



**"No yesterdays are ever wasted for those who give themselves to today."** ~Brendan Francis

*Only a handful of true Wildwoodians can say. . .*

# "I'M A DR. MACE BABY!"



This 4th Annual Dr. Mace Baby Group Photo was held in the courtyard of the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse on July 7th, 2008. This all came to be as a result of The SUN newspaper and it's celebration of the island's rich history. As the owner/editor of the paper, that makes me appear to be responsible for the annual gathering. However, I cannot take sole responsibility. I must give credit where credit is due. One of our columnists, **Steve Murray**, who is overseer of the award winning Lighthouse gardens and Chairman of the "Friends of Hereford Inlet Lighthouse" along with his coworker **Betty Mugnier**, have been right there with me from our very first conversation about Dr. Mace babies. They help spread the word and they also help by setting up refreshments for them during these gatherings, making sure that Dr. Mace's portrait is present in the photo. Another person who is very deserving of the credit is **Mr. Bill Morey**, (who has had to miss the last couple of gatherings.) He said to me in a conversation once at his daughter's house, "I'm a Dr. Mace baby!" I wanted to know what was so special about being a Dr. Mace Baby, so I asked him. I had no idea that Dr. Mace delivered most of the population at one time in the Wildwoods. I also had no idea that one day I would be responsible for such an undertaking as The Sun by-the-sea and that I would be host to an annual Dr. Mace Baby gathering. I am honored to be a part of carrying on Dr. Mace's legacy by remembering her in this way. From this annual event, her 'kids' share in a special reunion and I get to make dear friends with those who call themselves Dr. Mace's Babies. (Enjoy the story on her starting on the next page!) The way I see it, is that a wonderful part of Dr. Margaret Mace, lives on in all of them.

~Dorothy

## { Dr. Margaret Mace Dec. 21, 1871-Dec. 15, 1951 }

1. Joan Betty Myrden McGough June 12, 1934
2. George M. Thomas Feb. 20, 1936
3. Leroy J. Thomas Feb. 20, 1936  
{ At their birth, the father of these twins said, "When they start coming out in 2s it's time to stop!" }
4. Vincent Catrambone Oct. 26, 1930
5. Alice (Johnson) Catrambone Oct. 26, 1932  
{ Destined for one another, the Catrambone's were delivered by Dr. Mace on the same day, 2 yrs. apart! }
6. Janette Callaway July 6, 1936
7. Sylvia (Kajander) Hewett Oct. 15, 1920
8. Margie Miller Patterson Aug. 5, 1933  
{ deceased sister, Julia Dolores Miller Gates Jan. 17, 1932-2006 }
9. Janet Polis Blackmore Feb. 18, 1937
10. Adelaide Bierbrunner Mazza July 7, 1938  
{ The birthday girl was delivered by Dr. Mace 70 years ago to the date the photo was taken! }
11. Kae Braidwood Drumheller July 11, 1923
12. Betty Braidwood Taylor July 10, 1918  
Not only was Betty delivered by Dr. Mace 90 yrs. ago 3 days after this photo was taken, but she is also special because she is the oldest Mace Baby in the photo!
13. Florence Reinert Fry Jan. 30, 1923
14. Pat Greenfield Britt Jan. 18, 1946
15. Joan Bowman Gehring Feb. 16, 1943
16. Barbara Jacobs Holt June 13, 1945
17. Lana Turner MacDonald Nov. 15, 1946  
{ Being the youngest, Lana is the baby of the Dr. Mace Babies this year! }

18. Ruth Carlson Larcombe July 14, 1926
19. George Carlson May 1, 1924
20. Anita Carlson Diamond 1931
21. Shirley Anderson McVey Nov. 24, 1934
22. Peggy Britton Lafferty August 28, 1942
23. Janet Bierbrunner Pettit Sept. 10, 1933
24. Anna Baker Bierbrunner April 13, 1943
25. William Bierbrunner Feb. 23, 1936
26. Ray Bierbrunner July 13, 1937
27. Ronald W. Griffith June 3, 1938
28. Jim Wheaton April 15, 1932

### We Remember



**Claude Bradshaw**  
Born at Dr. Mace Hospital January 26, 1929. Claude passed away on April 2, 2008



**Joseph Catrambone**  
April 13, 1931 Missed the gathering.



Adelaide was the birthday girl this year. She had the privilege of holding Dr. Mace's Photo during the photo shoot. Her brothers & sisters and her (aka 'The Bierbrunner Kids') all travel down from the Bridgeton area every year for this special event. She is shown here holding a cake that has the image of Dr. Mace's Hospital on it.

**1st & 2nd & 3rd Annual Photos included:** Lewis P. Albrecht, Sarah C. Bacon, Deloris Ritch Barbiers, Eugene Oliver Bathurst, Janet Polis Blackmore, Patricia Smith Byrnes, James Cafiero, Doris Palmer Calamaro, Curtis Carlson, Leah Laine Dare, Joan Gerhard Dean, Harry J. DiSilvestro, H. Bergen Ellingsen, Betty Shevlin Einhaus, Joan Prendergast Foley, Rita Monichetti Gore, Helen Shevlin Greenland, Martha Carlson Harkin, Mickey Harry, Gary Hendrixson, Adele Mangino Hunter, Betty Monichetti Keene, Dorothy Evensen Kirwin, Robert LeMunyon, Raymond Lindholm, Jack Mattera, Lola Batts McCleery, Louise Ann Hand Mihalek, Bill Morey, Ellen E. V. Morrison, Marion Shivers Mouklas, Billie Anderson Nash, Fred W. Neal, Pearl Hansen Pennino, Tony Solis, Dorothy Stricklin, Domenick C. Versaggi, Larry Rick Wilson, Marian Elizabeth Johnson Wright, Marion Stolnabb Young

**SAVE the DATE!!**  
**5th Annual**  
**Dr. Mace Baby Photo**  
**Monday July 6, 2009 10a.m.**





Dr. Margaret Mace's Doctor's Bag

Visit the Wildwood Historic Museum on Pacific Ave. and see the actual bag along with a fine collection of everything Wildwood representing the history of Five Mile Beach.

**"The world needs dreamers and the world needs doers. But above all, the world needs dreamers who do."**

# The Florence Nightingale of South Jersey

by John D. Christine, Stanley W. Gage

In Leicester, England, on December 21, 1887, was born a baby girl who was destined to make an incalculable imprint on thousands of people, thousands of miles away in Cape May County at the tip end of South Jersey. This baby was Margaret Mace, daughter of Charles and Eliza Mace.

Charles Mace came to America on a sailing vessel in 1874. He first settled in Philadelphia where he went into the shoe manufacturing business. After a summer visit to Anglesea, now a part of the City of North Wildwood, he decided to bring his family to live permanently. They took up residence in the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse with Freeland Hewitt and his family. Mr. Mace went into the contracting business, building several pleasure as well as fishing piers and wharves for the commercial fishing trade and laying out many of the first streets in Anglesea. He also built his family a house with lumber salvaged from the 1876 Centennial Exposition in Philadelphia and material from coastal shipwrecks. Among some of his structures was the Hotel Royal at Spruce & New Jersey Avenues. It was a rather luxurious establishment for the time, having a promenade around it, a dance floor, bowling alley, restaurant and an elevated boardwalk that connected with one of the pleasure piers he had built.

Margaret Mace grew up in this environment, attending school in the one room Anglesea School when it opened in March of 1887. Later she attended and graduated from Bridgeton Institute and began teaching in Anglesea as a primary teacher about 1897. In addition she was most devout and helped to organize a Methodist congregation which met in the Hereford Inlet Lighthouse. She taught a Sunday School class regularly.

Margaret should have been an outstanding teacher had she decided to remain in education. However, after a few years, she was drawn to the nursing profession. From her earliest days, she had always displayed a warm and compassionate nature to all forms of life. An anecdote is told about her where these points of her character were clearly evident.

As a small child, her father owned a large number of horses and cattle. A calf was born without a tail (a handicap of devastating effect on the animal) as it would be forever unable to flick its tail to brush away flies, mosquitoes and other bothersome insects. Perceiving this and prodded by her deep sympathy for anything suffering, Margaret made a tail of rags and sticks and attempted to attach it to the place where a tail belonged. The poor calf ran around the barnyard until the improvised tail fell off. As was later said, "Her first operation was unsuccessful."

In the late 1800's, women had no recognized place on a hospital staff and an American nursing school was a rarity. Unfortunately, the nursing profession relegated women in nursing to a very arduous and laborious

drudgery of menial household chores. But, Margaret, knowing this, gave up her teaching career to attend a nursing school. She did very well and from this exposure to the relief of suffering, she decided to enter medical school.

The Women's College of Medicine in Philadelphia graduated her with a degree as a medical doctor in 1905. She returned to Anglesea and began to practice at 17<sup>th</sup> & Pennsylvania Avenues (now Atlantic Avenue.) She later moved to New Jersey and Chestnut Avenues as her practice expanded.

At that time at 25<sup>th</sup> & Atlantic Avenues in what is now North Wildwood, there was a large and palatial house built and owned by Frederick Sutton. He was a very wealthy man being the director of the local bank, owner of the local electric company and the local traction company. On vacation he booked passage on the **Titanic** on the ill-fated voyage when it collided with an iceberg and sank. He lost his life in the April 14, 1912 tragedy. The house lay idle for several years. Realizing the need for a hospital in the area, Dr. Margaret Mace moved into the Sutton house on April 1, 1915.

Thus began one of the medicine's finest, most dedicated and devoted applications of caring and administering to the sick and needy that ever took place. Never did she fail to respond to a call for healing. The oaths taken when she was awarded the degree of Doctor of Medicine were taken totally to heart, and she never failed to live up to them.

One of the passages in the American Medical Association's code of ethics reads, The physician should be the messenger of hope and comfort to the sick, that by such cordials to the drooping spirit, he may smooth the bed of death, revive expiring life and counteract the depressing influence of those maladies which often disturb the tranquility of the most resigned in the last moments.'

Jan Hendrik Vanden Berg, M.D., writes in his book, **Medical Power and Medical Ethics**, in speaking of the physician: "To cure whether a cure is possible or impossible, wanted or unwanted." In another passage, for the intellectuals, we read from the **Republic of Plato** where he quotes a reported conversation between Socrates and Thrasymachus, one asked the other: "Now tell me about the physician in that strict sense you spoke of: is it his business to earn money or to treat his patients? And the answer was to treat his patients." Again in **Respect For Life In The History of Medicine** by Oswei Temkin, he quotes an ancient authority by writing, "Ever a light illuminates a home and makes men see into dark shadows, so a cheerful physician turns sorrow and sadness into joy and comforts all of the members of the patient and restores his spirits."

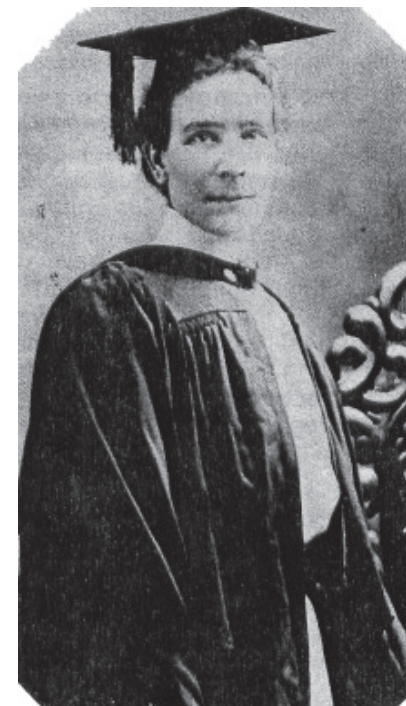
Dr. Mace always was the fullest embodiment of all the attributes a physician should have to be worthy of the profession. In the 35 years she operated the Margaret Mace Hospital, no one had then or since, been

heard to say that the care, the healing administration, or the personal interest Dr. Mace took of each patient, was anything but the highest degree possible. If she had any faults, it was always said they were the lack of keeping daily records and the ministering to the needy without compensation.

On January 7, 1916, Dr. Mace had been appointed Police Surgeon, and from that date on was on 24 hour call duty a day. Never was Dr. Maggie called upon when she did not respond, despite whatever adverse circumstances were present at the time. One such instance is still related by old timers in Wildwood. It was during the winter of 1935. A severe snowstorm was in progress when the police received a telephone call that a woman was in labor and in dire need of immediate medical attention. She was over twenty city blocks from the hospital and no means to get her there. The police car was snowed in at the curb in front of the police station. One of the policemen on duty trudged through the snow to the hospital.

By 1927, she had become a legend in her own time. The Margaret Mace Hospital was to be licensed and she was referred to, irreverently perhaps, but most certainly with great affection, as 'Maggie'. It did not take anything from the esteem she had attained. One of the testimonial letters from a pastor in writing to the Medical Commission in Trenton on her behalf for the licensing, said: "I was a patient in the Mace Hospital this year for five months. Thought expected to die by my attending physician, I have recovered my usual health because of the unceasing care and skilled ability of Dr. Mace. For weeks my life was in the balance. The marvelous care I received assisted by the skill of this great woman, brought me safely back to health. Her modesty was illustrated when recovering she

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Dr. Margaret Mace in 1905 when she graduated from Medical College.



**Dr. Margaret Mace Hospital**  
25th & Atlantic Ave., North Wildwood  
Operated 1915-1950. Built by Frederick Sutton



L-R Mary Hewitt Gailing, Dr. Margaret Mace, Harry Tenenbaum, Mrs. Ruth Tenenbaum at the retirement testimonial dinner at the Manor Hotel in 1950 honoring Dr. Mace. She was 80 years of age at the time.





**“Put your heart, mind, intellect and soul even to your smallest acts. This is the secret of success.” ~Swami Sivananda**

## The Florence Nightingale of South Jersey

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said ‘Medical science has not saved your life. Medical science declares you should have died. God evidently has some great work for you. He would not let you die’”.

The Margaret Mace Hospital’s treatment was not confined to only maternity cases, although over 6000 babies were born there during the thirty five years it was in existence. A story is related that in April 1925, during a power blackout, four of these babies arrived by candlelight.

In Cape May County the fishing industry was larger in those days than it is today. No physician was as successful as she in the treatment of fish poisoning or the doctoring of their many wounds and maiming from accidents. Seriously ill seamen were also taken off ships at sea and transported to the hospital.

Then, on every Wednesday the day becoming known as “Tonsil Day”, Dr. Sheppard from Millville came to the hospital and performed tonsillectomies, ably assisted by Dr. Mace. On some Wednesdays, as many as twenty such operations were performed on an around the clock basis.

By this time, automobile accidents were increasing at a rapid rate, resulting in added admittance to the hospital and more and more necessity for Dr. Mace’s competent professional services. This writer remembers being treated quickly and efficiently for facial cuts and abrasions received in an auto accident about fifty years ago. Scarcely a trace of stitches show, displaying her consummate skill with the needle.

While Dr. Mace was getting bundled up and her instruments in her satchel, the policeman helped a milkman unhitch his horse from a drift-held delivery wagon. They lifted Dr. Maggie to the back of the draft horse. She rode in front of the policeman who held her and the satchel, until they finally arrived at the home of the woman. They were a trifle late. The baby had just been born. Dr. Mace administered to the mother and baby then remounted and returned to her home and hospital. At that time Dr. Mace was 65 years old.

In 1929, Dr. H. H. Hornstine, a local highly respected physician who was also a good personal friend of Dr. Mace’s, organized a testimonial dinner in honor of her twenty five years as a physician. It was termed a “Tribute of Love”. The event was held in the North Wildwood Junior High School. Thousands requested tickets, but space limited the function to 400 fortunate attendees. Tributes from the speakers flowed like the Niagara as they related highlights of her remarkable career as a practicing physician in the service of people in the Wildwoods and entire Cape May County. Mayor George Redding of North Wildwood said, “Words appear futile to express the grand and glorious achievements of Dr. Mace in the last twenty five years.” As the speakers heaped the well deserved praises on her, those in attendance responded with round after round of applause. Fifty four civic, fraternal and commercial organizations presented her with garlands of flowers, framed resolutions, cash gifts, an oxygen machine and an x-ray ma-

chine. The biggest tribute was held until the end when a resolution was presented that changed the name of the school where the event was being held to the Margaret Mace Public School. Of course she was deeply touched by this gesture and all the other accolades. Choked with emotion and with tears in her eyes, she said, “There is no place on earth like my home town: no people like my home people. I came here when it was a wilderness; it is now one of the finest places in the world. In my work I have tried to do my best, but I have had help, helped by the hand of God.” She also spoke of the need for a new hospital and requested that plans be made to erect one.

It was quite a few years before here wish became a reality. In the meantime, she ran the Margaret Mace Hospital with the same intensity of self-sacrifice and expenditure of her energy without regard to personal health, welfare or personal financial gain. After many delays, a committee was formed with the Rev. Irvin Fisher of the First Baptist Church of Wildwood as president and Mr. Burdette Tomlin of Ocean City as financial backer and advisor. They laid the groundwork for a new hospital to meet the medical needs of Cape May County. Technicalities and World War II interfered with fruition of their plans. However, by late 1949 and early 1950, work was being done for the erection of the Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital in Cape May Court House, a central location and the county seat for Cape May County.

Dr. Maggie Mace was then seventy nine years old, still active and treating her patients as diligently as her age would permit. But, she perceived that her great work was nearly completed and at another testimonial dinner given in her honor on June 21, 1950, she announced her retirement.

Although never a woman of great outward liveliness, the beauty of her character, warmth, love and compassion for people had endeared her to the Cape May County residents. The Burdette Tomlin Memorial Hospital was opened in October of 1950.

Dr. Margaret Mace quietly passed away at eighty one years of age on December 16, 1951. She died in her home which was also the hospital that bore her name, a little over thirty six years after moving into it. The building was later sold and turned into a guest house. It was eventually torn down and a restaurant erected on the site. One further tribute was paid to her on August 1, 1954 when a park and marker were dedicated to her memory at Central & Spruce Avenues in North Wildwood. It is called the Margaret Mace Park.

She was a remarkable woman, her accomplishments rarely being equaled by others. She was truly the Florence Nightingale of South Jersey.

*Printed with the permission of Shirley Bailey, editor/publisher of South Jersey Magazine. This story appeared in Vol. 16, Number 3 in the Summer of 1987. It was written by John D. Christine and Stanley W. Gage.*

*A special thank you to my sister Natalie who types at lightening speed!*