

MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

FALL/WINTER 2024-25

ISSUE 138

The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

Apologies, again. But I have been inundated with family, volunteer work and DAR events and planning. Then the holidays and now reports to national for DAR by the end of the month. I will be done in June! Yaay!

We have been getting notices and invites for upcoming galas and events. The amazing Charly Gehring is finally retiring at age 85!? The New Netherland Institute is holding a big do on March 22nd on his behalf. I want to try to make it. SCHS is holding one in April for 2 of my friends/long time volunteers. The latest issue of their newsletter has an article on the Mabee farm slave cemeteries. But they do not have all the information it seems. We know of about two others, not where they describe, but there was never anything definitive found like in Albany from the Schuyler family. We even had ground penetrating radar. We believe one was just south of the family one, toward the road and about where the parking lot is today, and the other one was on the other side of the chemical plant in the woods.

Please remember to RSVP to me if you plan to come July 13th for the 100th South Valley reunion in conjunction with the whole Maybee Society Reunion at the Mabee Farm. I keep reminding them that we plan to hold it and they need us on their schedule.

I am still trying to find out if there is anything specific you might like to learn or listen to --- or I

can organize a tour of the stockade with Mabee and Borsboom sites to hear about.

Kim Mabee
President



100th ANNUAL FAMILY REUNION
Saturday, July 13, 2025.

Mabie Farm
Rotterdam Junction, New York

Hosted by the
National
Mabie/Mabee/Maybee/Maybie
Reunion

All are invited!



99th ANNUAL MABIE REUNION

The 99th annual Mabie Family Reunion was held at the home of Mick and Barb Kineke, of Mohawk, on Sunday afternoon, July 14, 2024 with 23 family members attending.

It was a beautifully warm and sunny day and the kids and some adults enjoyed swimming and

cooling off in the Kineke's backyard pool.

Just prior to the meal, Mick Kineke took the annual group photo.

Then President Charley Brodie asked the Lord's blessing on the meal, and we all proceeded to go through the food buffet line. As usual, we enjoyed a wide variety of delicious dishes of food and everything tasted great.

Most family members brought along a printed recipe card of the dish they made, and it was added to a binder of Mabie family recipes that was started last year. Due to the expense of making a cookbook, this idea was suggested and then family members can take a photo of any recipes they are interested in.

Donna Hatch started the binder and she will keep the recipes organized, making it easy for family members to find any recipe they are looking for.

Following the meal, President Charley Brodie called the meeting to order as old business and new business was discussed.

Donna Hatch read the secretary-treasurer report and then Barb Kineke gave the historian report, before Donna read letters received from those expressing their regrets that they were not able to attend this year's reunion.

This year's historian report included five births over the past year, one death, two marriages, three high school graduations, and six college graduations.

Special anniversaries over the past year include one 10 year, three 15 year, one 20 year, six 25 year, one 30 year, two 40 year, one 45 year, one 50 year, two 55 year, and two 60 year.

Two family members were also recognized for their accomplishments over the past year.

Janine Mabie-Dykeman, of Fultonville, was

named a 2023 Woman of Distinction by Assemblyman Robert Smullen. She was chosen from a group of numerous nominations.

The award honors the accomplishments and selflessness of incredible women.

Chrissy Mabie, wife of Kyle Mabie, received the Unsung Hero Award at Tecler Elementary School in Amsterdam on June 25, 2024.

She won this award for her dedication and commitment to her students and the faculty. What made the award even more special was that her son Parker presented the award to her. Parker himself won the New York State Comptroller Student Achievement Award for academic excellence and leadership.

We all thanked siblings Bob Mabie and Renee Merolli for donating a lot of old family photos and information to the reunion. Just prior to this year's reunion, Barb Kineke and Mary Lou Bach began organizing the photos and information.

Discussion was also concluded regarding the Mabie t-shirts that will be made to celebrate next year's 100th annual reunion.

Reunion officers will remain the same for another year.

Family members attended from Mohawk, McGraw, Moravia, South Valley, New Berlin, Otego, Amsterdam, Gloversville, Chappaqua, Meadville, Pennsylvania, and Douglas, Massachusetts.

Mary Lou Bach, of Meadville, Pennsylvania, traveled the furthest distance of 411 miles.

Bob Mabie, of Gloversville, was the oldest family member at 85 years of age.

The youngest family member present was four year old Della Baran, of Moravia. She is the daughter of Matthew and Jekara Baran, but

attended the reunion with her grandparents, Steve and Donna Hatch.

The largest generation present was Paul and Lisa Mabie, of Otego, with three generations.

The largest representation of one family present was Paul and Lisa Mabie, with seven family members, one son as well as four grandchildren.

Following the meeting was the drawing for the raffle winners. There were 200 one-dollar tickets sold with 11 baskets to choose from. Raffle money is used for reunion expenditures and costs.

This year's winners were Renée Merolli, the baking basket; Donna Hatch, who won three, the snack and picnic, biking, and picnic baskets; Aaliyah Hurley, kids basket; Shannon Richards, who won two, the plant basket and the garden basket with tools and flower; Paul Mabie Sr., garden and signs basket; Paul Mabie Jr., bird basket; Marsha Mabie, blueberry shop basket; and Barb Kineke, blueberries and rhubarb basket.

This was our seventh annual raffle basket event and Shannon was especially excited because this was her first time in winning, and she even lucked out by winning two baskets so she was extremely happy.

Then last week there was an excellent article in the Times Union. It is attached along with my letter. Lindsay will add or subtract as she needs!! We are hoping it can come to Albany! It cannot, I was informed!



OBITUARY

John W Mabie Jr, 1939-2025

John Mabie passed peacefully on January 10, 2025, at home with his family by his side. John was born December 8, 1939, in Schenectady, NY.

John was the son of the late John and Helen Dawson Mabie. He grew up in Scotia, NY. After graduating from high school John started his professional career with the Syracuse Supply Company in Schenectady, NY. He was then transferred to Syracuse, NY for the next four years. His final transfer was to Vestal, NY it was then that he decided to call Vestal his home. In Vestal, he managed the Hyster Lift Truck Division. During his tenure with SSC in Vestal he assisted with the layout and design of the Hyster Lift Truck Division in Conklin, NY. John retired from SSC after 25 years of service. John continued his professional career in Vestal, NY with Albany Ladder AKA South Central Scaffolding, NES, and currently United Rental for another 25 years. He finally retired in 2005.

John truly cherished the lifelong friendships that he made throughout his professional career. John was preceded in death by his parents John and Helen Dawson Mabie, brother James "Jimmy" Mabie, brothers-in-law John Iveson, Gordon Smith, Tim Johnson, John Smith, Sisters-in-law Joan Johnson, Carole Smith, Nephews James Iveson, Great Nephew James Bond, Cousins Arlene and Joe Pizzuti, Mother and Father-in-law Al and Lottie Edie Altman. John was also blessed with several aunts and uncles who preceded him in death from the Mabie and Dawson relatives.

John is survived by his wife June who was the pride of his life. John met June on a beautiful afternoon in June at Central Park in Schenectady, NY in 1959 and they have been together ever since. John and June raised four wonderful sons: Craig (Penny) Vestal, Garrett (Ann-Marie) Clifton Park, Bryant (Kelly) Vestal, Brent (Megan) Saratoga. The family continued to grow with 9 grandchildren: Rob (Sarah), Joshua (Meredith), John (Larissa), Joseph, Bryant (Quiashawn), Mason (Kenna), Jacob, Nora, Nolan, and 5 Great Grandchildren: Finley, Beckham, Patrick, Ella, Stella. John is also survived by: Brother Gary (Kim) Mabie NY, Sisters Susan Smith NM, Sally (Jeff) Owen AL, Sisters-in-law Cassie Mabie Litts NY, Arlene Lent NY, Aunt Gloria Leo NY,

and several nieces, nephews, and cousins that he enjoyed spending time with and loved so much.

Life wasn't always easy for a family with five children. John was the firstborn. Support from family and friends was life changing. He never forgot that life lesson. His devotion showed in the many ways that he took care of his family and friends... through his actions big and small, and the grandchildren will attest to "The Blue Book." John was so proud of his sons. He was an active participant in all of their activities. He coached Little League and would fondly remember the year he planned the Little League parade. He coached Babe Ruth, travel soccer "The Sting", and Vestal United Methodist Basketball Teams for 32 years, coaching then scheduling all league games. John then became a regular spectator at all of his grandchildren's extracurricular activities. He loved spending time with them. He would tell anyone who would listen about all of their accomplishments.

John was a committed volunteer, not only to sports: VUMC he participated on many church council meetings, was an usher, MYF Leader, mentor for confirmation, Vestal Lions Club, Vestal Booster Club, Inside Information Club, Vestal All-Nighter, and Soccer Booster Club. John loved talking to people even during Covid he would knock on the window and wave at people as they would walk by. It was a small gesture of making a person feel noticed and welcomed. John will be remembered for his teasing jokes (though some were sarcastic), welcoming smile, firm handshake, committed work ethic, and leadership. His favorite saying was " A smile costs nothing but gives much."

Funeral Services for John will be on Sunday, January 26th, 2025, at Vestal United Methodist Church, 328 Main St, Vestal, NY. Calling hours will be 11:30 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. and a celebration of life service to follow.

The family would like to thank those who shared their compassion for John and our family: Henry

Kaphesi is an amazing aide... who became a great family friend. Thank you to Pastors Sundar, Willis, Harris, and all the VUMC family for all their support and prayers. Dr. Porsteinsson and Nurse Brittany at the Rochester Memory Care Clinic. The Lourdes Hospice Care Team, Nurse Brittini, Chaplin Jordan, and all the amazing support staff. The Grace Lutheran Respite Care Volunteers for their wonderful contribution to helping caregivers. In lieu of flowers and in keeping with John's commitment to the community, please consider a memorial contribution: Cornell Cooperative Extension to help support all their teaching and outlook programs, 840 Front St, Binghamton NY, 13905 c/o Carol Futterman- Human Resource Coordinator. Guthrie/Lourdes Hospice, 4102 Old Vestal Rd, Vestal NY, 13850, or Mabee Farm Historic Site, Rotterdam NY, to support the preservation of history through teaching, contributions go to Schenectady County Historical Society 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady NY, 12305.



Lafayette 200

The event for Schenectady is taking shape! It will be June 11, 2025, all day and ending with a dinner at the Glen Sanders Mansion if any of you are interested! Have any of you heard of the upcoming events in your area?

<https://lafayette200.org/>

The Albany event was very nicely done. They had speakers in Washington Park and a live Eagle with a handler came last September 17th. A tour of the capital and seeing Lafayette's portrait was great – Then a box lunch at the Mason's building. I heard the dinner was fabulous, but I did not go. Websites tell of the events all around the country.

<https://www.lafayette2024.org/>

Or <https://www.lafayettesociety.org/>

This is what they said about the Bicentennial Tour.

Throughout 2024–2025, the AFL will host educational programming across the United States and in France to commemorate the Bicentennial of Lafayette’s return to America as the “Guest of the Nation.”

There will be hundreds of planned events, both in large cities such as New York, Boston, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Charleston, St. Louis, New Orleans, and Savannah, as well as in the multitude of small towns Lafayette visited, still brimming with pride that America’s favorite fighting Frenchman came through their municipality. Our goal is to educate the public about the roles played by both Lafayette and France in our war for independence. We will accomplish this through planned festivities, informative programing, and meaningful remembrances

America 250

<https://america250.org/>

Several of us are working on the Schenectady County celebration. Have you heard about anything being planned in your area!!!???

New Netherland 400

Watch for more events coming up through 2027.
<https://ny400th.org/>

Who We Are

The *Maybe Society Communicator* is a publication of the Maybe Society, 15 Van Buren Ln. Rd 4, Scotia, New York, 12302-9473.

Our website: <http://maybeesociety.org/>

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Dues

The officers of the Maybe Society would like to make clear that the payment of dues, while greatly appreciated, is not required to maintain good standing as members. 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 at the address above. **Checks should be made payable to Ann Christmann, NOT to the Maybe Society.**



The Maybee Family is related to other families with their own newsletters. The Bradt Family is just one example. Their Family Zoom Meetings might be something for us to try.



BRADT FAMILY NEWS

FALL 2023

Reunion Update: BFR reunion to BFZoom

After careful consideration, the Bradt leadership committee has decided not to hold an in-person reunion (BFR) in 2024.

But wait! Do not despair! In order to give those who still value personal relationships with their many "cousins" the opportunity to see each other, your Bradt leadership committee has come up with the idea of holding Zoom meetings. We held our first "practice" Zoom meeting in September and reviewed the viability of holding Zoom get-togethers for larger groups. We are still working through the details for our first Bradt Family Zoom (BFZ), but we know that many have always enjoyed the talks on various and sundry topics relating to Bradts and the history of New Netherland, so we will want to include those kinds of presentations over Zoom. (By the way, if any of our members with experience managing Zoom meetings would like to set up and run our BFZ, please contact any of your BFS leaders. We would rather have a family member running our Zoom meetings than some outside entity!)

One of the first things we will need is a good list of email addresses so we can notify members of the time and date of any BFZ. **Please send your current email address to: nextbfr@gmail.com.** The emails will be consolidated and used when we start posting for our Zoom meetings, probably early in 2024.

The decision to cancel the 2024 Bradt Family Reunion was made in part from the feedback to our survey form included with the Spring BFN, to which we had a tepid response. Of the 15% who responded, barely 50% said they would attend. Considering this weak response, it was decided not to invest our time and money in a BFR that would most likely be poorly attended.

Other factors that were considered in our cancellation in 2024 include the rising costs in all areas for holding such a large-scale reunion: transportation, rooms, rental spaces, dinners, tour buses, tour venue fees, and taxes. A number of our members have also indicated that it would be difficult for them to travel to a reunion, and there are the obvious health concerns. Finally, we had to consider the dedicated volunteers who made our prior reunions possible, and they have also become harder to find. Many older and experienced local family members have passed, and our younger members have not yet come forward to take up the challenges of organizing and running a large event such as ours.

As you may be aware, the Bradt Family Society (BFS) has, over the past 36 years, contributed a great amount of research on the Bradt family in the New World since Albert and Arent first arrived at Fort Orange, New Netherlands on the dreary spring day of 8 April, 1637. As a result, we have been able to flesh out the lives of many of those early pioneers who struggled to find their places as they worked and raised families in this new land, and we have learned how they helped to shape the New World.

Numerous books have been published by our members, including genealogies by Cynthia Brott Biasca and Laurie Grimes, histories by Joan Woods and Peter Christoph, and historical fiction by Gloria Waldron Hukle. In addition, the Bradt Family News (BFN) has included stories of interest about family members past and present and has kept us abreast of new research and discoveries.

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