



# MAYBEE SOCIETY

## Communicator

FEBRUARY 2006

ISSUE 68

### The President's Corner

We Maybees tend to be a long-lived people. Of the Maybees for whom we have both a fairly valid birth and death date in our database, we have twenty that lived over a century! Of the Maybees that survived their first year, 18.5% lived to be over 90, and an astounding 40% died after their 80<sup>th</sup> birthday. As far as our records show, the person who lived the longest was Cornelius Mabie, the son of Augustus and Rachel Bell Mabie, who lived over 104 years! He was born right after the War of 1812, and died after World War I. In his time he saw the coming of the railroad, the expansion of our country over the Mississippi to the Pacific coast. He saw the invention of electricity, the telegraph, radio, movies, the automobile, and airplanes. There were eighteen states when he was born and forty eight when he died. Twenty five presidents oversaw the Country during his lifetime, from James Madison to Woodrow Wilson. See more about him in this issue.

### AND THE WINNERS ARE....

To keep the contest absolutely fair, I sent the names of those members who paid before January 31<sup>st</sup> to two of my great-

granddaughters. Each girl drew one name out of a bowl.

The winners of the drawing for 2 years free membership to the Communicator are:

**Susan Godlewski - #253**  
**Peter and Angela Johnson**  
**#11**



*Taryn and Miranda Stieber*

### MARGARET BUFFHAM MAYBEE

Several members sent us obituaries for Margaret Maybee. She is the mother of Jack Maybee #58, Helen Randi #108, and Barbara Gaines, #122.



*Margaret B. Maybee*

“Margaret B. Maybee, 97, 37 Riverside Drive and formerly of 43 Gouverneur Street, Canton, died October 19, 2005 at Canton-Potsdam Hospital in Potsdam. The funeral will be Monday October 24, 2005 at 11:00, at the First Presbyterian Church of Canton.

Burial will be in Evergreen Cemetery. Mrs. Maybee died Wednesday afternoon, October 19, 2005, at Canton-Potsdam Hospital. Calling hours will be Sunday afternoon and evening from 4-7 at the Lawrence Funeral Home in Canton.

If friends desire, contributions may be made to the Canton Fire Department Ambulance Fund, c/o Joan Newman, 13 Gouverneur Street, Canton, 13617, or to the Canton-Potsdam Hospital Foundation, 50 Leroy Street, Potsdam, 13676. Friends may send condolences online to [www.lawrencefuneralhome.org](http://www.lawrencefuneralhome.org).

Surviving are two daughters and one son-in-law; Helen Randi, and her husband Dr. Joseph Randi, Canton and Venice, Florida; Barbara Gaines, Canton; one son and daughter-in-law, John "Jack" A. Maybee and Mary Ellen, Dunedin, Florida, twelve (12) grandchildren, twenty-three (23) great grandchildren, eight (8) great-great grandchildren and several nieces and nephews. Predeceasing Mrs. Maybee are two brothers Irwin and Glen, two sisters Mary Watson and Helen Williams and one great-great grandson, Ryan Scott Gaines.

Born on July 13, 1908 in the town of Potsdam, she was a daughter of Albert Edward and Cora Beckwith Buffham. After graduating Salutatorian at Madrid

High School in 1925, she attended Potsdam Normal School.

On September 3, 1926, she married Nelson Arthur Maybee in Norwood with the Justice of the Peace officiating. Mr. Maybee died December 31, 1961. During World War II, Mrs. Maybee worked at her husband's business, J.H. Maybee and Sons, a coal and lumber business in Canton.

She later worked at the Queensboro Milk Plant in Canton. Then in the early 1970's, she was the bookkeeper at Bellinger Roofing where she continued to work until her health forced her to retire in the early 1990's.

Mrs. Maybee was very active in the American Legion Auxiliary and acted as secretary for the Silas Wright Grange in Canton for over 50 years. For many years she served as Secretary and Treasurer for the Evergreen Cemetery in Canton. A member of the First Presbyterian Church of Canton, she was an avid golfer and past member of the St. Lawrence Golf and Country Club, bowled in various bowling leagues at Gray Lanes in Canton and enjoyed playing Bridge.”

#### **MONUMENT TO CHARLES & PANSY MAYBEE:**

Mel Bob Maybee writes, “A family monument in bronze has been installed alongside the head stone of Pansy and Charles I. Maybee, Sr. The monument reads “In honor of our parents” and has the 6 boys first names and birthdates on the left and the 6 girls first names and birthdates on the right side. It is located in the Wyuka Cemetery, in Nebraska City, Nebraska.” Mel says, “this could be the final

reunion. Mel and G.G. are fine and they trust all of you are also.” When Mel told Brother Hal he was 80, Hal said, “great, only 20% left to go.” Oh, the monument also says, “Charlie’s and Pansy (Bates) Maybee’s even dozen”. Mel and G.G. are living on their 6-acres with the Trinity River running through it and a 90-degree bend there.

-

**CORNELIUS A. MABIE 1816 - 1920**



An article in the February, 1919 issue of the *Erie Railroad Magazine* reads

*“There is nothing I know of that keeps  
its youth  
Half so well as a tree and truth.”*

Thus philosophized good Dr. Holmes in his time, but we may now add an Erie railroad employee to this youthful list, particularly if he has the good fortune to live among the healthful green hills of old Rockland county, New York, where at Sparkill, within a mile of Piermont, the terminus of the original line of the Erie, there live the two oldest Erie veterans, "Cassie" Mabie and "Garry" Iseman.

Mr. Mabie, who is now in the 103d year of his age, is probably one of the oldest men now living. He was born on a farm within 300 yards of the spot where he now and always has lived, on August 4, 1816. He is the son of Adolphus Mabie and Rachel Bell, families that have their

roots in the earliest settlements. His sire was a Revolutionary patriot, and "Cassie" treasures the old flint-lock musket with which his dad fought at the battle of Haarlem Heights.

A more gruesome relic is an old tomahawk given him by his grandmother, who had it from her Indian neighbors, and "Cassie" remembers well hearing his father-in-law, Ralph Ver Bryck, tell how he melted up his pewter plates for bullets.

"Cassie" was a young man when construction was begun of the ten-mile section of the Piermont end of the route on August 15, 1838, but his memory still recalls virile pictures of those pioneer days when he drove an ox-cart during the building of it.

For several years past he has been blind, and does not leave his room, but his mind is active, and his general health good, and he likes to have the current events, particularly of the great war, read to him."

In the October 1920 issue  
the magazine has this  
obituary:

“CORNELIUS MABIE, known far and wide among railroad men as the oldest living man of his craft, died August 20 (1920) at Sparkill, N.Y., aged 104 years. He was born within a few hundred yards of his last home, August 4, 1816. When oxen were doing the freighting business in the 30's, preceding most of the canals, "Casey" Mabie wielded a whip; when canals were built he helped build the lock houses along the banks; and when work on the Erie railroad was begun he turned his hand on this job, too, for he

was a good carpenter. He helped build many of the first stations west of Piermont.

Of late years Mr. Mabie had been blind and confined rather closely to his home. A sketch of his life, written for the *Erie Railroad Magazine* by the late Col. John S. Bell, contains the following:

"Casey" (Cornelius) Mabie was born at Tappan, Rockland county, New York, August 4, 1816. He is still living in the house he built in the early forties, a few hundred feet from where he was born.

At the age of 24, in 1840, he began work — a carpenter for the New York & Erie Railroad. He helped construct the freight depot at the end of the pier, and also the shops at Piermont; and with my father (five years older than he), they built what stations the railroad had between Piermont and Suffern, which didn't amount to much.

He worked for the company many years. For the past twelve years he has been blind, otherwise in excellent health. I visited him once, and sometimes twice, each year. I have known him since I was big enough to remember anybody. Notwithstanding I am much younger than he, he is exceedingly glad to have me call on him. These visits of mine began five or six years ago. Until that time I hadn't seen him in many years. There is no one now living whom he knew when he was a boy.

After the opening of the road in 1861 to Dunkirk he and a few others, including my father, were given passes by the then president of the road for a trip over the Erie. They were gone about a week. I remember the occasion. He spoke of that

to me a short time ago. That was the first and only time he was ever so far away from home. He practically lived and worked in the neighborhood of Piermont for eighty-five years.'

Mr. Mabie three years ago sent a letter to the editor of the *ERIE RAILROAD MAGAZINE*, in which he said he had had read to him from the November, 1916, Magazine an article entitled "*Freight Trains Without Rails.*" He said he was much interested in the story. He took occasion also to say that he had passed the century mark, making reference to what was contained in the following lines:

I'm growing fonder of my staff;  
I'm growing dimmer in my eyes;  
I'm growing fainter in my laugh;  
I'm growing deeper in my sighs;  
I'm growing careless in my dress;  
I'm growing frugal in my gold;  
I'm growing wise  
I'm growing—yes,  
I'm growing old."

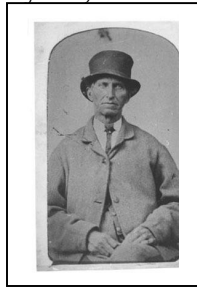
These lines impelled Mr. Mabie to write as follows: "I fill that bill with the exception that for the past dozen years or more I am blind. I, too, have driven oxen when the wagon was filled, sometimes with apples, corn, potatoes, wood, cider and many other things; also the plow, but never in a country where there were Indians, deer and antelope or sage hens. But I have driven them where there were no railroads, and before there were any railroads in the world. I first worked on the old New York & Erie seventy-seven years ago, when I was but twenty-three years old, and I doubt if there is another man now living that worked on the "Old Erie" when I first worked on the road."

*From the Erie Railroad Magazine online at*  
<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~sponholz/biocmabie.html>

## Little Things Mean A Lot (A Difficult MAYBEE Date Surfaces)

### Peter W. Johnson U.E. , Member #12

You know you have to be deeply smitten with the genealogical bug to get excited about a death date for an individual who is *not* your direct ancestor. Such is the case here, and it concerns the problematic death date of one Ephraim Maybee, a Canadian Maybee.



*Ephraim Maybee*

Capt. Abraham Maybee U.E. settled in Adolphustown (now in Ontario), in 1784 with other Loyalists of Peter Van Alstine's party. His two eldest sons Peter 1775-1830 and Abraham Jr. 1777-1862 moved a bit west and were living in Murray Township, Northumberland County very early in the 1800s. Murray Township is now Murray Ward in Quinte West, and the largest urban area nearby is Trenton. The majority of the known descendants of Capt. Maybee are from the eldest sons.

Peter's family consisted of  
Abram P. Maybee 1798-1883,  
William Huff Maybee 1801-1881, (my ancestor), Peter Huff Maybee 1804-1886, Ephraim Maybee 1809,  
Solomon Maybee 1811-1862,  
Mary (Maybee) Faul 1814-1889,  
Sarah (Maybee) Gunter 1816-1852, and  
Mynard Maybee 1823-1863. Ephraim was born about 1809 in Murray Township, but unlike his siblings, his death date has been difficult to find.

Ephraim married Katie Gunter in 1834, but she died young in 1852. His second wife was Jane Powers. No cemetery stone marks his grave, although his first wife has a well-preserved marker at Stockdale Cemetery. No death registration for his death has turned up, nor have Church records provided a clue. He appears in the 1871 Murray Township Census. There is a newspaper reference to his being alive in 1872, but he is not in the 1881 Census. Apparently he died somewhere between 1872 and 1881. The solution came from different source.

Ephraim was an active Mason. He had been a member of Trent Lodge #38 initially, but in 1860 he became a charter member of Franck Lodge #127 in Frankford. A check with Grand Lodge, confirmed his membership, and noted that he had died, but no date was given.

Recently I had the opportunity to inspect a collection of documents from Franck Lodge, and the earliest was a ledger beginning in 1865 showing one page per member, regarding their monetary transactions, such as payment of dues. Ephraim's page was very early in the ledger, and there at the bottom was the sought for date: **Died Oct. 7, 1874!** Just goes to show that one should never give up on a difficult genealogical problem.

I also learned that one other Maybee was an early member of Franck Lodge. He was Isaac Maybee 1826-1890, a first cousin of Ephraim. Some decades later the Mabee family was also involved with this lodge. They were related to Ephraim, but the common ancestor was well back in the 1700s.

The photo is taken from a tintype of Ephraim taken obviously no later than 1874, and it is perhaps a bit unusual as he was clean-shaven at a time when beards and sideburns were the fashion. Several years ago I donated a copy of this print to the Lodge, where it now hangs.'

.....  
Jeanine Kowalski, Member #317, a regular contributor, sent in two obituaries for our collection.

**MRS. NANCY S. MABIE - CAMDEN**  
**NATIVE DIES**  
*Camden Advance Journal*  
**July 30 1925**

"Mrs. Nancy Sartwell Mabie, widow of the late Franklin G. Mabie, died at 2 o'clock yesterday morning at her home on Third Street. Mrs. Mabie had never been ill in her life until six weeks ago when she suffered a stroke of paralysis, which was the cause of her death.

Nancy Sartwell, the daughter of Samuel S. and Polly Curtiss Sartwell, was born at the old Sartwell homestead on the Seventh seventy-five years ago July 21, and had always lived in the town of Camden. In February, 1875, she was married to Mr. Mabie, who died in 1901. Shortly after their marriage Mr. and Mrs. Mabie came to the village to reside. Mrs. Mabie lived in the Third Street home more than forty-five years. For years Mrs. Mabie was a regular attendant of services in the Congregational Church. She was noted for her love of flowers, and there was always a profusion of them about her home. It seemed as if she could make almost any kind of flower grow, for she had success with varieties which do not ordinarily grow here.

Surviving Mrs. Mabie are a sister Mrs. A. H. Kennison of West Burke, Vt., a son Edward S. Mabie of Camden and two grandchildren, Florence and Robert Mabie.

Funeral at 2 p.m. Friday from the home, the Rev. M. W. Van Tassell officiating."

Jeanine says, "Her death date would be July 29th 1925."

**HENRY T. B. HANNAY**  
*Camden Advance Journal*  
**Camden, N. Y., Jan 1880** (probably the edition of the 12th)

Mr. Henry T. B. Hannay died very suddenly at his residence in Annsville, on the morning of Dec. 13th, 1879, aged 72 years. The long residence in this vicinity of the deceased would seem to entitle him to more than a passing notice. Mr. Hannay was born in the town of Westerlo, Albany Co., in 1807, and was married to Miss Minerva Mabey, of the same place and removed to Florence in 1828. He settled about a mile north of what is now known as Empeyville, or East Florence, and with the exception of about eight years, spent mostly in his native town, has been identified with the interests of that town and the neighborhood immediately adjoining the town of Annsville.

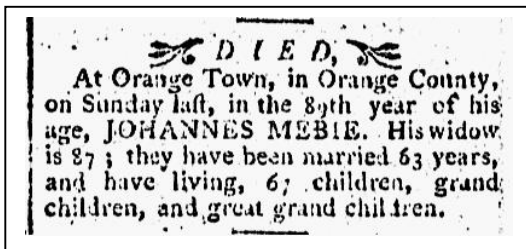
He raised a family of ten children, seven of whom are still living. His two eldest sons, Amiel M. and Theron, served in the Union army; the former is still living and resides in Minnesota, while the latter sleeps with other martyrs to free constitutional government, near Frederic, Maryland. By industry and economy in business, the deceased had acquired a competence that had enabled

him to live in retirement from active business pursuits, and his loss is severely felt by his friends and neighbors”

Jeanine says, “. Com. Theron has a gravestone in the Stanford Cemetery but according to this article he is not buried there.”

### **DEATH NOTICE FOR JOHANNES MEBIE**

From Steve Mabie, Member #257.



Attached is an image from the June 21, 1794 edition of Greenleaf's New York Journal, concerning the death of Johannes Mabie, the youngest son of Caspar Mabie and Lizbeth Schuerman.

It reads: "DIED, at Orange Town, in Orange County, on Sunday last, in the 89th year of his age, Johannes MEBIE. His widow is 87; they have been married 63 years, and have living 67 children, grand children and great grand children."

This hard to read death notice of Johannes MEBIE appeared in the June 21, 1794 edition of Greenleaf's New York Journal. Although the article states that Johannes was "in the 89th year of his age", this is the Johannes, son of Caspar Mabie and Elisabeth Schuerman who was baptized on May 9, 1708 in the First Reformed Church of Hackensack, New Jersey. So, it would appear that either the death notice added two years to the age of Johannes, or he was

roughly 2 years old at the time of his christening.

We also learn that his widow, Susanna Bertine (or Bertin), was still alive and that she and Johannes had been married circa 1731. Previously, the earliest indication of their marriage was in the will of Susanna's father Peter, dated November 11, 1732.

The fact that they had "living 67 children, grand-children and great-grand-children" is particularly interesting. John Maybee determined that at most 59 of those 67 are included in the Maybee Society data base, leaving at least 8 unknown children, grandchildren or great-grandchildren who were alive as of mid-June 1794.

As is typical in genealogical research, solving one question has led to eight more.

Johannes was baptized on May 9, 1708 and married Susanna Bertine, daughter of Peter Bertine, of New Rochelle. They moved to Orange County by 1735 and, as this shows, lived there the remainder of their lives.

### **NOTE FROM MAISIE MAYBEE:**

“The article in your recent news letter (excerpt from Samantha Maybee's diary) was of great interest to me.

Under Dec. 21 1898 it speaks of some folks who went to Denbigh and to Vennacher Ontario and that Mrs. Ball was there for tea. Vennacher was my father's home town and Mrs. Ball would have been an aunt. Jack Maybee is a cousin of my husband and thought I should send a note to you. We enjoy the news letter. “

Maisie Maybee, Member 149.



## GLANCING BACK

Ted Briggs, Member #196, writes, "Enclosed please find a photograph from *The Trentonian*, the weekly newspaper from Trenton, Ontario, Canada."



### *Glancing Back Trentonian, Ontario, Canada July 15, 2005*

'Here is a photo of Benjamin Batchellor (1877 – 1956) of Carrying Place and his mother, Rebecca Ann (Maybee) Batchellor (1845 – 1928). Rebecca Ann was the daughter of Malcolm Maybee and Mary 'Polly' Gunter. The photo was submitted by Linda Smith of Palm Coast, Florida.'

It was sent to me by my cousin. We both have the same great grandmother – Harriett Sophia Maybee from Michigan who married William Flanagan from York County, Ontario, Canada about 1868

The Maybee woman in the picture is not a relative of ours, but the photo may be of interest to your Maybee Society and make a good entry for an upcoming bulletin.

You will note that Benjamin Batchellor is from Carrying Place, Ontario. Carrying Place is about 1 mile south of Trenton, and Trenton is about 1-1/2 hours drive east of Toronto."

## THANK YOU:

Many thanks to all of you who contribute articles and pictures for the newsletter and to Byron Perry #83, who contributed a year of internet service.

## ADDRESS CHANGES:

Former President, Jack Maybee says his winter address remains the same. He says, "We expect to stay here now till late June and then go north for the summer; to return in early October. We will spend the summer at Canada Lake, but our mailing address will be 448 Kasson Drive, Caroga Lake, New York. 12032"

The Maybee Society Communicator is a publication of the Maybee Society  
10809 16<sup>th</sup> Avenue SE, #218  
Everett WA 98208

Annual Membership Dues are US\$15.00 for the printed newsletters or \$8.00 for the online version

Website

**DisplayText cannot span more than one line!**

The Maybee Society Staff  
John MayBee, President  
154 Wolverine Way  
Scotts Valley, CA 95066-5111  
E-mail: [maysoc@comcast.net](mailto:maysoc@comcast.net) NEW!

Steve Mabie, Vice President  
13607 Oak Cabin  
San Antonio TX 78232  
E-mail: [Smabie@aol.com](mailto:Smabie@aol.com)

Barbara Maybee Carter, Executive Secretary  
(address same as Maybee Society)  
Email: [maybe3@juno.com](mailto:maybe3@juno.com)  
Or [maybe3@verizon.net](mailto:maybe3@verizon.net)

Charles Gorton, Copy Editor