

The Frederick Mabee UEL Family Story, Settled in the Long Point Settlement 1793

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The ancestry and hardships of Frederick Mabee (Mablilie, Maby, Mable) the United Empire Loyalist, who settled in the Long Point Settlement, Upper Canada in 1793.

By Dr. Oliver R. Mabee

From the MSS. Mable History, by E. C. Marshall, it appears that Frederick Mabee, U.E.L., was the son of Frederick Mable of New York, and grandson of Caspar Mabie, who married the daughter of Frederick Schurman of New Rochelle, Westchester Co., N.Y., in 1687.

The Mabee family, before the Huguenot War, lived in the Province of Anjou, in France. Seigneur Pierre Mabilie de Nevi fought under Coligny with the Huguenot army, and during the great massacre of the Protestants in 1572 escaped to Holland, where he lived and died at Noorden. He had two sons, Gaspard and John, who are both mentioned in the early historical records of New York. Gaspard's son, Pierre Gaspard Mabilie, settled in New York City, married and raised a large family. He resided on the west side of Broad Street, at the corner of Marketfield. He died in 1665, but his widow continued to live in the old homestead on Broad Street, and her name is found in the Domine Selyn list of members of the Dutch Church in 1686.

Gaspard Mabilie, his father, was one of the signers of the Leyden petition in July, 1621, which was sent to Sir Dudley Carleton, British Ambassador in Holland, asking permission to emigrate to the New World. The other signers of this petition were French refugees who had taken up their residence at Leyden and Noorden. He was in the Dutch navy and had previously made several trips to the New World. His son, Pierre Gaspard, came to the New World later on the ship "New Netherlands" in 1624 with other French Huguenots and settled in New Amsterdam.

John Mabilie, second son of Seigneur Pierre Mabilie, and his family settled at Schenectady shortly afterward and many of their descendants are recorded there.

Caspar Mabie, son of Pierre Gaspard and the grandfather of Frederick Mabee, the U.E.L. pioneer, lived in New York and later in New Rochelle. The Dutch Reformed Church records show that he was baptized in 1660 and married to Lysbeth Schurman in 1687. He was the second son of Pierre Gaspard Mabilie and raised a large family. Three of his sons are of particular interest to

us. Frederick baptized Sept. 1st, 1695, Simon and Abraham, who found their way to New Rochelle, the home of their maternal grandfather, Frederick Schurman.

Frederick Mabee, son of Caspar, married and lived in New York, where he raised a large family. Frederick Mabee, his son, the United Empire Loyalist, was born in New York about 1735. He was married to Lavina —, about 1765, and apparently had several small children at the time the American War of Independence started.

In Owen's "Pioneer Sketches of Long Point Settlement" and in the "Papers and Records" of the Ontario Historical Society, Vol. II., it is stated that he lived in the State of Massachusetts. There is no documentary evidence at hand to support this. In a published list of Massachusetts loyalists which I have seen, there are no Mabees mentioned.

On the other hand Lorenzo Sabine mentions three Mabee families of loyalists who fled from New York to St. John in 1783, after the conclusion of the war. Peter Teeple, a son-in-law, and Peter Secord, a cousin, who accompanied Frederick Mabee to Long Point District, belonged to the New Jersey volunteers.

Mrs. Frederick Mabee, after the death of her husband in 1794, at Long Point, returned to New York City in 1796 and married an old friend, John B. Hilton, who resided there.

The three Mabees mentioned by Sabine are Jacob, William and Jeremiah, who may have been cousins or brothers of Frederick. Sabine states that he was unable to trace many of the branches of the different Loyalist families in 1843 when he published his book. In the Genealogical Collection in the State Library at Albany, it is stated that "one family of Mabees who went to St. John, N.B., later settled in Upper Canada near Niagara Falls on Lake Erie." This no doubt refers to Frederick Mabee and makes it quite certain that he lived in New York or across the river in New Jersey before the Revolutionary War.

The war of the British American colonies against the motherland was concluded in 1783. In this war many families were divided; some were loyal to the British and others fought with the colonies against her. That Frederick Mabee was a Loyalist there can be no doubt.

In the "Life and Times of Governor Simcoe," by D. B. Read, page 263, the reader will note that after Governor Simcoe's visit in 1795 to the Long Point District, applications for land grants came before Surveyor General Smith. Among these were the Ryersons, Mabees, Backhouses, Secords, and others. In the case of Mrs. Lavina Mabee, the widow of the U.E.L., Frederick Mabee, the Governor was insistent that prompt attention be given to her application.

Frederick Mabee is also mentioned in the official list of United Empire Loyalists preserved in the Crown Lands Department of the Ontario Government.

I have no record of the exact part which Frederick Mabee took in the war. It was sufficient, however, for him to lose his home and be driven out of the country. In 1783 he arrived at St. John, New Brunswick, with his wife and seven children, the youngest child, Pelham, being but

one year old. He received no doubt the same aid as the other Loyalists did from the British Government. The hardships these Loyalists endured in New Brunswick are well described in Canadian history.

George Ramsey, a celebrated English hunter and trader, had annually visited Long Point District, Upper Canada. On one of his trips from St. John he took Peter Secord, a cousin of Frederick Mabee, with him. Secord was so impressed with this district that on his return to St. John he persuaded Frederick Mabee to migrate to Long Point, Upper Canada, and establish his home.

The Mabee party started for Upper Canada in the fall of 1792. After wintering in Quebec City, they proceeded in the early spring and arrived early in the summer of 1793 at Turkey Point in the Long Point District. The party consisted of Frederick Mabee, his wife, Oliver, their eldest son, aged 18; Simon, their second son, aged 17; Pelham, their youngest son, aged 11; two single daughters, Polly and Sally; and two married daughters, Nancy and Lydia, with their husbands, John Stone and Peter Teeple. They drove twelve cows, rode horses and employed Indians to guide them on their way through the forest.

They squatted on Turkey Point in the Long Point District at the foot of the hill, where they erected a comfortable log house and where Mrs. Mabee and her family were living at the time of Governor Simcoe's visit in 1795. The Mabee settlement thus preceded the subsequent U.E. Loyalist settlement in this district, initiated by Governor Simcoe, by three or four years.

Unfortunately Frederick Mabee did not long survive the intense struggle and hardships of the last fifteen years. He died in 1794, aged 58, about one year previous to Governor Simcoe's visit. He was buried in a walnut log coffin about one mile west of the top of Turkey Point hill.

Besides the widow and children of the deceased, there were three other men present at the burial, Peter Secord, Dr. Troyer and Billy Smith. There was no clergyman within one hundred miles. When a year later Governor Simcoe was shown his grave he knelt—with reverence at the grave of the first United Empire Loyalist and white man who had died in this district.

In religion, like his ancestors in New York, he belonged to the Dutch Reformed Church, in which the services, in the early days of New Amsterdam, were conducted both in the French and Dutch Languages, on account of the large number of French Huguenots who had settled there.

He was a Tory and a Loyalist and had sacrificed his home in the New World on account of his loyalty to Britain. His widow and children were granted U.E. Loyalist land grants in 1796 in the town site which Governor Simcoe laid out at Long Point.

It has been handed down by Frederick to his family that his ancestors were Huguenots that emigrated to America from Holland. Marshall in his history of the Mabee family in New York substantiates this. Signour Pierre Mabile de Nevi died in Holland and left considerable property which has accumulated and is held by the Dutch Government. This information was also handed down by Frederick to his children, and for several generations has been known as the "Mabee fortune."

Over three hundred years have come and gone since the pioneer Gaspard landed in the New World. It would be impossible to trace the numerous branches of his descendants in Canada and the United States. The descendants of Frederick Mabee in Canada alone number in the hundreds and at some later date may be discussed by the writer.

Source: Image found at

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