



# MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

MAY 2006

ISSUE 69

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## The President's Corner

**Share your history.** Family stories that are “old hat” to you; the ones that bored you as a child, after about the fifth time your grandmother retold them; the ones that everybody must know by now; are actually your valuable history. Don't let them die with you - pass them on. The autobiographies of famous people are interesting, and you are or will be such a person to your grandchildren and their grandchildren - so record your story! You can write them out or record them to tape or CD. Compare notes with your siblings - the way you remember the past is not always the way they do. Yours is obviously the correct version, but, put theirs in too.

Our family has a habit of collecting memories and sharing them. We collected favorite family Christmas memories from our extended family and then sent out CDs with our Christmas cards. We did the same for memories of our grandparents. I have a valued cassette tape of my mother and sisters reminiscing of when my sisters were young in the days before World War Two. So, share your history. Send it to us for our archives and for excerpts in the Communicator.

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## DUTCH SYSTEMS IN FAMILY NAMING: NEW YORK AND NEW JERSEY

Communicator #24 from November 1994 introduced a review from then Maybee Society President, John A. (Jack) Maybee. We promised to print the second half of the review later. Unfortunately this never happened. So we are printing the entire review here.

“Our President, John A. Maybee, shares his review of the article, *Dutch Systems in Family Naming: New York and New Jersey*, by Rosalie Fellows Bailey, Fellow of the American Society of Genealogists. The article first appeared in the National Genealogical Society Quarterly in two parts, March 1953 and December 1953. It may be obtained from that Society by sending \$8.00, including shipping to: 4527 17th St., North, Arlington VA 22207-2399. (Note: this was in 1994, prices may have changed.)

“Ms. Bailey describes the Dutch System in naming: the patronymic, the place-origin surname, the occupational surname, personal characteristic names, the diminutive and the first names of children. The article is well documented

and uses the records of numerous early Dutch families to illustrate the topics and to show some of the many cautions that must be taken in tracing family lines. While it is helpful to know the naming systems in tracing the family from one generation to another, it is also important to realize that our early Dutch ancestors may have appeared in the records under more than one name and that more than one name may have been used in a given record.

In making her points and using family charts for illustrations and explanations of the various topics, Ms. Bailey goes into considerable detail in analyzing the family charts. This is a great help in understanding the naming customs, and it also provides a wealth of information about the translation and alteration of early family names.

## THE REVIEW

The Dutch Government of New Netherland lasted for only about 40 years, but the Dutch naming system persisted here into the nineteenth century. (A lack of understanding of how these names were translated into English and altered in this translation has created many problems for family researchers.)

The Dutch method of naming was very systematic but it does require knowledge, resourcefulness and experience to unravel. The Dutch followed naming customs of earlier times. The English also followed these customs, but they were much earlier in developing and using surnames. The Dutch brought these naming customs to this country along with their language and persisted far into the period of English rule. Thus, translation and the lack of formal

education added the problem of altered names.

The patronymic, identification by the father's first name, was the predominant system used by the Dutch in America. The spelling of the first and last names and of the patronymic ending varied greatly, depending on the carefulness of the writer. Common male endings are *z*, ***or more commonly szen, sen, and se***, meaning the son of. Common female endings are: *s, se, sd, sdr and even sen*; the full suffix is *sdochter*, meaning daughter of. The charts mention marriage records; *j.m.* is explained literally as young man, meaning bachelor; *j.d.* literally means young daughter and is used in the sense of unmarried maiden. Widower and widow could have been recorded as *wed<sup>r</sup>* and *wed<sup>e</sup>*, respectively.

In explaining the charts, Ms. Bailey notes that first names appear over and over. This is because the Dutch almost invariably named children for the grandparents. In one chart she uses the Ryersen Family to show that two people with the same name may not be related. Two emigrants with the same patronymic were called brothers, but the relationship is questionable -- they did not act as sponsors for each other's children as was customary among the Dutch. The same chart is used to show that the eventual surnames in a family often become established at different generations in different branches of a family.

The Dutch *place origin* surname can be recognized by the prefix, van, meaning from. The "v" was not capitalized by the Dutch; however, American editors usually confused the issue by printing the

‘v’ as a capital. Place-origin names might refer to:

1. a nationality such as *de Noorman* (the Norseman) or *Switzer* (a Swiss);
2. a town or village, such as *van Naarden* or *Osterhout*
3. a small district such as *van Cortlandt* or *van Slichtenhorst*
4. a named farm estate, which may be used by the owner, a leaseholder, a tenant or even by a hired farmhand or servant who was unrelated to the family
5. a named field such as *Roosevelt* or *Westervelt*, a small farm or even a house
6. a local habitat such as *Opdyck* (on the dike), *van Hoek* (from the corner), *Hoogland* (highland) and *Beekman* (man from the brook). Other place names are *van Woert* (from the village of Schoonrewoerd), *Van der Veer* (from the ferry).

**Occupational** identification forms a large group of surnames in all nations. Among the Dutch surnames we have: *Blauvelt* (blue field) for flax farmer; *Bleecker* for bleacher of cloth; *de Clark* for clerk; *de Drayer* for wood turner; *Koylert* or *Cuyler* for archer or crossbowman, *de Metselaer* for mason; *de Pottebacker* for potter; *Schenk* for filler or butler or cupbearer; *Smit* or *Smid* for smith or forger and *Wantenaer* for glove maker

The **personal** characteristic seems to form the smallest of Dutch-American surnames. Among the English are *Long*, *Handy*, *Hardes*, *Strong*, *Gay*, *Wise* and *White*. Among the Dutch are *Vroom* and *Vrooman*, meaning pious or wiseman: *Stille* or silent: *Krom*, meaning bent in the sense of cripple: *Krankheyt* or *Cronkhite*

meaning sickness in the sense of invalid: *de Groot* or big: *de Lange* or tall: *de Wint* meaning wind, fuss or braggard: *Swart* meaning black or swarthy: *Vos* or *Vosch* meaning foxy or cunning.

The diminutive represents another variable in understanding Dutch names. There are three kinds; the shortened name, the variant for small size and the endearing term. The shortened name was used for both sexes. For males, Thys for Matthys, Claes for Nicolaes, Nys for Denys, Cobus for Jacobus, Jaap for Jacob, and Bartel, Mees or Meus for Bartelmeus. Patronymics were often made from the short, as well as the full forms of the name. A few female diminutives are: Femmetje for Phoebe, Giertje for Geertruy, Grietje for Maragriet, Hendrickje for Henrietta or Harriet, Lena for Magdalena and Helena, Maritje for Maria and sometimes Martha, Styntje for Christina and Tryntje for Catrina. Sometimes the only female version of a name was comprised by adding ‘je’ to the male name, e.g. Dirckje for Dirck or Derrick usually becomes Dorothy.

Under the Dutch system, the woman did not usually change her name upon marriage. In fact, there are instances where the children took the mother’s name: e.g. if the mother’s family was more prominent than the father’s. A woman might use her maiden surname or patronymic: she might use that of her stepfather or even that of a previous spouse, depending on the situation. In any event, the constancy of the wife’s name in records can be helpful in tracing a family in the records, or in sorting out unrelated men to happen who have the same patronymic or other name.

Another custom helpful in tracing records was the practice of having close relatives

act as godparents or sponsors. Often the sponsors on every one of the children's baptismal records will be a close relative. Also, there is a tendency for these sponsors to be chosen from each side of the family.

Children were almost invariable named for relatives and it was customary to name the eldest two boys and girls after their four grandparents. The eldest boy was often named for the paternal grandparent and the other children were named from alternate sides of the family. There was a strong tendency to repeat names to honor different relatives, or, if a previous child had died.

These practices can help greatly in constructing several generations of a family. If church records are not satisfactory, a man's will may list his children and thus provide a clue to his close ancestors. Also, certain first names may be recognized as being used frequently in a family.

Various lists of English equivalents for Dutch first names have been compiled. However the researcher is cautioned not to decide on a particular equivalent ahead of time, but to let the records speak for themselves. Some of the variables are: differences in the pronunciation of various letters (and syllables), the phonetic spelling of the times, similar sounding names of different word groups, the national origin and lingual education of the clerk. The translation of Dutch surnames was also a problem. Under Dutch rule in America, English and other names were translated into Dutch and entered into the records in full. Later, under the English, Dutch names were translated into English and so entered in the records. However, for nearly one

hundred years after the English took over, Dutch settlers continued to use the Dutch language and to write the records of their Dutch Reformed churches in the Dutch language. If the foreign name was difficult to translate, the scribe might enter a phonetic or approximation, either of the entire name or of individual letters.

Such alterations of a foreign name were also corrupted by other factors, orthographic laxity and tendency to phonetic spelling; inability of early settlers to read or write; continuance of spoken Dutch but little or no education in writing and lack of understanding of the Dutch language by English or American officials."

### **STORIES FROM OUR MEMBERS ANCESTRIES:**

One of our very valued members asked if we had any stories about Mabies. She asked, "Don't Mabies ever do anything but die?" (The last newsletter was full of obituaries.) So I looked into our files for a few stories about interesting Mabeys.

Another thought came from Charles Stoodley, Member #147. He wrote, "After you register your will, ***write your own obituary***. Have it written as you would like it to appear."

One of the stories is from the English Mabeys. The other is from the Sussex, New Jersey Mabees.

### **WILLIAM MABEY**

Information is from Joan McCathie-Rea, ***History of the Mabey Family 1696-2003***, Sarah Mabey Grow, great granddaughter, rewrote this history on Sept. 28, 1992 from one that was submitted to the D.U.P. (Daughters of Utah Pioneers) Library on

Aug. 25, 1983 by another great granddaughter, Irene Session Poulson. Irene obtained her information from recollections of her grandmother, Esther Mabey Sessions; from material taken from *Our Father's House* by Charles R. Mabey; and from personal research into records of Dorsetshire, England.

WILLIAM MABEY was christened on 23 Oct 1831 at Cerne Abbas, Dorset, England He is descended from JONATHAN MABEY, born circa 1696 at Powerstock, Dorset, England, who married Rebecca (--?--).

He married Sarah Ann Riggs in 1859 at Cerne, Dorset, England. He died on 2 Sep 1913 at Maramarua, New Zealand, at age 81. He was buried on 4 Sep 1913 at Pokeno, New Zealand.

William and Sarah Ann (nee Riggs) Mabey left London Dock on 22 April 1865 and set sail to Rockhampton, Queensland, Australia in the sailing ship "Royal Dean" of the Black Ball Line with their two sons, William George and Joseph Mabey. Of the 600 passengers aboard, thirty four died during the trip and were buried at sea. As one of the children and Mrs. Mabey contracted Sandy-blight, the family decided to immigrate further to New Zealand. They sailed from Queensland to Sydney on the steamer "James Patterson" in November 1867. From Sydney they traveled on the Barque "Alice Cameron" and arrived in Auckland on 3 December 1867. A fortnight later they sailed for Poverty Bay but as the Maori Wars were raging they decided to return to Auckland in September of 1868. The day after they left Gisborne, Te Kooti conducted his massacre of seventy men, women and children.

Cutting tracks and forging streams, the Mabeys arrived in Maramarua from Auckland in a bullock dray on 16 January 1869. They built Whares \* and named their settlement "Mabey-Town" near Stoney Creek and Mabey Hill. This site is about 2 miles up the Fisher Road and only a few older residents remember these landmarks today.

In 1885 they moved to Mangatawhiri where William worked as a bushman and gumdigger. Sarah Ann, his wife, died in 1891 and in the early 1900s he made his home in Maramarua in a thatched shanty on the farm of his son, William George. William senior was a great gardener and supplied most of the vegetables for his son's family and gave the younger members of his family Sunday School lessons each week. William Mabey died in 1913 at the age of 82 years. Today there are a large number of direct descendants of William and Sarah Ann, but Mrs. Edna Hale and her two children are the only descendants living in Maramarua today. “

Ed. Note. My research shows that a whare was a one room hut with an oven, beds and workbench. BMC

### **JOHN MABEE AND SARA GIVEANS**

Wilfred J. Mabee, Member #195, writes, "I am enclosing a couple of items." "The first is a letter retyped from an old copy of the original. It concerns the John Mabee and Sarah Giveans line (not mine) of New Jersey. Unfortunately I do not remember who gave it to me and the signature was not legible. I did receive it in the early 1980's."

The letter is dated September 11, 1923 and addressed to Mr. Fred M. Harden,

56 Plaza Suite, Manila, Philippine Islands.

"My dear Fred, I have just returned from a vacation of about six weeks which I spent in Sussex, New Jersey. I had a very lovely visit with your mother. She is well. I saw her first at a picnic at Lake Grenell and later was entertained at her home and stayed all night. Mr. Porter the following morning took me over to your grandfather Simeon Mabee's old place and while there I got stung by two honey bees.

Your mother showed me a copy of the genealogy of the Mabees and I saw that it was incorrect and I told your mother that I would send you corrections, which correct line follows:

John Mabee married Sarah Giveans. By the way John and Sarah were Charter Members of the Hamburg Baptist Church, which was organized July 29, 1798. They had seven children: Robert, Jacob, Martin, John George, a daughter who married \_\_\_Struble, and Jane, who married \_\_\_\_\_Kimble. The above Martin is your great grandfather.

I will now give you the descendants of Robert Mabee, who was my grandfather. Robert Mabee married Elizabeth Ackerson and they (had) seven children: Nelson, who died in Civil War, Austin, Nicholas, Martin W., Anna Mary, Cyrus and Sanford. Austin Mabee married Meribah Emmans and they had seven children: Robert A., who died in 1887, age 22 years, Abram E. Mabee, Frank E. Mabee who died in 1917, Jeannie Marie, who died in 1916. She married Nehemiah Emmans and had no children, Dora Mabee, Bessie Mabee, who died in 1905, unmarried and Harriet Mabee. Abram E. Mabee married Florence

McElroy and has two children: Eleanor Mabee and Meribah Jean Mabee. They live at 2410 Harrison Street, Evanston, Illinois. The above is my family. Robert A. was not married; Frank S. was not married: Dora Mabee married John T. Goff and they have no children and live at Mapleton, Minnesota: Harriet Mabee (married) Clarence H. Townsend and they have no children and live at 668 Miller Avenue, South San Francisco, California.

Nicholas Mabee, brother of Austin, married Elizabeth Riggs and had five children.

**One**, Lela married to Parker S. McCoy living at Sussex, New Jersey. They have a son, Roland P.

**Two** – Judson D. Mabee who married Jennie Waters. They have a son, Derwood Mabee, and live at 880 Manhattan Ave., Brooklyn, New York.

**Three** – Clarence C. Mabee died in infancy.

**Four** – Burton C. Mabee married Daisy Conway and they have one son, Bertrand, and live at Sussex, New Jersey.

**Five** -Nina Anna Mabee, married Albert Havens and have two children, Dorothy and Fred and live at Sussex, New Jersey.

Anna Mary, sister of Austin and Nicholas, married Jesse Dennis and had one child, May Dennis, who died unmarried. Both Anna and Mary and Jesse Dennis are deceased.

Martin W. Mabee, brother of Austin and Nicholas, married Emma ? Pellet and had four children.

**One** – Elizabeth married John M. Reilly and they live at Olean, New York, and have no children.

**Two** – Alice married Harry Kernick. They have three children, Martin, Ruth, Edith and live at Sussex, New Jersey.

**Three** – Fred Mabee married Rose D. and

live at 123 South Main Street, Philipsburg, Pa.

**Four** – Charlotte married Harry Edsall and have two children, Dorothy and Richard. They live in Sussex, New Jersey. Cyrus – brother of Austin and Nicholas, died unmarried.

Sanford, brother of Austin and Nicholas, married Eillah Lyon and have three children. One – Edith married Wilbur Yingling. They have one child, Robert and live in Ridgewood, New Jersey. Two Hazel married John T. Hendershot, no children. And live in Newton, New Jersey. Three – Anna married Clarence W. Shape and have one child, William, who lives at Winthrop Avenue, Chicago, Illinois.

The above, I can assure you is absolutely correct. I will send you further data as soon as I hear from a party that I have written to Buffalo, New York. With kindest regards to you and yours, I am, yours sincerely. (Signature not readable.)

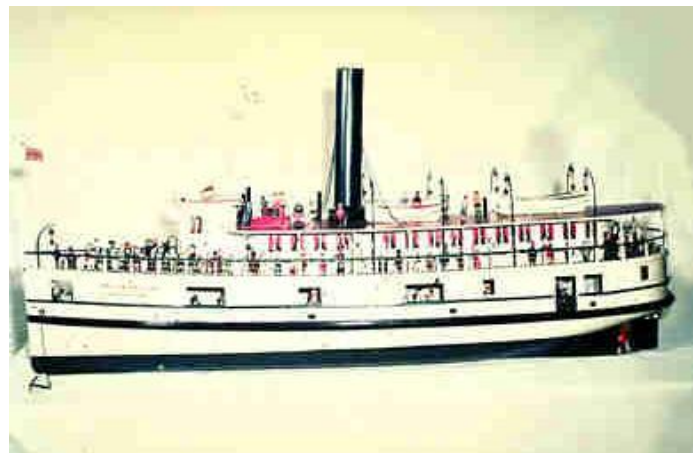
### **THE STEAMSHIP HAMPSTEAD**

The 94-foot Hampstead was the first screw propeller passenger steamer on the St. John River in New Brunswick.

Built at Hampton in 1894, the Hampstead made daily trips between Indiantown and Hampstead, Queens County, under **Captain J. Gillis Mabee**. This vessel was relatively small, with a high superstructure that made for challenging navigation. For example, when approaching a wharf, large numbers of passengers commonly moved to one side preparing to disembark. To prevent capsizing, hogheads of sand were rolled to the opposite side of the hull. After

Captain J. Gillis died in 1897, his son Arnold became the Hampstead's Captain. In 1916 the Hampstead fell victim to a fire, a common misfortune for the riverboats.

For the captains and crews of the steamers, the rivers represented navigational hazards: sandbars, floating debris (including ice in the spring) and the threat of collisions, especially at night. Since the steamers' superstructures were made of wood and since hardwood was used for fuel until the late 19th century, fires were frequent and boilers did sometimes explode. Still, these episodes faded with time, to be replaced with memories of bright, clear days with clean, country air, magnificent countryside and water that stretched for miles.



**Captain Arnold T. Mabee**, son of **Captain J. Gillis Mabee**, completed the model pictured above in 1897 after three years of carving and whittling. It is on display in the New Brunswick Museum a gift of Mrs. L.H. Haselton in 1967.

**Jacob Gillis Mabee** (15 Apr 1837-27 Nov 1897) was a descendent of **Simon Mabie and Marie Landron** of Courtland Manor, New York through Jeremiah Francis-1738, Jeremiah-1780, and Jeremiah Drake-1810.



### STEVE'S ARTICLE:

As we all know, several members of the Mabie Family were Loyalists during the Revolutionary War, and many of them removed to Canada in 1783. There is documentation (in the form of Land Grant applications) that most of these departed Loyalists sailed initially to Nova Scotia. Curiously, however, there is no such evidence concerning Captain Abraham Maybee, who eventually settled in Adolphustown, Lower Canada. Thanks to an article published in the Public Advertiser of July 1, 1783, we now know why:

**NOTICE TO LOYALISTS.**  
Those loyalists who have had a meeting at the house of Michael Grafs, in the Out ward of this city, on the twentieth inst. and have signed their names to form a settlement at fort Frontinac, at the mouth of Lake Ontario, and head of the river St. Lawrence, in Canada, the only eligible place left by the late treaty, for the king's subjects to carry on the Indian and fur trade, &c. are hereby notified, that their request has been communicated to his excellency the commander in chief, by the gentlemen appointed for that purpose, and that his excellency was pleased to give them the encouragement they desired. A list of the names of those who may be inclined to settle in this new country, is opened at the house of said Mr. Grafs, in Chatham street, near the tea water pump, Peter Ruttan, at the upper end of Chamber-street, and Abraham Maybee, near Deane's wharf.  
New York. May 26. 1783.

Website: <http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~maysoc/index.htm>

#### **The Maybee Society Communicator**

is a publication of the Maybee Society  
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Everett WA 98208

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

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