



**MAYBEE SOCIETY
COMMUNICATOR**

July 2021

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The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

I have 3 items to highlight this quarter! The first, sadly, is the passing of our cousin Robert Quackenbush. He lived a long and eventful life! In 1999, he wrote the children's book *Daughter of Liberty* about the adventures of Wynthje Quackenbush Mabie in support of General Washington during the Revolutionary War. Robert's website is still in operation.

<http://www.rquackenbush.com/>

The second item is a terrific blog article in the Daily Gazette by my friend Bill Buell. We got to know each other over 30 years ago when as a sports writer he wrote articles about our son's and daughter's soccer and lacrosse exploits! (Speaking of which, I just did a post on my Facebook page on granddaughter Alexandra being in the Rhode Island state lacrosse championships on Father's Day. The Barrington Eagles lost to private school Moses Brown.)

Even though he is now retired, Bill writes feature and history articles for the gazette. He is very careful to try to avoid controversy. He knows I will let him know

if a family detail is wrong! And this is worth reading!

<https://dailygazette.com/2021/06/09/bill-buells-electric-city-archives-a-316-year-look-at-rotterdam-junctions-mabee-farm/?fbclid=IwAR1kLPm5L4X3qPLI-cP2ZXspTNgQSp7e19a7fTrhPIcckRheIGrSkQYkgOU>

The 3rd item I wanted to share is, as I mentioned in the last *Communicator*, the honoring of our ancestors that was postponed from last year due to Covid 19. While July 11, 2020 is the date on the plaques, our Schenectada DAR chapter held a ceremony to honor the 2 Revolutionary War soldiers in the Mabee Farm Family Cemetery on May 18, 2021. We formed a 3-way partnership with the Schenectady County Historical Society since it was on their property, and of course our Maybee Society which actually paid most of the cost of the brass plaques. Thank you so much for your generosity!! And of course, the DAR whose national headquarters in Washington DC approved and put their logo on the plaques as official. It turned into a beautiful evening as the rain held off, and Gary and I had cleaned, raked, mowed, and polished the cemetery the

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week before. So, we were gussied up for the event. We were so surprised and pleased that not only did our NY State Regent Patrice Powley Birner attend, but also our national President General of Beacon NY, Denise Doring Van Buren. She was able to make it, along with District IV Director Heather and Tim Mabee, State Senator Michelle Hinchey, Assemblyman Angelo Santa Barbara, Town of Rotterdam Supervisor Steve Tommasone, Executive Director of SCHS Mary Zawacki and several other Rotterdam officials.

Kim Mabee
President

This is from the DAR President General's Blog describing the event:



Historic Mabee Farm and Cemetery,
Rotterdam Junction

Later that evening, I joined with nearly 50 members and community leaders to dedicate two new Patriot grave markers at the c. 1705 Mabee family stone farmhouse on the banks of the Mohawk River. Cousins John and Cornelius Mabee both fought at the Battles of Saratoga as members of the Albany County Militia, Captain John van Patten's 3rd Company of Col. Wemple's 2nd Regiment. Cornelius, who became a

first lieutenant, was born March 18, 1741, and died May 10, 1789; he served from 1775-1782. John Mabee was born January 10, 1728, and died November 24, 1796. During the Revolution, John attained the rank of Corporal. The Schenectada Chapter had painstakingly researched these Patriots and had planned to dedicate the markers last July – until the pandemic intervened. The postponed date actually provided a perfect spring evening to remember these men and their courage, and I was delighted to be a small part of it. I express particular appreciation to Kim and Gary Mabee for hosting me for a delicious dinner (with a great view of the Mohawk!) afterward. The story of the Revolution in the Mohawk Valley is certainly one worth learning about if you enjoy reading military history.

Research Update

By Steve Mabee
Vice-President

In our next Communicator scheduled for early October, I plan on addressing the current status of the search for the European roots of our ancestor, Pieter Casparszen van Naerden. In preparation for that article, it's necessary for everyone to have a good understanding of the naming conventions in use in New Amsterdam in the 1650s. By naming conventions, I'm referring to two different things. One is the use of Patronymics and Toponymics in lieu of surnames by the majority of adults. Another is the common practice among members of the Dutch Reformed Church for naming one's children, with specific reference to the first two children of either sex.

When discussing the use of Patronymics and Toponymics versus surnames, it's important to remember that for most of its existence, New Amsterdam was not a very

large town. In *Affairs and Men of New Amsterdam* (1843), J. K. Paulding estimated the size of New Amsterdam in 1647 as 150 houses and perhaps 600 – 800 people. That is the year our Pieter Casparszen first appears in the records. The population grew to perhaps 1,000 people by 1650, and then to an estimated 9,000 in 1664, the year that the city was captured by the English and became New York City. Much of this growth has been recently attributed to the efforts of Adriaen van der Donck, whose *A Description of New Netherland* was first published in Europe in 1655 and expanded in 1656. This book is credited with creating a significant increase in emigration to the New World in the late 1650s, thus accounting for much of the 9-fold growth between 1650 and 1664.

The point of this is that for most of the time that Pieter was documented in New Amsterdam (1647 – 1662), it was a very small city at best. And in small cities in the 1650s, the use of one's Patronymic or Toponymic was usually all that was necessary to identify people in official records. Thus, in the baptism records for his 6 children, we have Pieter's name as Pieter Casparszen once (in 1652), Pieter van Naerden 4 times (1654, 1656, 1658 and 1660) and finally Pieter Casparszen van Naerden in 1662.

His name tells us everything we know about Pieter: (1) that his father was named Caspar and (2) that he was from a town called Naerden (in all likelihood, the modern town of Naarden.)

So, we know the first name of Pieter's father, but what about his mother? That is where the second naming convention becomes useful: the naming of the first two children of each sex after their

grandparents. Thus, the first two males born to a couple would be named after their grandfathers, and the first two females would be named after their grandmothers. This convention was in widespread use by adherents of Calvinistic religions such as the Dutch Reformed Church and the Scottish Reformed Church, but not by the English, Lutherans, nor the French Huguenots. We know for certain that this convention was used by Pieter and his wife, Aechtje Jans, for their sons, Jan (named after his maternal grandfather) born in 1654 and Caspar (named after his paternal grandfather) born in 1660.

Now, we know that their first two daughters were named Marritien (born in 1652) and Engeltje (born in 1656). Thus, it is reasonable to conclude that Pieter's mother was named either Marritien (a form of Mary), or Engeltje (a form of Angelica). Can we eliminate one? Well, it is thought that Aechtje Jans was from Norden, a town in Frisia. And I have been told that, of the two female names, Engeltje is "more Frisian". But for now, let's keep an open mind and consider both cases.

Therefore, when we go looking through European records, what we are looking for is a male named Pieter, born between say 1610 and 1625, whose father is named Caspar and whose mother is named either Maria or Angelica, and who left Europe by 1647.

The J. E. and L. E. Mabee Foundation

By Ann Christmann
And Steve Mabie

If you live on either coast of the US, or in Canada, its likely that you never heard of John Elmer Mabee or of the Mabee Foundation. But if you have spent any time

in middle America, there is a very good chance that you have. So, who was John E. Mabee, and what is the story about the foundation started by he and his wife Lottie in 1948?

Stated simply, John Elmer Mabee (1879-1961) (Maybe Society ID#19373) was an oil millionaire and later a philanthropist in Oklahoma.

But his life story really exemplifies the American Dream. One thing is certain: John was not born with a silver spoon in his mouth.

A detailed biography on FindAGrave states that John was born in rural Cedar County Missouri, near Jerico Springs. However, in the 1880 census, his family was enumerated in Kingston, Caldwell County, Missouri. He had little in the way of formal education (in the 1940 census he reported 4 years of school completed) and when he was 18, he travelled to Idaho to work as a ranch hand. After two years, he returned to his parents home, now in Marion, Dade County, Missouri, and he married Lottie Estella Boren.

In 1907, opportunity presented itself with the opening to settlers of “The Big Pasture” in southwestern Oklahoma, and John and Lottie took advantage and were granted a homestead of 160 acres in what was then Comanche County. The area where they lived became Cotton County, and in the 1920 census, John was enumerated there with his occupation listed as a “mule skinner.”

But the 1920s were an exceptional time in America, especially for those willing to take a risk for success. It was during this era that John ventured into the oil well drilling business. By 1930, he and Lottie

were living in Tulsa, and his occupation was listed as an oil well drilling contractor. The success enjoyed by John and Lottie is evidenced by the 1940 census when their Tulsa home was valued at \$25,000. At that time, John’s occupation was listed as Petroleum Producer and Employer.

This photo of a sign identifying a well on a lease owned by John Mabee, with the well operated by The Texas Company (the predecessor of Texaco), was recently seen for sale by Ann.



Eulogized upon his death as “Oklahoma’s Mr. Philanthropy,” John and Lottie founded the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Foundation in 1948. Through this foundation, Mr. Mabee’s generosity was sustained after his death in 1961, and his magic of turning oil into bricks and mortar continues today.

John and Lottie Mabee also desired others to give, and crafted the foundation ‘challenge’ grants in such a way as to both require and inspire widespread public support. The forward-thinking policies and parameters of John and Lottie Mabee became the catalyst for the exponential raising of more funds from a broad pool of givers for Mabee Foundation grantees. As such, Mabee Foundation Challenge Grants have enabled many organizations to finish projects in a timely fashion and, in the process, to build their bases of support in

such a way as to help insure the health of the organizations for the long-term.

Since its formation in 1948, the Mabee Foundation has awarded grants totaling over \$1.2 billion. Limited to capital expenditures and the purchase of major medical equipment, the Mabee Foundation exclusively funds projects located in Texas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, Arkansas, Missouri and Kansas, with a focus on colleges and universities, particularly those with a religious affiliation. Virtually every such school in these 6 states has a building named after John and/or Lottie. There is the Mabee natatorium at Texas Lutheran University, the Mabee Hall at Abilene Christian University, the J.E. and L.E. Mabee Library at Incarnate Word University and the Mabee Center at Oral Roberts University, to name just a few.

Item of Interest on e-Bay

While I do not ordinarily like to advertise items for sale on e-Bay, a very old photo is currently listed that may be of interest to some of you. It is a Daguerreotype of Polly Chubb Mabee, wife of John Mabee of Royalton, NY. The seller is asking \$130 for this photo.



Should you have any interest in this, you can find it at:

<https://www.ebay.com/itm/324427650016?ssPageName=STRK%3AMEBIDX%3AIT&trksid=p2060353.m1438.l2649>

You should also be aware that the seller has two other Daguerreotypes in identical cases but the subjects are not identified. I suspect they may also be from the Mabee family.



From the write-up, it appears that the photo of Polly was at one time owned by her grandson Eugene Mabee, son of Marcus. I would not be surprised if the other two photos are also from this line.

Obituaries

Patricia Mae Maybee, MS ID#29745

Patricia Mae Maybee, of Green Forest, passed away on Thursday, February 18, 2021 at Autumn Hill Nursing Home in Berryville. She was 87 years old.

The daughter of Warren Jess and Myrtle Elizabeth (DeWald) Tackett was born September 2, 1933 in Tulare, California.

Patricia was a devoted Tyson's employee for 39 years. She was a faithful member of the Osage Assembly of God Church.

Patricia was a loving wife, mother, grandmother, and friend. She loved every minute she spent with her family. She was preceded in death by her husband, Sherman Maybee; her parents; an infant daughter, Mary Kathryn Maybee; and one son, Dennis Maybee.

Survivors include five children, Beverly Coleman, of Green Forest, David Maybee and wife, Teresa, of Berryville, Brenda Maybee, of West Virginia, Duane Maybee and wife, Gayle, of Alpena, and Duard Maybee and wife, Donna, of Cave Springs, AR; one sister, Janet Elmore, of Texas; numerous grandchildren and great grandchildren; and several great great grandchildren.

Burial was in Plumlee Cemetery.

Marlene T. Wolf, sister of Stephen Mabie (MS #257).

Marlene T. (Mabie) Wolf, 86, of Lower Gwynedd, PA, died peacefully on June 2, 2021. She was the beloved wife of the late Edwin P. Wolf. She was born in Philadelphia, PA, on August 30, 1934 to the late Walter W. and Marie A. (Campetti) Mabie. She was a loving and devoted wife, mother, grandmother and great grandmother. Marlene was a devout member of St. Alphonsus Church in Maple Glen, PA, and a volunteer at the North Penn Hospital Maternity Suite.

Marlene was predeceased by her husband Edwin, her parents, and a brother, Walter C. (Skippy) Mabie who died young. She is survived by her daughters Heather A. Frankenfield (Bob) and Holly M. Wilson, grandchildren Eric, Zachary and Luke

Frankenfield, Cody Wilson (Megan McMann), Caitlyn Ovind (Michael), great grandchildren Kayden and Kylee Wilson, Mila Ovind and her brother, Stephen Mabie (Nancy). Interment in George Washington Memorial Park.

Dr. Robert Mead Quackenbush, July 23, 1929 – May 17, 2021

Author of the children's book *Daughter of Liberty* about the adventures of Wyntje Quackenbush Mabie in support of General Washington during the Revolutionary War.



The following obituary appeared in the NY Times on June 22, 2021:

Robert Quackenbush, Creator of Animal Detective Stories, Dies at 91

Robert Quackenbush, a prolific children's book author who conceived of the beloved character Henry the Duck, as well as detective animals like Detective Mole and Miss Mallard, died on May 17 at his home in Manhattan. He was 91. His wife, Margery Quackenbush, said the cause was leukemia.

Over 60 years Mr. Quackenbush created his own distinct children's literary universe. He worked on some 200 titles and wrote and illustrated bedtime staples like "Henry's Awful Mistake" and "Too Many

Lollipops.” His stories about Miss Mallard, an inquisitive duck who solves crimes around the world in plots that resemble Agatha Christie capers, were adapted into an animated television series in 2000. He also conceived of sleuthing critters like Sheriff Sally Gopher and Sherlock Chick, who starts his investigations immediately after hatching from an egg (he emerges holding a magnifying glass) and discovering that his farm’s feed bin is missing its corn (a gang of crows stole it).

For his work on Detective Mole, who wears a trench coat and houndstooth deerstalker hat, he received an Edgar Allan Poe Award for best juvenile mystery in 1982. “Mysteries are so important for children because they want to know why they’re here and what’s going on between Mommy and Daddy,” Mr. Quackenbush said in a 2020 video interview. “They are the first detectives.”

Mr. Quackenbush’s colorful children’s stories often took inspiration from his own life as a parent and a New Yorker who lived on East 79th Street in Manhattan for more than 50 years. As he watched his son, Piet, grow up in the 1980s, he wrote the Piet Potter series, about a boy detective who solves crimes in a high-rise apartment building on the Upper East Side. His wife, a former fashion designer he met in the city in the 1970s, was an inspiration for Miss Mallard; just like her, Miss Mallard (whose first name, like hers, is Margery) wears a stylish brim hat. One of Mr. Quackenbush’s best-known characters, Henry the Duck, who constantly stumbles into misadventure, spends the duration of one book scrambling across town trying to hail a taxi to make it to his friend’s birthday party on time. (Upon arriving, he learns that the party isn’t until the next day.) When Mr. Quackenbush conceived Henry the Duck in the 1970s, it

also marked the discovery of his voice as a children’s author.

He had been working as a creative director for Scandinavian Airlines, but he yearned to pursue his own art and illustration work professionally. He landed some freelance side work illustrating children’s books and quickly took to it. By the time his son was born in 1974, he was illustrating children’s stories full time; with the creation of Henry the Duck, he started writing and illustrating his own books. As he told it, he began writing the stories to help his son through a difficult family rite of passage: being ridiculed for having Quackenbush as a last name. “There’s a lot of fun that’s been made about the name, especially when I was in the Army,” Mr. Quackenbush said in the 2020 interview. “They called me ‘Quack.’ When my son was born, I thought, ‘I don’t want him to go through what I’ve been through with the Quackenbush thing.’ I invented a duck character called Henry the Duck and dedicated the book to him.” “Every book I did was dedicated to my son,” he added. “After that, nobody made fun of him and his last name.”

Robert Mead Quackenbush was born on July 23, 1929, in Los Angeles and grew up in Phoenix. His father, Roy, was an engineer. His mother, Virginia (Arbogast) Quackenbush, was a secretary. Robert’s ancestors were Dutch settlers who arrived in New York in the 1600s; he liked telling people that they had probably been duck farmers. When Robert was 9, his father died in a car accident a few days before Christmas. The two had quarreled over something trivial before his father left for a business trip. He was found in his car with gifts for Robert and his two siblings. “In those days they didn’t tell children why someone died,” Margery Quackenbush said. “He wasn’t told how his father died at

the time, and he had questions as a boy. Because they had that silly fight, he thought that he had something to do with it. It haunted him growing up.” As a young man, Mr. Quackenbush worked with a therapist to heal his trauma. He went on to develop a lifelong interest in children’s therapy and the mental health field. In 1956, he graduated from the Art Center College of Design in Pasadena, Calif., with a bachelor’s degree in fine art. He then moved to New York, where he married Margery Clouser in 1971. His early creations included Pete Pack Rat and Doctor Quack. He also produced a series of illustrated biographies for young adults about historical figures like Charles Darwin and Alexander Graham Bell.

In addition to his wife, he is survived by his son and two grandchildren. In his 60s, Mr. Quackenbush studied social work at Fordham University, where he earned a master’s degree before becoming a licensed psychoanalyst, focusing on working with children. He met with his young patients at his studio on East 78th Street, just a few blocks from his apartment, where he also held after-school painting lessons and taught workshops for adults about the craft of writing children’s books.

In 2018, Simon & Schuster began reissuing a series of Mr. Quackenbush’s best-known Miss Mallard titles, including “Gondola to Danger” and “Dogsled to Dread.” They were later released as a boxed set.

Mr. Quackenbush was in his late 70s when his first grandchild, Aidan, was born. As his grandson grew up, he found a bright new source of creative inspiration. “He was really inspired by him,” his wife said. “They were always making up new stories together.”

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:

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