



**MAYBEE**

**SOCIETY**

# Communicator

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## **The President's Corner**

In *Maybee Society Communicator* 51, December 2001, when I last reported on the Maybee family members in our Maybee Society database, it contained the information on approximately 20,000 people; *now* the figure is over 27,000 people. We've added new people and information with the help of our members and non-member researchers. Jeanine Kowalski, MS#317 has sent in envelopes full of information she has collected on her trips to New York State County Archives and Historical Societies. Orvan Mabie, Jr., MS#68, sent in a large amount of information from Indiana, (U.S.A.), including that wellspring of family information, obituaries. William Joseph Thurlow MS#325 gave us a GedCom file of his family descending from the Mabies and Secords. Barbara Millar, a Canadian researcher continues to do basic research in Canada, and

supplies us with a great amount of sourced material. Steve Mabie, MS#257, corresponds with Mabies from all over, and sends us all the new information he uncovers, I have transcribed all the 1930 census relating to Maybees and have entered it into our database. I am about half way through the 1900 census.

Take a look at our RootsWeb site [worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=mabie-maybee](http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=mabie-maybee) for the US originated Maybees or [worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=mabey](http://worldconnect.rootsweb.com/cgi-bin/igm.cgi?db=mabey) for the Mabeys of England

This published data does not have information on living people, nor on people where the member or submitter has requested that the information not be made public.

We grow by information that we receive — where is yours?

## **TIME TO GET YOUR RESERVATION IN!**

Kim Mabee, Chairman of the 2005 Reunion at the Mabee Farm, says that she has not received many reservations. She will accept them up to July 10<sup>th</sup>.

## **MABEE FARM HISTORIC SITE**

Pat Barrot, Site Manager, Mabee Farm Historic Site writes, "The Mabee Farm is gearing up for an exciting 2005 season."

## **EXHIBIT: "THE MABEE FAMILY - 300 YEARS"**

Don't miss our new exhibit on the Mabee Family and how they survived the wilderness

and turmoil in the struggle for a liberated America. The Exhibit includes Mabee stories, copies of documents and collections donated to the Schenectady County Historical Society. Exhibit runs from May 7 – September 24, 2005.

### **EDUCATION PROGRAMS**

The Farm looks forward to receiving over 2,000 school children this spring who will learn about the Mabee Family. Besides guided tours of the various buildings onsite, the Mabee Farm provides demonstrations of typical colonial farm activities such as blacksmithing, butter-making and the flailing and stacking of grain. Costumed militia and Native American wampum makers also provide opportunities for students to engage actively in their learning. Volunteers and staff are available to accompany student groups as they rotate to each demonstration center.

### **THE SECOND BATEAU**

The Mabee Farm has received a second bateau, which was purchased from the Maritime Academy by Siena College for an event and graciously donated to the Farm. It has been named the "Bobby G" and has already taken its first voyage on the Mohawk River during our Re-enactment weekend.

### **FOREFATHER'S DAY - June 19**

The Mabee Farm Historic Site will celebrate our Colonial Dutch forefathers with a traditional afternoon Dutch dinner and desserts June 19th from 1 - 5 pm. This annual fundraiser features demonstrators, traditional music, hands-on Draft Horse Association demonstrations and children's activities. Donation is \$25.00 per individual, \$40.00 per couple and \$50.00 per family. Reservations suggested.

### **MUSIC FESTIVAL FOR CANAL FEST - July 9**

A brand new event - a free all day traditional Music Festival on the banks of the Mohawk River featuring: Sue Trump, Jane's Gang, Riverview Ramblers, 3 time NAMMY nominee & Native American musician Howard Lyons; Skuttlebutt and Gary Van Slyke. A fun Saturday Night Barn Dance will highlight the festivities. Musical workshops, horse drawn

wagon rides, colonial demonstrators and the mooring of the historic ship- "the Golden Real" round out the festivities. Hours; 11 am - 9 pm.

### **MAYBEE/MABEE/MABIE REUNION - July 17**

Remember the family reunion on Sunday, July 17th at the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction. Join us for a chicken barbeque, book signings, blacksmith and broom maker demos, Community Day, the Society Centennial Anniversary and the Tri Centennial of the farm Deed. A three tiered celebration! The Mabee Farm Historic Site welcomes visitors with free admission and tours on the half hour. The Maybee/Mabee family celebrates their family reunion. What a fantastic party it will be!

### **WORKSHOPS**

A number of interesting workshops take place this year - blacksmithing, timber framing, spinning, natural dyeing and learning to knit a hat. Please call Pat Barrot at (518) 887-5073 if you are interested in participating!  
1080 Main St., Rotterdam Junction, NY 12150.

### **OTHER PLACES TO VISIT IN THE AREA:**

Here are some interesting places to see before and after the reunion.

Marion Smith Tait, U.E., D.A.R., MS #114, and Sylvia Weaver took a trip in 2002 and say; "take 5S west and it will take you into Rotterdam Junction. There is an old Dutch Reform Church on Main Street. The cemetery is full of Dutch descendants that settled in the area. A lot of the Mabee family is buried there. Visit: [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) for other interesting historical areas to visit." Kim Mabee, MS #78, says other interesting places to visit are Vale Cemetery where Jan Mabee and supposed wife Anna and grandson Albert are buried; and in Schenectady the Stockade Historical District, one of the oldest and best preserved neighborhoods in the United States, with roots dating back to a 17<sup>th</sup> Century Dutch Colonial trading settlement, and the historical society itself (Schenectady Historical Society) with the genealogy archives.



### **A SHORT WALK IN THE SCHENECTADY STOCKADE**

I found this information in our files, and don't know who wrote it. There is a notation at the end that says "1976/EKC". It is such a wonderful description that I thought it was well worth reprinting.

#### ***“Before you start***

Realize that Schenectady was purchased (1661) from the Mohawk Indians by Arent Van Curler and his 14 proprietors, and that within a year; its huddle of houses was surrounded by a stockade or fence with a blockhouse at one corner. Settlers had farming lots, outside on the river flats to the west.

#### ***Start:***

You are at the Schenectady County Historical Society on Washington Avenue, one of the boundaries of the original four-block stockade. In the early days, the Dutch called the street “Handalaer” because it was the commercial area, as busy and bustling as it is now quiet and residential. Only one house, No. 58, owned by Quartermaster John Glen, has a pre-Revolutionary marker, and here George Washington slept! All the other buildings on the street were destroyed in the 1819 fire.

Walking left toward the Mohawk River brings you to the site of two bridges. First was Theodore Burr's in 1809, and then in 1874, the “modern” iron bridge, which carried not only

people and wagons, but also trolleys and automobiles.

Retrace a bit and turn left on Front Street. The Indian (later named Lawrence) stands guard in his little circle of Old Fort Park. To the north is the site of the Old Ferry, to the south stands St. George's Episcopal Church. Turn right to see it, designed by Samuel Fuller and completed in 1769.

If you like old grave stones, take an ecumenical tour by wandering from St. George's church yard to the one right next door of the First Presbyterian Church, third oldest denomination in its second building.

At Ferry and Union Street, turn right to see the “oldest” house in the city – the steep-gabled Yates House. It stands next to the First Reformed Church, first church of the settlers, in its fourth building, but in continuous service since Dominie Petrus Thesschermaeker conducted services in Dutch about 1684.

Reflect, as you saunter down Union Street, that Schenectady was first a farm community, then a military outpost, then an American Revolution supply center, furnishing food, boats and men. Encampments were in the area, but never a battle. One hundred years of peace followed, and the city reverted to farming and the building of homes, churches and schools. Union College began in 1795. Then came the Erie Canal and the railroad, both cutting the city in half. After 1886, with the founding of Edison Machine Works (later General Electric Company), Schenectady “went industrial” with all the benefits and problems of such.

#### ***Finish:***

You are back at the Historical Society. Linger in our garden with its view of the Binne Kill, a branch of the Mohawk. If you have a vivid imagination, you can blot out the view of the new bridge and see along the river's edge “a long vanished street” lined with busy wharves, warehouses and boat-building shops.” Do you

see Van Slyck Island, which a Mohawk woman willed to her grandson? Do you see? Jacques Cornelise Van Slyck, first licensed tapster, rowing across to do a bit of farming? Do you see Sir William Johnson and his brown Lady Molly coming down the Mohawk in their crimson-canopied bateau to visit the Campbells? It was not so long ago.”

### **MABEE HOUSE CELEBRATES 300 YEAR ANNIVERSARY**

From the *Times Union*, Albany, New York, Sunday, January 30, 2005

***“Three centuries after purchase, 100 people celebrate 1680 house”*** – Cathy Woodruff, Staff Writer

SCHENECTADY – On a cold day in late January 1705, Jan Pieterse Mebie took title to a farm on the south side of the “Mohaggs” River from his Schenectady Stockade neighbor, Daniel Van Antwerpen.

Precisely three centuries later, more than 100 people packed into the Schenectady County Historical Society on Saturday to celebrate the endurance of that farm, and even the original deed that recorded the purchase by Mebie, whose name is more commonly known as Jan Mabee.

“Mabees must be terminal pack rats, since they held onto things for 300 years,” quipped Kim Mabee, who married into the family when she wed Gary Mabee and now is President of the historical society.

The Mabee Farm Historic Site, believed to include the oldest Dutch farmhouse in the Mohawk Valley, was donated to the historical society in 1993 by George Franchere, another Mabee descendant, who died in November.

The deed, Kim Mabee said, provides unusual evidence of Jan Mabee’s ownership of the property. It’s believed that the farmhouse dates to 1680 and that Mabee may have worked the farm for years before he bought it from Van Antwerpen, a land speculator.

In his lecture Saturday at the historical society on Washington Avenue, Charles Gehring, director of the New Netherland Project, said that the Mabee farm deed – and hundreds of other family documents dating back centuries help fill in a sketchy period in New York History.

“The Capital fire of 1911, which damaged or destroyed many of the state’s library holdings, was particularly devastating for documents from the early 1700s, when Dutch culture remained strong despite English colonial government,” Gehring said.

“This is a blind spot in our history of New York”, he said.

Gehring has been translating New York’s Dutch documents for some 30 years and he noted that his upbringing in rural Montgomery County gave him a strong interest in Dutch farming life.

“As Dutch farmers, Gehring said, the Mabees would have clung to traditions different from those of English Colonists, Dutch barns for example were built on an east-west axis, allowing workers to open doors on each end and let the wind clear out the chaff after grain was thrashed. Horses would have been preferred over oxen for hauling carts, and Dutch-style barns would have included distinctive tall “hay barracks” structures, similar to today’s silos.

English men often married Dutch women in the colonies, Gehring said, so Dutch influences remained strong even as Dutch names became less prominent in historical documents. Journals kept by travelers through area continue to note the distinctive architecture and hospitality of the Dutch residents, as they passed through,” he said.

“One thing to keep in mind is the persistence of the Dutch,” even after English dominance began in the mid-1660s, Gehring said, “You cannot go by the names.”

## **GEORGE E. FRANCHERE EDUCATION CENTER FUND RAISING DRIVE**

From the Mabee Farm Historic Site.

“After 287 years of ownership in his family, George E. Franchere of Dunedin, Florida, gave the Mabee Farm to the Schenectady County Historical Society in January 1993, but he retained a keen interest in its operation as a local history center and he donated generously to its support. He was delighted by the rise in public interest as shown by the growth in annual attendance.

Each year since 2000, when the Farm opened on scheduled hours, visitors have more than doubled from 640 that first year to 14,600 in 2004. This past year, attendance of our Educational Programs soared to 2,400 up from 571 in 2002. Farm Festivals, re-enactments, receptions, weddings, picnics, family reunions, barn dances and plays were activities that drew others.

However, facilities for visitor reception and operations that were good enough in 2000 were inadequate by 2004. Reception, presentation, gift, office and parking facilities all need upgrading. An archive of documents and publications needs housing, cars and buses tear up the farm fields and office workers must be relocated where they can also deal with visitors.

The planned George E. Franchere Education Center is a fitting memorial to the donor who unfortunately died last Thanksgiving Day. In its first phase of construction, the Center will cost about \$620,000 of which half has been received or pledged.”

The fund raising committee says that depending upon response to the donation drive, the groundbreaking could be in 2006. More on the design of the center in the next newsletter.

## **MABIE DNA PROJECT**

Steve Mabee, MS #257 writes, “I am forwarding an exchange of messages that I have had with

Christopher Mabee, who is attempting to raise interest in a Mabee DNA project that he has initiated.

Christopher is a descendant of Jeremiah Mabee who settled in Montcalm County, Michigan, and one of his objectives is to try to determine the ancestry of Jeremiah through DNA testing. However, of more general interest is the possibility of tracking the European origins of the family.”

Christopher writes, “A Surname DNA Project has begun for the Mabee family and all spelling variations and for the related Van Naerden family and all spelling variations. For any of you who are interested in our genealogy, this will be a great help to all of our research. I know many of you will be too far removed to participate, but if you have any eligible relatives, please let them know. I have also included spelling variations that may not be related, but if someone thinks they are related, they will be admitted to the project.

The DNA is tested with a kit you receive in the mail that you use to scrape the inside of your cheek. It is quick and painless. The cost of the basic (12 marker) test is \$99 plus shipping. The 12-marker test is all we need in the initial phase of the project. I know this may be a lot of money for some, but if you can afford it, the benefits should be tremendous to our research. Also, for any who can help those who can not afford it, you can donate to the project through a link at the familyreedna.com website

The DNA is analyzed and compared to others in the project group and we will be able to see how far removed from others in the group each person is. As the number of people in the group increases, the picture of all the family connections will become increasingly clear. This is good for anyone who has hit a roadblock in their genealogical research. It will also be used to try to connect to families in Europe in efforts to try to find the true origins of the family

To begin the process go to:

<http://www.familyreedna.com/public/mabee>

For more information, contact Christopher Mabee at: christopher@Mabee.net

I hope you will all see the benefit of this testing. Although the project testing is only available for males in the direct male line, females can help by encouraging their male relatives to participate. Here



is some information from the familytreedna.com newsletter:

The Y DNA tests are only available for males, since this test involves testing a small portion of the Y chromosome, which is passed from father to son. Males have both an X and a Y chromosome. They receive the X chromosome from their mother, and the Y chromosome from their father. Females have two X chromosomes, one each from their father and mother. Testing Y DNA provides information about the direct male line, which would be the father, his father, his father, and so forth, back in time. Scientists have discovered that a small portion of the Y chromosome is passed from father to son, virtually unchanged. Therefore, if a father and son were tested, their results would usually match. If two cousins are tested, who have the same grandfather; their results would match or be a close match. By comparing the result from a Y DNA test of two males, you can determine if they are related and approximately when the common ancestor occurred. The locations tested on the Y chromosome for the Y DNA test are called Markers. There are 3 versions of the Y DNA test available:

Y-DNA12 tests 12 Markers,

Y-DNA25 tests 25 Markers,

Y-DNA37 tests 37 Markers.

The 25 Marker test includes the Markers that are tested in the 12 Marker test. The 37 Marker test includes the Markers tested in the 25 Marker test. If a person starts with the 12 Marker test, they can later upgrade to either the 25 Marker test or the 37 Marker tests. The 25

Marker test can also be upgraded to 37 Markers. Selecting the number of Markers to test is primarily a budget consideration. More Markers provide more information. More Markers will also provide more accuracy in the estimated time frame for the common ancestor. In addition, more Markers will eliminate matches that aren't relevant in a genealogy time frame. The 12 Marker test is best at proving that two males do not have a common ancestor in a genealogical time frame.

For all other situations, the 25 Marker or 37 Marker test is recommended. The additional information from the 37 Marker test far exceeds the incremental cost. When the budget is available, select the 37 Marker test. In most cases, those who start with the 12 Marker test or 25 Marker test typically upgrade later. You can save on your cost of testing by selecting the 37 Marker test initially. Y DNA testing has a wide range of applications, *because the Y chromosome typically follows surnames*. In

addition, the Y DNA test can resolve a broad spectrum of problems, and provides information about the direct male line. Y DNA testing is used in Surname Projects. Surname Projects involve testing one or two males from each identified. Line or family tree of a surname, to determine which Lines are related, and therefore have a common ancestor. Surname Projects can also identify the number of origins for a Surname. In addition, Surname Projects often provide clues for further family history research and locations for research, as well as save people research time with these clues.

### LOCAL GENEALOGY SOCIETIES:

Rod Green, Member #146 is Librarian for the Marilyn Adams Genealogical Research Centre, Ameliasburg, Ontario, Canada. The MAGRC is owned and operated by the 7<sup>th</sup> Town Historical Society and has many dedicated volunteers. 2004 was an outstanding success with several large and valuable donations to the centre, nearly doubling the contents and the value of the collection. 2005 is continuing in the same direction. The MAGRC is now the centre for Canadian Hessian research courtesy of John Merz who donated his Hessian research collection and the publication rights to his books

Rod says that many genealogical societies are struggling. 'The Internet and unassociated genealogists are not helping the cause. These groups fail to understand the hours and personal cost that volunteers contribute to doing research, indexing, phoning, mailing, driving, etc. Genealogical societies are almost 100% volunteers. *And here is where your local unpublished records are.*' (Emphasis is mine.)

Although the Internet is a wonderful tool, all the records will never be on the Internet, if only because of copyright laws.

You can find some wonderful information at these societies. Some examples –the *Yakima Valley Genealogical Society*, (Yakima, Washington) publishes early Yakima land titles, news items from early (1880s) newspapers, and records of children attending the local schools and how the towns and streets were named.

In the "*Now and Then*" newsletter, published by the Regina Branch of the Saskatchewan Genealogical Society, (Canada) David Wessel tells of a report

given by Joe Gauthier about the ‘treasures’ found in a funeral home. For instance, while the cause of death is not always listed on the death certificate, on the other hand the cause of death is always listed by the funeral home, because it is important for the health and safety of the embalmers. On the back of the form are notes including an obituary, notes for relatives, etc. Funeral homes are usually willing to provide this information to descendants who are willing to wait for a few days when a staff person has time to retrieve the information.

(Our Maybee Society MS #235, Bette DuBois, is the past editor of the *Now and Then* newsletter.)

Subscribing to the genealogical society’s newsletter is a good way to obtain information when you live too far away to visit the society in person.

### **MRS. ABBIE LOUISA MABIE 1905 – 1913**

Jeanine Kowalski, MS # 317, sent us several items of interest, including this obituary from the Herkimer Historical Society.

Little Falls, Aug. 15 – “Mrs. Abbie Louisa Mabie, relict of the late William Mabie and a former resident of this city, died at the home of her daughter, Mrs. Fisk, in Saratoga on Friday. Mrs. Mabie was 80 years of age. She left this city for Saratoga 15 years ago, where she has since resided. While in this city, Mrs. Mabie was a faithful worker for the founding and support of St. Paul’s Universalist Church. The remains were brought to this city today and after services in St. Paul’s Church burial was made in the Church Street Cemetery.”

### **DEATHS IN FAMILY:**

This has been a sad year for Luella Brodie and family. Luella, MS #159, writes, “I wanted to let you know that my niece Linda Ruth Mabie passed away, also my brother Frederick Ernest Mabie.”

### **LINDA R. MABIE**

Linda’s parents were Herbert John Mabie and Mildred Snyder Mabie. She was born September 27, 1948 in Bassett Hospital, Cooperstown, New York.

She passed away on December 4, 2004 at the age of 56. Her funeral was held

December 8, 2004 at the Ottman Funeral Home in Cherry Valley, New York.

### **FREDERICK ERNEST MABIE**

Frederick’s parents (also Louella’s) were Elmer Herbert Mabie and Mary Shillito Mabie. His grandparents were Elmer Arba Mabie and Minnie Lovejoy Mabie from the William Mabie and Sophia Scripture line. He was born October 18, 1926 in South Valley, New York and died February 13, 2005 at the age of 76.

His funeral service was held February 17, 2005 at the Ottman Funeral Home in Cherry Valley, New York.

### **OBIT FOR WILLIAM F. MABEE**

Past President John A. Mabie, MS #58 writes, “Here is an obituary from the St. Pete Times. (St. Petersburg, Florida). I don’t know his line, but suspect Caspar’s as I know of no Mabees from Massachusetts, except of course, Royal.”

*CLW TIMES*, Wednesday, March 30, 2005  
Safety Harbor

Mabee, William F. 71, of Safety Harbor died Sunday (March 27, 2005) at Mease Countryside Hospital, Safety Harbor. He was born in Natick Massachusetts and came here in 1976 from Acton, Mass. He was an electronic engineer and retired in 1995 from Pinellas County where he worked in the Parks and Solid Waste departments. He was an Air Force veteran of the Korean War, and later served in Germany and North Africa. He studied engineering at Northeastern University. Locally, he co-founded a house for young men recovering from alcoholism and drug addiction. He was a member of Our Lady of Lourdes Catholic Church, Dunedin (Florida). He was an avid fisherman and he played hockey in college. Survivors include his wife Ruth; two stepdaughters, Jierna Wheeler, Brandon, and Andrea Just, DeFuniak Springs, a stepson Orin Shanks, Cincinnati; two brothers John, Norway, Maine; and Michael, East Douglas, Mass; and three grandchildren; and several nieces and nephews. Moss-Feaster Funeral Home & Cremation Services, Dunedin Chapel.”

### **BETTER IDENTIFICATION OF PLACES:**

Charles Stoodley, MS #147, writes that he would like to propose a ‘call’ to contributors to the

Communicator to add *county* names wherever possible. He says, for example: readers *not* from Ontario Canada wouldn't be able to place 'Tillsonburg'. See the obituary in Issue 64, p.7. Tillsonburg, Oxford County, Ontario is some 25 miles (40+kil.) east of London, Middlesex Co., Ontario. (Now this is esoterica, but...sometimes people in Toronto will say casually that they just got back from London. Even Ontarians say "London, Ontario or London England?"")

He says, "for you and the Maybee Society founders and correspondents, the mention of the 'South Valley Mabees' strikes a chord, but us 'lately come to' the Society, not to mention those not in the continental U.S. or the east, we have to scratch our heads or pore over earlier issues of the Communicator to search for a more exact place setting/location. ("Oh! Near Cooperstown, New York!")

Now us "Yanks" aren't the only culprits. The Canadians and U.K. Maybees (et al) also tend to leave out some place name information. And point put – is that (a) we might have related lineage links and not know it or (b) not be able to assist someone from our holdings/knowledge."

(I'll have to confess, Charles, that I had to do a lot of digging and sent out a lot of emails to find out exactly where "South Valley" was.)

### **WILLIAM MAYBIE**

In answer to a question by Cheryl Anderson, MS # 112, Jack, Maybee, MS #58 writes, "Our family had a William Maybie and son William. The elder William died in or around Denver. I suspect the younger William may live there now! The elder William was born in the late 1800s and the young William probably before 1930. The census records for 1920, 1925 and 1930 may have the family. I'm not sure of their occupation but suspect insurance or banking."

### **NEW MEMBERS:**

Please welcome:

**Betty Jean Haner** MS #328  
53 New Shaker Rd.  
Albany, NY 12205-3615  
Betty is a cousin of D. Wayne Mabie, MS #134

**Jim Mabee** MS #329  
1266 198<sup>th</sup> St.  
St. Croix Falls, WI 54024  
Email: jmabee @centurytel.net  
**NEW ADDITIONS:**

Jean Lintner, MS #34, gives us an update on her family. She has another great-grandson. His name is Robert Heffner, born January 18, 2004. His father is Brian Heffner and his mother is Stephanie. She says this is the third time she has been a great-grandmother since 1940.

### **EMERGENCY SITUATION:**

The Society's funds are nearly depleted. This situation is caused by rising costs, plus the fact that there are still 70 members who have not paid their dues for this year and 32 who haven't paid for several years ( *Please* check the date on your envelope.)

***Many thanks to all of you who make donations of money and information!***

### **THE MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR**

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