



MAYBEE SOCIETY

Communicator

January 2020

ISSUE 120

The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

Here is hoping that you all enjoyed a happy holiday season! Ours has been action packed.

First, we once again sponsored a tree for the annual Schenectady County Historical Society Festival of Trees. I went for the obvious and did a 4 foot flocked tree in black and yellow May"Bees". It turned out cute and I heard that several people had voted it best of show!



The May Bees Tree

Next, we finally got approval from both the Historical Society and the National Historian General's office of DAR for Issue 120

placement and wording of the Patriot Plaques in the Mabee Farm Cemetery. (It was like pulling teeth) Now we are just waiting to make sure we have the dollars in hand before we order them in January! Also, to make sure we receive them in time for Gary to install before the reunion on July 12th.

And as for the reunion, I wanted to ask if anyone wanted to participate in creating a basket for raffle? The last several years the South Valley group has been doing just that and it seems to be more fun than just donating money. Some of them can be quite creative!

And lastly, I would like to feature cousin Mike Companion. Over the summer, our Schenectada DAR Chapter chose him to be our representative for Outstanding American History Teacher of 2019! He then went on to win for New York State! Mike was presented a certificate, pin, and check at the State Convention on September 28th in Albany. Our Chapter honored him at our December 7th Awards Tea. He now goes on to compete against the other 49 state winners to see who is the National Winner, and will be invited to

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Washington DC in June for Continental Congress. Mike has been a Social Studies and History teacher at Shenendehowa for 20 years. He and his lovely wife Samantha have 2 offspring in college right now. He is the current president of the Saratoga Battlefield SAR Chapter.

<http://saratogabattle-sar.org/>. Mike is also a reenactor, participating in events around the state for many weekends and historical events. So, he literally lives his history! I have heard him give a talk on Revolutionary War uniforms (of which he makes all his own by hand) Next he has promised to give a talk next year on the constitution for the chapter. Mike is a descendent of Jan and Anna Mabee and his great grandfather, Delbert Mabee, was the last one to operate the farm in Glenville. He and my husband Gary are 2nd cousins once removed.

P.S.--- As the Historian for the Schenectada Chapter I also sent in an application for Revolution Song, by our favorite author, Russell Shorto. We shall see if he also has a chance to win. The results come out in April.

That's it for now. Here's to a happy and healthy 2020!

Sincerely,
Kim Mabee
President

Research Update

By Steve Mabie
Vice-President

I don't know how many, if any, of you are Railroad Buffs, but I suspect a lot of you enjoy nostalgic trips to our youth on occasion. If you haven't heard the news, Big Boy is riding the rails across the country.

What is Big Boy? Big Boy is actually a generic nickname given to a series of 25

very large steam locomotives manufactured by the American Locomotive Company between 1941 and 1944, and remained in service until the early 1960s, when they were replaced by diesel powered locomotives.

In 2013, the Union Pacific Railroad decided to do something special to celebrate the 150th Anniversary of the Golden Spike. So in 2013 they found one of these old behemoths, No. 4014, in the RailGiants Museum in Pomona, CA, and took it to Cheyenne, WY, for a multiyear restoration program. The project was completed on time, and for the past year, Big Boy No. 4014 has been touring the country bringing back memories of a time when rail travel was king.



So why am I writing about trains in the Maybee Society Communicator?



Well, for one thing, the No. 4014 Big Boy stopped for an overnight visit to San Antonio in early November, and Nancy and I, along with our son William and his wife Christine, stopped by to see it in person.



But more importantly, you may have noticed my earlier reference to the American Locomotive Company.



Yes, as documented by the badge prominently and proudly displayed on the side of the locomotive, this Big Boy was built by the American Locomotive Company at its Schenectady Works plant and completed in November 1941.

A search of the 1940 US Federal Census reveals that a George Mabee of Schenectady was an employee of American Locomotive Company. The then 30 year old George and his wife Ethel resided in an apartment house at 35 Lafayette St. George William Mabee is #29646 in the Maybee Society data base. He was born on November 11, 1909 to Elmer J. and Susan A. (Winnie) Mabee. After Elmer's death in 1915, Susan married William Shelby, a Machinist at the American Locomotive Company. By 1930, William was a Foreman for the company, and George had a job as a Machinist.

Less than a month after No. 4014 was completed, events at a distant Naval Base in Pearl Harbor disrupted life in Schenectady. George served in the Navy during the War, and he and Ethel went different ways.

On April 13, 1946, after his discharge from the Navy, George married Olive Young. At that time, he was employed at American Locomotive. But the glory days of the American Railroads were coming to an end. By the time of his death in 1960, George had a new career as a Schenectady Realtor. If you have an opportunity to see the Big Boy, take a moment and say thank you to George and his co-workers.

Guest Article

The following is the first of two Guest Articles by James Reed Campbell, Jr. (MS #429).

Hereditary Societies for Maybee Descendants

By James Reed Campbell, Jr.

There are four legs to the chair that convenes and supports the community of family-history enthusiasts. Family associations, like the Maybee Society, are one of these legs. The other three legs are: genealogical societies, historical societies, and the focus of this article, hereditary or lineage societies. Descendants of Pieter Casparszen (Mabie) van Naarden (-bef 1665) can find themselves qualifying for numerous hereditary societies. You may be interested in a brief overview of what these societies are, what they do, and what benefits you might derive from joining them.

What Hereditary Societies Are

Basically, hereditary societies are comprised of family-history enthusiasts who can document their lineage—to a genealogical standard of proof—to satisfy the criteria of the given society. For example, the General Society of Mayflower Descendants, founded in 1897, brings together, and certifies the lineages of, those men and women who can prove their descent from the surviving passengers arriving in America on the “Mayflower” back in 1620. The Daughters of the American Revolution (DAR), founded in 1889, does likewise for those women who can prove their descent from Patriots and other participants in the Revolutionary War.

There is an excellent list of hereditary societies maintained by the Hereditary Society Community and viewable on their website:

“http://www.hereditary.us/list_a.htm.”

Here are accumulated most of the larger and more noteworthy societies, perhaps 300 in all, although a full list of active societies

may be double this number, according to some observers of this field. Take a few minutes to scroll through these lists and you may be surprised by the diversity of societies and the interests they promote.

There are societies with deep histories and resonance, such as the Society of the Cincinnati, formed in 1783 from officers who served under General George Washington and wished to maintain their ideals and fellowship. Or further back, the Ancient and Honorable Artillery Company of Massachusetts, founded in 1638 as the oldest chartered military organization in North America. But there also are more recent societies, such as the Order of the Norman Conquest, formed in 2013 for those men and women whose ancestors fought at the Battle of Hastings in 1066. Or the amusingly titled Son of a Witch, for male descendants of ancestors accused or persecuted for witchcraft in colonial America before 1776.

What Hereditary Societies Do

What hereditary societies do depend on how large and active they are. The DAR is one of the larger societies, at 185,000 members, and it maintains one of the most active portfolios of educational outreach, civic and charitable activities, genealogical resources, historical exhibits, literacy promotions and scholarships. The DAR is most commonly known for its invaluable work in maintaining the gravesites of Revolutionary War veterans, plus assisting present-day veterans at VA hospitals and non-VA facilities. On the other hand, the smaller societies might exist mostly to certify and preserve the lineages of their members, publish an annual newsletter, award a charitable grant or scholarship; and then meet once yearly during Heritage Week (now stretching for three full weeks) in Washington, District of Columbia each April.

It is estimated that 90% of hereditary society members join to certify their lineage and receive their printed certificates (suitable for framing). However, the remaining 10% of members also participate through meetings. The larger societies host their own, multiple-day, national meetings on an annual or semi-annual basis. The Jamestowne Society, founded in 1936, now with over 4,000 members, meets semi-annually, alternating between Richmond, Virginia in the Fall and Colonial Williamsburg in the Spring. Its three-day meetings will include some society business, but also guided tours of historical sites, group activities, meals in nice venues, and historical speakers. These meetings can serve as attractive mini-vacations for the family.

The smaller societies also can offer attractive national meetings. Flagon and Trencher: Descendants of Colonial Tavern Keepers, founded in 1962, hosts its annual, single-day meeting at a different colonial-era tavern each year. This year's meeting took place at the Robert Morris Inn in Oxford, Maryland, as members dined on crab-cake sandwiches and strawberry shortcake; sipping libations on the porch, while pleasure boats sailed past on the Chesapeake Bay.

For the larger societies, you will find them organized by state chapter and, sometimes, by sub-chapter. The state chapters may meet several times per year, typically Quarterly or Semi-Annually, while the sub-chapters may meet on an ad-hoc basis, often once or twice per year. Most such meetings will take place on a Saturday at a country club, dinner club, conference center, or similar venue. There will be society business conducted for an hour or so, followed by cocktails, lunch, and a speaker of interest—typically a book author, college professor, or seasoned

historian presenting on a topic of interest and relevance to the members.

Why Join Hereditary Societies

Genealogy, it must be said, attracts an older audience. However, these society meetings bring together researchers with keen interests for family history, colonial history, and history in general. You will find no shortage of good and helpful conversation along these lines. You will meet many of these same enthusiasts at other society meetings, where you can form pleasant acquaintances and even lasting friendships over time. Undoubtedly, you will find cousins among those gathered; for example, Douglas Mather “Tim” Mabee is an officer and regular presence with several of the larger societies.

Certainly, there are intrinsic benefits in having your lineage certified by a hereditary society—honoring your ancestors in the process. The research process itself can prove hugely rewarding (and sometimes hugely frustrating) towards developing a set of genealogical references that you can pass along as family keepsakes to parents, siblings and cousins; and then down to children and subsequent generations. But what seems to keep most family-history enthusiasts joining their next hereditary society—and their next one after that—are the relationships that ensue. Fellowship is always important in fostering any passion; and there is fellowship and passion in quiet abundance found throughout hereditary societies.

Jim Campbell recently discovered his Mabie descent (Catherine³, Casper², Pieter¹); and then joined the Maybee Society in 2018. This New Jersey native is a member of seven other family associations and 20 hereditary societies. For questions on hereditary societies, please contact Jim at “campbell973@att.net.”

Obituaries

Marietta Mabie, wife of Ron W. Mabie (MS #67).

A private family service and Celebration of Life will be held next spring at the Riverview Cemetery in Pickstown, S.D. for Marietta Mabie, 68, of Pickstown, S.D., who passed away peacefully on November 4, 2019, after a hard fought battle with cancer.

Marietta was born June 29, 1951, in Langdon to George and Marjorie (Penner) Plummer. She graduated from Langdon High School in 1969 and then graduated from business college. She took a job with the Corps of Engineers where she met her future husband, Ron. She and Ron were married in 1973. A short time after, Ron was transferred to work at the Fort Randall Dam, and they moved to Pickstown, S.D. She was a member of the Country Quilters and the South Dakota Ornithologists Union. She loved quilting, spending time with her quilting friends, going birding with her husband, wildflowers, gardening, feeding and watching birds in her backyard. Quilting was her passion, and she was known for her beautiful quilts and use of colors. She also enjoyed spending time with her nieces and nephews.

Marietta leaves behind her husband of nearly 46 years; a sister, Jolene (Allan) Thompson, of Langdon; brothers-in-law: Richard (Carrole) Mabie of Lynnwood, Wash. (MS #205) and Doug (Syl-Vonna) Mabie of Raleigh, N.C. (MS #206); sister-in-law Marjie (Ed) Peterson of Minot (MS#207); and many nieces and nephews, whom she dearly loved. Marietta was preceded in death by her parents and grandparents.

Crosby-Jaeger Funeral Home in Wagner, S.D. is in charge of arrangements.

(The Cavalier County Republican, Langdon, ND, Posted November 14, 2019)

Dale Bennett, MS #187. (From Find A Grave Memorial ID 174802421)

Dale Loren Bennett, 87, a lifelong resident of Martinsville, Indiana, passed from this life at 5:50 a.m. on Wednesday, May 18, 2016 at the IU Health & Hospice House in Bloomington. Dale was one of four children born to the late Vernon Patrick and Macle Viola (Bastin) Bennett. He was born on June 7, 1928 in Monroe County, Indiana. Dale graduated from Martinsville High School and shortly thereafter, enlisted in the U.S. Air Force. He served his country with bravery at the close of WWII and the inception of the Korean War, from 1946 – 1950. After returning from the service, Dale began his lifelong love for logging and on November 14, 1952 he married M. Eileen (Bales) Bennett.

He was undeniably a hard worker, often times working two jobs to support his family. Dale spent his entire life working in the timber business and was the previous owner of Bennett Logging in Martinsville, where he spent countless days working alongside his father, sons and grandsons. He had also worked as an electrician from 1959-early 1970's at Merle Sears in Mooresville, at the Indianapolis Airport and at I. U. Assembly Hall in Bloomington. Dale took great pride and pleasure in his logging business, woodworking, gardening, doing genealogy, training and racing horses and most importantly, he cherished his family.

He will be deeply missed and fondly remembered by his loving family and friends including his wife of nearly 64 years, Eileen Bennett of Martinsville; sons, Sidney Dale and Jeffrey Lee Bennett both of Martinsville; sister, Sue (husband, Joe) Schnaiter of Martinsville; five grandchildren, Dan (wife, Brooke) Bennett, Matt (wife, Jenna) Bennett, Marc (wife, Amy) Bennett, Elizabeth (husband, Anthony) Lindsey and Whitney (Dillon Spencer) Bennett and four great grandchildren, Ella, Sophia, Charlotte and Callan Bennett.

He was preceded in death by his parents; brother, Kenneth Bennett and sister, Marilyn Gray. He was laid to rest in Zions Hill Cemetery in Martinsville.

REUNION 2020

Next year we are planning the reunion for Sunday July 12th at noon at the Mabee Farm Pavilion and meeting room. We will do it like the 2015 one, in that the South Valley folks have agreed to bring salads and desserts and we will provide cold cuts and rolls and drinks for your \$5 fee. Those of you who come from far away and would like to do something on Saturday, please let Kim know if you have preferences and she can arrange that. For example, I can do tours of the historic stockade, Vale Cemetery, Schoharie Crossing, or any of the places of interest in the area. Many of you have been here before so may have already seen many of them. There are several tours around both Schenectady and Albany pertaining to the musical Hamilton, but for some (e.g., Schuyler House) you have to sign up way in advance. Or perhaps we could arrange a special group tour. Please let Kim know of your interest of something in particular so she can research it and make arrangements in time!

Dues

The officers of the Maybee Society would like to make clear that the payment of dues, while greatly appreciated, is not required to maintain good standing as members. Specifically, we understand that some of our members are senior citizens living on fixed incomes, and we do not want anyone who cannot afford it to feel obligated. 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.

Our Website is: <http://maybeesociety.org/>

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Mike Companion with Judith Peck (left) and Kim Mabee



Mike Companion and Gary Mabee