



# MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

July 2022

ISSUE 129

---

## The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

As I think about history, history in general, then history in specific, we come to our own organization. Do you realize as I just did, that we are now in our 35<sup>th</sup> year of operation??!!

The first newsletter came out in the fall of 1987 with a listing of the first 37 founding members. The first President was George Mabee Martin who served for 7 years. In 1994, John (Jack) Albert Mabee became President and served for 9 years. In 2003 John David Mabee (sibling to Belva and Barbara and cousin to George) became our 3<sup>rd</sup> President, serving 10 years, and since 2013 I have been the 4<sup>th</sup> President and the first with a different spelling! It appears we have a pattern, bouncing back and forth from west coast to east coast. So, heads up, west coasters, you may be up to bat next! Let's see how long I last! So far, I am up to 9 years, I cannot believe it! Time flies when you are having fun, I guess! As long as I still have some ideas, Steve and John do not run out of research projects, and members are still interested enough to send their articles of interest, then I figure we will be okay.

I know the one article I am most proud of (I am really not a writer) is the one in Issue #12 in 1991 about the Mabee House. As I go back to reread it, it still stands up as mostly accurate. I have not heard or learned information to the contrary yet! We keep hoping for more information on our roots back in the "old country". I know Steve has been following every possible lead. And John, what can I say, he is amazing in keeping the data base alive and well. Sometimes he has the info added the very day people contact us! So, hats off to these gentlemen in that they keep the spirit going. Of course, it requires a mention of all our long-suffering spouses! I know when I tell Gary that I am taking on another volunteer project, he just sighs, and says do you have time for that? Of course, I don't, but I will fit it in with his assistance, as always. I just took on the Regent of our DAR Schenectada chapter for the simple reason that I wanted the Mabee name on our 111-year long list of Regents. And, to top it off, Heather Mabee was the Chapter Regent for Saratoga, then our District IV director, now she is going back to Regent. We will really mess up the NY state hierarchy. They already get us mixed up in emails etc. We have learned to just send them on to each other. Heather's spouse, Tim just received

an award for his work with the Order of the Founders and Patriots of America! Huzzah! Our Maybe Society has succeeded, thrived, and evolved with new and corrected researched information over the past 35 years. So much more information is available than when we started! Computers and technology are so much more advanced. I am happy to say, “we’ve come a long way baby”, and there is still more to come!

Kim Mabee  
President

## Research Update

By Steve Mabee  
Vice-President

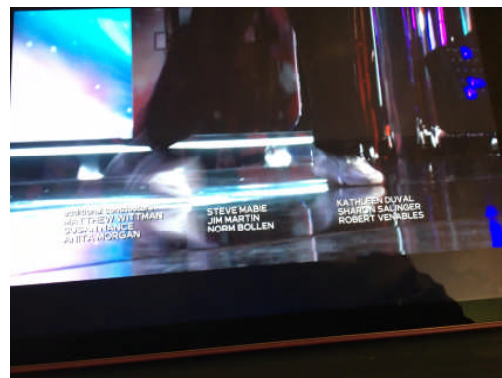
### **Just who do they think they are?**

Pardon the play on words, but I could not let the recent television show go without comment. I am, of course referring to the television show “Who Do You Think You Are?” which aired nationally on July 17, 2022 on NBC, featuring the genealogy of an actor by the name of Nick Offerman. It appears that one ancestor of Mr. Offerman was Margaret Mabee who married Joseph Laux. Without explanation of how they knew this, the show’s host told the audience that Margaret was a daughter of Joseph Mabee. They did not verbally mention that Margaret’s mother and Joseph’s wife was Catherine Schuyler, a daughter of David Schuyler. In fact, except for one brief glance at a paper, the very famous Schuylers were never identified as ancestors of Mr. Offerman. Instead, the host drew the focus of the show to the maternal grandmother of Joseph Mabee, a lady named Eva Clausen (her patronymic) who married Bartholomew Pickard in the Albany Reformed Dutch Church on November 12, 1698. The show identified their daughter, Dorothea, as the mother of

Joseph Mabee, but made no real mention of his father, John Pieterse Mabee, or the fact that John was a grandson of our Jan Pieterse Mabee. Nor was there any mention of the Mabee Farm, or the history of our family. Instead, the entire focus of the show was on Eva Clausen Pickard, and the fact that she and Bartholomew were in the tavern business, and that she and her grandchildren were later demeaned in letters written by Sir William Johnson, with the implication that they stole land from the native Mohawks.

First of all, basing any conclusions concerning the stealing of land from anyone solely on the statements of Sir William Johnson is like asking Al Capone to help clean up prohibition era Chicago. No one stole more land from anyone than Sir William Johnson. But then the show implied that the land that Joseph later owned after the revolution was this same stolen land. This is simply not accurate.

I can now tell you that roughly 2 years ago I was contacted by a researcher asking for facts and documents concerning Joseph Mabee. I did provide a lot of information and referred them to several documents. If you carefully review the closing credits of the show, you might actually see my name listed in the credits.



Screen shot compliments of Kim Mabee

The point that I'm trying to make is that in relating Mr. Offerman's heritage, the show could have gone in several positive directions, telling the story of the success of any one of several of the original Dutch families in English New York. But instead, the focus became negative by using modern mores and questionable "facts" to create a story consistent with a narrative that is becoming very tiresome.

### **1950 US Federal Census:**

As mentioned here in the April edition, the 1950 Federal Census is available for research.

<https://1950census.archives.gov/>

Our past President John MayBee is working hard at transcribing our family entries, and he has found that there are 56 Maybee Society members in this census.

John has sent me the first version and I hope to have it added to our existing census data on line by the end of this year.

### **Obituaries**

**Constance Alexandra "Sandra" MacKerell Withers**, cousin of Steve Mabie (MS#257).

Constance Alexandra "Sandra" MacKerell Withers, age 82, of Haddon Township, NJ died at home on Sunday, April 24, 2022. She is survived by her husband Paul, son Mark and his wife Carolyn along with 4 grandchildren, 2 great grandchildren and her brother Donald MacKerell.

Sandra was born on February 29, 1940 in Philadelphia, PA to Alexander and Elisabeth Mabie MacKerell. She grew up in Merchantville, NJ with her sister Nancy and brother Donald. Sandra enjoyed school, music, travelling and summers in

Stone Harbor, NJ, where she was Miss Hydrangea in ca. 1958.

She began her college studies at Bucknell University, spent her junior year abroad at Edinburgh University and graduated from Rutgers Camden in 1963.

After graduating, she became a science teacher where she met Paul and they shared a connection to Drag Racing Limited on the weekends. In 1969, they opened their own business, "Withers Automotive" in Collingswood, NJ. They improved their '69 S/S Chevelle and took it out on the track. Due to Sandra's quick reaction time she became the Bracket Racing driver for the team.

In her spare time Sandra enjoyed the garden, caring for her pets, eating Vegan, Ballroom Dancing and participating in Toastmasters. She was a Daughter of the American Revolution, a member of the First Presbyterian Church of Merchantville and of the Union League of Philadelphia.

**Frank Elliot Brodie**, brother of Barb Kineke (MS#269)

Frank Elliot Brodie, 78, of South Valley, passed away peacefully at home on Thursday afternoon, May 26, 2022 while battling non-Hodgkin's lymphoma for the fifth time.

Born in Cooperstown, on November 1, 1943, Frank was the eldest of seven children born to Elliot and Luella (Mabie) Brodie, who lived in Cherry Valley at the time and later moved to South Valley. Growing up, Frank regularly attended worship services and youth group at the South Valley First Christian Church and he was active in 4-H. He attended Cherry Valley Central School where he was a

member of the FFA, graduating in June 1963.



Frank grew up working on his family's dairy farm in South Valley where he started making maple syrup at age twelve when he helped with the boiling in a little saphouse in the edge of the woods down behind the farmhouse. He started his own maple syrup business in 1960, expanding into not only making and selling maple products, but he also became a dealer in selling equipment and supplies. In the late 1960's and early 1970's, he was the first one to do custom work for other maple producers by installing tubing systems.

In the early years, he did 5,000 taps with buckets which was converted to all maple tubing with 6,000 taps in 1975. By 1990, Frank was tapping 25,000, all with maple tubing. Frank also eventually started his own custom tubing washing business.

Frank helped found and organize the Otsego County Maple Producers Association and was instrumental in starting the Otsego County Maple Festival. He served on the board of the New York State Maple Producers and also served three years as the coordinator for the New York State Maple Queens after they were chosen for the position. He was a member of the Catskill Maple Association. He was also a director to the New York State

Maple Producer's Association for the Catskill Association. Frank became a member of the Schoharie County Maple Festival board of directors shortly after it was founded back in the mid-1960's.

When Frank was first diagnosed with cancer in November of 2003, the board of directors honored him by dedicating the April 2004 Maple Festival booklet to him. Even though Frank was fighting cancer and bedridden most of the time, he made it to this year's Maple Festival at the Cobleskill Fairgrounds in April. That day, he was surprised and honored with Lifetime Achievement Citations from Senator Peter Oberacker and Assemblyman Chris Tague.

He was a county representative on the New York State Farm Bureau Promotion and Education committee and served on the American Farm Bureau as Forestry representative from the New York Farm Bureau.

Survivors include his six siblings, Elliott Jr. "Sonny" and Linda Brodie of Summerfield, Florida, Mary Lou and Dave Bach of Meadville, Pennsylvania, Charley and Joanne Brodie of South Valley, Carol Brodie of South Valley, Barb and Mick Kineke of Mohawk, and Donna and Steve Hatch of McGraw.

He is also survived by 11 nephews, 4 nieces, 15 great-nephews, 9 great-nieces, one great-great nephew and a great-great nephew or niece on the way, as well as numerous cousins. Frank was predeceased by both of his parents, his niece Brandy Brodie, and all of his aunts and uncles on both sides of the family.

Services were held at the South Valley First Christian Church on Saturday, June 4, followed by interment at the South Valley-Pleasant Brook Cemetery.

**Craig Thomas Mabie**, son of Don R. Mabie (MS #61)

Craig Thomas Mabie passed away on June 1, 2022 at age 63, due to Alzheimer's disease. He is survived by his wife, Theresa; children, Nathaniel Mabie (Erica Erlewine), Lindsey (Wojtek) Dabrowski, Stephanie Mabie; grandchildren, Ella, Lily, Jakob, Owen; parents Donald and June Mabie; brothers, Kurt (Sue) Mabie, Tim (Chris) Mabie; mother in law, Freda Olsen; father in law, Robert (Dorothy Brydges) Olsen; sister in laws, Cheryl (John) Larson, Brenda (David) Swendrowski; many loved family and friends.

Craig grew up in his hometown of Cedar Springs, having special memories with his brothers and their beloved dog, Susie. He was an avid hunter and enjoyed spending time at the family hunting cabin. Craig had a passion for music and was a talented musician. We will miss hearing him play guitar with friends and in the Mabie Family Band. Craig loved his dogs, Lucy and Bowie dearly and enjoyed taking them for daily walks. Lucy will be waiting for him, for that walk in Heaven. Above all, his greatest joy in life was being "Dad" and "Papa". He loved his children and grandchildren with all his heart and it was a great day if it had been spent with them! The family would like to thank Spectrum Hospice for their kindness and care. They were so wonderful to him. A special thank you to his aide and friend, Doreen. The family greeted friends Monday, June 6 at the Bliss-Witters and Pike Funeral Home, Cedar Springs where funeral service was held Tuesday. Pastor Inge Whittemore, officiating. Interment Crandall Cemetery.

## **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/>

Kim Mabee, President, 15 Van Buren Ln. Rd 4, Scotia, New York, 12302-9473 E-mail: [kimandgarymabee@gmail.com](mailto:kimandgarymabee@gmail.com)

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

Ann Christmann – Secretary/Treasurer, 718 Pachester Dr., Houston, TX 77079 E-mail [annchristmann@sbcglobal.net](mailto:annchristmann@sbcglobal.net)

## SARATOGA COUNTY

## New county brand spotlights Revolutionary history

BY KRISTINA HANDY  
For The Daily Gazette

With its racing track, mineral springs, and battlegrounds, Saratoga has always been rich in history, but a new initiative will allow the county to truly dive into its roots. On Thursday, Saratoga County officials revealed the brand that will work in upcoming years to commemorate the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War America's Turning Point.

The brand name stems from the events of the Battles of Saratoga in which, on October 17, 1777, the British army surrendered to the Patriots. It has been known in history as the "Turning Point of the American Revolution."

Through marketing and event organization, America's Turning Point, in the years leading up to 2027, will aim to expand public education about the critical role of Saratoga in the Revolutionary War in order to honor the people, places and events of the Battles of Saratoga.

"I think milestone anniversaries like these allow us to shine a spotlight on local history whereas in other times it kind of plays in the background and it's not always first and foremost on everyone's minds," said Lauren Roberts, the chairperson of America's Turning Point and the Saratoga County historian.

The brand is backed by a commission made up of several local history experts and community leaders, including Saratoga National Historical Park Superintendent Leslie Morlock, Chairman of the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors Todd Kusnierz and Daughters of the American Revolution, our living history community, the National Park Service," said Roberts. "There are already quite a few things that we offer here for historic value but we just hope to really expand on that so that not only are our own citizens learning more about what happened in their backyard but we're also attracting visitors from all over the coun-

"It's really exciting," said Kelleher. "I think it's a great opportunity to really promote our community, promote our history."

The commission will be in charge of planning and organizing all of the celebrations, ceremonies, and other events recognizing the 250th anniversary of the American Revolution in Saratoga County. Also on Thursday, the group received \$150,000 in seed money from the Saratoga County Board of Supervisors to jumpstart their mission.

"It's a really big sum of money so I assume that we will be able to use that in the coming years to be able to offer things like programming, maybe training," said Roberts.

The commission has identified three main goals in its commemoration of the Revolutionary War: "promoting education and appreciation" for Saratoga's role in the war, "increasing Heritage Tourism" and improving the infrastructure of the county's historical sites.

To increase public awareness and appreciation, the commission plans to host a variety of future events that will feature informational activities like educational displays and living history demonstrations.

"We do hope to bring in new scholarship, we hope to do lots of living history weekends, encampments, reenactments, partnering with our local stakeholders like the Daughters of the American Revolution, our living history community, the National Park Service," said Roberts. "We as humans, I think, tend to look back to get a feeling or get an idea of how people handled these situations in the past and I think it's important for us to be able to do that in our own backyards," said Roberts.

The project will also seek



Saratoga County Historian Lauren Roberts discusses the 250th anniversary of the Revolutionary War on Thursday.

to increase heritage tourism, which would benefit the county's economy.

"Heritage tourists have been shown to spend more money than other types of tourists because they're looking for an authentic experience," said Roberts. "Not only that but they also tend to visit more sites and here we have sites that already bring tourists in like the track, things like that. This is going to be another added bonus where people will stay longer, there will be more for them to do, and they will be learning about history at the same time."

Finally, the commission will work to improve the services and infrastructure of the county's historical sites so as to maintain their quality and their ability to tell the stories of Saratoga history. One way

they are hoping to achieve this is through the incorporation of new technology.

"The county is meeting an effort to work with the National Park Service — we have some grants out there — to bring technology in to tell the story of the Battles of Saratoga outside of the national parklands," said Kelleher. "So that when people come into Schuylerville or they come into the village of Stillwater, they can see what happened there and the interesting stories that happened there using technology — we haven't been able to do that in the past."

By doing this, America's Turning Point will not only be for the history buffs — Kelleher is confident the new technology and historical information that will come in this project will draw in those

who, perhaps, weren't so interested in the past.

"I think it will bring in a non-traditional audience," said Kelleher. "There's so many good stories about what happened at the Battles of Saratoga and we're just starting to find them and dig them out and figure out how to share them with people so I think we are going to appeal to a whole new audience because of that."

America's Turning Point is just in the beginning stages of its mission but the Saratoga history it promises to commemorate has been momentous for almost 250 years.

"It's really important to appreciate the local history and understand how epic it was that the American victory happened here," said Roberts.

PHOTO SUPPLIED

News you can use!  
Compliments of Kim Mabee

Editors Note: That is Mike Companion (MS #384) to the left in Colonial uniform.