



MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

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The President's Corner

British Mabeys

Over the last few years, my research has primarily been on the Maybees of all spellings in the United States and Canada. This seemed appropriate as a majority of our members trace their ancestry to Pieter Casparszen van Naerden in the 17th century. However, there are a score of Maybee Society members, who trace their ancestors to England, so this spring, I have been researching the British Isles.

Where did our Mabey surname come from? There is a surname, Mawby, with variant spellings Mawbey, Mauby, Mowby, Mawbee, (and possibly Maby) that is of Anglo-Saxon origin, and is thought to have come from a location that has now disappeared from the maps in Britain. The component elements of the place name are believed to be from the Olde English *meaw* meaning sea-mew or sea gull and the Old Norse *by* a village, farm or homestead.

However, ever since church records, probate records, and census records were recorded, I have not been able to find families that used Mawby and Mabey as variations.

Mabey is of medieval English origin and may be a dialectal variant of the name Mabbi (which as a given name became Mabel). In records this Mabey family uses the variants Mabie, Mabee, Mayby, Maybe, Maybee, Maybey, Maby, and Meaby, switching spelling variants from record to record. On the small Isle of Wight, off Hampshire there were two large extended families, the Maybees and the Mabeys, who did keep their spellings separate.

Contemporaries of Pieter Casparszen van Naerden in the British Isles with the Mabie surname come from Scotland and England. Records for Mabeys in Ireland and Wales do not appear until the 18th century.

The first recorded use of the family name appears to be that of Suzanna Mabe, who on February 19th 1572, married William Connysis, at St. Matthew, Friday Street, London, during the reign of Queen Elizabeth I. James Mabe was christened 5 Mar 1572, also at Saint Matthew, Friday Street. Other 16th century records include: Peter, son of William Mabe was christened 6 Sep 1588 at Saint Katherine By The Tower, London. Also at Saint Katherine By The Tower, on 23 Jul 1597, Henry, son of

John Mabe was christened. In the Shire of Bedford Robert Maybee of Leighton Buzzard had six children christened: Annis on 24 Apr 1586; Nicholas on 3 Dec 1588; William on 10 Sep 1587; Charity on 14 Jan 1593; Ann on 4 May 1595; and Elizabeth Maybee, christened 26 Mar 1598.

At Morton near Bourne in Lincolnshire Elizabeth Meabe, daughter of Christopher was christened on 24 August 1575. In Jarrow, Durham, England, Robert Mabie had daughters Isabel, christened on 14 Apr 1616, and Mary, on 31 May 1618. There was a large extended family using the name Maby or Mabie in Bruton, Somerset, England, with records starting in 1603.

In the 17th century, the vast majority of church records using a variation of the Mabey name are from the south coast of England in Hampshire centered on the Isle of Wight - Portsmouth area and in the Beamster-Brideport corridor in Dorset.

Steve Mabie, our VP, has found that Mabie was a place-name in the Parish of Troqueer (now Traqhair) in Kirkcudbrightshire, Scotland and that there was a minister, the Rev. John Mabie of Kirkmabreck in 1674. Other Scottish records from the 17th century are Elspet Mabie, who married John Barr, 11 Nov 1630 in Glasgow; Margrat Mabbie, daughter of Arthur Mabbie, christened on 7 Jul 1674 in Foveran, Aberdeen, Scotland; and William Mabie, son of Robert Mabie and Christian Stewart, who was christened on 5 Jun 1682 in Kilmadock, Perth, Scotland

Research Update

It has truly been a great year so far for new research on the Mabie Family. The subjects of this edition's research update

are Henry Maybee of New York and Australia, Eden Mabee, and some new information about Simon Mabee, the Revolutionary War spy.

First, we have a paper on Henry Maybee submitted to me for publication by Robert W. Haines (#360), a descendant of Henry. Here is Robert's paper:

HENRY MAYBEE

Henry Mabee has been a mystery to the Maybee family for a long time, disappearing in 1839 while on a naval expedition to Antarctica. The first child of Adam Mabey and Anna Boyce Mabey, he was born in New York on August 27, 1801 and baptized at The Dutch Reformed Church of Sleepy Hollow on October 4, 1801.¹ Newspaper records indicate that he married Sarah Birlisle in New York City on July 27, 1828.² His only son of the marriage, William Henry, had been born on May 9, 1828.³ No other mention of Sarah Mabee has been found and it may be that she died shortly after the birth. William Henry's granddaughter, Lottie Maybee, wrote that he had been raised as an orphan in Jersey City by his aunt Clarissa.⁴ Her grandfather told Lottie that Henry had been a band leader in New York and was persuaded by his pupils to join a naval expedition. William Henry's last memory of his father was of him putting a coin in the young boy's hand and waving farewell. Henry never returned, reportedly having been lost overboard in a waterspout.⁵

Adam Mabee, Henry's father, was a descendent of Caspar Pieterzsen Mebie, one of the sons of Pieter Casparzsen van Naerden, an early settler of New York City. Adam was born on October 14, 1777 and baptized at The Reformed Church at Gallatin, Columbia County, New York on

November 15, 1777. He was the oldest son of Hendrick and Catherina Mebie. Hendrick was the son of Jeremias Mebie and his second wife, Annatje Van Amberg. Jeremias in turn was the son of Caspar. Adam married Anna Boyce on October 8, 1800 at the Old Dutch Church in Sleepy Hollow.⁶ He died on October 16, 1839 in White Plains, Westchester County, New York.⁷ His will mentioned only his wife, Anna, and his second son, Thomas. The probate documents refer to the other children of the marriage, including Henry.⁸

The Wilkes Expedition

The naval expedition which Henry joined was the United States Exploring Expedition, led by Lt. Charles Wilkes.⁹ The Wilkes Expedition, as it was known, was the first major exploring expedition taken overseas by the US government and was the naval equivalent of the Lewis & Clark Expedition. It circumnavigated the globe and explored and surveyed the Pacific islands, the Antarctic and the coasts of Oregon and Washington. In addition to naval officers conducting surveys and observations, the expedition included scientists that collected specimens, fossils and fauna. The materials brought back by the expedition were eventually transferred to the Smithsonian Institution and served as the basis for its collections.¹⁰

The expedition consisted of six vessels: the USS Vincennes, the flag ship; the USS Peacock; the USS Porpoise; the USS Relief and the tenders Flying Fish and Sea Gull. The expedition departed from Norfolk, Virginia in August of 1838. It traveled to Madeira, to South America, around Cape Horn, to the Antarctic and to the Fiji Islands before stopping in Sydney, Australia in December, 1839. On December 26, 1839, the expedition sailed

again for Antarctica, then to Hawaii, the coasts of Oregon and Washington and finally back to the United States by way of Singapore and the Cape of Good Hope, arriving in June and July of 1842.¹¹

The manifest for the USS Vincennes when it departed the US on August 18, 1838 lists "Henry Maybee" as a seaman on the crew.¹² None of the crew are reported as band members and the reports on the expedition never mention the presence of a band. When Lt. Wilkes assumed command of the expedition, he was required to reduce its size, even scaling back the number of scientists by two-thirds.¹³ So, it is unlikely that vital space would have been taken by crew serving as band members. A manifest for the vessels dated December 31, 1838 also lists "Henry Maybee" as a seaman on the crew of the USS Vincennes. The manifest prepared after the vessels departed Sydney in late 1839 does not show Henry Mabee as a member of the crew of any of the vessels.¹⁴

In Lt. Wilkes' final report on the expedition, he listed all the officers and crew who served during the trip. Henry Mabee is shown as a seaman who "[j]oined in the United States; run at Sydney."¹⁵ Lt. Wilkes ruled as a severe and harsh commander, ordering frequent and painful punishment to the crew. At the end of the voyage, Lt. Wilkes would receive a court-martial and public reprimand for illegally exceeding the limits on flogging sailors and marines.¹⁶ Of the 346 crew who left on the expedition from Norfolk, Virginia, 46 deserted, many of them in Sydney.¹⁷

Australia

Henry Mabee deserted the Wilkes Expedition in Sydney, New South Wales in December, 1839. The New South Wales

records indicate that a William Henry Maybee married Margaret Clausey on June 27, 1842. William Henry was listed as being born in 1812, while Margaret was listed as being born in 1821.¹⁸ William Henry died on June 23, 1863 from dysentery in Sydney.¹⁹ The Death Certificate listed William Henry's father as Adam and his father's occupation as a tailor. It indicated he had been born in the United States of America and had been in New South Wales for the past 23 years (arriving in 1839/40). It also listed children of the marriage as Alfred at 19 years of age and John at 16 years of age.²⁰

According to the Death Certificate, Alfred would have born in 1844, two years after the marriage. Records indicate that Alfred Grovener Mabee married Elizabeth Lynham Grant in 1871²¹ and died in New South Wales in 1906.²² He had several children and likely has descendents living in Australia today. The other son, John, would have been born in 1847 according to the Death Certificate. Records indicate that John Henry Mabee married Anna Excell in 1870²³ and died in New South Wales in 1887.²⁴ He also had several children and likely has descendents living in Australia today. The records indicate two other children born to William Henry and Margaret: William Mabee, who was born in 1849 or 1850²⁵ and died in New South Wales in 1850²⁶ and Edward Henry Mabee, who was born in 1852²⁷ and died in New South Wales in 1854.²⁸

Conclusion

It appears that Henry joined the Wilkes Expedition as a seaman and not as a band leader as there is no mention in the expedition record of a band. Henry did not die on the expedition from drowning in a waterspout, but deserted the expedition in

Sydney in December, 1839. There is no way to know the reason for his desertion. It may have been to flee the harsh punishments of Lt. Wilkes, the fear of another voyage to the forbidding coast of Antarctica or the attraction of Sydney. Ironically, if Henry would have remained on the voyage, he would have sailed up the Columbia River, passing just a few miles from where his son William Henry eventually settled and raised several generations of Maybees.

A William Henry Mabee, the same name as Henry's American son, appears in the New South Wales records almost immediately following Henry's desertion. The Death Certificate for this William Henry indicates that he came to New South Wales about the time of Henry's desertion and that his father's name was Adam, the same as Henry's. William Henry's Marriage Certificate indicates he was born in 1812 rather than 1801 as Henry. However, it also indicates he was 9 years older than his wife. It is possible that at the marriage he didn't want to disclose that he was actually 20 years older than his bride.

Therefore, while even Henry may have thought that he disappeared in history, he didn't. Henry deserted the navy and abandoned his son in order to start a new life and family in Sydney while extending the Maybee family line to Australia.

Robert W. Haines is the great, great, great, great grandson of Henry Mabee and was born and raised in Portland, Oregon.

¹ Tarrytown Historical Society, First English Record Book of The Dutch Reformed Church in Sleepy Hollow (1931) at p. 54.

² Barber, Gertrude A., comp. Marriages taken from the New York

1 Evening Post, Vols. 1-7 (1933 - ??)
 2 at p. 85.
 3 Birth of William Henry
 4 Maybee, Lottie and Forbes, Forrest
 Dale, Days and Ways of Old
 5 Damascus, Oregon (1962) at p. 60.
 6 Ibid. at 59.
 7 Tarrytown Historical Society, First
English Record Book of The Dutch
Reformed Church in Sleepy Hollow
 (1931) at p. 12.
 8 Barber, Gertrude A., comp. Deaths
taken from the New York Evening
Post, Vols. 1-54 (1933 - 47) at p.
 9 71.
 10 Adam's probate.
 11 Records of the United States
 Exploring Expedition Under the
 Command of Lieutenant Charles
 Wilkes 1838-1842, National
 Archives Trust Fund Board,
 National Archives and Records
 Administration, Washington: 1985.
 12 Ibid.
 13 Ibid.
 14 Ibid., National Archives, Roll 5,
 Volume One of letters received by
 the Navy Department Relating to
 the Expedition.
 15 Philbrick, Nathaniel, Sea of Glory.
America's Voyage of Discovery
 (2003) at p.46.
 16 Ibid., National Archives, Roll 5.
 17 Wilkes, Charles, Narrative of the
United States Exploring Expedition
 (1844), Vol. 1 at xivii.
 18 Ibid., Philbrick at p. 329.
 19 Stanton, William Ragan, The Great
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of 1838 – 1842 (1975) at pp. 279-
 80.
 20 Australia Marriage Index, 1788 –
 1949 as accessed through
 Amnety.com.
 21 Australia Death Index, 1787 – 1985
 as accessed through Amnety.com.

20 New South Wales Death Certificate
 Registration Number 1863/000816.
 21 Ibid., Australia Marriage Index.
 22 Ibid., Australia Death Index.
 23 Ibid., Australia Marriage Index.
 24 Ibid., Australia Death Index.
 25 Ibid., Australia Marriage Index.
 26 Ibid., Australia Death Index.
 27 Ibid., Australia Marriage Index.
 28 Ibid., Australia Death Index.

An Update on Eden Mabee

For many years, researchers have been trying to identify the parents of Eden Mabee of Sussex County, NJ. Eden married Mary Oakley Utter, a widow, on July 22, 1815. A few years ago, I found the death record for Eden and it stated his parents were John and Abigail Mabee. But which John?

Over the past year, there have been two breakthroughs by Maybee Society members. First, last September, Will Mabee (#197) found a death record for a Mary Wells who died in Sussex County on August 1, 1864, age 92, born in Dutchess County, NY, and her parents were listed as John and Abby Mabee – making her a sister of Eden Mabee. This was never before known.

Then, Charles Boetsch (#359), doing research in the Delaware County, NY, courthouse going through old, unpublished court records, found a document that definitively identifies Eden as a son of John Mabee (born 1740, son of Abraham & Sylvia Mabee).

With these two finds, we can now close the book on this branch of our tree. In the next Communicator, I'll include detail on what we now know about the children and grandchildren of Abraham and Sylvia.

The Papers of Simon Mabee

I'm sure that you have all heard the story of Simon Mabee of Westchester County, NY, who was captured in 1777 and accused of spying for the British. Found with certain incriminating papers, he was tried by Court Martial, convicted and hanged. And hopefully, you can recall my friend Gayle Ann Livecchia who provided us with the map of the homestead of Simon's father that was published in the last edition of this newsletter. Well, Gayle has once again been very helpful. On a recent trip to the NY Historical Society, she found and copied a file titled Papers of Simon Mabee. Amazingly, this file included copies of the actual "incriminating papers" that resulted in Simon's conviction. And now, on the back page of this newsletter, you can see the two documents

Obituaries

Winnifred L. Mabie, age 91, of Fairview PA, passed away there on Friday, March 4, 2011.

She was born in Erie PA, on September 2, 1919, a daughter of the late Daniel and Sigrid Johnson LeSalomie. Winnifred was a 1936 graduate of Strong Vincent High School. She also worked on the War Production Board during World War II and at Erie Foundry. She spent the remainder of her career as the office manager at McNerney Electric. In addition to her parents, Winnifred was preceded in death by her husband, Roswell D. Mabie. She is survived by two sisters, Dorothy Astwood of Chillicothe, IL and Jeanne Klaphor of Grand Haven, MI and several nieces and nephews. Burial was in Laurel Hill Cemetery.

Erie Times-News on March 9, 2011

Reunion News

87th ANNUAL MABIE REUNION

PLACE: Mick and Barb Kineke's,
801 Robinson Road, Mohawk, NY

DATE: Sunday July 10th

TIME: 1:00, meal to begin at 1:30
Family group picture to be taken
right before the meal

PLEASE BRING: Dish to pass,
Your table service, Juice, soda or
water to share, Pictures or genealogy
to share

Please contact Barb Kineke with any questions as well as any updates on family marriages, births, deaths, graduations, military news or any other items of interest for the historian report. 315 866 8911 or micknbarb1980@yahoo.com or 801 Robinson Road Mohawk, NY 13407. Or please bring information clearly written and give to Barb the day of the reunion.

Barb is also looking for copies of old pictures of each of William and Sophia Scripture Mabie's children as well as a picture of William and Sophia. Pictured here are William and Sophia's son Arba Oscar. If anyone can provide photos I would like to use a different one each year. Bring any pictures to the reunion and I can scan them off while you are here.

DIRECTIONS: From thruway Rte 90, take Herkimer exit # 30 and after toll booth, take a left at the light and follow rte 28 south.

After going through town, before climbing Vickerman Hill, take a slight left onto rte 168 or Hammond Street. Follow this about 2.9 miles to Mortz Road. Mortz will be the 3rd right hand turn off 168. Follow Mortz almost 2 miles to top where it stops at Robinson road. Our driveway is the last one on the right before Robinson Road or you can pull around on Robinson and park in front of the house.

From Richfield Springs: On route 20, go through Richfield to the light at the MacDonalds and turn right. Follow Rte 28 north about 7.5 miles to Robinson Road which will be on your right. Take Robinson Road about 2.6 miles to the intersection of Robinson and Mortz. (The Mortz sign is missing but Mortz will be your 3rd road to the left) Our house is the grey one just before Mortz on the left hand side. Park either in the front of the house or turn down Mortz to enter the driveway. At this point no concerts are planned at Gelston Castle that weekend, but if for some odd reason that changes and a road block is set up, just let the men know you are going to the Kineke's at the top of Mortz and they will let you through. It may help to bring your invitation or a copy of it if it is emailed to you, to show them. Any questions, feel free to contact Barb. See you on July 10th!

Dues

Please don't forget to pay your dues for 2011. Dues are \$5 per year if you select the e-mail version of the

Communicator (in color!), and \$10 per year for the black and white, hard copy version sent via the U.S. Postal Service.

Who We Are:

The Maybee Society Communicator is a publication of the Maybee Society, 154 Wolverine Way, Scotts Valley, CA 95066-5111. Dues, data and information should now be sent to this location and materials for the Maybee Society will be kept here.

Website

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

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A Note from Steve:

The good news is that my retirement is near. With luck, I will be retired by summer's end, and finally have more time to spend on genealogy. Thanks for your patience.

I DO hereby Certify, That *Simon Mabe*
of the Militia of the City of NEW-YORK, has, in my Presence, voluntarily
taken an OATH, to bear Faith and true Allegiance to His MAJESTY KING
GEORGE the Third;—and to defend to the utmost of his Power, his sacred
Person, Crown and Government, against all Persons whatsoever.

GIVEN under my Hand at NEW-YORK, this 29th Day of *March*
in the Seventeenth Year of His MAJESTY's Reign, Anno. Dom. 1777.

C. Matthews
MAYOR of the City of NEW-YORK.

Where as his Excellency Sir William Howe Commander
in Chief &c. &c. has issued Orders to augment His Corps of Guides
and Axmen, under the Command of Major Holland Surveyor
General of the Northern District of North America, This is
therefore to certify that *Simon Mabe* is authorized and
empowered by me to engage Men for the said service at the
allowance of one Shilling Sterling p. Day and their Provision
gratis to be discharged (if desired) at the Expiration of
the ensuing or next Campaign.

New York
March 30th 1777

Samuel Holland