

# MAYBEE SOCIETY



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## THE PRESIDENT'S CORNER...so how do *you* spell *your* name?

Of the records in the Maybee Society database 2717 people are identified as Mabee, 2326 as Mabie, 2010 as Maybee, and 836 as Mabey (only 272 of these are descendants of Early American settlers, the rest trace their ancestry to England). Also used are Mabe, Maby, Maybe, and Maebey

Much of the variation came from the spelling the clerk who wrote the record used. I have old records where the clerk wrote one name, the groom signed with a different spelling, and the groom's sister (a witness) signed with a third spelling! Records of another show him signing his name with three different spellings in a ten year period. Consistency in spelling was not considered a virtue, nor even a necessity in our colonial period.

The first use of a surname in our American family that I have found is in the 1687 marriage records of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam which say "Caspar Pieterszen Neby, j. m. van N. Yorck, Lysbeth Schuermans, j. d. van Santfort, beyde wonende alhier. 14 dict."

Other 17th Century records of the Dutch Reformed Church in New Amsterdam, use these spellings:

**Pieter**, parents: Caspar Pietersz. Mevi and Lysbeth Schuermans; witnesses: Jeremias Hagenauer, Aecht Jans

**Maria**, parents: Jan Piroo and Metje Meby; witnesses: Hendrick Jacobszen, Lysbeth Forman

**Christyntie**, parents: Fredrick Symonszen and Lysbeth Meby; witness: Fredrick Suurmout

**Fredricx**, parents: Caspar Mebie and Elisabeth Shuermans, witnesses: Jeremias Westerhout, Rachel Shuermans

**Jeremias**, parents: Casper Mebie and Elisabeth Scheurmans; witnesses: Jeremias Westerhout & wife Catharina

In this same period the French Church of New York used Meby and Mebe.

The reason for the e and not an a is that European languages pronounce their e the same as the English and Americans do their a, (like a long a) The more anglicized Schenectady church used both Jan Pieterse Mebi and Jan Pietersz Mabi in their records of this period

The first recorded use I found of the spelling **Mabee** was the will of Jacob Mabee, late of Schenectady, N.Y., dated April 28, 1755. This spelling is most common in Canada.

**Mabie** was first recorded when Caspar Mabie was appointed Constable of Haarlem in 1696. The first record with the spelling **Maybee** was the 1746 marriage of Abraham Funda, Albany County carpenter, and Mary Maybee, Albany County spinster; and the first American **Mabey** was a year later in Tappan, New York, with the baptism of Fredericus, son of Johannes Mabey and Susanna Bertyn

During the last few hundred years many of us have changed the spelling of our surname. Possibly it was considered to much like the uncertain adverb maybe. Could be! Others just took the spelling their parents gave them. Others changed it to reflect their ancestry. Our member # 279 Anne Mabillé is a good example of this. In my case it was both my disliking the nickname "maybe not" and a high school French class. The teacher translated my name as Jean le Bai de Mai (John the Bee of May) and so my name MayBee to compare to JuneBug.

(Dedicated to the insatiably curious Steve Mabie)

## King's Royal Yorkers Receive New Colours - And Maybee Descendants Are There

by Peter W. Johnson UE

Peter Johnson, U.E., Member #11 sent this article.



*Sir Colpoys and Lady Johnson with Yorkers who have Loyalists ancestors. Ron Maybee is kneeling second from the left, and I am near the centre in a drummer's coat ("striped" sleeves).*

On June 5th 2004 the King's Royal Regiment of New York (King's Royal Yorkers), received New Colours at Fort York in Toronto. The Yorkers are the largest regiment of reenactors for the Rev War in Canada. The original regiment was active 1776-1784 at which time the last of its two battalions was disbanded in Canada.

Sir Colpoys Johnson, 8th Baronet came over from England for the ceremony. He is the direct descendant of Sir John Johnson, 2nd Baronet, and commander of the original regiment, formed mostly from men in the Mohawk Valley. The original regiment saw active service at Oriskany in 1777, and throughout the Mohawk and Schoharie Valleys during the War. (I am not a descendant of this Johnson family).

So why mention this? Two Maybee descendants were present on June 5th, namely Ron Maybee UE, and myself. I have been with the Yorkers for 27 years, and Ron has a considerable number of years with them as well. We are both descendants of Capt. Abraham Maybee UE, whose Rev War activities were in lower New York rather than the Mohawk Valley.



***The new Colours unfurled.***

Also. The King's Royal Yorkers have a new website: [http: royalyorkers.ca](http://royalyorkers.ca).

***KIM MABEE SCHENECTADY COUNTY  
HISTORICAL CO-PRESIDENT***

In April 2004 Kim Mabee became Co-President of the Society with William Dimpelfield. Recently Mr. Dimpelfield retired as co-president. This article was in the May/June *Schenectady Co. Historical Society Newsletter*.

***FROM THE CO-PRESIDENT'S DESK***

Kim Mabee

“As you can see by the new byline, Bill suggested I introduce myself to you. Even though I’ve been showing up off and on at the Society’s door for the last 15 years now, and more regularly since we acquired the “farm”. I really think this is a heck of a 50<sup>th</sup> birthday present to surprise me with. The nominating committee convinced Bill to stay on if he could have support with the responsibilities. Our world has become so complex with paperwork, finance, personnel and facilities.

Hopefully the job won’t be so overwhelming if we can find a good balance between us, the old adage being, “two heads are better than one.”

I’m another transplant like Bill. Your basic American mutt, mostly Scots, so frugality is a given, then some Swedish, like my blond hair and height; then some German and French Canadian. But mostly I’m a Navy brat born in Puerto Rico. My dad, the Master Chief, came to the Scotia Depot in 1963 to rewrite the electronic correspondence courses. Then my parents planned retirement and found a spacious place in Galway on Jockey Street. My brother, Dan Daley, wanted to be one, (a jockey) but grew too big and became a sulky driver instead.

I got my love of history and reading from my mom, Alice, who just passed away in November. A lot of you that know me understand the caregiver life I have been leading the last few years. An aunt started me on the genealogy obsession because of her eye disease, supposedly hereditary, but no sign of it yet. Then I had the good fortune to notice in the paper about the Society acquiring the “farm”, so I called to volunteer my services on a more regular basis. And where I go, the husband and family seem to follow. Even though Gary knew there was a house “over there”, his family never seemed too interested in the past - only the future. His father never even knew his grandfather’s first name was Levi, until I found his stone and took Gary to Vale to see it.

So I did grow up learning somewhat how people lived a long time ago, lots of vegetable gardening, chickens, pigs and canning. My parents divorced my senior year so I went down to G.E. and got a job instead of using the Regents’ scholarship I had won. I met Gary about a month later and we got married about seven months after that. Four years later we had a daughter and a son and did all

the school and athletic things that go along with kids. They did us proud with both the schooling and the sports. Amanda is an OT and lives in Providence, Rhode Island, with her new husband, and Jonathan works for a financial firm in East Greenbush. Both still coach and play soccer. Maybe being that I am 1/100<sup>th</sup> Native American helps a little bit. Each of them has worked and helped at the farm since 1993. Gary and I have had the privilege of being ambassadors for the Mabees from all over the world, even before the Society acquired the farm. I guess they can find you more easily if you still live on the same dirt your ancestors trod over 300 years before.”

***MABEE FARM HISTORIC SITE***



***Connie Carter and cyclist***

Pat Barrot writes, "Here is some information about the Farm Site. I've included 2 pictures - one is Connie Carter, one of our Committee Members teaching a small bicyclist on the Erie Canal Bike tour how to weave & the other is a bunch of bikes in front of the Farm.

Pat Barrot, Site Manager  
 Mabee Farm Historic Site  
 Email: [mabee@nycap.rr.com](mailto:mabee@nycap.rr.com)  
 Web: [www.mabeefarm.org](http://www.mabeefarm.org)

***400 MILES ON THE ERIE CANAL***

On Saturday, July 17, over 500 cyclists from 43 states and group volunteers stopped to rest at the Mabee Farm. The cyclists were participating in the Erie Canal Bike Tour, a 400-mile, eight-day journey from Buffalo to

Albany. The cyclists toured the house and grounds, watched demonstrations and relaxed before heading off to the final leg of their tour.



***NEW HIGHWAY SIGNS ARE UP!***

Visitors traveling on the I-890 will have an easier time finding the Mabee Farm Historic Site, thanks to our new highway signs, placed both eastbound and westbound. Thanks to Andrea Becker for her assistance in getting these in place!

***A STEP AHEAD FOR ARCHAEOLOGY***

On July 8, students from Union College's Science and Technology Education Program (STEP) came to the Mabee Farm for a hands-on lesson in archaeology. The high-school age students enjoyed their educational day at the farm and the STEP coordinator is strongly considering including it in next year's program.

***DIGGING EVEN DEEPER.***

The second annual Hands-On Archaeology Course commenced on July 19th. SCCC partnered with the Mabee Farm to offer this week-long course to children ages nine to thirteen. The students were taught about archaeological methods and gained hands-on experience in digging, processing and identifying artifacts. Lectures by Mabee Farm volunteers on genealogy, history and butter making supplemented this popular course.

***THANK YOU!***

The Mabee Farm received two artifact donations in July. Thanks to Bill Dimpelfield for his donation of stoneware jug and a

grindstone with mortise-and-tenon stand. Thank you also to Mabee descendant Ruthanna Glenn for her donation of over 30 items, including antique farming tools, a large collection of sadirons and flatirons, and a Windsor chair that was once in the Mabee house.

### ***EXPANDING OUR FLEET***

The Mabee Farm has been given an additional bateau. Dr. Pamela Clements of Siena College purchased it for use at a conference on October 8-10. After this conference, it will be donated to the Mabee Farm. Also, Dale Wade-Keszey has donated an 1890 rowing skiff. It is somewhat deeper and longer than the bateau, and will be on view at the Mabee Farm once the dock is completed.

### ***GRANT FROM SCHENECTADY COUNTY***

The Mabee Farm has received a grant for the Inn from Schenectady County for \$1,400 to be used for interpretative signage when restoration is complete. Anyone who has suitable furniture or furnishings to complement the mid 18th Century Inn and would like to donate them, please call (518) 877-5073.



***Charlie Long, Broom Maker***

### ***CALL FOR ARTISTS & CRAFTSPEOPLE***

This is your last chance to sign up to exhibit & sell at the Fall Arts & Crafts Festival. So far, our exhibitors include fine art, pottery,

stained glass, jewelry, wood, furniture, fibers & more. Call (518) 887-5073 for more information.

### ***MABEE FARM CALENDAR OF EVENTS***

September 19 Sundaes on the Farm - 12 - 5 pm. - family fun, free ice cream sundaes, animals of all kinds, a hay maze, farmers market, barbeque, free admission etc.

September 25 Close for the season  
October 2 Tool Swap  
October 9 Fall Arts & Crafts Festival - 9 am - 5 pm - a juried festival featuring, wood, fine art, pottery, ceramics, jewelry, weavers, traditional music, etc on the banks of the Mohawk River  
Note: The Farm is open for tours by appointment year round.

### ***OTHER ACTIVITIES AT MABEE FARM***

Mabee Farm is host to many various activities. Marian Smith Tait, UE, DAR, Member #114, sent an article, which she received from her Secor cousin in Albany that tells about blacksmith demonstrations sponsored by the Capital District Blacksmiths' Association.

There were groups interested in two different cultures, Norse and Celt. A Viking camp created by Wolves of Wodan Smithy and the Clans of Dagon, who are interested in Celtic lore, represented the Norse group.

### ***MABEE HOUSE IN THE NEWS IN 1926***

D. Wayne Mabee, CCE, BPS, Member # 134, writes, "I came across this article from the local Amsterdam New York paper in cleaning out the cellar of our parents' home last Thursday (5/27/04). It's dated "1926" but the month was cut off. This article was in a strongbox along with discharge papers from

the Civil War for my Great Grandfather, David Anthony Mabie. That was tucked away in a very remote part of the cellar! It was quite a find on our part.

**Pay particular attention to the spelling of the name in the last paragraph! I find it quite interesting!** My two aunts (Alethia and Marian) always told me that they played in that underground tunnel with the “Franchere” boy when they were little. Very interesting!

I thought this was a timely article to send you upon Issue #61 – President’s Corner and page 6, queries: Mohawk Women and Dutch Men.”

*“Rotterdam Evening Recorder – 1926*

## **MARKER PLACED ON MABIE HOUSE**

**Bronze Tablet on Rotterdam Structure of 1670-80- dedicated by D.A.R.**

“At the Mabie house in Rotterdam Junction, which is believed to be the oldest home in New York state and known to be the third oldest, a bronze tablet which was being given and placed by the Daughters of the American Revolution, was dedicated on Tuesday. This old stone building, which has been used as farm house, tavern and dwelling, each in turn, is still occupied and is in good condition. Except for a few renovations, the original structure is still standing.

“The dedication exercises were under the direction of the Schenectady chapter of the Daughters of the American Revolution. Mrs. Charles White Nash, former state regent of the organization, was the principal speaker and Mrs. Florence E. S. Knapp, secretary of state, accepted the tablet in behalf of the state. Mrs. Jesse L. Patton of the Schenectady chapter, the Rev. Alex. Hill and the

Rev. H. D. Chrestensen, together with Mabie descendants, also participated in the exercises. Incidental to the speaking the Rotterdam and Woestina church choirs sang.

“The old building has never passed from the hands of the descendants of Jan Pieterse Mebie, one of the original landholders of Schenectady county and a man of considerable importance at that time. At the present time, it is owned by Miss Mabel Scrafford and her sister, Mrs. Harry Franchere, both of Rotterdam Junction. Many of the old characteristics of the house, such as the old loopholes, still remain as evidence of the warlike nature of the Indians of this vicinity.

### ***Built about 1670***

“There is historical evidence to indicate that the house was built between 1670 and 1680 and was first used as the manor house of an 80-acre farm deeded to Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen. Van Antwerpen, one of the original settlers of Schenectady county, took up his residence on the ‘third flat’ in the Mohawk in what was called the woestyne, meaning, in the language of the Indians, the wilderness or brush country.

This section of the country in the period previous to the permanent arrival of the settlers has been described as one of the most beautiful in the Mohawk valley. The flats which border the present village of Rotterdam Junction were described as literally a blaze of golden brown from the unbroken fields of Indian corn. This product was cultivated extensively in the woestyne because of its great fertility. The Indians then were hostile at times, but on other occasions displayed evidences of warm friendship.

### ***Great Stone Used***

“The house is described in Robert’s historical book, “*Old Schenectady*” as follows: “This

old house is built of heavy stones quarried from the stones of the hillside. The walls are held without mortar, just a stone wall is built, only the fitting of the stones is much more carefully attended to. The outside is pointed with mortar and the inside plastered. These heavy stone walls are built to a height of one story and then comes the typical peaked Dutch roof with the second story and the attic in it.

“As in all of the old houses and mansions, the timbers are massive. The floors of the second story are made of thick plank and hewn timbers with the lower side, which forms the ceiling of the first floor, planed smooth. Even the window frames are made of timbers.”

“The only alteration to the original building which has been reported in the past 250 years has been the removal of one of the doors in which place a window has been built. Otherwise the house stands as it was built.

“The house passed from the hands of Van Antwerpen in the year of 1706 when Jan Pieterse Mebie purchased about 80 acres of the original grant of land. Jan Pieterse Mebie willed the land with the house to his son, Jacob.

### ***Underground Passage***

“Since the original house was built there have been numerous other buildings erected in the immediate vicinity. One of these, which was at one time a wing of the original house and consequently moved away a short distance still remains. During the 1700’s when the Indian warfare in this section was at the most intense degree, it is said that an underground passage connected the two buildings, thus affording the occupants of one an opportunity to escape when attacked by the red men.

“Jan Pieterse Mebie was an early settler in the Mohawk valley, his lot being on Church

street, next to the lot upon which the Dutch Reformed church now stands. It included two pieces of property known as the Benjamin and the Washington properties.

“The Mohawk Indians, as a token of their friendship to Mebie, granted him a tract of land on the Schoharie river. In 1697, Rode, a Mohawk sachem called Dirk by the Christians, granted a parcel of land on both sides of the Schoharie creek to Jan Pieterse Mebie in consideration of the fact “that his wife is something related to the Christian castle.”

“The present name of Mabie is a corruption of the original Mebie which in the earliest records was spelled Mebee.

Jan Pieterse Mebie came directly from Holland to settle in this section.”

### ***MABEE HEADSTONES IN DENVER:***

Cheryl Anderson, Member #112 writes, "I just thought I'd let you know, I was ambling through the Fairmount cemetery out here in Denver and stumbled across a Mabee headstone! Here's the information on it.

It's a pretty good sized headstone... it was really shocking! I wasn't even looking for it... I think he might have been a mason? There's a symbol on the headstone that I can't make ... out details on my image... I have pictures if someone would like them...

### **HEADSTONE:**

<rounded symbol>

MABEE

George J. W. Harriet W.

1842 - 1927 1852 - 1943

### ***NEWSLETTER EXCHANGE***

The Maybee Society exchanges newsletters with several other organizations. Many of them represent allied lines, such as the Blauvelts, Tallmans, Bradt/Bratts. If you

belong to any of these related lines, it is well worth looking into membership. Others are from historical or genealogical societies with Maybee connections.

We exchange newsletters with:

***Bradt Family News***

***Tallman Family Newsletter***

Contact is Nancy Tallman

***Association of Blauvelt Descendants***

***The Blauvelt News***

***7<sup>th</sup> Town Historical Society*** in Ameliastburg, Ontario, Canada. Our contact is Rod Green, Member #146, who is Chair of the Quinte Branch OGS.

***Ellen Payne Odom Genealogical Society,***  
Moultrie, GA.

***Friends of New Netherlands,*** Albany  
Henrica Newhouse

***Schenectady County Historical Society,***  
Schenectady, New York  
Contact: Kim Mabee, Member # 70, who is President of the Society

We also do an email newsletter exchange with "***Now and Then***", Newsletter of the Regina Branch, Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, Our contact Bette (Elizabeth Stables) Dubois, Member #235

We send complementary copies to:

***Historical Society of Wisconsin, Acquisitions, Monroe County Historical Museum,*** Monroe, Michigan and ***New York Genealogical & Historical Society,*** New York, New York

***A REMINDER FOR 'SOUTH VALLEY' GROUP:***

John Albert ("Jack") Maybee, Member # 58, and Immediate Past President of the Maybee Society is still collecting information on ALL the descendants of Jan Mabee and their spouses and children. He is almost ready to publish his book, so if you have not sent him your information yet, please do so as soon as possible.

His address is: (Summer)

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***NEW ADDRESSES:***

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