



# MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

January 2015

ISSUE 100

## The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

As I stand at the kitchen counter in the midst of candy and cookie making, preparing for the family to "drop in" for a holiday meal tonight, I reflect on our year. We were fortunate to have a banner one. As you know, not all are!

It is with a sad heart that I reflect on the passing of time, (the ending of another year) and the passing of several people who have helped and assisted the Maybee/Mabie/Mabee/Mabey family. You heard about Mary in the last issue, but we just learned about Professor Carleton Mabee, historian, and Pulitzer prize winner, and for his biography of Samuel F. B. Morse back in 1944. He was a week short of his 100th birthday and still giving talks! We can only hope to be a contributing member of society at such an advanced age!

With that thought in mind, I wanted to tell you about how we got to spend part of our time this summer. We have been working on our "bucket" list. I am sure you think about it, after all, we are only allowed so much time here on Earth! Also, as we know with our genealogy fact finding! It all just fits together so well.

Usually when we go someplace, I try to sneak in a genealogy tidbit, but this fall we just went for a good time with friends and to see sites of our vast country. It was a once in a lifetime experience! We got to travel through 30 states, over 11,440 miles, 12 national parks and 8 additional memorials and monuments. Gary's favorite seems to have been Yellowstone where we caught sight of bears fending off some wolves, eating a downed Buffalo. Mine was the Redwood forests and all the wonderful museums. But the kaleidoscope of memories and pictures are what we will hold onto.

I'd like to close with a poem, Wish I could actually compose one myself!  
Happy New Year, and hope to see you in July!

Days Gone By  
The special book upon the shelf,  
Was made with many hands.  
Our ancestors who posed back then,  
All came from different lands.

Their pictures were all tucked away,  
And rarely did we see,  
The importance of these treasures-  
The start of you and me.

The history of our families,  
Now here in black and white.

Preserved with special care and time,  
Each page is done just right.

When time permits, we take it down,  
And think of days long past.  
Our hopes, our dreams, our heritage,  
All safe and made to last.

Author Unknown

Kim Mabee, President

## **Research Update**

By Steve Mabee  
Vice-President

For this edition, we welcome a guest column  
by member Mark Mabey (#343):

### **A trip to “meet” fellow immigrants – New Zealand**

By Mark Mabey

Since leaving the UK in June 2011 to move to New Zealand I have wanted to visit Mabey Road in Wellington and find out where some of my ancestors settled in this country. Well that trip finally happened in September this year when my son Eli and I decided to make the road trip down from Auckland to Wellington to see the All Blacks rugby team play South Africa.

During our four day trip we took time out to call into Taita in Lower Hutt near Wellington to visit the church where a number of Mabeys are buried.

In 1853, Taita had just over 30 households. Many of these pioneer families are buried in the churchyard. Their names – Avery, Boulcott, Buck, Daysh, Harris, Hooper, Hirst, Kemble, Mabey, Peck, Percy, Riddler, Welch and Matangi (the son of a signatory to the Treaty of Waitangi) are still well known in the Hutt Valley.

Christ Church, Taita, 1854, is the oldest church in the Wellington region and one of the oldest

in its original condition in New Zealand. It's also thought to be the oldest complete building in Wellington. Christ Church was built by pioneer families and held its first service on 1 January 1854.



This is a view of the church from the road. The Mabey graves are found right at the back of the churchyard close to the railway line that runs behind.

The following MABEY ancestors are buried here:-

Job – Died 15 December 1896 aged 86. (Job was married to Rachel)

Rachel – Died July 27 1886 aged 74. (Rachel was married to Job)

George – Died 6 June 1885 aged 35. (son of Job)

David James – Died 20 November 1878 aged 35. (David James was another son of Job and died in a ploughing accident.)

George Henry – (son of David James) – Died 16 December 1877 aged 9 months.

Job Charles – Died 18 May 1952 aged 93. (Job Charles was another son of Job and was married to Elizabeth.)

Elizabeth Annie – (wife of Job Charles) – died 6 November 1962 aged 94.

Rosie – (daughter of Job Charles) – born 1884 and died 1886.

Rachel – (daughter of Job Charles) – born 1890 and died 1925.

Grace – (daughter of Job Charles) – Born 23 December 1900 and died 26 January 1973.  
Beth – (daughter of Job Charles) – born 1 September 1908 (same birthday as me!) and died 22 August 2008 just a couple of weeks from getting to 100.

Job was one of two brothers (with Charles) who emigrated from Netherbury, Dorset UK to Wellington, New Zealand back in 1840/41.

A portrait of Job is held in the national archives (below).



Job left England on the 9th December 1840 on the [OLYMPUS](#) and arrived in Port Nicholson (Wellington) on 20th April 1841. He travelled with his wife Rachael, aged 28, and his two daughters Mary Jane, aged 4 and Sarah aged 3 (who died of croup enroute). Also on board was his brother Charles aged 38 with *his* wife Harriet, aged 35 and their daughter Sophia aged 10. There is a comment on the passenger list that says "Sophia 10 years left behind in W.A." - now known she died during the trip and was buried at sea 'off the coast of West Africa' - Charles aged 3, Mary aged 21 months and Joseph, an infant.

Job married Rachel when they were both 23. They had 11 (known) children from 1836 to 1858, by which time they were 46. From the Evening Post, dated 31st August 1881 "An unfortunate accident occurred yesterday to Mr Job Mabey, an old Taita settler, who was unloading a cart of hay at the Bank Hotel, Manners-street, when he slipped and fell, sustaining a dislocation of the shoulder. He was attended by Dr Rawson and Mr Monteith, and the dislocation being reduced, Mr Mabey, who is over 70 years of age, was kindly driven to his country home in a buggy by Mr Wakeford, the landlord of the hotel, who was most assiduous in his care of the suffer."

Job died 10 years after Rachel and they are buried, with their son George. As we were living in Netherbury before we came here (and Netherbury was our home "by chance") it was a special moment to visit the graves.

David James' grave is in the background with the others in a row in front. The church is easy to find if you have google maps on your smart phone and today sits in a light industrial area of the suburb. A map of the graves is on a notice board thoughtfully in surname order.





A photo of my son Eli pointing to one of the road signs about 5 minute drive away from the church.



The road is not far away from the church and close to a river where another Mabey (David) drowned aged 11 whilst attempting to cross on horseback.

One of Job's sons (Job Charles) became well known in the area as a local council member and also apparently a horse trader. A photo of Job Charles is here:-



He is mentioned a few times in local papers as being party to civil claims for damages –

clearly someone with attitude! He owned at least one plot of land (113 acres) and was probably the person after which Mabey Road was named.

There is one other Mabey Road in New Zealand. That is on Great Barrier Island and the Mabeys that live there today are also descendants on Job and Charles although I do not know their actual link. Perhaps the most “famous” Mabey living in New Zealand today is a legal counsel and he (Paul) remembers his father speaking of Job but has not researched his part of the tree in any great detail.

Netherbury back home in Dorset, where Job, Charles and myself left to come down under, has an old church (which English village doesn't!) and the only marked grave there with a Mabey is for George who was sextant for the church for a while back in the 19<sup>th</sup> century.



I have managed to link Job into my family tree – but frustratingly only by marriage.

## **Obituaries**

### **Clarence Archibald Whitmore**

24 July 1912 - 8 Nov 2014

Maybee descendant Clarence Whitmore passed away in Belleville, in his 103rd year. He was the son of Elijah Whitmore 1884-1974 and Rhoda Batchellor 1888-1918. He married

Marcella Adams 1922-2010 in 1938, and they resided for many years in Frankford, ON. While his full brothers and sisters have passed away, he is survived by several half-brothers and half-sisters, as well as nephews and nieces. The internment took place in Stockdale Cemetery near Frankford ON. It is notable for the number of Maybees and Maybee relations buried there. I had the pleasure of visiting Clarence and Marcella at their Frankford residence years ago. They had quite a few early photos of the area, and lots of family information.

Clarence was descended from Capt. Abraham Maybee UE via his son Peter Maybee 1775-c1830 and grandson Abram P. Maybee 1798-1883. The latter two were veterans of the War of 1812, having served in the Northumberland County Militia in Upper Canada. They are likely buried at Stockdale Cemetery too. (submitted by Peter W. Johnson)

### **Carleton Mabee (MS #175)**

From the NY Times:

Carleton Mabee, a history professor who won a Pulitzer Prize 70 years ago for his unsparing biography of Samuel F. B. Morse, one of the early developers of the electromagnetic telegraph, died on Dec. 18 in Gardiner, N.Y. He was 99.

The cause was complications of a fall at his home, said his daughter, Susan Mabee Newhouse.

Professor Mabee, an emeritus professor at the State University of New York at New Paltz, was best known for “The American Leonardo,” his biography of Morse, whose name lives on in the Morse code, the system of taps representing each letter of the alphabet that was used to send the famous 1844 message “What

hath God wrought?” on the new telegraph line from Washington to Baltimore.

Fred Carleton Mabee Jr. was born on Dec. 25, 1914, in the French concession of Shanghai, the son of Baptist missionary teachers. He spent his first nine years in China before the family moved briefly to Virginia, then to Maine, where his father was a chemistry professor at Bates College.

He attended Bates as an undergraduate. He then enrolled at Columbia University, where he wrote a dissertation that became his biography of Morse.

Besides being an inventor, Morse was a painter who studied art in London and, returning to New England, sold portraits for \$15 each.

In fact, Professor Mabee wrote, one of Morse’s “purposes in telegraphy — perhaps his essential purpose — was to win an income that would permit him to paint as he chose.”

While Professor Mabee paid homage to Morse’s artwork and inventions, his biography painted a thoroughly unpleasant picture of its subject.

“Mr. Mabee whitewashes nothing,” the science writer Waldemar Kaempffert said in reviewing the book for The New York Times. Indeed, the book detailed Mr. Morse’s pro-slavery, anti-immigrant and anti-Catholic views.

Professor Mabee was 30 when he was awarded the Pulitzer. At the time, he was doing civilian public service as an attendant in a mental hospital, his assignment as a conscientious objector in World War II.

“Being a conscientious objector was not a popular stance at that time, in that war,” said Ms. Newhouse, his daughter. “Five years of

menial labor, right on the wards, looking after mental patients, that was hard.

“He stayed in touch with the people he met there all his life. He was just starting to write about it when he died.”

After the war, he spent time in Vienna as a relief worker with the American Friends Service Committee before joining the faculty of Olivet College, a tiny institution in Michigan with several professors who were pacifists and socialists, including Tucker P. Smith, the Socialist Party’s vice-presidential candidate (on a ticket with Norman Thomas) in 1948.

When the college hired a new president who fired several professors he accused of “indoctrinating students with their peculiar ideas of democracy,” Professor Mabee joined a group of faculty members who resigned in protest.

His long academic career took him to Clarkson University in Potsdam, N.Y.; Delta College in Michigan; Keio University in Tokyo; and what is now the Rose-Hulman Institute of Technology in Terre Haute, Ind. He came to SUNY New Paltz in 1965 and retired in 1980.

Among the many books he wrote are “The Seaway Story” (1961), about the St. Lawrence Seaway; “Promised Land: Father Divine’s Interracial Communities in Ulster County, New York” (2008); and, with his daughter, “Sojourner Truth: Slave, Prophet, Legend” (1993), a biography of the abolitionist.

He also wrote books about the railroads of the Hudson Valley of New York State. A final book, on protecting open space in the Shawangunk Mountains, is scheduled to come out next year.

Professor Mabee was married to Norma Dierking from 1945 until her death in 2004. In

addition to Ms. Newhouse, his survivors include a son, Timothy; two granddaughters; and two great-grandchildren.

Ms. Newhouse said her father served as the town historian in Gardiner, his hometown.

“He believed in history through primary research, not coming up with theories,” she said. “When he started a book, he didn’t know what point he was going to make. He just was compelled to gather information, talk to people, find the primary sources and write. He worked at it all the time.”

### **Grace Mae (Treible) Mabee**

Born in Newark, NJ on Apr. 24, 1916

Died on Jan. 3, 2015 and resided in Lafayette, NJ.

Mother of Dennis Mabee (MS #341)

Grace Mae Mabee, 98, of Lafayette, died Saturday, January 3, 2015, at Newton Medical Center. Born in Newark, Mrs. Mabee was a lifelong resident of Lafayette. She was active in church, school and community activities. A member of Lafayette Federated Church, Mrs. Mabee was also a member of the Newton Memorial Hospital Auxiliary. She was an accomplished seamstress and quilter, who loved to crochet and knit. She knit caps for all the babies leaving the hospital.

The daughter of the late R. Milton and Maud (nee Cron) Treible, Mrs. Mabee was also predeceased by her husband, Martin B. Mabee, on October 19, 2012, and a daughter, Clara VanStone, on May 5, 2004. She is survived by her son, Dennis Mabee and wife, Susan, of Cheshire, Connecticut; her daughter, Lillian L. Kinney, of Hampton Township; her son-in-law, Roland VanStone, of Frankford Township; nine grandchildren; ten great-grandchildren; and one great-great-granddaughter.

### **2015 Maybee Society Reunion**

## **Date and Featured Speaker Set!**

The next Maybee Society sponsored family reunion will be held at the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam Junction, NY on July 11, 2015. This time, our Maybee Society reunion will be held in conjunction with the annual reunion held by the descendants of William and Sophia Mabee. The reunion is planned to run from 11 AM to 5 PM, with a lunch served at 12:30. **Our featured Guest Speaker will be the artist, Len Tantillo.**

We are planning a special reunion feature for the April 2015 Communicator which will provide information on various historical and family related sites that you can visit while in Schenectady. We are also working on possibly obtaining discounted rates at a Schenectady hotel. More news to come in future Communicators.

Start planning now to attend this memorable event! For those needing accommodations, special group rates have been negotiated with the **Holiday Inn** at 205 Wolf Road, near the Albany airport. The phone number is (518) 458-7250 and the contact is Mary Rogan at extension # 482. The negotiated rate is \$112 per night and is good for both Friday and Saturday nights (July 10th and 11<sup>th</sup>). This special rate does not include breakfast. We need to book three rooms in order to get this rate.

## **How to Order a Print of Len Tantillo's Painting of the Mabee Farm**

For those of you who are interested in purchasing a print of Len Tantillo's beautiful painting of the Jan Mabee Farm, as it was in 1800, the best way to contact Len is through his web site:

[http://www.lftantillo.com/shop/19th-Century/Mabee-Farm/prod\\_2755.html](http://www.lftantillo.com/shop/19th-Century/Mabee-Farm/prod_2755.html)

The print shown on this page is priced at \$170, but pricing of all options is available by emailing Len at this address:

[copperkeel@aol.com](mailto:copperkeel@aol.com)

## **Maybees In Another Set Of War Losses Claims**

From Peter W. Johnson (MS #11):

It's always exciting when an apparently little known resource comes to light, and it's especially gratifying when Maybees are involved.

Recently I had a chance to examine a collection War Losses Claims, (*Audit Office 12, No. 143, Claims, American Loyalists*). Researchers will be familiar with the Loyalist War Losses Claims beginning in 1786 which are widely available as both original images and in transcriptions. What I am referring to is a smaller collection from 1784.

This 1784 collection does not delve into military service, but focuses on where the Loyalist was from, and what monetary sum he assigned to his losses. There are about forty-five pages averaging two claims per page. The majority were signed by Stephen DeLancey Esq.

The first eight pages focus mainly on the Associated Loyalists who settled in Adolphustown, and that is where we find Capt. Abraham Maybee UE. He requested a modest 150 lbs, but more importantly he noted that his former home was in Harrington Precinct, Bergen Co. NJ. For decades descendants tended to place this Abraham in Tappan NY, but in recent years New Jersey has seemed more probable. This confirms it very nicely!

His claim included property, two houses and furniture. The date was Sep. 15, 1784, by which time he would have been settled at Adolphustown.

Abraham Maybee did not file a claim in the later 1786 Claims, but such was not the case concerning the other Maybee entry. Elinor Maybee widow of Peter Maybee filed a claim on Sep. 27, 1784, claiming farm-related losses. Her husband had died relatively early in the Revolutionary War and while in the Service of (Jessup's) King's Loyal Americans. By 1784 she was married to Jacob Huffman. Apparently not content with the result, she would have not one but two claims in the later War Losses Claims (Editor's note: the document Peter refers to does give the name Jacob Huffman for Elinor's second husband, but other documents clearly identify him as Joseph Huffman.)

## **Congratulations!**

Peter Johnson also alerted us to this marriage:

Clarissa Ann JOHNSON married 20 Sep 2014 in Toronto ON to Sandro FIORENTINO.

Clarissa is the eldest daughter of Angela & Peter JOHNSON #11 in the Maybee Society. Clarissa is a double descendant of Capt. Abraham MAYBEE UE.

Also, Evelyn Mabie Danilevics (MS #94) wrote to tell us that she was visited by her nephew, Jan Mabie and that Jan and his wife Kathy were accompanied by their one year old grandchild, Cooper Thatcher Mabie.

## **A Note from Steve**

I apologize to everyone for the late publication of this edition. I had hoped to get it out three weeks earlier, but regretfully, I've spent the last three weeks nursing the worst head cold of

my life. But finally, my sinuses have cleared and I can both breathe and think again. Hope all of you are doing well.

## **Dues**

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. Data and information should now be sent to Steve Mabie.

### **Website**

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~maysoc/index.html>

The Maybee Society Staff – Kim Mabie, 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)