

The Line-Up:
Beverly Ann Mabb
William Lee Mabb
Charles Everett Mabb
Introducing: Stephen Rowland Mabb and Hattie Crowder

For a genealogist unable to pinpoint a great-grandparent ranks them in the hall of shame. Thanks to the secretive tracks of my Mabb great-grandparents, I have been lodged there since my research began. No matter what route I elected to search, I could find very little information relating to my grandfather, Charles Everett Mabb, and absolutely nothing about his father and mother; *not even their names*. That is until recently.

On occasion a genealogist has to be creative and resourceful when investigating ancestral names. H. Franklin Andrews¹, an attorney from 1894, made this apropos statement:

“Antiquarians give little heed to the mere spelling of the name, as found in records or as practiced by living individuals, as evidence of relationship; it is common to find known relatives who spell the name differently. Two-hundred years ago and prior, there was no standard for English orthography, people spelled anyway and everyway to suit the fancy. Many were then unable to read or write, and trusted such matters to public officials and scribes. One clerk would spell in his peculiar manner, while the clerk in another place spelled differently. Long continuance in the same place by the same family, tended to the adoption of a given form of name; while the separation of relatives, exhibited frequently, a marked difference. In such ways the forms of names multiplied.”

Consequently, through the passage of time and relocation to new lands, Morten intermittently morphed into Morton or Martin. Hatch periodically popped up as Hotch or Hutch. Thalimer, with its German origin as Thalhimer, was changed not by accident but *through choice*; by David Alverson Thalimer² sometime around 1850. Another surname change was Mickle to Mickel; at least for the John Miers Mickel clan, son of John P. and Jane Mickle, and uncle of W. Pearl Hatch. To make research even more challenging, substitution of given names became common place and widely practiced by our ancestors, with a large portion of them turning a middle name into their preferred name.

So it came to be that Charles Everett Mabb answered to Everett and his wife, Mellie Cecil to Julia. My grandmother, Winifred Pearl Hatch, wasn't fond of Winifred and so she was better known as Pearl. Jim's mother preferred Mary, her middle name, over her given name of Bertranda. H. Franklin Andrew's 1894 words are timely to the modern genealogist reviewing endless documents hoping to find the specific person under inquiry, especially considering just how many ways names get mangled by mistake or changed by choice, thus muddling the true identity of the name owner.

Enter Charles Everett Mabb, name changes and all. As told by my father³, my Mabb grandparents lived their entire lives in the state of Illinois. In order to find the answers I was

seeking, I eventually realized I had to broaden my research to include Missouri, because it was in Missouri, not Illinois, where their roots were appearing to have sprouted from.

For the past two months I've been working on a three generational connection of Melzina Pinson to Mellie Cecil "Julia" Record and William Lee Mabb; a direct blood-line relationship I was unaware existed until recently. After examining the pieces of evidence, a reoccurring geographic location of their births, marriages and deaths emerged pointing to a very small area in Missouri where the Pinson and Record families resided and commingled during the parameter years of 1847-1927; I soon discovered this also included the Mabb's. The geographic area included:

- Record Family Farm, owned by Thomas Hargus and Melzina (Pinson) Record
- Liberty, Crawford County, Missouri
- Anthonies Mill, Washington County, Missouri
- Sullivan, Washington County, Missouri

Of course this evidence didn't help me with the Mabb family directly because the focus was on the Pinson and Record families. But as the facts began surfacing, the Pinson-Record trail became useful in a roundabout way; after all when a Mabb (Everett) marries a Record (Julia) and the Record's mother was a Pinson (Melzina), there must be some evidentiary trail proving the three families had communal associations and lived within a reasonable proximity to each other, especially since there were only a few small rural Missouri towns to hunt through.

William's birth record⁴ and Julia's death record⁵ established Julia Record was born in Anthonies Mill (possibly Sullivan), Missouri. Could Anthonies Mill be the whereabouts Julia met her future husband⁶, Everett Mabb? Did Everett, like Julia, spend his childhood in Anthonies Mill? If I could confirm where Everett grew up, it only made sense his parents would be within earshot of him.

Next obtained was the death record for Thomas Hargus Record⁷ and Melzina Pinson Record⁸ which placed their burial on the Record family farm in Anthonies Mill. Would I find any Mabb's associated with Anthonies Mill? There was one other relevant death record available in Missouri, one belonging to a Stephen R. Mabb. Not that this Stephen R. Mabb lived in Anthonies Mill - but the informant on his 1917 death certificate did: Everett Mabb. BINGO. The Mabb brick wall came crashing down as I read with astonishment: *Everett Mabb of Anthonies Mill, Missouri* on this STEPHEN R. MABB's death certificate⁹. Out of an obscure mist the secretive Mabb tracks were beginning to materialize; reuniting the Mabb family once again!

To corroborate a father-son relationship between Stephen R. Mabb and Everett Mabb (including their geographic proximity in 1917), I needed evidence to prove it. The 1910 United States Federal Census¹⁰ placed Everett in Boone, Crawford County, Missouri living as a single male working as a hired man on Daniel Moss's farm. Everett also stated in this census his father was born in New York and his mother in Missouri. During the 1910 census, Julia was living with her parents, Thomas and Melzina Record, in Liberty, Crawford County, Missouri. In 1911, the year following the Federal census, Julia and Everett were married in Crawford County, while living as residents in Washington County. The 1918 World War I Draft Registration Card¹¹ placed Everett living in Anthonies Mill, one year after he acted as the informant on Stephen R. Mabb's death record.

A family story rumored Everett's family *probably* came from New York. A lot of Mabb's not related to this family came from there. At age 26, Everett recorded his father's New York birth place in the 1910 census. One other record, a legal document, Stephen's death record, settled the issue of the New York origins, turning allegation into fact, and solidified a father and son kinship. Everett Mabb, of Anthonies Mill informs us:

Stephen R. Mabb was born in Broadalbin, Fulton County, New York, on October 23, 1859. Stephen was a common laborer who died in Johnson, Washington County, Missouri, on February 17, 1917. Stephen died from Typhoid Fever and was buried at the Kimberlin Burial Grounds, also known as the Pilgrim's Rest Cemetery.

Regrettably the names of Stephen's father, mother and their place of birth had been penned in as "don't no" on the death certificate. Actually there are several spelling errors in this particular record, reaffirming H. Franklin Andrews's remark about spelling skills (why, oh why can't this remark apply likewise to college algebra). This evidence left me with one last observation: why didn't Charles Everett Mabb recall his grandparent's names and place of birth, especially for recording on such an important document?

Just when I thought I had finished writing this article, I received yet another document illuminating Everett's father's name, the Social Security Application¹² filed by Everett. Now, not only did I have a copy of Everett's signature (Everett penned his name as Chas. E. Mabb) but both the names of his parents were entered. On the 1917 death record, the name Stephen R. Mabb was given, and now on the 1936 social security application, his father's entire name was entered: Stephen Rowland Mabb. Everett's mother was entered as Hattie Crowder. Finally, open in full view, was the identity to both Mabb great-grandparents.

I think I have learned a valuable lesson about pre-advertising my next magazine focus...*don't do it*. I had the best intentions of reporting on the Bailey family (Jim's mother), the Morten family (Jim's father) and the Snyder family, via the Thompson family (up the Pearl Hatch family tree; Pearl's Grandmother, Jane Thompson and wife of John P. Mickle). But when I came across this long-sought information about my great-grandfather and mother Mabb, I just had to run with that story because it was a genealogical *breakthrough*.

I want to thank Bobby, Joan and Virgil for putting up with the incessant "where did we come from" question revolving around our great-grandparents (I'll find a new question to bug you with ASAP). I held my head up high as I stepped out of the genealogy hall of shame and into the land of printable family history, Ahnentafel and pedigree charts. I am so thrilled to have discovered this genealogical "gift of a lifetime;" evidence that unveiled the names of my great-grandfather and mother Mabb. From now on, flexibility will be the undercurrent in what I write. The family focus will change in each issue; I just won't make any promise which family will be highlighted. After all you never know when breakthrough evidence will surface... "bringing heritage home." P. S. Next issue will be a report on...just kidding!

Works Cited:

¹ History of the Hamlin Family, with genealogies of early settlers of the name in America, 1639-1894: origin of the name, early accounts of the family in England, coat of arms, crests, etc. H. Franklin Andrews. Audubon, IA, Guernsey: 1894. Accessed, 28 Aug 2007 www.lib.byu.edu.

² Oral history told by HRBobThalimer.

³ Oral history told by William Lee Mabb.

⁴ Greene County, Illinois, certificate of birth no. 45356 (1924) William Lee Mabb; Department of Public Health, Division of Vital Statistics.

⁵ Hartford County, Illinois, medical certificate of death no. 81233 (1963) Julia Mabb; Bureau of Statistics, Illinois Department of Public Health, Springfield.

⁶ Crawford County, Missouri, marriage license and certificate (1911) Record – Mabb; original documents show bride and groom both reside in Washington County, Missouri. Held in the Davidson Family Collection.

⁷ Crawford County, Missouri, certificate of death no. 23807 (1923) Thomas Hargus Record; Missouri State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

⁸ Crawford County, Missouri, certificate of death no. 7683 (1927) Melzina Pinson Record; Missouri State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

⁹ Washington County, Missouri, certificate of death no. 8932 (1917) Stephen R. Mabb; Missouri State Board of Health, Bureau of Vital Statistics.

¹⁰ Crawford County, Missouri. 1910 United States Federal Census. Boone Township. Original data: www.nara.gov. Accessed, 28 Aug 2007 www.ancestry.com.

¹¹ World War I Selective Service System Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918. Accessed, 28 Aug 2007 www.Ancstry.com.

¹² Charles Everett Mabb, SS no. 345-07-3198, 2 Dec 1936, Application for Account Number (Form SS-5), Social Security Administration, Baltimore, Maryland.