Dr. Edwin W. Smith a noted Africanist who was serving on the Fisk faculty that year), Mrs. Smith remarked to her husband how much I resembled Adele (Bob can we put a mark over the first e ????)

Mabilles. 'Mabilles! Mabilles! I said in astonishment. 'Why, that is our original family name.' Dr. and Mrs. Smith had lived in touch with the distinguished missionary family, the Mabilles of Basutoland. It is now a rather small section of the Union of South Africa, located just west of Durban.

FREE - FREE - FREE

Now you know that usually if it says "FREE" there is a string attached; and so there is with this offer. We are in the process of preparing a file on disk showing the ancestry of the members and their inter-relationships. There are over 11,000 names. We consider it a great asset in showing how individuals fit into the family. We will send it to you at no cost, if you will send us corrections that need to be made (on paper). We can send it as a "PAF" or "Ancestral Quest" back up file, as a GEDCOM file or you can download it from <http://home1.gte.net/bretly/mabie/mabie.htm> (Mabie home page by Bret Perry, #86) It will always be changing as we continue to make corrections, add new members or gather new information, but at least it is a starting point. A disadvantage is that we have many other Maybees, of all spellings, that are not included because they have no known relationship to a Maybee Society members. Another disadvantage is that we did not have space to include related lines. If you are interested let Belva know and we can send it via regular mail.

YOUR COMPUTER AND GENEALOGY

There are many excellent genealogical programs. We feel that they can best be selected by your personal style and how much you want your software to do. If budget is an important factor, we highly recommend the excellent Personal Ancestral File (PAF) prepared by the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Days Saints. The price is \$15, whether for a registered, non-registered or first time user and includes software on 3.5" and 5.25" high density disks, the *Personal Ancestral File 3.0 User's Guide*, and a *Getting Started* manual. Write:

Distribution Center
Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints.
1999 West 1700 South.
Salt Lake City, UT 84104

OUR TRAVELING AMBASSADOR

Tyrone Tillson, #103 was asked by the University in Bellingham, Washington, to give tours for the Elderhostel group so he told them all about the Mabie Circus.

SOMETHING NEW

In our new file "Mmem", each person has an individual reference number, or RIN. For your convenience, we will not only list the membership number of new members of the Maybee Society, but will also include their RIN.

NEW MEMBERS

NANCY FLAGG #225
509 MCGREGOR CT. RIN 9171
VIRGINA BEACH, VA 23462

We met Nancy at the Mabee Farm reunion in July. She is the sister of M. Richard Mabee, #??? of Buffalo, NY. She was born in Niagara Falls, NY. Nancy married Roger Flagg in 1954 and since then they have traveled widely. He was in the Navy for 31 years and retired as a Captain. Following this, he worked for the City of Virginia Beach, Virginia doing children's dentistry for ten years. They have four children: David, born in Philadelphia. Dave is a Navy flyer and he and his wife, Stacy, are now living in Puerto Rico. Peter was born at the U.S. Naval Station, Sangley Point, Republic of the Philippines and he and his wife, Mayra, now live in Miami. Mark was born in Rhode Island and now lives and works in Washington, D.C. Susan Flagg was born in Maryland and she and her husband, Michael John Lewis now live in Chicago.

SANDRA SUE O'HAYER # 226
21333 LASSEN ST. #5C RIN (none yet)
CHATSWORTH, CA 91311
PHONE: 818-886-6217

Sandra is from Chatsworth, California. We are waiting to learn more about her.

MARY M. ANDREWS #227
1404 GREENWICH DR. RIN 11202
MANTECA, CA 95336

Mary learned about us from the Internet. She has been researching several families for 7 years, but the Mabie family is a new research project for her. Her main research interest has been the Bertholf Family. Elizabeth Maybie's daughter (Leah Ackerman) married a William Bertholf. William and Leah (Ackerman) Bertholf are her paternal Grandmother's Great-grandparents on her Mother's side of the family. Mary's husband, Donald Frank Andrews is from Gosport, England.

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JON NICHOLAS MAYBEE #09
6605 N.E. HALSEY, #13 RIN: 547
PORTLAND, OR ?????

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JUDITH AND ERNEST MABY #15
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