

Saving and Sharing Maine's Scots-Irish Heritage



MAINE ULSTER SCOTS PROJECT

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The Mayberry's of Ballemoney and New Marblehead *“What we have we hold”*

William Mayberry (also Meaberry or Maberry) was born circa 1688 in Ballemoney, County Antrim, Ulster Plantation, (Northern Ireland). It is written that William grew to be a tall boney man with great strength and a grim sense of humor. He married Bathsheba Dennis in 1714. Two children, John and Thomas, were born to this union in Ulster. Sometime before 1735 the Mayberrys joined the ranks of thousands of other so called “Scotch-Irish” or “Ulster-Scots” families leaving the economic depression and religious intolerance of Ulster plantation in search of a better life in the American colonies.

Bathsheba gave birth to a daughter during the trans-Atlantic passage to New England. The new arrival was named Sea Fair (or Seafair) in tribute to her circumstances of birth. The Mayberrys settled first in Marblehead, Massachusetts where another son Richard was born. Soon after, they moved again to the "Eastern Frontier" of Maine where they were able to purchase substantial amounts of land at affordable rates due to the wilderness conditions and low property values resulting from years of Indian warfare in the region. They were the second family to settle an area called "New Marblehead", which later became the Town of Windham. Here a daughter Anne (AKA Nancy) was born.

William continued his blacksmith trade and reportedly set up his forge under an oak tree and his anvil on a stump. His first clients were Native Americans. It is recorded that when asked by a traveling gentleman he met on horseback how far it was to his blacksmith shop, William replied dryly, “Why, my dear sir, you’re standing in the shop now but it is, at least, three miles to the anvil.”

By 1750, the Mayberry family occupied a “garrison” on 15 acres of cleared land. As the population of the region increased the family prospered, acquiring more land and retaining servants to help run the estate. By 1759 the extended family owned 180 acres with 124 acres “improved” for farming

The French and Indian wars continued to plague the region and test the mettle of the new “Scotch-Irish” settlers on the Eastern Frontier. Many families in the region were burnt out, killed or captured and taken to Quebec to be sold as servants during various Indian raids. The Mayberry family (the spelling would later be changed again to

Maybury) was used as an example of this mettle by Charles P. Isley in his book of Maine folklore "The Forest, The Shore, The Ocean and Other Tales" subtitled "Traditional Tales of the Pine-Tree State." Isley wrote that a young man named Mayberry from New Marblehead found that his fiancé had been abducted by Indians and her parents killed. This "young Mayberry", as he was referred to, set off on foot to track down the raiding party and was joined by a famous Indian fighter of the time named Weare from the area near what is now Portland. The two men tracked down the Indian raiding party, before they reached Quebec, ambushed the captors and rescued the young woman.

Church records list William Mayberry's death as March 15, 1765.

The end of the French and Indian Wars was not the end of the fighting for Maine's many Ulster Scot families. Richard Mayberry, a blacksmith and William's youngest son, joined hundreds of other men from the District of Maine and served as Captain in the 11th Regiment of Massachusetts Bay during the American Revolutionary War. The 11th Regiment served at Valley Forge, Saratoga, the Defense of Philadelphia, and Philadelphia-Monmouth. After the War, with the pioneering spirit still strong, Richard moved his family to a wilderness area in Raymond, Maine. It was here in 1807 (at 70+ years of age) that he was killed by a falling tree while clearing land.

I grew up in Freeport, Maine on family land adjacent to William Mayberry's 5 times great-grandson, Leon C. Maybury (my wife's grandfather). Leon earned a living by farming and employing his many other skills, including blacksmithing, which he taught to my own father, James Mann.

The Mayberrys of New Marblehead were among the many Ulster families that settled the Coast of Maine. Their story demonstrates the skill, perseverance and ambition of New England's Ulster Scots immigrants and gives credit to the Ulster motto "*What we have we hold.*"

A few years ago my family and I visited the Civil War battlefield at Gettysburg. It was of interest to me (but not, after all, such a surprise) that on Little Round Top where a handful of men from the 20th Maine, led by Joshua Chamberlain, held their ground "at all hazards" and turned the tide of the Confederate Army, I found the following name inscribed on a granite monument among the list of Union casualties: Andrew D. Maybury, Company D.

MUSP collects and archives stories of Maine's Ulster Scots families. If you have information on other Ulster Scots families in Maine, please contact us at

www.maineulsterscots.com

Sources:

"Windham in the Past" by Samuel Thomas Dole, edited by Frederick Howard Dole and reprinted by the Windham Historical Society. Also notes and scrapbooks of the Mann and Maybury family collections.
John T. Mann, Chair, MUSP/ SASME



**Leon C. "Grampy" Maybury
Circa 1950, Freeport, Maine**