

## Job Charles Mabey (1858-1952)

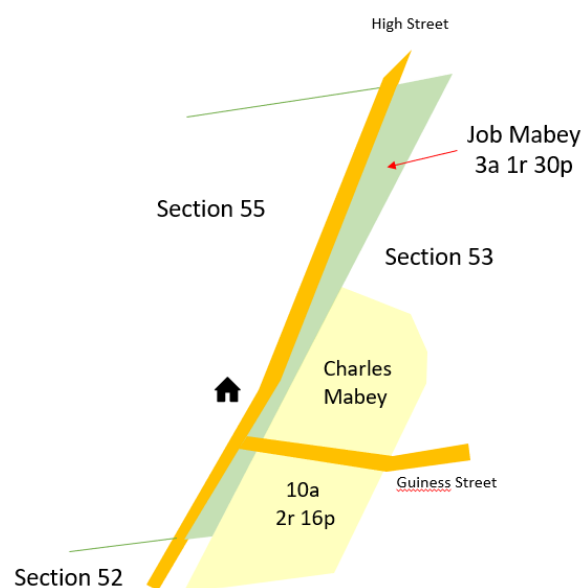
On the evening of Sunday 17 January 1858, it commenced raining and continued without remission until the following evening. The Hutt River rose to a height not previously experienced, and several lives were lost. For the Mabey family several sheep and a large quantity of fencing was lost, and their crops were covered with sand and shingle. The Taita flour mill was destroyed. Later Alfred William Rendall bought up the remains of the Taita and Ngahauranga mills and used them to build the Wairarapa's first flour mill in Masterton which was completed in 1862.



Masterton Flour Mill – Alexander Turnbull Library Reference ½-111229-F

Job Charles Mabey was born on 15 June 1858 in the original pit-sawn cottage with shingle roof and unpainted weatherboards northeast of the corner of High Street and Guinness Street. This stood on land that his father, Job, had leased from the absentee owner, John Stancliffe, since the 1840s. His older brother Robert Thomas Mabey was born there in 1845.

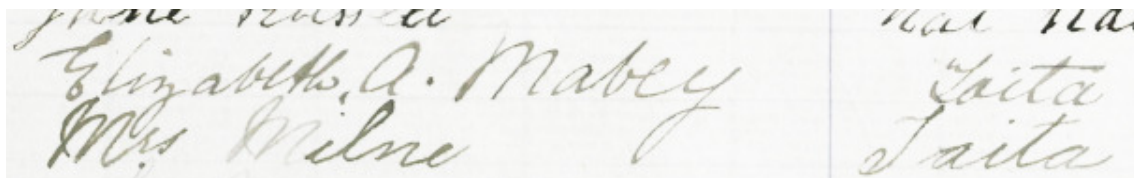
On 18 December 1863 Job purchased three acres one rood and 30 perches from Stancliffe for £115 and this was later valued at £150 in the 1882 listing of Freeholders. The remaining 115 acres of Hutt Section 55 was listed under the name of Ann Stancliffe and was valued at £1000.



Based on the plan drawn in the 1863 Conveyance - Deeds Register No.8 page 707  
Archives NZ Reference R20162997

Job sold this land to his son, Job Charles Mabey, on 13 May 1884 and in turn Job Charles sold a portion abutting the southern boundary to his nephew David Mabey.

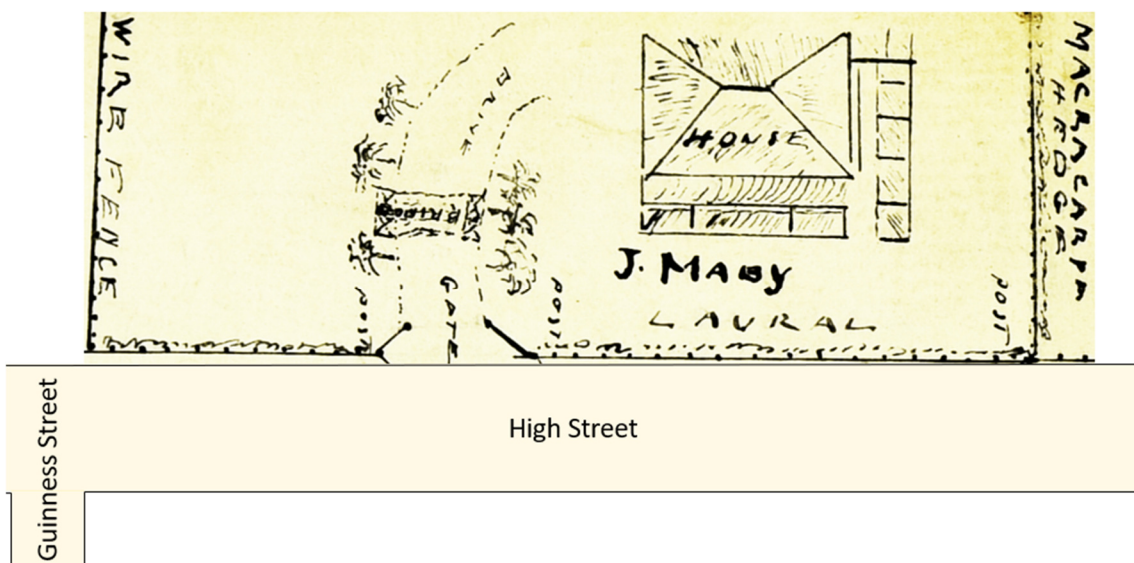
On 19 June 1889 Job Charles married Elizabeth Annie Bengé at St John's Church, Upper Hutt. By the time Elizabeth Annie signed the suffrage petition in 1893 she had two children – Rachel (born 1890) and George (born 1892). Five more would follow – Rosie (1894), Blanche (1897), Grace (1900), Jean (1904) and Beth (1908).



1893 Suffrage Petition signature – Sheet No.422

After Job's death in 1896 Job Charles continued to live in the Mabey home, raise his own family and farm the land. In 1907 he was elected to the Taita School committee.

On 26 October 1910 Alfred William Compton, a surveyor, drew a sketch of the Mabey family home while locating the concrete blocks on the standard traverse Lower Hutt to Emerald Hill. It shows the position of the road gate, a bridge, and the drive to the house.



A drawing made by Alfred William Compton 8 July 1910 showing the main gate, bridge and drive  
Surveyor Field book No.2685 Page 1 Land Information New Zealand <https://linz.recollect.co.nz/>

In May 1916 Job Charles held the first military recruiting meeting at his house. In 1915 his son George, of the Wellington Mounted Rifles, received a shrapnel wound at Anzac Cove. He was later attached to the Imperial Camel Corps before being invalided home in July 1917.

In 1921 Job Charles was elected to the Hutt River Board and in June ran unsuccessfully against Henry Foley for Hutt County Councillor.

At the first informal Taita hall meeting held on 7 June 1922 a Mr Mabey was in attendance. During the meeting, it was decided to approach Job Charles Mabey for the site on which to erect the Hall. If Job Charles wasn't at the meeting who was?

At a second meeting two days later there was also a Mr Mabey present. Richard Bartosh reported to the meeting that a ¼ of an acre of land had been secured from Job Charles with the aid of Mr Westbury paying him £50 being half the value of the land.

Again, this suggests that he wasn't present. Perhaps it was his grand-nephew, James William Mabey, a 22-year-old unmarried labourer, who was living in Witako Street, Lower Hutt at the time.

At the first public hall meeting Job Charles was elected as one of the three Hall Trustees and in late June 1922 he was consulted about the amount of frontage so that the land could be surveyed.

While the Hall was being built Job Charles attended a couple of the committee meetings held at the Taita Store. On 31 July he moved that twenty forms be procured at Trentham Military Camp at a price not exceeding 4s. On 4 October he seconded motions relating to the official opening of the Hall and that invitation cards be sent to subscribers south of Park Avenue and north of Stokes Valley.

For the 1925 New Year dance Job Charles was asked to supply two gallons of milk. In August 1935 his offer to see that all wandering stock was kept out of the paddock and to keep the grass cut was gratefully accepted. In August 1937 he was asked to keep his horse out of the Hall property.



1939 Aerial photograph. Taita Hall top left – Mabey home centre & Job's land within Hutt Section 55  
The probable position of Mabey's Flour Mill is shown in Hutt Section 53.  
Hutt City Archives Reference ARCH72680 Hutt Valley Sheet No.2

After the death in 1940 of Arthur Gadsby, a Hall Trustee, Job Charles nominated Frederick Seymour Hewer to fill the vacancy and he was duly elected.

In June 1948 the Hall Secretary was instructed to convey good wishes to Mr and Mrs Mabey on their 80<sup>th</sup> and 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays. In return a letter of thanks was received from Miss Mabey. On 10 July 1949 a working bee was organized to clean up the Hall section and to repair the fence where an opening had been made giving access to property at the rear. At Mr Mabey's request the fence had been left until a crop of cabbage were cut.



Front: Elizabeth Annie and Job Charles Mabey  
 Back left to right: Their children – Beth, George, Blanche, Grace, and Jean  
 Debbie Clarke Collection

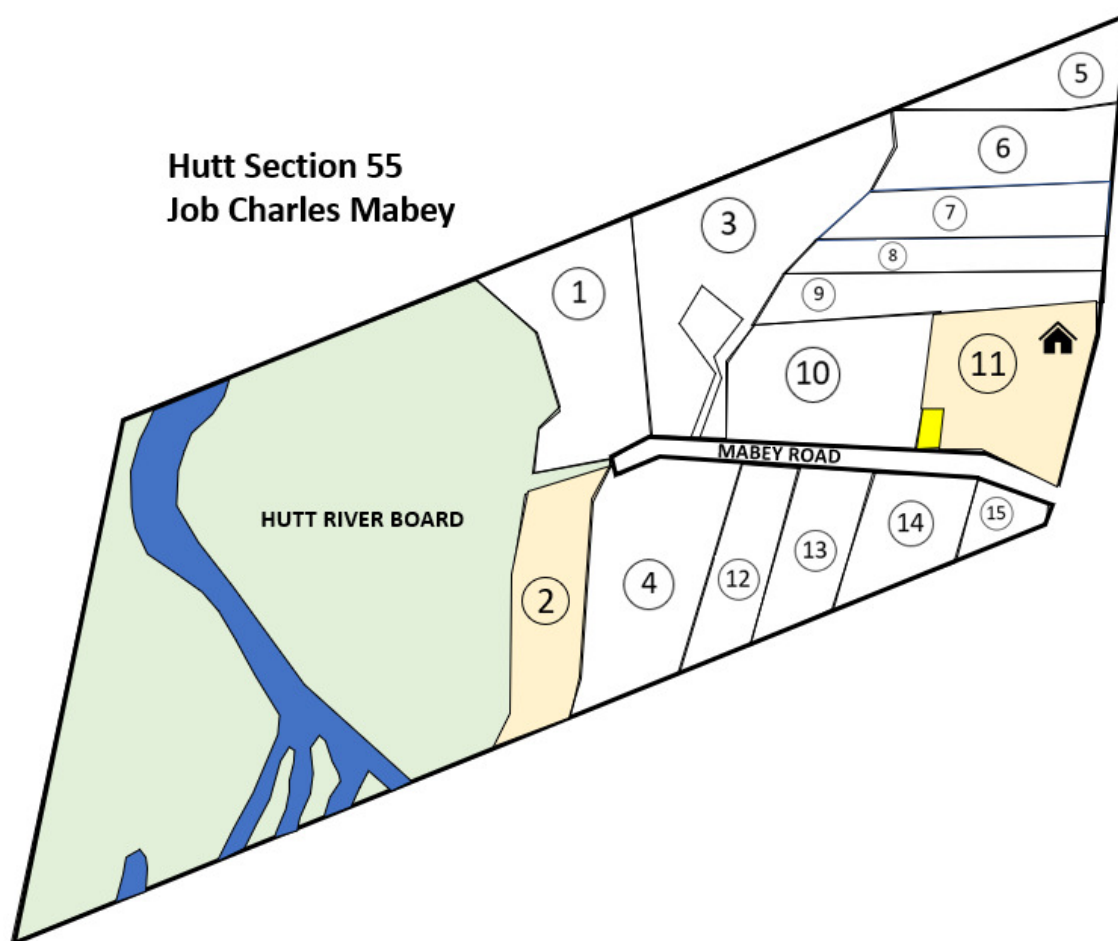
Job Charles died on 18 May 1952. At the 3 June committee meeting the members stood in silence. Immediately afterwards, the Annual General Meeting was held. The Chairman, Charles William Hewer, spoke of the Society's loss of Mr J. C. Mabey, a foundation member, and Trustee of the Society for 30 years. Frederick Kitchener on behalf of the Trustees expressed deep regret at Mr Mabey's passing. The meeting, with 25 residents present, stood in silence as a mark of respect.



1958 Aerial photograph showing Avalon Public Hall on the left and the Mabey home at today's 1001 High Street  
 Hutt City Historic Aerials - <https://maps.huttcity.govt.nz/HistoricAerials/index.html>

On 6 November 1962, the Chairman of the committee, Charles William Hewer, drew attention to the death of the wife of one of the foundation Trustees, Mr Mabey, and it was resolved that a wreath be sent from the Society. This was supplied by Pilcher Florists.

**Hutt Section 55  
Job Charles Mabey**



Based on part of a map of the Taita Proclamation Area – late 1930s - East border is High Street  
Job Charles Mabey also owned land east of High Street between Mabey Road and Guinness Street  
Archives NZ R22399869

No.	Owner	Area	Title References	Hall Contribution
	Taita Public Hall	0a 1r 0p	CT 292/213	
	Hutt River Board	50a 1r 3.8p	CT 324/3	
1	PC Armitage	5a 1r 29.8p	CT 380/53	
2	Job Charles Mabey	4a 0r 31.58p	CT 425/126, CT 418/71	Trustee - Land
3	Jean Ford	8a 0r 2.4p	CT 436/270	<i>nee</i> Mabey
4	James Henry Butler	6a 1r 0.3p	CT 257, CT 263/10	£5
5	Charlotte Tustin	2a 2r 2.3p	CT 260/283	
6	Frederick Seymour Hewer	4a 0r 33.2p	CT 279/12	Trustee - £10
7	Francis John Joseph	3a 0r 0.8p	CT 218/183	
8	Owen Hurney	2a 3r 16p	CT 270/123	
9	George Edward Morton Hunter	2a 3r 13.5p	CT 276/226	
10	Frederick Peter F. Bertelsen	5a 3r 17.8p	CT 436/226	Committee - £10
11	Job Charles Mabey	5a 1a 31.33p	CT 133/286	Trustee - Land
12	Albert Ernest Hewer	2a 3r 0p	CT 268/91	Committee
13	Victor Pemberton	2a 3r 0p	CT 260/93	Committee - £5
14	Thomas John Hodder	2a 3r 0.5p	CT 264/298	£2
15	?	1a 0r 20p	CT 270/2	

## Mabey Question / Mystery

Where exactly was this house?



The original home of the Mabey family in Naenae Road  
Photographed c1935 by Jeremy Veniamin Garvitch, a photographer of 48 Britannia Street, Petone  
Hutt City Libraries Ref. 4188; BRN 415172 <https://huttcity.recollect.co.nz/nodes/view/245>