



MAYBEE SOCIETY Communicator

JANUARY 1994

ISSUE 21

IT IS DUES TIME

GATHERING IN FLORIDA, SATURDAY, FEBRUARY 5, 1994

Mary Ellen and Jack Maybee and De Brenner have been working on a reunion for Floridian family members and others who are able to attend. They are planning a luncheon at the country club near Punta Gorda in Southwest Florida. If you can possibly make it, call De at 813-639-5996 or Jack at 813-736-5593. If not this year, make plans for a reunion there in 1995.



**Ted and Geneva Mabie
HEADING FOR FLORIDA REUNION**

Edward L. "Ted" Mabie wrote, "We're preparing for a trip to Florida, first to take a 7 day cruise to the western Caribbean, then to spend a week visiting with my sister and other friends in that area." Ted is also planning to attend a reunion with the members of the family who spend the winter on the West coast of Florida.

If you have not paid dues during the last year, they are now due in the amount of \$10. Thanks to all of you who have already remembered.

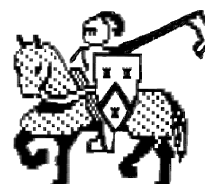
MAYBEE FAMILY OCCUPATIONS from George Maybee Martin

"There have been many very diverse occupations. Many have been of necessity, but many others have been to fulfill personal likes and desires

During the formative years, farming was also of necessity. But, as families grew and homes were firmly established, personal likes and desires began to prevail, but farming remained the personal like of many.

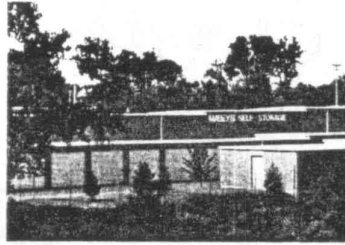
So let us take a quick gander at one of many occupations: railroading. There was a Mabie Railroad. It was named the "Mabie, Middlefork & Edison RR." and ran from Mabie, West Virginia, to Addison, West Virginia.

W. H. Mabie, who came from Tidiotte, Warren Co., Pennsylvania operated a lumber mill at Fisher (later Mabie, West Virginia). A. Spates Brady operated coal and coke mines. The Spates family intermarried into the Mabie family. The railroad was built to handle the business of the Mabie and Brady families. It seems that the railroad was known more commonly locally as a coal and coke road."





Mabee House hotel
Main St. in Rotterdam Junction, NY.



Mabeys Moving and Storage, Inc.

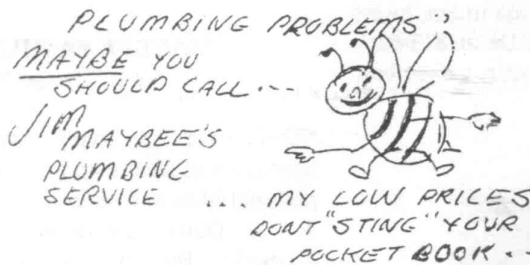


Sourdough Jack Mabee



Mabie Bros. Inc.

The Maybee Society has several authors, genealogists, a quality control specialist, insurance men and women, lawyers, home-makers, home builders, mechanical engineers, computer specialists, inn keepers, environmentalists, entrepreneurs, artists, designers, newspaper editors, an assistant headmaster, a chef, an aeronautical engineer, doctors, teachers and contractors, just to name a few. We thought that it would be fun to show you pictures of a few occupations, past and present.



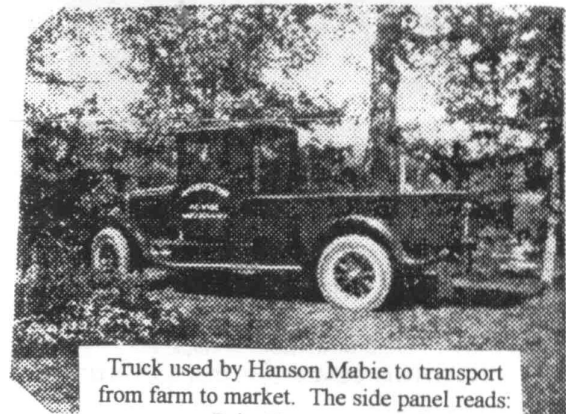
James A. Maybee Plumbing Co.



Maybee's Village



Rendell N. Mabey and Catherine L. Mabie, M.D. were both missionaries to Africa and wrote of their experiences there.

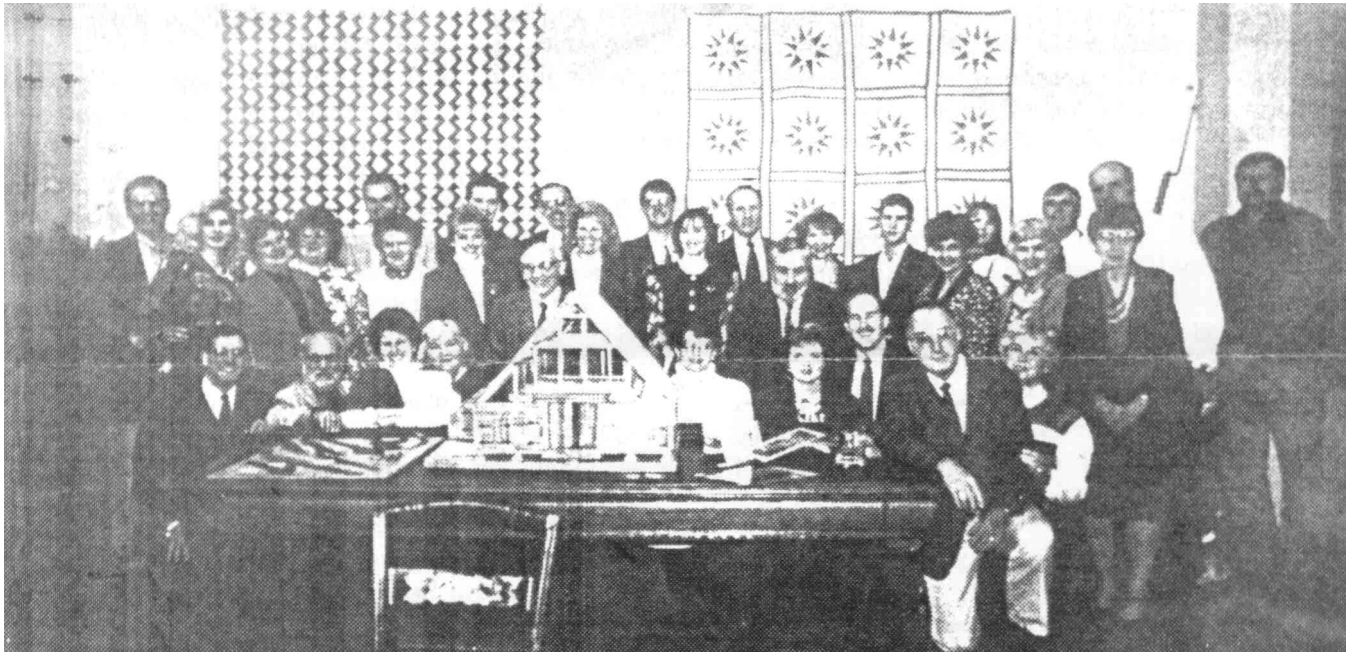


Truck used by Hanson Mabie to transport from farm to market. The side panel reads:
Point Breeze Farm,
H. D. Mabie,
Amsterdam, NY.



Mabie Brothers Circus

**MABEE'S ATTENDING THE MABEE FARM EXHIBIT GALA,
SCHENECTADY COUNTY HISTORICAL SOCIETY,
OCT. 1, 1993**

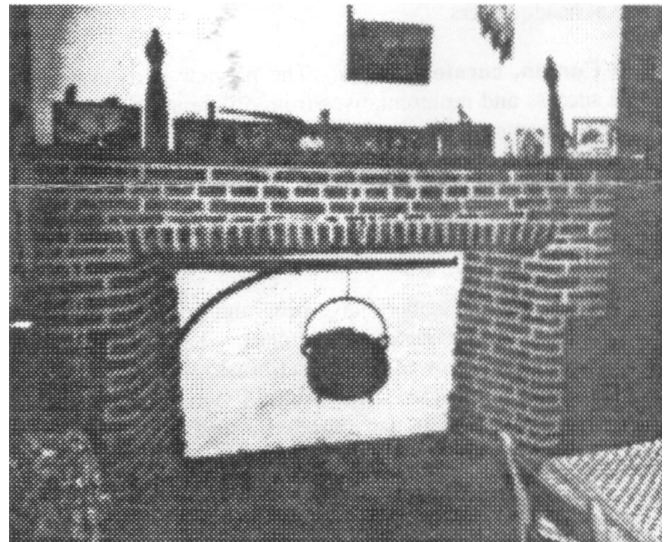


Row 1: Scott Haefner, Robert Sager, Kim Mabee, Mary Maybee, Jack Maybee, Mrs. Karl, _____, Lisa Maybee, Mike Maybee, David Wayne Mabie, Marilyn Ford Anderson, Row 2: Alice, _____, Arlene Pizzuti, Helen Mabee, Mrs. Steve Mabey, Nancy Mabey, Laura Mabey, Dick Mabee, June Mabie, _____, _____, Row 3: _____, Gary D. Mabee, _____ Mabey, _____, _____, Jacob Mabee, Jo Ann Mabee, Don Mabie, _____ Randy Karl. Can you help fill in the blanks?

**A GALA PREVIEW OF THE MABEE FARM
EXHIBIT, ONA CURRAN EXHIBIT CURATOR.**

An exhibition of historic artifacts from the Mabee Farm which have been generously donated to the Society by Mr. George Franchere, a Mabee descendant, along with the Mabee Homestead and 9.3 acres of land on the Mohawk River in Rotterdam Junction, New York. Exhibit Dates: Oct. 2nd through November 19, 1993

On Friday Oct. 1, 1993 from 6:00 to 9:00 PM at the Society's Headquarters, 32 Washington Avenue, Schenectady, New York. Champagne and Hors d'oeuvres will be served. Donation: \$10 per person. Underwriting for the exhibit has been provided through a Schenectady County L.I.F.T. Grant.



Family feelings warmed by the Mabee Fireside

MABEE EXHIBIT

Several people wrote to report on the success of the Mabee House Exhibit. The house was dubbed the "Jewel of the Mohawk."

De Brenner who visited before the gala in October sent pictures of her visit and sends her "Thanks" to all those who are making this experience possible for all of us. She wrote also of how she cherished the experience and promised herself to return soon.

Jack writes: "The special Mabee house exhibit at the Schenectady County Historical Society was very good and I met at least 4 new Mabees/Maybees/Mabeys whom I had not previously met and some I didn't know." Jack listed several who were in attendance including a former Clark, who grew up in the Mabee House as a tenant to Mabel Scrafford, was there with her brother. They told how cold it was in the winter in those upstairs bedrooms. ... The event was a real success."

Kim writes: "The artifacts in the exhibit are only about 1/8th of what is in the house, but the Gala was a huge success. ... There were about 40 Mabees attending." Gary poured champagne in the dining room while Kim greeted people and checked them off at the door. She gave tours the next day. Kim was very kind and sent a picture of the Mabees, and a video including the party, a tour of the house and neighboring areas to help us better picture the house and it's surroundings, It also had a clip of a local news story about the house. This video is a delightful addition to the history of the family which we are gathering here at headquarters.

Ona Curran, curator, writes: "The preview party was a great success and representatives from different branches of the family came from different parts of the country and had a wonderful time meeting other members of the family that they had not met before."

WILLING WORKERS WERE FOUND

Many of our members have been and are involved in work on the Mabee restoration project. Kim and Gary Mabee and family mowed lawns, cut brush, worked on the lawns, and helped restore some beautiful views by selective pruning. Gary and Kim also shoveled a load of rubble the town dropped off for the driveway.

Jack and Mary Ellen Maybee helped clean the Mabee house "Inn" by removing piles of fine coal soot. Jack said even then, they just scratched the surface.

Even the Town of Rotterdam Junction became involved and carried away some of the brush and prunings that had been gathered.

MY VISIT TO THE JAN MABEE HOUSE

Rotterdam Junction, NY - July 1993

I offer sincere-deeply felt gratitude and thanks to or member #117, GEORGE FRANCHERE, for his most generous, far-sighted and unselfish recent gift of the Mabee House to the Schenectady Historical Society and our entire Maybee family (whichever spelling)

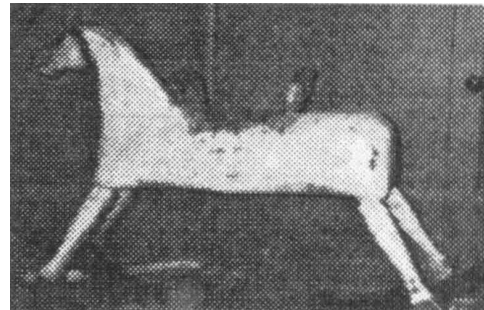
What an emotional experience! In mid July 1993 I found I was trembling with excitement as we turned from the highway onto a narrow sandy road -- a 150 yard or so drive between newly mowed fields to reach the white homestead trimmed in green.

I wish to return and WALK this road talking to myself and thinking of my father and the many fathers before him saying, "I've found a semblance of my beginnings." How good it is - how whole it can make one feel - the discovery keeps us closer.

The trees are majestic towering over the setting forcing ones eyes to leave the lovely home and buildings and look toward the Mohawk River edging the property. I wanted the branches to speak. I wanted the drive to the house to last a long time so I could pretend the Lincoln automobile was a horse carriage, similar to the ones in the collection of items to be cataloged. I needed to know a family member would be in the doorway ready to greet us after a long journey through time. I looked at the ground as I stepped from the car knowing the history of so many events will never be known to us.

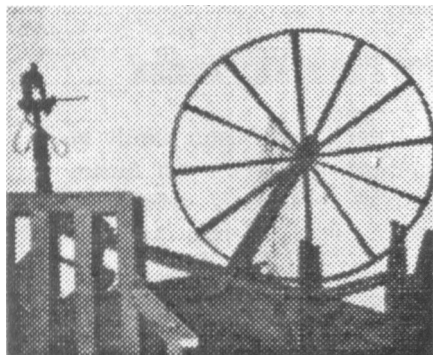
As I walked slowly to the doorway I felt dreamlike and insisted on stepping into the main room alone. I needed to know more about the many many other family members, however much removed from my own line, about their relationships, their neighbors, their joys and their struggles. These thoughts all tumbled in my head - then I remembered it is now 1993!

Before my eyes were bits and pieces of the life style we have all seen in museums and preserved homes of that period of so long ago except this house and its belonging s is "our" house. There are photos, the furniture, pots, pans, tools, children's toys, infants' cradles, china dinner plates and hand-sewn quilt all part of the lives and representative of our beginnings in North America. Dramatic? I remain overwhelmed and I saw just a small amount of the collection of Mabee materials still to be discovered, unpacked and finally cataloged.



I wanted to take time to touch each room with my eyes and my fingers - to feel somehow a physical attachment that met my emotional attachment. A rare opportunity was mine and I give thanks to George and others whose names I will mention later and to those whose names I am not aware of.

I imagined myself wearing heavy long garments including a bonnet preparing meals in the kitchen/sitting room combination with one wall a stone/brick fire pit next to a wooden table made of heavy planks sitting on a wooden floor, perhaps keeping children near the fire for warmth and watching through low windows for family members to enter the house or to expect help from a slave(s). I felt fortunate to look at a document dated 1800 transferring the ownership of one slave for 15 BPS. The transfer was legal and formal, written in lovely script referring to the slave by name with no doubt as to the permanence and finality of the transaction. Someone along the years has framed a collection of circular 3x5 photos - all beautiful faces from the past - properly dressed gentleman, some with mustache, ladies in high-collared dresses, pulled-back long dark hair, children propped up with long hand made full garments with few clues as to gender. Will anyone know the names of the interesting persons?



home and possessions so long stored and seemingly so well preserved.

Few families are so fortunate to have a George Franchere. Few families have the opportunity to watch an early domain become a museum for society to share. I envision a copy of each book written by a Maybee, collected artifacts and items of family interest being on display in the home, opportunities to offer gifts of financial funding for the ongoing program and numerous other ideas for the enhancement for what I believe is the most handsome representation of our heritage.

Thanks to Kim and Gary Mabee who have volunteered their help and expertise and who tend the grounds and details with TLC. Beautifully trimmed, mowed and weeded are the large areas around the home and buildings. The hallowed grave site for many marked graves and perhaps many unmarked graves is manicured and lush green - a tribute to attention by caring folks.

I commend and applaud the leadership of the Schenectady County Historical Society Trustee members Chris Harter and Dr. Derek Sayers, Co-Chairpersons who have assumed

the responsibility for the Mabee House and all of the details. I left Schenectady confident that care is being taken to preserve the property, house and all of the possessions. Derek accompanied us to the home. He exhibits so much enthusiasm and dedication for the difficult task ahead, the countless meetings, decisions, working with the many factions necessary to the ongoing program to restore the home and most important, and all as a volunteer, the personal commitment to the position and the talents brought



to the challenge. Thank You Jack and Mary Maybee for willingness to make yourselves available to visitors like myself who wish to see the home and for your unselfish efforts to help the Schenectady Historical Society and the Maybee Society wherever you are needed. It is truly a tremendous effort that will be in process for many years and requires much cooperation and many \$\$.

I hope to become personally involved with the project and look forward to communications pertaining to this project and ways in which we can all be of assistance. I hope many of you Maybees of all spellings will have an opportunity to see this homestead and that you, too, will have a memorable experience.

Bravo and thanks again to George and others.

Delores Brenner #101



ALICE REPORTS IN

Now well on the mend, Alice McDowell, #6 caught us up on some of her activities during the last two years. "In the summer of 1992, I took some enjoyable trips. First, my sister Marian (McDonald, #13) came from Iowa and we went north across Puget Sound to visit beautiful Victoria, B.C. (Canada) and the Butchart Gardens. Then I spent a week in Warsaw, Indiana, visiting friends and places I had not seen since I moved to Oregon five years before. In September, Marian and I went on a three week tour of eleven countries in Europe -- an extremely interesting but very strenuous trip.

In October, I flew to Prescott, Arizona, for a two week visit with Beth, Paul and Dena. While there I suffered a severe heart attack and ended up recuperating there for a period of five months ... I was becoming quite discouraged with my slow progress and lack of energy but I was recently started in a new treatment program which seems very successful, makes me feel much improved and has restored my normal energy.

My brother Colonel Rolland George died in June. ... That leaves us three daughters -- Margaret, 90 years old in Iowa, Marian, 79, in Iowa and me at 82, all of us widows.

I am keeping busy with my church, club, friends' activities and several hobbies. I am looking forward to a healthy and useful 1994. ..."

ESTHER WISHES US ALL A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS

"May your Christmas be merry
May your turkey be brown
May Santa be generous
May God bless your town.
May all go well with you
As the year rolls around.

Ninety-one years have rolled around for me and each one faster than the last one. Still enjoying each one. " From Esther Ness, #5.

SOURDOUGH JACK WILL REMAIN IN SEATTLE

Sourdough Jack, #60, writes, "I moved the business (Sourdough factory) that is, with the intention of following and moving myself to Anacortes up on Fidalgo Island ... the beginning of the San Juan Islands. I was looking forward to living up there but it was not to be. In March, shortly after the move, I came down with angina and decided I had better stay within close reach of the VA hospital. No operation, just pills, lots of them. Seems to be better and continue to work with a trip to Anacortes once or twice a month. Sum total of my excitement this year. With new versions of Sourdough packaging that is a new "Sourdough Pot" with a new and larger recipe folder which we will introduce in January."

MEL (BOB) AND G.G. (GARLAND)

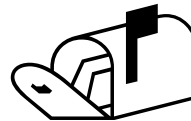
Mel Maybee, #50, writes that he particularly enjoyed the account of the Oregon Trail because his Brother Allan had twice led a group to honor that trail without realizing the significance to the Maybee family. He and G.G. have had a busy year. With Mel's help she finally finished her 3,500 sq. ft. rose garden fence. It is massive and is strong enough to keep out deer (or elephants).

She planted about 80 more junipers and over 2500 iris. She shared with us a picture entitled "Sunshine and Shadows" that was a great joy to see. She joined the "International Sweet Adelines of California." She loves barbershop singing and is very busy with, and enjoying immensely, the various shows, competition and fellowship with the Region 12, Northern Gateway Chapter of Redding, California.

Mel, meantime, re-injured his knee (an old Korean War injury) this time from lifting a 100 lb. bag of cement, building G.G.'s fence instead of lifting boulders. The knee operation was successful and with physical therapy he barely limps. Years ago doctors told him not to lift anything heavy, he now says he will be following their advice. Despite their busy year, they also had time to attend Mel's 50th high school reunion.

CAN YOU HELP JACK AND MARY ELLEN MAYBEE?

Jack reports, "I wrote a letter to an Austin family in Spokane, WA and it was returned unopened! An Austin lady there has a Mabie line back to Albert's Martin of Cortland, N.Y. thru Niles, Michigan. I suspect there are descendants of that family in your area (and South) but see no way to contact them. Are any of Martin's descendants members of the Maybee Society? Some of the surnames are McKay, Churchill, Austin and Taft. Martin's daughter, Sarah Ann married a McKay in Syracuse, a McKay girl married a Churchill and their daughter married John Frederick Austin in Niles, Michigan in 1904. They moved to Seattle and then Spokane, Washington. In 1940, Ruth Adeline, Austin's cousin, a McKay, was living in Syracuse, NY."



CHANGE OF ADDRESS

A new address for Eloise:
ELOISE C. MABEE
ROOM 358 MT. ST. JOSEPH
3060 SE STARK
PORTLAND, OREGON 97214



WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

BRIAN G. MAYBEE, #140
155 JORDAN BLVD.
DELMAR, NY

Brian is the son of Harold G. and Mildred (King) Maybee. He was born in Schenectady, New York and is married to the former Joan MacFarlane.

LARRY G. MABEE, #141
P.O. BOX 775
RANCHO SANTA FE, CALIFORNIA 92067

Larry is the son of John Couchman and Betty (Murphy) Mabee, #43. He is a descendant of Jacobus Mabee.

M. E. WARD, #142
440 STEWART
LINCOLN PARK, MICHIGAN 48146-3126

Edith Ward descends from Elizabeth Mabee who married Absolom Burtch. Elizabeth was born about 1800 and was the daughter of Simon and Abigail (Gustin) Mabee. He was son of Frederick Mabee, b. abt. 1735, son of Simon Mabee/Mabie, b. abt. 1701, son of Casparus Pieterszen Mabie, b. 1660, son of Pieter Casparszen Mabie Van Naerden, b. 1600.

BRIAN BROWN, #143
418 AUDRA LANE
DENTON, TEXAS 76201

Brian is the grandson of Melvin "Bob" and Garland "GG" Maybee, #50. He joins his grandfather, his great-uncles, Allan and Patrick and a second cousin, Shawna as members of his family in the Maybee Society.

WILLIS EUGENE FLANAGAN, #144
124 HOPI AVENUE
GLOBE, ARIZONA 85501
phone 602-425-7000

Dr. Gene Flanagan has degrees in engineering and education. Recently he took a group of youth to the Family History Center of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints. While there he found the Maybee Society listed and gave us a call. With the aid of information that had been sent in by other members we were quickly able to help him go back several generations. I think it was exciting for both of us.

SISTER SUZANNE ALLYN, SFCC
P.O. BOX 905
VINELAND, NEW JERSEY 08360-0905

Sister Suzanne learned about us from her distant cousin in South Dakota, Ron Mabie, # 67. She is from the Gabriel and Rafael Mabee family who came down from Long Point, most likely in the 1800's, and settled in South Dakota for a couple of generations and then moved all over the face of the earth. Suzanne's late grandmother, Ethel Mabee Schwartz of Salamanaca, N.Y. (originally from South Dakota) was one of the correspondents of Royal Mabee.

ONE NEVER KNOWS WHEN A MABEY WILL "POP UP"

A recent death of one of the tunnel workers under the streets of New York City prompted an article in "The New York Times" about the danger for these workers called sandhogs.

"The sandhogs, whose name derives from the soft soil they often dig through, have to be like a family because their job is among the most dangerous in the world. Hundreds have died beneath New York's streets and rivers since the 1870's as they set the foundations for the Brooklyn Bridge, gnawed beneath the city's skin to dig the subway lines, bored deep into gneissic rock to build a water system that pumps 1.2 billion gallons a day."

A well-remembered sandhog is 28 year old Marshall Mabey. He worked under the East River during the construction of a subway tunnel to Brooklyn Heights. "On Feb. 19, 1916, a pocket of compressed air, used in underwater tunnel-building to prevent the river's bottom from caving in, blasted out its chamber. Mr. Mabey was blown up through 12 feet of the river bed, through the river itself, and then hurled atop a geyser 25 ft. in the air. Two other men died, but Mr. Mabey, a bit startled, survived. He worked as a sandhog for 25 more years.

George Franchere shared the above information with Jack Maybee. It had been sent to him by John van Schaick. George's comment was, "One never knows where a Mabey will "pop up"." Do any of you know where Marshall fits into the family?

A TRIBUTE TO BRUCE TIBBS MAYBEE FALK

Mel and Garland Maybee's son, Bruce Tibbs Maybee Falk, born 21 July 1948, died 8 Sep. 1993. "He was Kind, Loving, Sympathetic, Gentle, Peaceful and Caring, a true Gentleman. If the world had more people like him, there wouldn't be any more wars."

BRUCE MABEY DIES

Bruce Mabey, #107, who resided in Ottawa, Ontario, Canada, has passed away. Bruce was descended from Henry John Mabey of the Isle of Wight.

DROOPY DRAWERS IS NOW IN BRANSON, MO

Branson, Missouri is an entertainment town that has been described as a "cross between Mayberry and Vegas, while Vegas is seen as a gambling and show place with something of a criminal element, Branson has grown up around its roots. Its mid-America. It's family." Many well-known stars have found it to be the place they want to perform. It is not uncommon to see and hear stars like, Mel Tillis, Willie Nelson, Shoji Tabuchi (violinist), Andy Williams, Loretta Lynn, David Hockney and Randy Travis. Many of them have set up shop and enjoy performing in the home-folk warmth that remains there.

In 1959, four sons of Baptist preacher, Donald Mabe set up chairs in the police station; their wives stood on the street corners pointing the way to the Baldknobber's show, which the Mabe's performed as sort of a live action "Hee-Haw". Eventually the family built a theater down on Highway 76, where another local family, The Presleys, had set up their show.

Today, Baldknobbers co-owner Jim Mabe -- known for 33 years as Droopy Drawers, a performer who speaks not with words but his silly putty face - says "...We're just local people having a good time and making a good living." (He drives a Cadillac now.)

The above information was gleaned from an article in "Entertainment Weekly" sent to us by Tyrone Tillson, #103.



MARGARET ELIZABETH ANN STRAWBRIDGE EXTENDS HER PEDIGREE

Margaret E.A. Strawbridge sent additions to her pedigree on the Mabey line. It is now Sarah Edith (Mabey) McKay, 1896; William George Mabey, 1864; William Mabey, 1831; Joseph Mabey, 1802; William Mabey, 1777; Jonathan Mabey, 1748; Jonathan Mabey/Maby, 1725; Jonathan Mabey/Maber, 1696.

THE QUIET ADVENTURE IN CANADA

In the December issue of the Yakima Valley Genealogical Society newsletter is a book review of our own Marion Turk's, # 33, book "The Quiet Adventure in Canada" by Ellen Brzoska. "Facsimile reprint, 1993 Heritage Books, Inc. 547 pages and index. Price \$39.50."

"This excellent book is part of the Channel Island series which is a source (the best) for ancestors who came from the Islands of Jersey, Guernsey, Alderney and Sark. Included are corrections and additions from the previous publication. Turk includes a history of the contributions by these Islanders to Canada, particularly, the Eastern seaboard of Canada.

It is arranged by surname and gives what is known about that person, sometimes small family lineages are included. An extensive index makes the use of this book very easy.

A must for any genealogical collection. The other books in this series are of equal value to help the genealogical collection cover an important area of immigration."

DOMINION GENEALOGISTS

In May, Angela and Peter Johnson, #11, were asked to take on the task of "Dominion Genealogists" for the "United Empire Loyalists Association." This means they have final check of applications that are submitted. They have since worked their way through some 170+ applications. Sorry to say there have been no recent Maybee applicants in that time but:

One of the Revolutionary War veterans was a certain Casparus Maybee. He is found in muster rolls of Capt. Van Buskirk's Coy, King's Orange Rangers, but Peter believes he deserted before the end of the war, hardly a rare occurrence for both sides during that long conflict.

THE COMMUNICATOR A publication of the Maybee Society Annual dues \$10

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