

The Mabie House



IN 1670 Daniel Janse Van Antwerp bought the land on which this old house stands. It was known as the third flat, and is about a mile east of the town of Rotterdam. Van Antwerp, or "Van Antwerpen," as it was then spelled, was born in Holland in 1635 and about 25 years later located at Beverwyck (Albany). He was a trader, well liked by the Indians, and a man of some ability and prominence. A few years following his arrival in Schenectady, he was one of the five justices of the Village and later became one of the supervisors. His village lot and home was at the northeast corner of Church and Union Streets and is described as:

"containing in length on the east side where it butts to the Lott of Ground now belonging to Jellis Van Vorst two hundred foot and on the South Side by the Highway one hundred foot and on the west Side Like wise by the High (way) and on the North side abutting the Lott now in possession of John Peterson Mabee."

He occupied the lot prior to 1671 at which time he was given a patent. In 1715 he granted it to the Dutch Church for:

"good causes and consideration him there unto moving."

In 1680 Gov. Dongan granted him a Patent covering his farm land and in 1706 he sold the west half to Jan Pieterse Mebie. The date of his death is uncertain. He made his will in 1744 and was survived by five sons and three daughters all of whom had issue and from whom the family name has spread throughout the land.

Jan Pieterse Mebie came to Schenectady about 1684 and married Anna Pieterse, daughter of Pieter Jacobse Borsboom. His town lot adjoined that of Van Antwerpen on the north and here he lived prior to 1690 when the town was burned. He died in 1725 leaving three sons and five daughters.

This old house at Rotterdam is beyond a doubt the finest example of its type in the Valley. It is the oldest house west of the Hudson Valley and while its exact age is difficult to determine one would judge from remaining records that it was built by Mebie after he bought from Van Antwerp (in 1706) the land on which it stands. The deed to this land refers to Van Antwerp's own

house and locates the land he is selling to Mebie as lying west of it. Therefore it would seem that the Van Antwerp name used in connection with this house is erroneous.

The walls of the old house are of stone, laid up carefully and without mortar, the outside being merely "painted" up and the inside plastered, to the height of one story. The steepness of the roof however, provides head-room for a second story and even an attic above. The west gable end is clapboarded, but the east gable end is built entirely of stone. The heavy and wide boards (indeed they should be called "planks") forming the floor of the second story have been smoothly planed and rest on massive beams as seen from below. The house faces the east and consists of two rooms on each floor with a chimney on the ground floor, this being exclusive of a recent addition on the north or River side. The fireplaces are quaint in their simplicity and are bordered by a primitive wood facing. An enclosed stairway as steep as a ladder leads to the attic story.

Adjoining the house at its southwest corner at a distance of perhaps fifteen feet is a rectangular building said to have been built as a dwelling for the slaves owned by the Mebies. There is a basement with a fireplace in this building. The ground floor is one large room with another similar one above, reached by a narrow enclosed stairway. There is some evidence that the two buildings were connected by an underground passage.

Perhaps the most distinctive feature of this old stone house is its excessively steep and unbroken roof line, further accentuated by the moderate width of the building and by the two small dormer windows which pierce the great expanse of roof.

The census of 1790 shows the following heads of families living at Schenectady bearing the two old Dutch names which are associated with this and the adjoining farm:—

	Males over 16 yrs; Under 16;		Females;	Slaves.
Garrit Van Antwerp	2	1	3	0
Simon Van Antwerp	2	2	5	?
Abraham Van Antwerp	2	...	2	2
Aaron Mabie	2	2	4	1
<u>John Mabie</u>	2	...	2	7
Hester Mabie	1	1	7	?

The military records reveal at least six men by the name of Van Antwerp who were enrolled during the Revolution and at least twelve by the name of Mabie. There seems to have been a branch of the Mabie family established at an early date near Cornwall then in Ulster County, which is not included in these records.

HISTORIC BRATT-MEBIE BARN TAKEN DOWN

During the week of Jan. 8-13, 1990, the Bratt-Mebie (Bradt-Mabie) Dutch Barn in Rotterdam Junction, just up the Mohawk River from Schenectady, was dismantled. That's the bad news. The good news is that it may rise again, reincarnated as the corporate headquarters of Besh Associates Engineering Corporation. That firm has purchased the barn and two others, with the announced intention of relocating them and converting them into offices at a site on the shore of the Watervliet Reservoir along Route 20 in the Town of Guelderland.

The Bratt-Mebie Barn is closely connected with the early roots of the Schenectady Bradts. It was built about 1710, only 20 years after the Massacre, and a few years after the Mebie family acquired this property on the Third Flat from Daniel Janse Van Antwerpen. It is quite possible that the barn and a house (no longer standing) were built as a wedding gift by Jan Mebie to his daughter, Catrina, when she married Arent Samuelse Bradt, grandson of Arent Bradt, original patentee of Schenectady. Thus the barn is some 25 years older than the

Arent Bradt house with its historical marker on Schermerhorn Road, which many Reunion attendees visited in 1987. When Arent S. and Catrina moved into this new house nearer Schenectady in 1735-36, all nine of their children had already been born. The oldest, Samuel, was 20; the youngest, Engeltie, was 2. This house also had a barn, which has long since disappeared.

[Reconstructed page]

Bradt Family News ♦ March, 1990

Jan Mabee Home Given to Historical Society

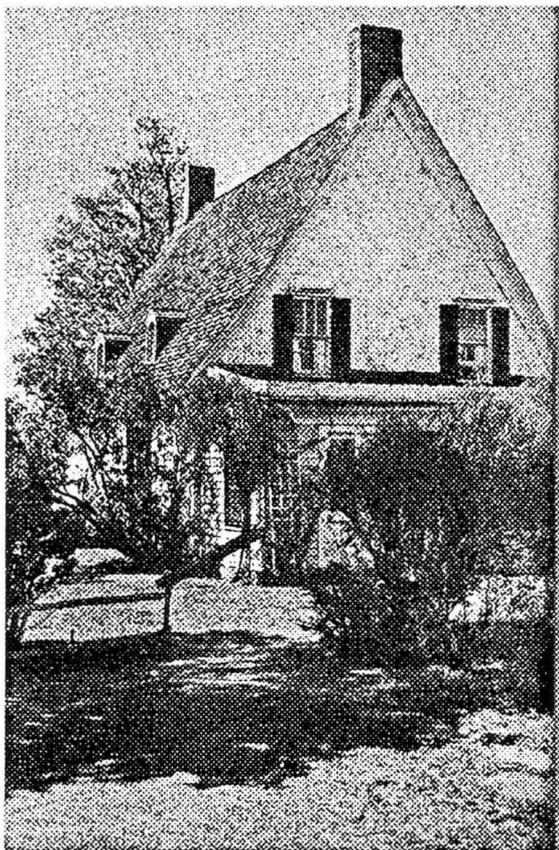


Photo from *Forts and Firesides of the Mohawk Country*

The Jan Mabee property on Route 5S in Rotterdam Junction, including what may well be the oldest house in the Mohawk Valley, has been donated to the Schenectady County Historical Society. This unprecedented gift to the Society includes former slave quarters, nine acres of land and \$17,500 to maintain the property over the next three years. The Society hopes to generate funds for its upkeep by opening it to the public.

This house, built perhaps as early as 1680, was built by Jan Pieterse Mebie on property acquired from Daniel Van Antwerp. It was this house which his daughter Catrina left to marry Arent Bradt (Arent 251, p. 28) on June 4, 1714. Some years later they would build their own home a few miles away—the historic Arent Bradt home included in tours at both the 1987 and 1992 national reunions. Both Arent and Catrina are buried in the Mabee family cemetery, which is surrounded by a stone wall in a meadow in front of the Maybee house.

Reached at his retirement home in Dunedin, Florida, the donor, George Franchere, explained that his gift was intended to insure the preservation of this house—a goal not easy to achieve under current New York State laws which relieve property buyers of restrictions on the use of property after a sale. George, a descendant of Jan Mabee, grew up in the Albany area and inherited the property when his mother and aunt died in

1973. He was living in Michigan and working as an administrator for the Internal Revenue Service when he retired. In Florida, one of his Dunedin neighbors is John A. (Jack) Maybee, whose interest in the family history has generated a file of over 15,000 Maybees (all spellings) for his personal computer. □

Marye Brat hath hereunto sett her hand and Seale in Albany
this four & twentieth day of August in the thirteenth year of
her maj. Reign annoq. D. 1724 was Signd

Signd Seald & Deliverd

In the presence of
Joh. Cuyler Justice
Hend. Hansen Justice

Marye Brat (M)

Recorded this 12th day of Sept. 1724
By Philip Livingston D

Know all men by these Presents that Rode y^e Indian, Called by Christians
Dish who by and with y^e Consent of the Rest of Christian Indian Castle in
y^e Mohog^e Country doth give & grant unto Jan Pieterse nabee of Schen-
mehitdy his heirs & assigns a Certain peece of grounde situate lying
and being upon Tiondondorogoes Creek on both sides Commonly known
by the name of Kadarodae all which land the said Rode doth Convey
with the appurtenances therunto belonging in Consideration of y^e said
Jan Pieter wife by Reason that she is some thing Related to y^e Family
of the Christian Castle In witness whereof we have hereunto set
our hands and seals the 17th day of Sept. 1697

Signd Seald & Deliverd

In the presence of
Joh. Cuyler
Hend. Hansen

Rode y^e Indian (M)
by y^e Christian Called Dish
his marks

Recorded this 10th day of Sept. 1724
By Philip Livingston D

STATE OF NEW YORK DEEDS AND WILLS, VOL. 5, 1705-1721
Book 5:23 of Albany County Deeds, 17 September 1697/10 September 1721
(See transcription and explanation on the following page)

STATE OF NEW YORK DEEDS AND WILLS, VOL. 5, 1705-1721
Book 5:23 of Albany County Deeds, 17 September 1697/10 September 1721

Know all men by these presents that Rode ye Indian called by Christian Dirk who by and with ye Consent of the Rest of the Christian Indian Castle in ye mohogg Country doth give & grant unto Jan Pieterse Mebee of Schinnachtady his heirs and assigns a Certain peece of grounde seitate lyeing and being upon Tionnondoroges Creek on both sides Commonly knowne by the name of kadarodae all which land the said Rode doth convey with the appurtenances thereunto belonging in Consideration of ye said Jan Pieterz wife by Reason that she is something Related to ye family of the Christian Castle In wittness whereof we have hereunto sett our hands and seals the 17th day of Sep^r, 1697

Signed sealed & Delivered
in ye Presence of
Dellius
P^r Schuyler

was signed
Rode [unverted symbol of a wolf?] Indian
by ye Christian Called Dirk
his marke

Recorded ye 10th of Sep^r 1714
Philip Livingston D Q?

The significance of this deed is that it is proof positive of one line of our Mohawk Indian heritage.

Our ancestor Jan Pieterse Mebee was the husband of Anna Pieterse Borsboom who was the daughter of Pieter Jacobse Borsboom. As the document states Jan Pieterz Mebee received this land in the right of his wife. In this time frame and for many years thereafter married women were not permitted to own anything in their own right. Anything a married woman earned, was given or bequeathed, immediately became the property of her husband to do with as he chose. Thus although Anna Pieterse's Indian relationship was the basis for the gift of land, she was not allowed to become the nominal recipient or grantee.

Anna Pieterse's Indian ancestry was through her mother Grietie (maiden name unknown). In a similar transaction (see New York Patent 651) the Mohawks had gifted Anna Pieterse's father, Pieter Jacobse Borsboom, with a small island in the Mohawk River at Schenectady (later called *Varkans* or Hog Island).

It is this compiler's opinion that Grietie may have been the daughter of Cornelis Van Slyck and his half Indian wife.

WILL of JOHN MABEE

3 April 1725/13 September 1725; Liber 10:259

New York (County) Surrogate's Court. *Abstracts of Wills on File in the Surrogate's Office, City of New York*. Vol. 2: 1708-1728
 Collections of the New-York Historical Society for the Year 1893. New York: New York Historical Society, 1893-1909: 358-359.

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ABSTRACTS OF WILLS—LIBER 10.

Page 259.—In the name of God, Amen, April 3, 1725. I, JOHN MABEE, of Schenectady, yeoman, being very sick. I leave to my eldest son, Peter Mabee, all my lands and tenements on the north side of the Mohaugs river, between the lands of Laurence Van der Valogoe, and the land of Colonel Stephanus Groesbeck, with all the privileges, and £150, and he is to pay £150 to his sisters. I leave to my second son, Jacob, all my estate on the south side of the Mohaugs river, between the land of Jacobus Peek and Peter Vrooman, Sr., with the houses, barns, and barracks, and he is to pay to his sisters £250. And he is to pay 5 Scheppels of wheat towards the rent of his lands to his eldest brother Peter as an acknowledgement. I leave to my youngest son, Abraham, the house and lot where he now lives, in the town of Schenectady, between the lot of Benjamin Vanfleet and the minister's lot, And the pasture ground that lyes between the pasture ground of Herman Vedder, and the pasture ground of Captain Herman Vanskite; Also all the arrable land lying between the land of Martin Vanbenhousen and the land of Aaron Vedder, on the south side of the road, and the Swamp or Cripple bush thereto adjoining. And he is to pay to his sisters £250, and 5 Schepples of wheat yearly forever to his eldest brother Peter towards paying the rent of his farm. I leave to my daughter Margaret one half of all my lands where she now lives, called Kadaritha, during her life. And the other half, which Nicholas

ABSTRACTS OF WILLS—LIBER 10.

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Holl hath hired for 15 years, I leave to my sons Peter and Jacob, and the other half after the death of my daughter Margaret. All the rest of my estate I leave to all my children. (*Seven daughters are mentioned but only Margaret is named.*) I make Jacobus Van Dyke and Caleb Beck, executors.

Witnesses, Jan Danite, Jacobus Peek. "Proved before Peter Van Brugh, the will of Jan Peterse Mabee, September 13, 1725."

**Pages 2-309 through 2-320 have been removed
because of possible copyright infringement.**

R. Robert Mutrie (see *6000 New York Ancestors: A Compendium of Mabie Research*. Toronto: Author, 1986. FHC Fiche No. 6101485), discounts as unproven at best and downright incorrect at worst most of the European history concerning the ancestry of Pieter Casparszen "Mabie" Van Naerden done by earlier genealogical researchers. He hypothesizes on whether one Casper de Sergiant of early New Netherland records could have been the father of our ancestor Pieter Casparszen de Naerden.

Most of the early New Netherland and Schenectady history pertaining to our line of descent found in the Mutrie *Compendium* is a duplication of what appears in the Mabie/Mabee/Van Naerden summary at the beginning of this chapter.

All the statistical genealogical information tracing our descent from Peter Casparszen with complete documentation is also found in this Collection's Mabie/Mabee/Van Naerden chapter. The generational information on allied Mabie lines beyond ours will be missed by the removal of these pages, but can easily be accessed by seeking out Mr. Mutrie's "Compendium."

Also omitted because of possible copyright infringement is an article from the *New York Genealogical and Biographical Record*, January 2002, by Stephen W. Mabie entitled "Mabie Family Update."

This article recounts how through the discovery in the 1990's of several old letters in the ancient Mohawk Valley Mabie house it was finally possible to resolve the question of whether Jan Mabie of Schenectady, NY, or Jan Van Norden of Hackensack, NJ, was the son of Pieter Casparszen Van Naerden.

The letters establish positively that Jan Mabie of Schenectady was the son "Jan" of Pieter Casparszen Van Naerden and Aechte Jans Van Norden.