

MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

SUMMER 2025

ISSUE 140

The President's Corner

Dear Cousins,

We had a super nice reunion on July 13th! Lindsay will be sharing with you the papers that were read! Sorry you missed the great food!

I tried to hold an election but the folks there were not having it---- Sooooo--- guess we need to do this via email--- Please step forward if you would be willing to be the next president and treasurer! If you have an interest in genealogy and keeping our family group alive! Orrrrr, it will just fade away---

I promise to always keep feeding whoever is the next president/newsletter editor etc. supplied with info of what goes on around the Jan and Anna Mabee house--- but they are only 1/6th of the lineup! There were 4 daughters and brother Caspar--- which leads to the Old '76 House, and the other 5/6ths of the family! Please do not be bashful--- if you try it for a year and dislike it we can just do it again!

Many Thanks, Kim

100th FAMILY REUNION JULY 13, 2025



FAMILY PHOTO

The weather at the Mabee Farm was perfect for a family picnic and photo shoot.



AND CAKE!

A beautiful, tasty cake topped off the delicious picnic feast.

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MONDAY, JULY 14, 2025

ROTTERDAM JUNCTION

Mabee family gathers, first time in 10 years

BY THOMAS DIMOPOULOS

Descendants of the Mabee family gathered July 13 to celebrate with one another upon land cultivated by their familial ancestors more than 300 years ago.

The national reunion of the family on Sunday, typically held every five years, marked the first national assembly in a decade following the scrapping of plans in 2020 due to the pandemic. Approximately 50 people attended the event held at the Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction.

Lunch was had, speeches were made, celebratory cake enjoyed and a lush history shared. This year's added attraction included the 100th anniversary of the family's South Valley branch.

"My mother was a Mabie. We spell it M-a-b-i-e," said Barb Kineke, of Otsego County, and the historian for the Mabee family in the South Valley. "My mom was really big into the family history and because her ancestors lived in South Valley, we all grew up around family members learning about the history from our great aunt and uncle."

The first settlers, a century ago, were named William and Sophia.

"I think I was in sixth grade when we had to do a report and I chose to



STAN HUDY

Relatives of the Mabee Family gather at the Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction on Sunday during the family's 100th reunion.

do it on my Mabie Family," Kineke said. "I asked my great Aunt Louise and she helped me put something together. That's how I got interested in it and ever since my sisters and I we like digging into it and where we came from."

"Our particular family spells it M-a-b-e-e," said Kim Mabee, president of the national association for the past 12 years.

"Maybee, Mabey, Mabee, Mabie. No matter how your name was spelled, you are a cousin," she wrote in an invitation to the weekend's event. "Hope to see you there."

Many answered the call for the gathering held at the historic Mabee Farm in Rotterdam.

Founded in 1705 by Jan and Annetje Mabee, the farm is noted for its siting of

the oldest existing building in the Mohawk Valley. Jan and Annetje Mabee's original home is located in the back portion of the main stone house. Along with their eight children and many generations of descendants, the farm land continued to develop over the next three centuries.

See **MABEE**, Page A2

Kim Mabee, right, walks with her grandson, 18-month-old Caleb, followed by her son, Jonathan, and husband, Gary, left, as the family gathered at the Mabee Farm Historic Site in Rotterdam Junction Sunday, July 13, 2025 during the family's 100th reunion.

STAN HUDY



Mabee

Continued from page A1

Today owned and operated by the Schenectady County Historical Society, additional amenities on the grounds include an education center, animal pen, a colonial Dutch barn — which dates to the 1860s and was relocated from Johnstown, the Mabee House itself and 21 headstones dating to 1771 in the Mabee family cemetery, 19 of whom are known family members.

A marker honors slaves owned by the Mabee family. SCHS, which offers year-round exhibitions, lecture series and tours of the Mabee Farm Historic Center, says it is actively working to uncover more information about the people once enslaved at Mabee Farm so that their stories may be justly told.

Family member George Franchere donated the farm to

The next national family reunion is slated to take place in 2030 and may for the first time involve a change of scenery.

the historical society in 1993. The on-site Education Center carries his name.

Kim Mabee joined the family 52 years ago by way of marriage.

"The way I put it, I married into the family and helped create seven more," she said with a laugh. "What started it for me was when [my husband] Gary's father, John, said to me, 'I don't know the name of my grandfather.' I said 'What do you mean? What person doesn't know their grandfather's name?'

"So I went down to the historical society and started digging. I found out he was buried at Vale Cemetery. I dragged John up there one day, pointed to the gravestone and said, 'This is your grandfather, Levi Reynolds Mabee.' He served

in the Civil War and his grandson never knew it."

Mabee traces the family line to settlers in the 1600s in what is modern-day Westchester County and New Jersey before gradually making their way to Cherry Valley and eventually points beyond. City of Saratoga Springs residents have come to know the name as well.

The next national family reunion is slated to take place in 2030 and may for the first time involve a change of scenery. A potential host is The Old '76 House in Tappan, New York, Mabee hinted. It's one of the oldest taverns in the state, carries notable American Revolution-era history and was first built in the 18th century by Casparus Mabee.

Reunion Reflections

Steve Mabie

Having attended the Maybee Society Reunions in 2000, 2005, 2010 and 2015, I had been looking forward to this year's get together, especially since the 2020 reunion had to be cancelled due to the pandemic. However, I am now 78 years old, and both Nancy and I have been having health issues recently. So, we will have to remain in South Texas while you enjoy the festivities.

I was asked recently to provide an assessment of the current status of our family research. As many of you know, I was actively involved in this research for over 25 years. Along with our Society's Past President John MayBee and several others, we sought to build upon the work of earlier family researchers such as Royal Mabee, R. Robert Mutrie and another Society Past President Jack Maybee. And I think we did a pretty good job, as documented in the Maybee Society Data Base.

At this point, we have provided lineages for virtually every line descending from Jan Mabee (born 1654). The one issue that I am not personally satisfied with is a daughter, Achien Mebi, born in 1730, of Jan Peter Mabie and Dorothea Pickert. Achien is #5128 in the Maybee Society data base. A nationally known researcher by the name of Michael Lacopo, has suggested the possibility that Achien may be his ancestor, but we were never able to find any records that might support his hypothesis.

The status of research on descendants of Caspar Mabie (born 1660) is far from complete. Caspar had 10 children, 6 sons and 4 daughters. We have accounted for all 4 daughters. Two of Caspar's sons, Peter and John, raised their families in the area of Tappan, NY, and Bergen County, NJ. We have provided lineages for all descendants of Peter, and most of John's. I have never personally been satisfied with what is in the data base for John's twin sons, John (#452) and Jeremiah (#453), born 3 September 1750. Caspar had a son named Frederick about which nothing is known except his baptism. Caspar's sons Abraham, Jeremiah and Simon all raised their families in Westchester

County, NY. Abraham's family is well documented and relatively complete in the data base. All of Jeremiah's large immediate family is well documented, and there are a significant number of Mabie families in Westchester County one generation later, but we have been singularly unable to identify the link between these two generations. It is often said that Westchester County is "where genealogy goes to die", and I can attest to the truth of that statement. If there is one area that needs additional research, this is it.

Caspar's son Simon is a unique case. We know he baptized two children, Daniel and Elizabeth, and virtually nothing else is known about either. At the same time, there is circumstantial evidence that Simon had perhaps as many as 10 other children, many of whom are very well documented. Could some of these ten actually be children of Caspar's son Frederick? Or could some actually be Simon's grandchildren? These are issues for future researchers.

I would hope that there is a new generation of family members who are interested enough to take up the mantle and continue this research.

Caspar Mabie's Descendants

Lindsay Thompson

Caspar's daughter Catherine was born in 1703 during the short time when his family was living in New Rochelle. Catherine married Daniel Secord, the grandson of Ambroise Sicard. The Sicards (Secords) were among the French Huguenot families who fled La Rochelle when Protestant city charters were annulled during the reign of Louis XIV. They found refuge in the American colony of New York and named their town New Rochelle.

Although Catherine died young at 37, she and Daniel had at least twelve children. Their daughter Mary, born in 1736, married Joshua Beebe, a fifth-generation Connecticut Yankee. Mary and Joshua joined other Connecticut families venturing west to establish new settlements along the Susquehanna River. The Susquehanna frontier region became a Revolutionary War hotbed of divided loyalties and military action. Loyal to the Crown, Joshua and several of his relatives enlisted

with Butler's Rangers in 1777, a provincial British regiment based in Fort Niagara. Many of the Susquehanna settlements were abandoned as women and children fled to safety. Mary and her children were among the tens of thousands who emigrated to Quebec and Ontario where many of their descendants remain.

Lindsay Thompson is a descendant of Caspar Mabie through his Catherine Mabie and her husband Daniel Secord.

Mabee and Secord Families

Jean Farquharson

The Grand River Branch of the United Empire Loyalists' Association of Canada has raised a plaque marking the burial site of these Loyalist families, descendants of Frederick Mabee. There will be a public unveiling of the plaque opposite #1553 Front Road just west of the Turkey Point Road, in Norfolk County, Ontario, Canada, on Saturday, September 27th, 2025, at 1:00 p.m. Following the unveiling ceremony everyone is invited to meet just a short distance east of the plaque site at the Marsh View restaurant, 1730 Front Road, for sharing and reminiscing these family histories. Everyone is invited to attend.

Jean Farquharson is a descendant of Frederick Maybee and Levineh Pelham Mabee.

South Valley William Mabie Family

Reunion speech by Barb Kineke

Our first Mabie to come to South Valley was William Mabie, born Dec 13, 1803 in New Jersey. (Source for NJ is 1855 and 1865 census) It is an incorrect rumor that he was born in Rotterdam, NY. Firstly because, Rotterdam, did not come to be until 1820 and secondly the church he was supposedly baptized in did not exist in 1802. He, and his wife Sophia Scripture Caukins whom he married in 1826 in Lawyersville, resided in Schoharie County for about 9 years. William and his parents were most likely living in Schoharie County at this time, as his father's family was found in the 1820 Cobleskill census. Sophia was married briefly to a man named Caukins before

William, we have no further information on him. Sophia and her mother Sophia Dana Scripture were most likely living with her grandfather General James Dana in Lawyersville at the time she met William. Her mother had left her father years before relocating to Schoharie County from Connecticut.

We do not know much of William's parents. We find Williams grandfather Jasper in Ovid, Seneca County in 1810 and his father in the Seneca County Militia in 1816-1817. We know that his father William was found in a Cobleskill census in 1820 and possibly Danube, Herkimer County in 1830.

William's mom is supposedly Sophia Anthony. I have done extensive research and cannot find Sophia anywhere! I have found that I have dna matches to descendants of a brother and a sister of Sophia's, but I cannot place her in that family in any of the records found online. So she is a mystery, although I am positive that William married an Anthony due to the dna data. It is through this line that we are related to Susan B. Anthony the suffragette.

I have a copy of a deed that shows William Mabie Jr and wife bought property in Schoharie County on March 21, 1834 from Tuenis Hager and wife. Before that they began having children in Cobleskill. Their children James, Margaret, Arba, John and then Cyrus were born in Schoharie County. These children were born between 1827 and May 6, 1835. The last child, Cyrus was born and died in Schoharie County, yet was buried in what would become South Valley Cemetery. Wm would eventually deed 3 and 1/2 acres of his land to the South Valley Christian Church for a burial ground around, on the eastern boundary toward South Valley, above the farm. Perhaps William and Sophia were moving right at the time of the birth and death of Cyrus in 1835 so they just brought him to bury on their land in South Valley. Or perhaps they lived on the border of Schoharie and Otsego Counties. Back in those days, people buried their own on their property which is most likely what William did, and then eventually he sold land for a burial ground in the area he began to bury his children. William's son Washington

would own the farm after his father and he extended the burial ground by selling 3 or 4 more acres to the South Valley Christian Church for \$525.00, in 1881, once again in the eastern section.

If I were to guess I would say they moved to South Valley around May of 1835 when Cyrus died and before March 1836 when Mary Catherine was born there. They most likely rented or had a rent to own agreement with the owner because they did not buy the property until November 9, 1840, per copy of deed I have. Yet their children began to be born in 1836 in South Valley, Otsego County, NY. They settled their family about $\frac{1}{2}$ a mile from the small hamlet of South Valley on the road leading to Hallsville which is now Pleasant Brook. William and Sophia and family are listed in the censuses from 1840 through 1870 in the same place. In a letter written by Minnie Hansen Mabie Foland, in 1930 she said that her Dad, David Anthony Mabie used to tell her about her grandfather William Mabie. When he settled in South Valley, there was very little cleared land between Hallsville (Now Pleasant Brook) and South Valley. It was a "very poor Corduroy Ox cart road through the woods up to South Valley. Nearly everyone rode horse". That meant that the road resembled corduroy because of the rigid appearance. It was made by laying logs side by side perpendicular to the direction of travel. It was used in low lying or swampy areas. The logs would provide a more stable support to prevent wagons, horses or foot traffic from getting bogged down in the mud. Ox carts were a common form of transportation for goods and people in the past especially in rural areas so this type of road was designed to accommodate ox cart traffic over difficult terrain. Therefore this is the type of road William and his family traveled on.

In the late 1840s, after William bought the property, their house burned and the children went to various relative's homes to live. Soon a new house was built east of the burned-out house. The original had been in an orchard below the barns across the road and to the west of the cemetery.

It has been told that William and Sophia were very active in their church and community affairs. He

was a very quiet tall man with blue eyes and light hair. He had a beautiful singing voice. His daughter in law Katherine Hansen Mabie, wife of David Anthony Mabie, loved when he would visit and sing the children to sleep while she did her housework. William also loved to read. When he was older he would much prefer reading to eating! It was nice to glimpse a soft personal side of William in a letter that William Jr wrote to his brother David in the civil war. William was telling David about a church meeting where he really felt the Holy Spirit and the goodness of God. It was a very emotional letter and William was just so excited to know God and was sharing that with David. He said that Annette was at the meeting too and tried to pray but could not, but their father William knelt and prayed. He was a very spiritual man. He also mentioned that he saw tears running down his father's face when he was reading David's letter.

William took up farming when he came to South Valley. He had 160 acres on which he grew mostly hops. In the 1850 census he was named as a carpenter who owned \$150 worth of real estate. William was the first Mabie to have cows and horses on the farm that eventually became the home of Leland and Patricia Norton Mabie. He really was a carpenter by trade and a splendid woodworker, and he made a lot of furniture. David Anthony Mabie's daughter Minnie Foland used to own chairs and cupboards that her grandpa had made. Annette, Williams daughter owned a tall high boy bureau that he made out of solid maple. In the 1870s William was listed as a cradle maker in the census. William had a cradle factory on Honey Hill out of South Valley on the left in 1868. We are not sure if this was a place where actual baby cradles were made or else cradle scythes, which were an important tool for farmers back then for harvesting grain. William had other ways to make money as well. In January of 1863, David Anthony Mabie received a letter from his brother William telling him that their dad and the boys had hauled a couple of loads of wood to Cherry Valley by wagon, for \$4.25 and \$4.00 a load. He mentioned that Washington was going to take

another load that day and that they had made a contract for 10,000 planks for \$87.50 and another contract for 15 to 16 bunches of shingles for \$1.25 per bunch. They had done about half a thousand bunches.

Sophia passed away before her husband on July 23, 1873 in South Valley. Notes from Nettie Mabie Wilcox say that she died of Paralysis. William followed after her in death on August 13, 1877 due to Bowel Issues, according to Nettie Mabie Wilcox's notes.

As for William and Sophia's children, James Dana Mabie was the oldest and married in 1849. He and his wife had 3 children in South Valley. But then his first born son Martin sadly drowned in a pond on Honey Hill in South Valley before he was 1 year old. He and his wife had another son Oscar in 1852 followed by a little girl Elizabeth Bennett Mabie born in 1854. Sadly once again tragedy struck when little Elizabeth also drowned at almost a year and a half. Before September of 1857 James and his wife packed up and went across the United States and relocated in Wisconsin. Their next 6 children were born in Rock County, Wisconsin. 3 years and 3 months after her last little girl was born, James's wife Mary passed away. They had been married a little over 29 years. 4 months later, James again married and blended his family with the widow Mary Elizabeth Becker Adair and her 4 children. James outlived his second wife by almost 6 years.

Second child of William and Sophia's was Margaret Clarissa. She married Lyman Powers in July of 1849, one month after her big brother James married. Margaret and Lyman had a 7 year old girl named Edna living with them in 1860 and in 1865 she was there as Edna Maidof, living with them as an apprentice. They also would eventually take in Margaret's new born niece, Elnora Clark and raise her as their own after Margaret's sister passed away. Clarissa and Lyman stayed in the South Valley area where they lived and died and are buried in South Valley Pleasant Brook Cemetery. Margaret died of a stroke in 1895 and 3 years before her death, Lyman passed of heart disease.

Third child was Arba Oscar Mabie who stayed in the South Valley area. He was born in Cobleskill in 1831 and married Louisa Tillapaugh from Rural Grove, NY in 1856. They had 6 children, all whom lived to adult hood and married except Dorr who was born in 1871 and died the next year at 8 months. Because Arba and Louisa lived in the South Valley area all of their lives, this line is well represented at our annual reunions. Although some of their descendants moved away, a lot stayed right in the Otsego County area. Arba passed away in 1910 at his home at Butlers Corners, out of South Valley. His wife Louisa was one of the founding members of our South Valley branch Mabie reunion, in 1914 a few years after her husband's death. At the first reunion, she was elected first vice president. In 1915 she was elected President. She was a faithful attendee of the first 11 reunions until her death in January of 1925. Her cause of death was listed as acute indigestion, which was common to list back then; however, it was most likely caused by a more serious illness, mimicking indigestion.

John Peter, 4th son of William and Sophia was also born in Schoharie County, NY in 1833. He married Jane Davis at 19 years of age and she was barely 15 years old. Jane was from Montgomery County, NY. They went on to have 4 children, 2 of their daughter's, Carrie and Alice were at the 2nd reunion in 1915. Down through the years this line was not represented at the reunion until Howard Mabie, John Peter's great grandson began to attend. He was a faithful attendee, the only representative for the family of John Peter, from 2006 until 2013 until he was 88 years old and no longer could attend. John Peter died at 47 years of age in 1880 and his wife Jane passed in 1916 of paralysis. They lived in South Valley as well.

Cyrus was the 5th child born to William and Sophia in 1835, where he died at birth in Schoharie County. He has a stone in South Valley Cemetery, in Otsego County.

Mary Catherine Mabie, 6th child was the first born in South Valley, Otsego County, NY. She was born March 1836, meaning that Sophia was pregnant with her when they relocated to South

Valley. We are not sure when Mary Catherine married Squire Clark from Middlefield, NY but we do know that they relocated sometime after their son Clarence's birth in New York in March of 1858 to Lewis County Kentucky where they bought a 420 acre farm of virgin timber, jointly with his father. Somewhere during this time, Mary Catherine was afflicted with Tuberculosis. She wanted to come back to New York before she died to be near her family. She died in East Springfield, New York, during the birth of her daughter Elnora Cecelia Clark on July 8, 1863 due to her tuberculosis. Squire owned land there so this is where they returned to. Elnora went to live with her Aunt Margaret Mabie Powers and she and her husband raised her as their own. It was very difficult to travel in those days and Squire thought it best to leave the infant with her aunt to raise, instead of taking the long trip back to Kentucky with a baby. She is never seen as Elnora Powers in the censuses but her obituary says that they adopted her. She may have just assumed that. Squire went back to Kentucky where he raised his son Clarence, and remarried having more children.

Next we have David Anthony Mabie, 7th child born in 1838. David's family has always been well represented at our Mabie reunions. He was born in South Valley, NY as well and is buried there. David served as the very first president of the reunion and attended regularly. In 1917 he was appointed Honorary President for life. David enlisted in the service in 1862, where he served with the 152nd Regt NY Volunteer Company. He enlisted as a private and was promoted about a month before mustering out to Full Corporal. He mustered out in June of 1865. There are quite a few diaries that David kept while in the civil war and many letters survive that were written to him which have been very interesting to read. One or 2 letters mention the death of his sister Mary Catherine in 1863 while he was serving in the civil war as well as the remarriage of Squire Clark.. Also there is news of home and in the diaries it is told of his visits home. A few letters even have survived that his mother wrote to him, as well as many siblings. Sophia was very concerned about her son's welfare and missed him very much.

David married Katherine Hanson a few years after mustering out and they had 6 children. In the early years of the reunion, more than a few of his children attended, but Hanson's line has been steadily represented and still is today. David Anthony, died in 1925, after his wife passed in 1913.

William Harrison Mabie was born in 1840 in South Valley as the 8th child. William first married Jane Ochumpaugh who only survived 20 years after their marriage. He then married newly widowed Effie Bellinger who had 2 toddlers that he helped raise, along with two children that William and Effie had of their own, William Jr and Ruth Sophie. William Jr went on to be a well known dentist in the Amsterdam area. No children are recorded for William Henrys first marriage to Jane. Sadly Effie and William were not married quite 10 years when he passed, leaving her once again with young children. He passed of rheumatism and pneumonia in 1888. Effie attended family reunions that began way after his death.

9th in line is Washington Mabie, who also has been well represented down through the years at the reunion. Washington was born in South Valley in 1842 and married Tennetta Hoyt in 1869. His 2 children raised their families in South Valley area as well before the descendants began moving out. Some of the Mabies remained, for example half of Emmett's line. Washington lived on his parents land, and from him it passed to his son Emmett, then his grandson Fred and then to Leland his great grandson and his great great grandson was the last Mabie to own it, Leland Jr or Georgie. Leland and Pat now live across the road from the farm, still on part of the original Mabie land. Washington's granddaughter Helen married Maurice Strobeck who did extensive work on our Mabie line until his death in 1967. His name is well known among the Mabies who study family history. Emmett also had a son Leslie who was only 36 when he died in World War 2 as a private 1st class. He has a memorial stone in South Valley but he is really buried in Margraten, Holland. He was awarded a purple heart medal. Washington died in 1912 and his wife in 1915.

After Washington, Sophia had twins, Edward and Emmie in 1844 both born and died in South Valley the same day. A photo exists of the twins in their coffins, dressed for burial. They were both buried on the farm near Cyrus before William sold that part of his land to the Christian church for a cemetery.

After the twins who were 10th and 11th comes the 12th and last child of William and Sophia. Abigail Annette Mabie, known as Annette or Annetta was born February 13, 1846 in South Valley. Annette was very active in the reunions, serving in the very first one alongside Arba's wife Louisa, as second vice president. Annette first married Henry Conrad with whom she had two daughters, Dora and Cora. Henry passed on 9 years after marriage when his daughters were only 8 and 6 years old. Around 1887, Annette found love once more with Bert Gray and they were happily married until her death in 1936 at her daughter Dora's. Dora wrote a very detailed letter to Minnie Lovejoy Mabie, Elmers wife concerning Annette's death. Elmer was Annette's nephew. My mom Luella Mabie Brodie knew her Aunt Annette and she said her aunt always talked of Uncle Jasper coming to visit. We later realized that this Jasper Mabie from Herkimer County was brother to her father William. This helped us connect the family a little better.

In summary, the immediate family of William and Sophia that was established in 1826 when they married, spanned 109 years beginning with the birth of the first child James Dana Mabie in 1827 and ending with the death of the last child Annette Mabie Gray in 1936. Their descendants have spread over the United States yet for the most part at least one or two members of each family have kept in touch to carry on the knowledge of this history. James Dana had 9 children, Margaret Powers had none of her own but raised 2 as her own. Arba had 6, John Peter 4, Mary Catherine Clark had 2, David Anthony had 6, William and Washington and Annette Gray all had 2 children each. Of those mentioned, the Mabie line only continues through James Dana, Arba, John Peter, Mary Catherine Clark, David Anthony, William and Washington. With the exception of James Dana, and Annette, all of the children are buried in

South Valley Cemetery with their parents. For anyone who is a descendant from one of these families and are on FaceBook, we welcome you to friend the Marvelous Mabie Mob family page.

2030 Mabee Family Reunion

We all love the Mabee Farm in Rotterdam, but how about a change of venue? Some of the cousins suggest the [Old '76 House](#) in Tappan NY.



One of our Mabie ancestors, Casparus Mabie grandson of Caspar Mabie) became its proprietor in 1754. During the Revolutionary War it was a favorite Patriot meeting place. George Washington really did eat a meal there!

Restored as tavern with a historical ambience, the Old '76 House is a popular contemporary gathering place.



Are you a family genealogist? Check out the weekly [American Ancestors weekly survey](#).

One of our Mabie cousins responded to last week's survey question: *What sparked your interest in researching your family history?*

Jon von Briesen, Forked River, New Jersey: "When I was 11 years old in 1959, I enjoyed watching *The Many Loves of Dobie Gillis* on TV. Dobie had a wealthy schoolmate named Milton J. Armitage III and I wondered if I might be entitled to a postnominal number. My father produced a small collection of papers and family history information, which I searched for past ancestors who shared my name. While I did not find any previous Jon von Briesens, I did develop a fascination with family history that I still have today."

Here's how the other 3,028 people responded:

- 12%, An enthusiastic genealogist
- 3%, A spouse
- 51%, Another family member
- 9%, A family reunion
- 3%, The birth of a child or grandchild
- 14%, The death of a parent or grandparent
- 2%, A special family event, such as a golden wedding anniversary
- 2%, A church, synagogue, or other place of worship
- 10%, DNA testing
- 7%, A school project
- 15%, Reading a family account in a book or article
- 50%, Seeing family photos, letters, memorabilia, or artifacts
- 20%, Inheriting a family heirloom
- 49%, Hearing family stories
- 1%, Circumstances related to the COVID-19 pandemic
- 9%, Visiting a historic site or museum
- 3%, A library program or a librarian
- 7%, A television program on genealogy
- 1%, A news item
- 3%, The Bicentennial, the Semiquincentennial, Plymouth 400, or another significant history anniversary
- 8%, Alex Haley's *Roots*

Looking Ahead to September

In-Person Event, September 13, 2025
 American Ancestors Headquarters, 97 Newbury Street, Boston, MA 02116

Lecture and Memorabilia Show & Tell: An Introduction to Using American Fraternal Records in Genealogical Research

Fraternal organizations have been an important fixture of American community life since the nation's founding. Join Jeffrey Croteau and Hilary Anderson Stelling of the Scottish Rite Masonic

Museum & Library as they share the types of fraternal records that exist, where to find them, and how these records can unlock mysteries in your family history research. [Learn More](#)



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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.

Thank you to all who keep paying the annual \$5 digital subscription for the *Maybee Communicator* sent via email. Dues should be sent to our Treasurer, Ann Christmann at the address above. Checks should be made payable to Ann, NOT to the Maybee Society. **Checks should be made out to Ann Christmann.**



MAYBEE SOCIETY COMMUNICATOR

What would you do with this page?

Please share:

- ✿ Family news and stories
- ✿ Favorite genealogical resources
- ✿ Highlights of travel adventures
- ✿ Recent family research results, questions, and deadends
- ✿ Thoughts about a book, film, or TV show
- ✿ Content ideas for the *Maybee Communicator*