
EBY FAMILY NEWS

Issue 18

April 2003

Eby History in the News

Thanks to Jerry Eby who transcribed the following article from the August 22nd, 2000 issue of The Harrisburg Patriot:

The City's Ebys had a soft spot for this hit by hard lick By Mary O. Bradley

For a half-century, the name of Fanny May Eby was linked with cultural and charitable pursuit in Harrisburg.

The only daughter and youngest child of prominent businessman Jacob Rupley Eby and sister of Harrisburg mayor Maurice Charles Eby, Fanny "was well-known for her individual philanthropic work and her manifold activities in the church, civic and music fields and on behalf of the underprivileged," *The Evening News* noted.

While she moved in elite circles with the other daughters and wives of Harrisburg's privileged families, she reserved a special place in her heart for needy children and animals.

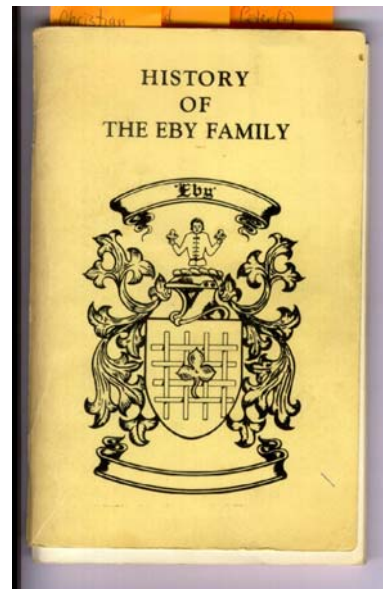
Her brother was of similar disposition, and he often dug into his own pocket to pay the fines of the defendants who came before him when he was an alderman.

Maurice Eby was the first officer in the city for the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals. During his mayoral term (1893-96), he rigidly enforced laws protecting animals from cruel treatment.

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Eby Coat of Arms found on the cover of "The History of the Eby Family" by Ezra E. Eby

2003 Family Reunion: May 23rd and 24th

The 12th Annual Reunion of Theodorus Aebi's descendants is scheduled for May 23rd and May 24th this year. Please join us for food, family, fun and friendship as we share our roots and connections.

Again this year, there will be a family dinner on Friday evening from 5:30 to 8:30 p.m. at Yoder's Restaurant in New Holland.

Entertainment before dinner will include a collaborative artifact display of photographs and heirlooms. (Your contribution of well-labeled Eby family pictures and antiques will be looked after by a hostess.)

After dinner we'll sit back and enjoy historic photographs of early Ebys, their friends and

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Call for Participants

Those interested in contributing time and talents to the success of the Eby Family Association and/or the Eby Family Reunion are asked to call Christian Eaby at (717) 656-2626

From our reading family:

From 1850 Census, Scott County, IL

(<ftp://ftp.rootsweb.com/pub/usgenweb/il/scott/census/1850/pg0013a.txt>):

Household 259, family 267:

EBEY, George, 49, M, Potter, Val. 5,000, birthplace incorrectly written as Oklahoma (should be Ohio)

EBEY, Matilda, 39, F, birthplace Pennsylvania

EBEY, George, 17, M, Potter, birthplace incorrectly written as Oklahoma (should be Ohio)

EBEY, Robert, 17, M, Do, birthplace incorrectly written as Oklahoma (should be Ohio)

EBEY, Thomas, 14, M, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

EBEY, Fletcher, 12, M, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

EBEY, Mary, 10, F, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

EBEY, Eliza, 8, F, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

EBEY, Arminia, 5, F, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

EBEY, Oliver, 1, M, birthplace Illinois, Sch. X

(God bless Matilda!) For more information, please contact Susan Tilleman at Stilleman@satx.rr.com.

Richard David writes:

“In the January issue of the Eby news on page 3 it states that “As early as 1683 we find it in some old records that Jacob Eby was ordained a Bishop of the Mennonite Church in Canton Zurich.” This is incorrect. I have searched the Swiss records for years trying to identify this Jacob Eby and I believe he never existed. Durs Eby, who emigrated to Pennsylvania in 1717, was most likely the son of Andrea S Aebi who was an Antabaptist and was exiled from Sumiswald, Bern, Switzerland in late 1671 to the Pfalz.” You may get more information on this and other Mennonite history by subscribing to Richard’s Web site at www.mennosearch.com.

Interesting Web Sites:

Dawn Quast suggests the following site for those looking for more information on the homeland:

www.horseshoe.cc

Tami Eaby (Fort Worth, TX) has found a site that let’s you upload old photos and search through photos that others have posted. Go to: www.ancientfaces.com

Eby History in the News (*Continued*)

One of the charming anecdotes about Fanny concerned a pet dog that was picked up by a dog-catcher because it was running loose in the city. The dog was condemned to die, but Fanny joined a contingent of lads who pleaded with Mayor Eby to save the dog’s life. Thanks probably to Fanny’s intervention, Mayor Eby spared the pooch. “The boys afterward serenaded Miss Eby and unofficially titled her the ‘Sunshine Lady,’” according to *The Evening News*.

Maurice, Fanny and their brother, William Howard Eby, were members of an old Pennsylvania family. Their grandfather, Ephraim C. Eby, was born in Lancaster County in 1783, and their parents, Jacob and Elizabeth Gross Eby, came to Harrisburg in 1847 from Middletown where Jacob acquired a lumber business.

Jacob acquired the John H. Brant general store at 500-02 Market Street, Harrisburg, described as one of the best sites in the city by Dr. William Henry Egle in his 1883 “History of the Counties of Dauphin and Lebanon.”

Jacob Eby was a miller, carpenter, merchant and banker. The family lived in an apartment at the store property. Later the family moved to a 160-acre farm between Peffer and Woodbine Streets and the Susquanna River and railroad tracks in uptown Harrisburg.

Fanny attended Miss Woodward’s school at the southeast corner of North Second and Locust streets. She later went to boarding school in Philadelphia where she majored in music and French. After Maurice Eby completed his education at Lafayette College, he spent three years touring Europe and studying at Heidelberg University in Germany. When he returned home, he joined his father in the grocery business. William (1848-1906) attended Princeton University, where he was a varsity baseball pitcher.

The family farm was converted to residential development, and Maurice build his home, which he shared with Fanny, at North Third and Maclay Streets, then the northern boundary of the city’s limits. Cottage Ridge, as he called it, was described as “a replica of a villa in Versailles, France.”

The mansion at 2030 N. Third Street later came into the possession of the Bowman family, and for a number of years it was the James K. Bowman House of Fashion.

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Share Your Stories

Newsletter contributions of ancestor questions, obituaries, interesting facts and stories are gratefully accepted. To submit your, please contact Lynne Hagan:

Phone: (201) 568-8438

Email: Lynne@interactmarketing.us

Mail: 138 Sunset Lane; Tenafly, NJ 07670

Eby Family Association

Eby Family News is produced by and for members of the Eby Family Association. The Association is open to descendants of Theodorus Eby (Durst Aebi) and anyone else interested in Eby Family history.

Eby Family Association Address

P.O. Box 292; New Holland, PA 17557

Internet Sites:

<http://www.ebyfamily.org>

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/q/u/a/B-D-Quast>

<http://www.ristenbatt.com/genealogy/ebyplot.htm>

<http://familytreemaker.genealogy.com/users/p/o/p/Michele-Popovich>

Association Officers:

President: Christian Eaby, (717) 656-2626
Secretary: Mary Grant, (610) 775-1183
Treasurer: Marty Hollinger, (717) 653-8150
Vice President: Roy Z. Eby, (717) 768-7271
Graveyard Committee: George Eaby, (717) 394-6758
Reunion Committee: Margaret Eby, (717) 768-7271
Special Projects: J. Eby Hershey, (717) 768-3317
Abee Family Contact: Bill Abee, (828) 874-3598

Family Research

We are, unfortunately, unable to do genealogical or family research. Those looking for family links and research are urged to visit one of the Web sites listed above. In addition, we will be glad to post your research questions, on a first come, first serve basis in the "Searching for Roots" section on page four of this newsletter issue.

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Eby History in the News (Continued)

Jacob Eby, born 1817, died in 1883, and in his memory, Fanny and Maurice erected a stone drinking fountain in front of their home. The fountain had basins for horses and dogs and a faucet for pedestrians.

Many farmers traveling to city markets watered their animals and refreshed themselves at the fountain...

A charter member of The Wednesday Club of Harrisburg, Fanny, a mezzo-soprano, performed a duet with Helen Espry at the club's first regular meeting/musical on May 17, 1882, in the home Mira Lloyd Dock at 1427 N. Front St., according to the 1981 book, "Hi-Notes: A Century of Music with The Wednesday Club of Harrisburg, Pa." written by

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neighbors with "Life in Lancaster County PA 1855 – 1935," a presentation by Joanne Hess Siegrist

Eby Stories... since 1860's

We've asked for the return of last year's speaker, John Ruth, to finish the last half of his marvelous stories. John is a well known, well-loved story teller and historian who recently wrote *The Earth is the Lord's*, a 1,390 page narrative history of Lancaster Mennonite Conference.

ADVANCE REGISTRATION REQUIRED FOR FRIDAY'S EVENT.

Registration for Friday night's dinner and presentations is \$15 per person. A registration form with instructions is enclosed. For more information, please contact Margaret Eby at (717) 768-7271.

The Big Day: Saturday, May 24th

Our reunion will once again be a potluck dinner at Overly's Grove Family Picnic Area from 10:30 A.M. – 3:30 P.M. Please feel bring approximately 10 servings of your favorite entrée, side dish and/or desert to share.

Self-Guided Tour

Instead of a guided bus tour, this year you'll be able to go where you will and still find out about the local sites of interest to we Ebys. Information and a guidebook on local Eby sites, homesteads and other points of interest will be made available at the reunion for a self-guided Eby Homeland Tour. Sites will include those shown at the last two reunion bus tours (plus a few more)!

Marcella Thorp Emerick.

The Eby family long held a special consideration for the poor. When Jacob operated the store at Fifth and Market streets, he had Christmas and Easter baskets sent to needy family. Mayor Eby originated the plan of caring for intoxicated people in the basement of the city police station.

"He was ever willing to give a man a chance and instituted the police quick-charity fund to help family in emergencies," *The Patriot* said...

Mayor Eby, born in May 1846, died April 4, 1914. He was 67. Fanny then moved to a house at 1001 N. Front St. She died Feb. 22, 1945. She would have been 89 on June 25, 1045. Neither she nor Mayor Eby had married.

Searching for Roots:

David Bombay (david.bombat@sympatico.ca) and C. Wegnerows (Cwegnerows@aol.com) write: The Canadian Virtual War Memorial (www.vac-acc.gc.ca) of seven Ebys who gave their lives in the two Great Wars. Do we have a list anywhere of Eby family members who have served in the U.S. or Canadian Armed Forces? If so, what branches? Is there a list of Eby members who died while in the military whether it be during peace time or war?

"I am searching for information about 'Christian Eby' grandfather clocks. My Internet searches have been unfruitful thus far, but I know that they exist." Please contact EbyJD@aol.com if you have information.

Those interested in communicating with a "relative" from Switzerland may wish to contact Juerg Aebi who writes: Dear Ebys: When in Switzerland, I hope to meet some of you once in my lifetime. Certainly when I come for holidays in your country. I am a 53 year old engineer and have four children (2 sons, 2 girls). Best regards to all Ebys, Abbeysm Aebis and so on...P.S. My address is Höhestasse 22 2563 Ipsach Switzerland.

Eby Family Association
P.O. Box 292
New Holland, PA 17557

Calendar of Events:

Special Event: Eby Family Reunion Dinner
Place: Yoder's Restaurant
Time: Fri., May 23, 2003, 5:30-8:30 pm
Information: Reservations required (see insert)

Special Event: 2003 Eby Family Reunion
Place: Overly's Grove, New Holland, PA
Time: Sat., May 24, 2003, 10:30 am-3:30 pm

Good food & good company will abound. Our reunion will include a review of the Eby Family Association business, a potluck lunch and a bus tour of local points of interest to Eby descendants. (Contributions very welcome).

For more information and dinner reservations, please contact Margaret Eby at (717) 768-3317.

Special Event: Noah/Jonas Eby Family Reunion
Place: Garner Creek Retreat Center;
Dickson, TN
Time: July 3-6, 2003
Information: Evelyn (Eby) Duncan: (352) 797-9330
Or Frank Eby (813) 936-8183

PLEASE PLACE POSTAGE HERE
