



MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

July 2014

ISSUE

98

The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

There always seems to be something going on historically in this area. We are very lucky that way! The end of April I drove over to Schoharie Crossing to listen to a talk by a gentleman, Norman Bollen, who is writing a book about George Washington and his trips through the Mohawk valley in 1782 and 1783. Of course, my reason was to see if he knew anything about the Mabees perhaps meeting GW. Lo and behold, he had them in his power point; a photo of the farm house, and a picture of an accounts document that had in the list, payment to a "Mr. Meebie" of 16 shillings and 9 pence. However, it did not say WHICH Mr. Mabee or for WHAT?! Oh to have been there! Did GW ride his horse across the river to spend the night, have his horse shod, enjoy a meal away from his entourage?? Was the

payment to Cornelis at the farm, his cousin John on the north side of the river for an item, or to his cousin Albert in Schenectady for supplies, or something else? I suppose we will never know.

I love when I get to find the answer to my question so quickly and easily, but then it just creates 10 more -----

Kim Mabee, President

Research Update

By Steve Mabee
Vice-President

In the last Communicator (January 2014, Issue 96) I wrote the following: "only one baptism for a daughter of Caspar and Lysbeth has been found to date" and I went on to state that no record of the birth or baptism of daughter Catherine had ever been found. Well, it didn't take long for this statement to become obsolete. Maybe Society members who are descendants of Catherine and her husband Daniel Secord will be glad to know that,

after years of searching, I finally found a copy of the New York Historical Society Quarterly Bulletin, Volume 1 (1917). This is the only place that the early baptisms and marriages of the French Church at New Rochelle have ever been published. And that is exactly where the baptism of Catherine can be found:

On August 1, 1703, Catherine, daughter of Gaspar Mebe and Elizabeth Mebe, born June 14, 1703.

This translated record goes on to identify the witnesses as “Gaspar Mebe, his father, and Marie Simon”. This is interesting because I now believe that this is the source of the mistaken belief that Caspar Mabie (born 1660) and Elizabeth Schurmans had a son named Caspar, who in turn married a woman named Elizabeth Verricks (see #51 in R. Robert Mutrie’s *Compendium of Mabie Research 6000 New York Ancestors*). Now, we know for a fact that the father of Caspar (born 1660) was Pieter Casparszen. And we know for a fact that Pieter died before 1664. So, this record of witnesses appears to be implying that the child Catherine was a granddaughter of Caspar (born 1660). But we know that this cannot be, since Caspar and Lysbeth were married in December of 1687, their first son Peter was born in 1689 and Catherine was born in June 1703. So, I believe that a reasonable explanation is that Catherine’s father was also a witness (not unusual in Reformed Churches) and that the translator simply misunderstood “the father” for “his father”. And before some of you get excited, yes, I know that in French these two phrases are “le pere” and “son pere”, but I maintain my explanation is the most reasonable.

How Do You Spell That?

For those of you who did not have the privilege of growing up with the surname Mabie (or Mabee, etc.), you really missed out. Talk about teasing. But one thing I’ve learned over the years is that otherwise intelligent and reasonable people, when first hearing that name, will never, ever spell it correctly. Regardless of which version is correct for your family.

If you have visited my web site, you may recall that I show the more common spellings: Mabie, Maybee, Mabee and Mabey. And if you visit the Maybee Society web page, you will see a more complete list of variations including Mabee, Mabey, Mabie, Maeby, Maby, Mabé, Maybay, Maybe, Maybee and Maybie “as well as others”. Have you ever wondered how one family could wind up with so many spelling variations? Well, wonder no more!

So how did this all start? The very first appearance of our family’s surname is found in the records of the Dutch Reformed Church in New York for the November 17, 1680 marriage of Pieter Casparszen’s daughter Metje. Her surname appears in this record as Meeby, and naturally it has been mis-transcribed as Weely in every printed version of these records.

Now fast forward to 1684 and the *Minutes of the Court of Albany, Rensselaerswyck and Schenectady*, Volume III, starting on page 477. On September 2, 1684, Jan Mebe was the defendant in a court case, being sued by one Hendrick van Ness, who alleged that Jan Mebe stole his horse. Luckily for those of us who are his descendants, Jan was found not guilty. This is the second historical record of our surname, and the first time that it was correctly transcribed.

For the third record, it's back to the NY Dutch Reformed Church for the 1687 marriage of Caspar Meby. This time it was mis-transcribed as Neby, leading to more confusion. No, it was never Nevy or Neve. But it was spelled Mevi in the 1689 baptism record of Caspar's first son, while it was Metje Meby who baptized a child there in 1690.

Let's stay with Metje for a moment. After the founding of the French Church of New York City (remember, she married a man from Rochelle, France) she and her husband Jan baptized three children there. In these three cases, the minister wrote Metje's surname as Meby, Mebe and Maybe.

Some of these early variations are very understandable. Remember that the Dutch pronunciation of the first letter "e" sounds very similar to an English "a". For example, Cape May, NJ, is named after Cornelius Mey. So, we have Meeby, Mebe, Meby, etc. in Dutch, but sounding like Maby and Mabe. Another sound similarity is between the letters "b" and "v", so it was not uncommon, especially in the Mohawk Valley German churches to see the name records as Mevi or Mevy.

As the 1690s progressed, the historical records show that both Jan and Caspar are consistently shown with some variation of the surname, with the variations being explainable by the local dialects and how familiar the person writing the name was with the family. Even in those days, a person hearing the name for the first time was sure to misspell it. This remained true through the entire 18th Century. But it's also important to remember that during this time, no one really cared about

standardized spelling of any words, let alone seldom used surnames.

So, how did the various spellings of our family name evolve? Basically, it boils down to where your branch of the family lived. For the most part, up in Schenectady and points west along the Mohawk, the predominate spelling came to be Mabee.

For the families of Caspar's eldest and youngest sons (Pieter and John), who lived in what is now Rockland County, NY and Bergen County, NJ, the predominate spelling became Mabie. The same is true for most of those who drifted into New York City over the years.

Meanwhile, the families of Caspar's other sons (Jeremiah, Simon and Abraham) stayed in the Westchester County area where the spelling Mabee was most common. But over time, when Abraham's family moved on to Putnam County, the spelling Mabie was predominate for this one branch. Meanwhile, having moved to Dutchess County from Westchester County, Jeremiah's grandson Tobias adopted the Maybee spelling and maintained it after moving to Canada, despite his proximity to his double cousin John Mabee.

One anomaly was in New York City, where a very prosperous merchant spelled his name Abraham Maybie.

All of this broke down as individual family members started moving away from the home nest. Along the Mohawk and western New York, descendants of Joseph Mabee started consistently spelling their name Maybee, even though descendants of Joseph's brothers Cobus (Jacobus) and Lewis used Mabee.

In some cases, families were separated due to the relatively early deaths of their fathers. This is evident in the case of John Mabie who married Phoebe Ferdon. They had 12 children, many of whom were still young when John died circa 1767. One of his sons, Jasper, born in 1755, moved frequently, ultimately moving to western NY and PA by 1810. His descendants moved in two directions. Those moving through Ohio to Indiana used the spelling Maybie, while those who eventually moved east to both Herkimer and Oswego Counties in New York used the Mabie spelling.

Even in the case of the Putnam County Mabies, two grandsons of the original Abraham (Stephen and Solomon) moved circa 1790 to the Albany area (Westerlo) where, apparently influenced by their English neighbors, they used the Mabey spelling.

In Canada, we have descendants of the Loyalist Capt. Abraham and of the Patriot Tobias both using the Maybee spelling, while most of the others, mainly cousins of Tobias, use the Westchester County Mabee. One very interesting case that I researched a few years ago involved a branch of the family that has used the spelling Maeby in the US for over 150 years. It turns out that I was able to trace them back in Canada to a Jeremiah Maybee, a son of Tobias. Jeremiah married a lady named Lois Richmond in 1823. They eventually had a son, also named Jeremiah, with elder Jeremiah dying in close proximity to the child's birth. Lois then remarried and moved with her new husband, Dorland Brock. Luckily, I found a deposition from the 1833 time frame which mentioned Lois' son, Jeremiah Maby. Apparently, Jeremiah grew up away from his paternal family and ultimately started spelling his name Maeby.

On a personal note, the same happened in my family. My great grandfather was born in northern Indiana just 15 months before his father, John Peter Mabee, died. He was raised away from his paternal family and by the time he moved back to Philadelphia after the Civil War he used the Mabie spelling exclusively.

A Rose By Any Other Name Would Smell As Sweet

While we're on the subject of names and spellings, here is another family issue that you may not be aware of. First, recall that the wife of Pieter Caspaszen van Naerden was previously married to Abraham Willemszen van Amsterdam. As a result, she became to matriarch of two old New York families: the Tietsoort Family (today spelled Titsworth and Teachout by different branches) and the Maybee Family. But what, exactly, was her name?

Most if not all of you who know can now shout out Aechtje Jans van Norden. After all, that's how it's spelled in the record of her 1647 marriage to Abraham. And here's the problem. If you ask a Dutch scholar, you will be told that Aechtje is the Dutch familiar equivalent to the English name Agatha.

So, was her name Agatha? Apparently, none of her children thought so. One of the features of the 17th century Dutch culture was the use of a so-called naming convention under which the first two children of each gender would be named after the paternal and maternal grandparents. Thus, one would expect each child of Aechtje to name a daughter after her. Well, not one of her grandchildren was named Agatha.

The name they did use repeatedly was the Dutch equivalent of the English Eva. So, is it possible that we have been calling our Matriarch by the wrong name for over 360 years???

Obituaries

MAYBEE, Douglas Carleton of Hilden, one month short of his 90th birthday, passed away gently, April 29, 2014, with his wife of 65 years Elizabeth (Etter) by his side. Born in Sydenham, Ontario, he was a son of the late Carleton Henry and Lulu Belle (Thompson) Maybee. Doug is also survived by sons Fred (Debbie), Tatamagouche, NS, and Brian, Riverview, NB, brother Keith (Gerry), sister-in-law Nancy Ettinger. Known as Papa to his grandchildren Christopher Maybee, David Maybee (Amy Van den Hoogen), Paul Maybee (Mikey Colborne), Claire Maybee, great grandchildren Ezra Maybee, Ella Maybee, and David Wood, step-grandchildren Danielle Leighton (Beau Strob), Chelsea Leighton, Kelly Leighton, Crystal (Dean) Ramier, Jenna Walsh. He is also survived by several nieces and nephews. Doug was predeceased by both parents, brother Gordon and sister-in-law Phyllis, sister Hazel (Parks) and brother-in-law Doug, brother Lloyd and sister-in-law Joan, brother-in-law Avard Ettinger, daughter-in-law April Maybee, father and mother-in-law Fred and Edith Etter, brother and sister-in-law Stan and Lorna Etter. A veteran of WW II he served in Canada's navy and was later employed with Alcan Aluminum at Kingston, Ontario. He was a member of St. Andrew's United Church in Truro, and a dedicated chorister. He will be remembered for his involvement in The Truro Novatones barbershop chorus, Royal Canadian Legion, and Masonic Lodge.

Cremation has taken place under the care of Ettinger Funeral Home. Doug's sons and their families will receive visitors from 6-8pm Sunday, in St. Andrew's United Church, King Street, Truro from where funeral service will be held 11am, Monday, May 5, 2014, Rev. Jay Ettinger officiating. Elizabeth and family invite friends to stay for a reception following the service. Interment will take place in Preeper Hill Cemetery, Shubenacadie. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to St. Andrew's United Church, Truro or a charity of your choice. The family would like to thank the staff of Williams Country Homes for Special Care, Hilden, Veterans Affairs Canada, and VON. Condolences, words of comfort and remembrances of Doug may be shared with the family at: www.ettingerfuneralhome.com

This obituary is protected by copyright by Ettinger Funeral Home. Proudly Serving the Communities of Shubenacadie, Dutch Settlement, Elmsdale, Enfield, Lantz, Nine Mile River, Stewiacke, Milford, Gays River, Upper Rawdon, Maitland, Noel, Middle Musquodoboit, Cooks Brook, Grand Lake, Oakfield, Alton, Fort Ellis, Carrolls Corner, Coldstream, Belnan, Upper Nine Mile River, East Gore, West Gore, Latties Brook, Selma, Noel Shore, Noel Road, Gormanville, North Salem, Wittenburg, and Brookfield in the province of Nova Scotia, Canada

CECIL MAYBEE

1935-2014

Cecil Allen Maybee, age 78, of Machesney Park, Ill. passed away Wednesday, February 19, 2014 at home surrounded by family.

A Celebration of Life Memorial will be held on Saturday May 31, 2014 from 1 - 4 p.m. in the "Illinois Room" at the Forest Hills Lodge, 1601 West Lane Road, Loves

Park, Ill., 61111. The cremation is private.

Christenson Funeral Home & Crematory is assisting with arrangements. Memorials can be made to the family. A special Thank You to all our wonderful neighbors for your loving care and support.

Online condolences may be left for the family at www.rockfordfunerals.com.

For the complete obituary, please see the May 15, 2014 issue of the Crawford County Independent & Kickapoo Scout.

OBITUARY for Arlene Mae Fuller Pizzuti

Champaign, Il. --- Arlene 75, passed away on Wednesday, June 11, 2014 at Provena Covenant Hospital in Urbana-Champaign, Illinois. Born on January 11, 1939 in Schenectady, New York, she was the daughter of the late Bruce Corporal and Addie Mabee Fuller. Formerly of Alexander Avenue, she lived in Scotia until 2002. She attended Scotia-Glenville HS, and was employed by the state of NY for many years

Arlene was predeceased by her husband Joseph A. Pizzuti in 1991 after 15 years of marriage. She is survived by her son Joseph A. Pizzuti Jr., his wife Erica, 3 Beautiful granddaughters, Isabella, Miranda, and Gianna, all of Bartlett, Illinois; sisters in law Mary and Viola (Vicky) of Schenectady, niece Toni Ann Bascue of Schenectady, nephews Michael Piccola of Schenectady, Mark Pizzuti of California, David, Carol, and Laura Lorenzo of

Florida, cousins; John and June Mabee of Vestal, NY, Gary and Kim Mabee of Scotia, NY, Susan Smith of New Mexico, Sally and Jeff Owen of Alabama, and many caring friends still in the area. Funeral services will be held at a later date, with burial to be in St. Anthony's Cemetery Glenville.

2015 Maybee Society Reunion **Date Set!**

The next Maybee Society sponsored family reunion will be held at the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction, NY on July 11, 2015. This time, our Maybee Society reunion will be held in conjunction with the annual reunion held by the descendants of William and Sophia Mabee. The reunion is tentatively planned to run from 11 AM to 5 PM, with a lunch served at 12:30.

Make you plans now to attend this event.

A New Descendant!

It occurs to me that this newsletter really focuses on the past, whether it be a Research Update or the Obituaries. So perhaps it's time to add a recurring, forward looking article.

Along these lines, we were recently informed by Peter Johnson, MS member #11, of the birth of Dante Peter Fiorentino on March 31, 2014, grandson of Peter and his lovely wife Angela, and the son of Clarissa Johnson and Sandro Fiorentino.

Dante is a double descendant of Capt. Abraham Maybee UE through both Peter and Angela.

Congratulations to the parents and proud grandparents.

If you are blessed with a new child, grandchild or great-grandchild, please let us know and we will welcome the new descendants of Pieter Casparszen and Aechtje Jans.

Dues

Many of you have kept up to date on your dues – Thank You. For those who haven't, 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. Please note that no new orders for the hard copy version are being accepted. All dues should be sent to our Treasurer, Ann Christmann. Checks should be made payable to Ann, NOT to the Maybee Society.



Who We Are:

The Maybee Society Communicator is a publication of the Maybee Society, 15 Van Buren Ln. Rd 4, Scotia, New York, 12302-9473. Dues should be sent to Ann Christmann, Treasurer, at the address below. Checks should be made out to Ann Christmann. Data and information should now be sent to Steve Mabie.

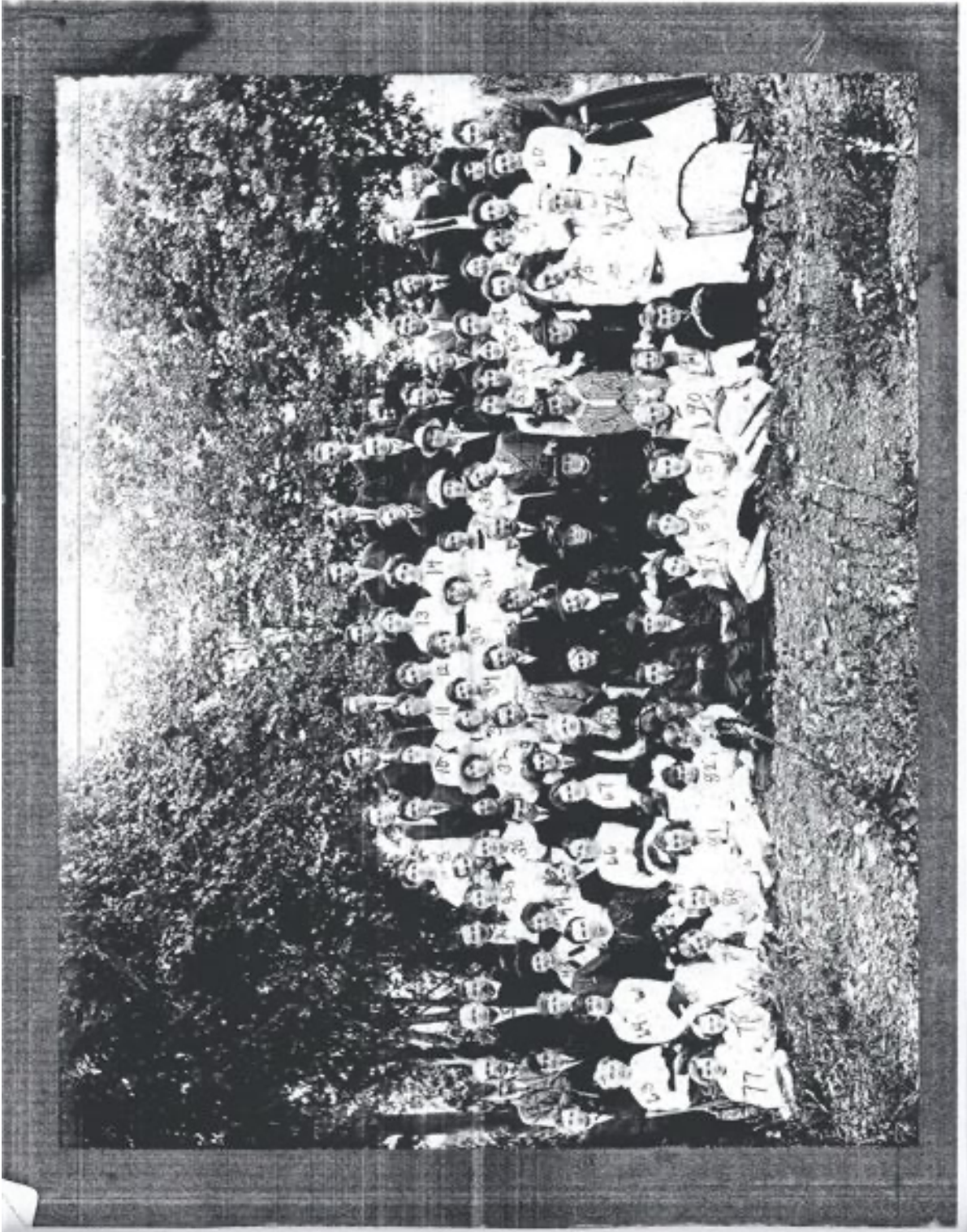
Website

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

The Maybee Society Staff – Kim Mabee, President, 15 Van Buren Ln. Rd 4, Scotia, New York, 12302-9473 E-mail: kimandgarymabee@gmail.com

Steve Mabie, Vice President and Newsletter Editor, 2139 Oak Creek St., San Antonio TX 78232, E-mail: Smabie@aol.com

Ann Christmann – Secretary/Treasurer, 718 Pachester Dr., Houston, TX 77079 E-mail annchristmann@sbcglobal.net



Cornwallville Church Members circa 1914
(Photo provided by Ken Mabey)