

The Maybees Gather in the Mohawk Valley

The Maybee/Mabee/Mabie etc Family meet every five years for a Reunion, and it is held at Mabee Farm Historic Site at Rotterdam Jct. NY in the Mohawk Valley and just west of Schenectady.

The oldest part of the Mabee House dates to 1705 and it is believed to be the earliest standing home left in the Mohawk Valley. The 'newest' part of the house dates to 1790 and was used for a time as a tavern to accommodate people journeying up and down the Mohawk River which runs next to the farm. The farm was in the family for 287 years and after that maintained as a historic site. A large Visitor Centre was added in 2011.



The Mabee family who resided there for so long included Rebel veterans of the Revolutionary War and War of 1812 veterans some of whom are buried at a family cemetery on site. These days the farm hosts various cultural events, weddings, varied displays in the Visitor Centre, and reenactments. The King's Royal Yorkers, for example, visited the site in 2011 and a Revolutionary War reenactment is possible for 2016. On July 11th, the Mabee Farm hosted the Maybee Reunion.



The Maybees (+ varied spellings) descend from Pieter Casparszen from Naarden in the Netherlands and his wife Aechtje Jans. They were in America by the mid-1600s. His ancestry is the cause of much speculation. He was not Dutch, but several generations of Maybees married Dutch women. The Mabee Farm branch of the family descend from the eldest son. My wife and I both descend

from another son and we are part of the Loyalist Branch from New Jersey.

The programme for the day included a presentation by artist Len Tantillo who painted a most impressive painting of the site as it might have appeared c1800. A historical/genealogical update was provided by Steve Mabie. Earlier in the day wreaths were placed at the graves of Rebel and 1812 Veteran Mabees and this was under the direction of DAR and SAR members.

I made a point of announcing the Peter Maybee War of 1812 Veteran marker ceremony set for July 19th north of Trenton ON, After all, we don't want them to think it's only the Rebels and American War of 1812 veterans who get recognition!

The photos show the main group of early buildings at the Mabee Farm, the Visitor Centre, and the Rebel 2nd Albany Co. Militia firing a volley.

Peter W. Johnson UE

