



# MAYBEE

# SOCIETY

**JUNE 2003**

**ISSUE 57**

Over the years, members have written about places that are interesting for Society members to visit. Our President, John A. Maybee, mentioned many of the places listed and says, "Another place to visit would be the tavern down below Nyack, N.Y. I believe Cornelius Mabee had a farm in that area at one time. Of course, a number of Caspar's family lived in northern New Jersey. and Westchester and Putnam Counties in New York State during those early years."

### **JAN MABIE FARM IN ROTTERDAM:**

We are indebted to Jeanine Kowalski, Member #317 for the following information:



### ***The Mabie home looking at east side.***

The original section was one room on the west side. Later, as the family grew, another room was added on the east side. Notice the long slope to the roof, which was common with the Dutch.

The section on the right was built between 1730 and 1820 as an inn for River men.

The original sign hangs over the fireplace along with several crocks on shelves.

The sun porch was added so the family and travelers could go from building to building without being out in the elements. In the far left is the slave house and cooking area.

The Jan Mabie house is the oldest home still standing in the Northeast (circa 1680). It sits on the edge of the Mohawk River, south of Schenectady, New York.

The farm boasts a restored farm building and a re-erected Nilson Dutch Barn. The stone house was in the Mabie family for nearly 300 years. The last heir gave the farm to the Schenectady County Historical Society in 1992, to be used for educational and cultural purposes.

Jan Mabie bought the property from David Janse Van Antwerpen in 1706. The property demonstrates life in the 17<sup>th</sup> to 20<sup>th</sup> centuries, which includes the colonial period, farming and social changes during this period



***Fireplace in the added section.***

The plates are Schenectady Historical Society Commemorative Plates. The blue one is of the Mabie House and was made by Wedgwood.

Notice the old 1930's refrigerator. The caretaker lives in the house. A closet was converted into a bathroom, with only a toilet.

The fireplace in the original section boasts a curtain around the mantel to prevent the smoke from entering the room. A large 4-poster bed with a quilt, chest of drawers and chair accent the room.

Cooking was done in a small building, separate from the house. It also served as quarters for the slaves. There also, is a pantry with old crocks.

Family graves are under a large spreading tree surrounded by a picket fence. Only a few names are visible on the headstones. It is believed that the slaves were buried in one portion of the cemetery.

A large Dutch barn houses tools, equipment and household items, along with educational sections for the young and old explaining the local history and cultural heritage.

Before you visit...the Mabie Farm is at 1080 Main Street, Rotterdam Junction on Route 5S. It is 2.8 miles from the New York Thruway Exit 26 or Exit 1A of 890. There is a fee of \$3.00 for the tour. The regular tour dates/times are Wednesday to Saturday from the last of May until the end of September. Other times are by appointment only. Future plans are for a visitor's center and a gift

shop. For more information about festivities throughout the year, visit:

Email – [Mabiefarm@yahoo.com](mailto:Mabiefarm@yahoo.com).

More to see. Take 5S west and it will take you into Rotterdam Junction. There is an old Dutch Reform Church on Main Street. The cemetery is full of Dutch descendants that settled in the area. A lot of the Mabie family is buried there.

Visit: [www.scpl.org](http://www.scpl.org) for other interesting historical areas to visit.”

Kim Mabee, Member #78, says other interesting places to visit are Vale Cemetery where Jan Mabee and supposed wife Anna and grandson Albert are buried and in Schenectady, the Stockade Historical District, one of the oldest and best preserved neighborhoods in the United States with roots dating back to a 17<sup>th</sup> century Dutch Colonial trading settlement, and the historical society itself (Schenectady Historical Society) with the genealogy archives - to be brought out eventually to the farm when we get proper storage”.

**MABIE PUBLIC INN -- YOAST  
MABIE TAVERN -- '76 HOUSE**  
(Note: Kim Mabee says that lunch is still being served at the '76 House.)



**From Royal A. Mabee**

“The '76 House is close by the western end of the Tappan Zee Bridge over the Hudson River from New York City.

Probably no building associated with our family has more historical activity than that owned and operated as early as 1755 by Casparus Mabie as a Public Inn at Tappan. George Washington and many of his officers had been accommodated at this stone tavern during the War between the Colonies and the British forces. It was also the first stop of the stagecoach after being taken across the Hudson River by barge on its five-day trip to Albany.

It was in this Inn that Major Andre, a highly regarded officer of the British forces was detained under house arrest after having fallen into the hands of three colonial militiamen. The major had been in contact and plotted for the overthrow of West Point with the American General Benedict Arnold who, after betraying his command had fled the country. The Major Andre trial had been held across the street from the tavern in the Old Dutch Church where sentence of death by hanging was pronounced upon him, to be carried out on October 1, 1780, but a delay occurred and it was not until the afternoon of October 2nd that the execution took place in the field behind the inn.

Casparus Mabie ran a well-organized Inn, as you can deduce from reading the rules he presented to the weary traveler.

‘The rate is four pence per night, six pence with supper  
No more than five to sleep in one bed  
No boots to be worn in bed  
Organ grinders to sleep in the washroom  
No dogs allowed upstairs  
No rum allowed in the kitchen  
No razor grinders or tinkers taken in.’

Casparus Mabie was born in 1716, the son of Peter Mabie and Catalinta Bogart, one of 12 children.

In later years the management of the Inn was transferred to Yoast, his brother, it then became the Yoast Mabie Tavern for a period of years.”

Royal wrote, “We are indebted to the host of '76 house, Mr. Russell Killoran, who is presently in charge of operating a very fine restaurant where the atmosphere of early American antiquity welcomes one. The state of preservation, both outwardly and in its various rooms on the interior complete with the heritage of the past have been maintained.”

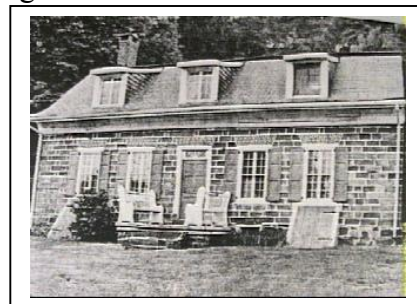
Royal A. Mabee

There are many other sites of interest in Tappan including the Mabie Beach House, Deming-Adams House, Reformed Church of Tappan org. 1694, present church built 1835, Bartow-Samett Town House – built in 1835. (Probable site of Yoast Mabie’s house.)

(See NL 53, May 2002 for map and more complete information.)

**JEREMIAS MABIE: MICHAEL SALYER HOUSE (HACKENSACK, NEW JERSEY)**

We would like to thank Judith Mabe and Ralph Blauvelt, Member #1005, for sending us this information.



The Jeremias Mabie/Michael Salyer House was constructed on lot 10 of the South Moiety of the Kakiak Patent. Erskine's Revolutionary War map, prepared for George Washington, appears to show a house on this site, and it has been traditionally known as the Jeremias Mabie house. Recent research indicates that the present house was built after the Revolution, circa 1785, by Mabie's son-in-law, Michael Salyer who married Jeremias' daughter, Elizabeth. When Michael Salyer died in 1810, the farm of approximately 130 acres was divided among his three daughters, and his daughter Mary inherited the house. The house subsequently passed through many owners until it was acquired in 1958 by the Hackensack Water Co. (later The Spring Valley Water Co.), along with thousands of other acres, in order to construct the Lake Tappan Reservoir.

Since 1958, the water company has rented the house as a residence and maintained its safety and historic character.

Stylistically, this is a Federal, Dutch-style, one-and-a-half story, sandstone farmhouse with five bays and handsome brick lintels. It was built on Blue Hill Road (laid out in 1747) to face east over the Hackensack River. Now it has a pleasant view of the reservoir. The house has survived intact for the most part. The interior is laid out in the traditional manner with a central hallway running through the house on the first floor. At each end of the hallway is a Dutch door and on each side are two rooms. The east rooms have fireplaces and an elegant Federal mantel survives in one. The original upstairs loft has been finished off into four bedrooms,

and a later frame kitchen wing was added at the rear of the house

On September 16, 1992, the Spring Valley Water Company together with River Vale realty transferred title of the house to the Town of Orangetown and provided a ninety-nine year lease on the land. By handing this property over to the people of Orangetown, the water company has preserved for posterity a significant example of Rockland County's rich architectural heritage.

(Excerpts from NL 36)

**MAYBEE, MICHIGAN (NL #4)**

(From George Maybee Martin)

Maybee, Michigan is of a great deal of interest to members of the family. The town was named for Abram Maybee, born in Medina County, Ohio on June 6, 1835. He was the son of Solomon and Charlotte (Doolittle) Maybee and grandson of David Maybee, Sr. of Canajoharie, New York

In 1842 Abram came with his family into a small settlement where existed a general store and sawmill. He married Mary C. Moses in 1864. Abram soon owned half a sawmill, had operated a hotel, manufactured charcoal, dealt in lumber and served as township treasurer. In 1873, he and another large landowner had their lands surveyed for a village and not only sold lots, but also built many of the homes.

George Maybee Martin says he got a very friendly reception in Maybee, Michigan when he visited in 1989. He says Maybee is located in the hinterlands northerly from Monroe (Michigan's second oldest city.)

In preparation for a trip to Maybee, Michigan, you might want to read the book by Jean Siebarth, Member #001. She wrote a very interesting historical account of the Maybee area.

Those interested in purchasing the book call Ms. Siebarth at 734-587-3155 or write her at 9381 Day Rd., Monroe, Michigan (48162).

### DEHAVAN, WISCONSIN

(Original article was from NL 36)

This is an excerpt from information that Jon Von Briesen, Member #213, sent when he and brother, Ted Von Briesen visited Delevan, Wisconsin several years ago at the 150-year celebration of the circus in Wisconsin. He wrote, "The rich and most interesting history began with the establishment of the Mabie Brothers Circus at Delevan in 1847.

The event we selected was the guided tour of the Spring Grove Cemetery in Delevan, final resting place of many circus greats and site of the Mabie family plot." ... "We took the tour to several graves of famed performers (a number of whom were associated with the Mabie Circus) and of some of the rogues that traveled along with the circus.

Our guide, Gordon, spoke without notes for most of an hour and a half, without even a moment's hesitation at the recall of a date in the performer's career or of a show's history. He had a most appreciative audience of circus history fans. The group included a few retired clowns and other performers.

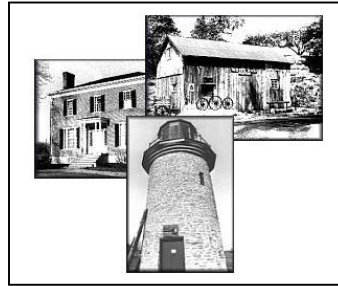
The Delevan Historical Society, some years ago, used the profits from an event to purchase metal markers to indicate graves of circus performers and personnel. A number of these grace the

Mabie family plot, which is centered on an imposing columnar cenotaph.

Some of your readers may be interested to know that, by coincidence, some of my Tallman ancestors rest in a plot within the view of the Mabie Cenotaph."

### BAY OF QUINTE, ONTARIO CANADA

From NL 17



The Bay of Quinte in Ontario, Canada is full of treasures for descendants of Loyalists, including Captain Abraham Maybee. For information on places to visit write to

The Bay of Quinte Tourist Council  
P.O. Box 726  
Belleville, Ontario K8N 5B3  
Email: [info@chamber.belleville.on.ca](mailto:info@chamber.belleville.on.ca)

Or check out website at.  
<http://www.quinte.on.ca/>

Peter Johnson, Member #11, wrote, "Turning to the Maybee connection, many, but not all of the Maybees in the Bay of Quinte area were descended from Capt. Abraham Maybee U.E. 1748-1832 of Tappan, New York. Abraham began his Revolutionary War career in the Rebel militia, (or patriot militia as American cousins would term it), but changed fairly early in the war to devote his time and loyalty to the King. He

worked as a secret agent, and he is thought to have been responsible for the providing of the information that led to the successful ambush of the Rebel cavalry at Tappan in 1778. “

Along with such triumphs, the war must have left some bitter memories for Abraham. His first wife, Gerritje Hogenkamp struggled to get through the enemy lines to New York City in 1779, and at some date after that died. In 1781 Abraham married widow, Ann Ackerman. In time the Maybee family consisted of six children, three per wife.

At the close of the war, Abraham was a Captain within the Associated Loyalists a settlement group under Michael Grass. In 1784 he arrived in Upper Canada or Ontario, (still part of Quebec at that date) and settled at Adolphustown with that section of the Associated Loyalists under Peter Van Alstine. A large house, which may very well be old enough to have been Abraham's home, still stands near Adolphustown Provincial Park. As a Loyalist Captain, Abraham drew 1,000 acres of land in Upper Canada, mostly in Camden Township, but he spent the remainder of his long life at Adolphustown.”

### **MABIE FOREST & MABIE HOUSE IN SCOTLAND**



We are indebted to Ross Mabey, Member #202, Steve Mabie, Member 257, Belva Perry Member #2, Cindy Bryant, Member 49, and the Mabie House Hotel for this information.

Located in the southeast corner of the Galloway Forest Park in Dumfries and Galloway, Mabie Forest lies between Dumfries and New Abbey.

Purchased by the Forestry Commission in 1943, it incorporates the 19th-century landscaped policy of Mabie House. There are a number of way marked cycle routes, two of which pass through the Forest Nature Reserve of Lochaber Loch noted for its butterflies and old oak trees.

Steve's correspondent, Anne King wrote "We, my husband and I. visit Traquair house which has been owned by the same family for generations. They were Stuart sympathisers and the main gates leading into the House or estate sport a bear on either side. They are called the bear gates and were locked when the last Stuart was thrown off the throne and it is said by the family will never be opened until a Stuart is seated on the throne once more. They have a brewery and a small chapel. The house has many interesting features and the grounds contain nice gardens, a priest hole, cottages some converted to arts and crafts pursuits and a tearoom with resident peacocks who pinch your food off your plate when you are not looking. Our friend produces a Shakespeare play every year in its grounds with permission from the owner, a young lady with a tiny baby whose husband died last year. It is set in beautiful Border countryside and as I said in the summer is a favourite jaunt of ours.

Yours Aye, Anne King”

The "Hall of Names" in copyrighted materials, also suggests that the Mabie family descended from tribes living near the border of England and Scotland.

Their timeline includes:

400 AD to 1000 AD -Clans and families evolved in the area.

1200 AD the lands of Mayby were confirmed to Durand, son of Christin by The Stewart, constable of Scotland. They flourished on their territories of Maybye in Troqueer in that shire for several centuries.

1400 AD By the 15th century they had branched to Sussex where they held lands at Clayton and were notable jewelers in the city of London, eventually becoming Chamberlains of the city of London. Notable of the family at this time was Durand Mayby of Troqueer. (Sussex is at the opposite end of England)

1500 AD to 1600 AD the name Mabie was found in Kirkcudbrightshire where they were recorded as a family of great antiquity seated with a manor and estates in that shire. (Kirkcudbrightshire is southwest of Dumfries)

1603 AD Border clans were dispersed to England, Northern Scotland and Ireland.

#### **QUERIES:**

Mary Kern wrote me searching for information about her father, **Ralph D. Mabee**. Ralph had three sisters, Barbara, Helen and Kathy. His parents were Ralph D. Mabee, Sr. and Mildred Tower Mabee. She would like to know anything about her father.

From: Mary Kern [dkern@kconline.com](mailto:dkern@kconline.com)

#### **PAINTING BY E.D. MAYBEE**

Allen David is looking for information about an **E.D. Maybee** who painted a picture of a house similar to the Mabee Farm house in Schenectady County.

The date 1908 is next to his signature and underneath his signature is the name Bruges, which he assumes is the city in Belgium. He says he has sent a picture of the painting to Kim Mabee and that she is looking into it. He thought that perhaps someone might know something about E.D. Maybee or the picture. Any help you could give us would be greatly appreciated.

From: Allen R. David

E-mail: [adavid@nycap.rr.com](mailto:adavid@nycap.rr.com)

#### **SEARCHING FOR FATHER OF PHOEBE MABIE:**

Diana Clark wrote, "Hi, I stumbled on your website on the Mabie family. My father's grandmother was **Phoebe Mabie** who married **Charles Benedict** in York Center, Wisconsin.

When her son Ray was born, she died in childbirth. She is buried in York Center Cemetery where her date of death on her monument says April 9, 1886.

I think her father may have been Alanson, also buried in York Center. He died March 18, 1837." She would appreciate any leads.

Diana Clark

1-800-258-3112

[diana@sanjuanchoice.com](mailto:diana@sanjuanchoice.com)

#### **OBITUARIES:**

##### **MARILYN J. EHMKE**

Marilyn is the sister of Jeanine M. Kowalski, Member #317 and a descendant of Clarence Mabie.

Marilyn passed away February 13, 2003 at the Buffalo General Hospital, Buffalo, New York. Born October 12, 1932 in Newfane, New York, the daughter of Harlan R. Hague, Sr. and Wynifred M. Cumpsty.

She married Leonard A. Ehmke at Newfane Methodist Church on September 5, 1953.

She enjoyed collecting dolls and making porcelain dolls, knitting and crocheting and was an avid writer. She made hundreds of mittens for charity and several lap robes. One year, she made 120 pairs of mittens for a childrens' home She wished to remain anonymous.

She worked in the Inspection Department at Harrison Radiator, GMC, retiring in 1988 with 23.6 years of service. She graduated from Newfane Central High School, class of 1950. She will be remembered for her glowing personality.

She is survived by her husband, one son and 2 daughters, 2 sisters and one brother.”

#### **BOB SAGER**

On April 20<sup>th</sup> of this year, Gary Mabee wrote our President John A. Mabee to say, “We regret to inform you that Bob Sager, a long time Mabee Farm Committee Member, Schenectady County Historical Society Trustee and Society Past President passed away suddenly due to a heart attack on Friday. Bob was always a personable and energetic supporter of history in Schenectady and the Mabee Farm. He will be sadly missed and remembered

The Committee will make an appropriate remembrance gift as soon as we have more information.”

Jack says also, “Bob was also a descendant of Jan Mabee through his son, Jacob.”

Bob’s complete obituary will be in the next newsletter.

#### **UPCOMING ISSUES:**

Steve Mabee, Member #257, is writing a series of articles called “Updating the Compendium.” We will print the first article in the series in the next newsletter.

Jeanine Kowalski, Member #317, had a suggestion we think is great. Her idea is that members submit a short bio and picture so that we might get better acquainted with each other.

#### **DUES:**

**Please look at the date on the front of your envelope (to the right of your name.) There are still 78 members who have not paid dues for this year, and some who have not paid for several years.**

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