
IN

JUNE 1982

DEFIANCE

THE

OF-BY & FOR THE FAMILY

MACBRAIRE

FAMILY

NEWS

LETTER

ADDRESS FOR LORENA BOOK

In the March issue of IN DEFIANCE we told you about a new book on the market entitled "A HISTORY OF THE LORENA, TEXAS, AREA - 1854-1981", which contained considerable information on the Jesse Harvey McBrayer line. At that time we told you to contact either Catherine McBrayer Attaway or Thomas McBrayer.

Just after the newsletter was printed, and too late to include in that issue, we received the correct mailing address for ordering the book. It is: Lorena Cemetery Assn., Box 166, Lorena, Texas, 76655. The cost is still not known at this time, but if you are interested you might contact these people.

I do want to point out that this is a good reference book for a portion of the family. I personally have found it very interesting otherwise.

Thomas McBrayer reports, too, that another book, "WHAT WE LEFT OUT OF THE FIRST BOOK", is in the "planning stages". Reports Thomas: "...Should be better than the original, as many of us remember now lots of things which happened in Lorena but did not think to put them in."

LT. COL. MCBRAYER HONORED BY CAP

(from THE WACO CITIZEN, January 1, 1982, p 3)

Lt. Col. Thomas McBrayer joined the Civil Air Patrol in April, 1942, which at that time was the Waco Composite Squadron and met at James Connally Air Force Base. The senior members drilled as well as the cadets in those days.

In August, 1942, he went into the U.S. Army and was sent to the South Pacific Theater. While in the service he received several military awards and decorations among which were: Southern Philippines (Liberation-Layet); Philippine Liberation; Victory Medal; and Good Conduct Medal.

On his return to Waco in 1945, Col. McBrayer once again joined the Civil Air Patrol.

Lt. Col. McBrayer was recently awarded the Commander's Commendation Award for Outstanding Duty Performance for service from April, 1942 to August, 1981.

The Civil Air Patrol is an auxiliary of the U.S. Air Force.

McBrayer remembers his first airplane ride. It was in a WWI Jenny which landed in an oat field near Lorena. "That ride cost me \$5 and made a flying nut out of me," he said.

Later he rode in barn storming Ford Tri-motors, Clarence Chamberlains Curtis Condor in which he flew the Atlantic.

"I rode everything I could hitch a ride in or on," Lt. Col. McBrayer said.

Then came the J3-Cubs, Taylorcrafts, Aeroncas, and finally lessons in mid-1938 with Jack Newland at the old Richfield airport in an old Porterfield.

"Newland then got a brand new Taylorcraft and I soloed in it on May 28, 1939," said McBrayer.

In later years he flew a PA 28, Tri-pacer, Cessna Skyhawk, and Beech T34 and a Bonanza. Lt. Col. McBrayer holds a current physical and pilots certificate.

Lt. Col. McBrayer has served at every level in both squadron and Group Civil Air Patrol. In 1958 he was assigned fiscal officer and did an outstanding job until he was made commander of the group. He is a mission pilot and observer. He received the Red Service Ribbon in 1973, Air Search and Rescue Ribbon with four Bronze clasp, Senior Recruiters Ribbon for signing up nine senior members, the Civil Air Patrol Membership award and the Leadership award with Silver Star.

He has also continued to take special courses which better qualify him for his duties.

Col. McBrayer has been treasurer of the Lorena Baptist Church, Fire Chief of the Lorena Fire Department, Mayor of Lorena, served on the Lorena school board, secretary-treasurer of the Central City Flying Association, and Vice-Chairman of Texas State Aviation Association, and retired Lorena Postmaster.

One of the main Civil Air Patrol events Col. McBrayer enjoys most is the All Texas Air Tour held the first full week of October. Aircraft from all over Texas gather in Temple to tour the State of Texas by plane.

The Civil Air Patrol honoree has just returned from a trip to Washington, D.C., in an Air Force Hercules C-130 with the Texas Civil Air Patrol and is planning to attend the National Board Meeting in New Orleans.

At the age of 73, Col. McBrayer still flies, 'but not as much as I want to', he said.

The Civil Air Patrol celebrated its fortieth year of service on December 1.

Waco has two units of Civil Air Patrol, Headquarters 12th Group and Skeet Eason Composite Squadron.

COMPUTER FUND CONTRIBUTIONS

In the March Issue of ID we told you of the receipt of the new computer and how it was anticipated to be a big asset to the family genealogy. Though I am still learning its proper operation and capabilities, I am seeing more and more advantages for it. The labels for this mailing were produced on the computer with a new program we just obtained. Instead of days in addressing the envelopes in preparation for mailing, only about 45 minutes was consumed.

Not only will this new program print our labels for us, it will also keep track of the subscriptions and will automatically cancel any which are not current. By the use of special codes entered into the computer only a specified number of mailings will be allowed during a years period. For instance - ID is printed four times per year. With the use of the codes each mailing adds "1" to the total number of mailings to that particular address. When the total reaches

4, no more labels will be printed and the name will kick out.

In the near future additional information will be included on the label which will tell the subscriber at a glance just when his/her subscription expires. For that reason it will be important that each person keep a tab on that code. It will be explained later. As mentioned quite some time ago, I will not send out renewal notices due to the cost of postage and time required. For that reason we did have the annual renewal date on the 1st of December each year; now the renewal date will begin on the fourth issue. More on this later.

We have also had several contributions since the last newsletter - all substantial and ALL most welcome. These include:

1. Gordon and Edna Railey, Jeffersonville, Ind., (Edna Bair) sends a most generous contribution to be added to the fund in the name of her mother, Lillie May McBrayer Bair. Says Edna, "She would have thought you work worthwhile. She was proud to be a McBrayer." Our sincere thanks to Edna; the contribution has been entered in her mother's name.

2. Other contributions have been received from: Harry and June Thomson, Hamilton, Mo.; and Clarence and Helen Bishop of Roseville, Ohio; Ruth and Nevelyn Emory, Roseville, Oh.; Beth Heiss, a descendent of William (2nd gen), of LaFayette, Ga., presently living in Charleston, S.C.; Gleason L. Brier, a leader in the family history on the Brier line of the family contributes another generous amount to the computer fund. Our gratitude for your help, Gleason and Evelyn.; Another most generous contribution comes from John Roy and Betty J. McBrayer of Columbus, Ohio.; and Leonard Bryan and Bessie McBrayer, Temple, Ga., leaders in the Ga. group of the family; From Mangum, Okla., comes a substantial and most welcome contribution from Bessie Sasseen; and Kaye Quinn, a descendent on the David McBrayer/Brier line, South Euclid, Ohio, THANKS TO EACH AND ALL !!!!

Regardless the amount each of you have donated to this computer fund, I personally want to express my sincere appreciation for your help. Each and every bit goes toward making this computer OURS. Slowly but surely we are getting there. To date just over \$950 has been raised. Most of this has been added to my personal amounts toward the repayment of the note which was used to buy it in the first place. Another small amount has been used to purchase some necessary software, paper, ribbons, etc.

THANKS FOR ALL YOUR HELP !!!!!-Carl-

MARRIAGE VOWS READ

ASHEVILLE, N.C. - Frances Daryl Brown and Phillip Davis McBrayer exchanged wedding vows in a noon ceremony on New Year's Day, 1982, at the home of the bride's mother.

The bridegroom's sister, the Rev. Patricia McBrayer, officiated at the ceremony.

Frances is the daughter of Mrs. J. Rex Brown of Asheville and the late Mr. Brown. She is a 1969 graduate of the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, where she received a degree in English, and a

1978 graduate of Columbia University, where she received a Masters degree in accounting. She is a certified public accountant and a certified data processor. She is employed as manager of accounting at Volvo-White Truck Corp. in Greensboro.

Phillip is the son of Mr. and Mrs E. Fred McBrayer of Shelby, North Carolina. He received a bachelor's degree in business administration in 1971 from Western Carolina University in Cullowhee and a master's degree with a concentration in management in 1980 from UNC-G. He is a certified management accountant and a certified production and inventory manager. He is employed as assistant manager of financial planning at Ciba-Geigy Corp. in Greensboro.

The couple will make their home in Greensboro.

BIRTHS

Donald W. and Janette McBrayer, Ethan, S.D., sends the data on the new arrivals. One new grandson and one new greatgrandson dots the scene. LANDON MARC MCBRAYER, the son of Patrick and Charleen McBrayer, Marietta, Ga., was born on January 19, 1982. Patrick is the son of Don and Janette. GERALD RYAN DIEDRICH, the son of Kathy McBrayer and Don Diedrich, was born October 22, 1981, in Miles City, Mont. Kathy is the daughter of John McBrayer and the greatgrandson of Don and Janette. Our hearty congratulations to the new parents and grand/greatgrandparents. -Janette McBrayer-

HAL BROCKBANK JENSON, JR., the son of Kathryn Marie Quinn and Hal Brockbank Jenson, M.D., was born 4 April 1982 in Cleveland, Ohio. He is the 10th generation in the line of David Brier (Briar), Revolutionary Soldier, the son of William McBrayer, I.A. Hal is the grandson of Kathryn Jane Christensen and Donald Quinn.
-Kaye Quinn-

CALIFORNIA VISITORS

Clarence H. and Pauline McBrayer, San Diego, Calif., were in both Okla. City and Dallas, Tx., during the early part of March. C.H., a racehorse investment councillor, was on a business trip, establishing new accounts in both states. While in Dallas he visited with Bud McBrayer of Plano, Tx., and in Okla. City he visited for a short time with Carl McBrayer.

UPDATE NEWS !!!!

In the March issue of ID we carried the story on the tragedy which struck the family of Jeffery and Stephanie McBrayer during the

floods in California in January. It was in those floods and subsequent mud slides that Stephanie lost her father, Gene Rumrill.

Since that time several have contributed more information as to the connection of this family, their address, etc.

Leona McBrayer, Sunnyvale, Calif., while on a business trip in the area, took the time to locate the address of Steve (Jeff) and Stephanie. It is: Steven and Stephanie McBrayer, 1204 Patterson Lane, Apt. 8, Pacific Grove, Calif., 93950.

Don and Janette McBrayer of Ethan, S.D., wrote to Steve and Stephanie and a reply was recently received from Steve's father. We now have their connection. It is: Jeffery Lewis (Steve) McBrayer, 10th gen, George William-133, James-177, Charles-56, James-196, Lewis-282, James-193, Ichabod-156, Samuel-360, William-1. He is the son of George and Hallie McBrayer. George and Hallie's address is: P.O. Box 632, Pacific Grove, Calif., 93950.

Our sincere thanks to the hard work of all - Leona, Don and Janette, and others - who have searched to find this family's connection. Thank you!

This is a very good example of how working together can produce results.

SCOTLAND TOUR A REALITY !!!!!

For some time various members of the family have had a desire and a wish to travel to our 'home country' of Scotland. Last year we started to plan for such a trip, but ran into numerous obstacles which prevented further pursuit at that time.

In Dec 1981, while May Roberts was visiting from Scotland, additional plans were laid and considerable discussions held concerning such a trip.

It was decided that Olive Butler, Berkeley, Ca., would handle the arrangements this time around, and those who had expressed an interest before were contacted about the new ideas and schedule. Olive, working with her friend, Sandy Hayashi, at "POINT OF DEPARTURE" travel agency in Berkeley, began to put together the travel package.

After months of extremely hard work, the first McBrayer/Brier Scotland tour is off and running, with a scheduled departure of the last week in May. The trip is scheduled for 10 days of enjoyment in and around the ancestral city of Dumfries, Scotland.

May Roberts, who lives in Lochmaben, Scotland, has completed the details of the trip after the group arrives in Scotland. She will be taking them on tours of many of the sites of family interest, plus has scheduled meetings and talks with various knowledgeable persons about the family. A fantastic time is in store for everyone.

At last report Olive stated there were 27 people going on this trip. All would be leaving from different points around the U.S., but all would arrive in London within just 3 hours of each other.

We're hoping for many interesting stories to come from this trip and can hope to see some of them appearing in ID.

If the success anticipated is realized on this trip future tours will be planned. Keep an eye on ID for any announcements.

MCBRAYER NAMED SCHOOL HEAD !!!!!

Dennis D. McBrayer, the oldest son of C. Durrett and Jewel Cash McBrayer, has been named as principal for H.A. Jones Elementary School in Bremen, Ga., for the 1982-83 school year.

He is currently assistant principal at Fairplay Middle School in Douglas County. He taught at Bremen High School from 1967 to 1968, and served as the assistant principal during his tenure there.

Dennis, a native of Buchanan, Ga., his wife, Laura, and their four children, Keith, Dana, Leah and Scott, live in Bremen.

REUNIONS !!!!!

How many times have you wanted to take a vacation, but just didn't know where you wanted to go or what you wanted to do?

Perhaps we can offer a suggestion, prompt you and persuade you to make those plans for this year's trip/s based around one of the several McBrayer family reunions around the country.

GEORGIA...One of the bigger events for the family is held in Ga. each year. Begun as a birthday celebration in honor of Nancy Ann Leathers McBrayer, the annual McBrayer/Leathers reunion is one of the longest running gatherings in the country.

Though held for and by the descendents of Andrew and Nancy McBrayer, it is open to any and all family visitors.

The event is held on the third Sunday (18 July 1982) of July at the Dreetown (Ga.) Baptist Church. It begins with church services at 10 A.M., followed by a covered dish dinner (everyone bring a covered dish) under the trees. After a filling meal and plenty of family talk, a business/entertainment meeting is held in the air conditioned comfort of the church.

Everyone is welcome! If you have any questions as to directions, etc., contact reunion chairman: Dr. R.T. McBrayer, Rt 5, Valley Ridge Rd., Canton, Ga., 30114, tele-479-5736.

KENTUCKY...The third Sunday in August (15 August 1982) is the date; Morehead, Ky., City Park is the place for the annual reunion of the descendents of James R. McBrayer.

James Earl McBrayer, RR 5, Box 306, Morehead, Ky., 40351, tele-1-606-784-7974, is the chairman of this reunion.

The event, which has been held for many years, is the largest known gathering of the family in the northeast. Last years group saw representatives from 8-9 different states.

Of course...visitors are welcome.

NORTH CAROLINA...A new gathering is being planned for the North Carolina group of our family. Susan McBrayer, Shelby, N.C., has devoted extensive time and energies in promoting and planning this first ga-

therring of this area.

This event is scheduled for Sunday, 8 Aug. 1982, and will be held at the Isothermal Community College in Forest City, N.C. It is covered dish so bring some goodies. Susan has made arrangements with the college for us to have a very large gathering hall which seats around 200, and the best of all is the college is allowing us to use the hall free of charge.

One item of interest which will be discussed at this gathering is the plans and preparations for the first annual McBrayer/ Brier family conclave which we hope to have in Aug of 1983. Hopefully it, too, will be held in this central area from which our forefathers began their country-wide expansion. If all the details can be worked out we are looking for an attendance roster which will include most of the states of America. We'll keep you posted, so begin now making your plans for 1983.

As a secondary thought...why not couple the 7 Aug 1982 gathering with a trip to Knoxville, Tn., and the 1982 World's Fair. Knoxville is only a couple hours drive from Forest City.

Directions and information can be obtained by contacting: Susan McBrayer, c/o Shelby Daily Star, Shelby, N.C., 28150; or Paul McBrayer, 101 Eastover Dr., Forest City, N.C., 28043, tele. 704-245-4328.

Pat and I would love to be able to attend each and every family reunion which comes along, but, unfortunately, lack of time and adequate finances prevents us from doing so. We will, however, be attending the North Carolina gathering on the 7th of Aug. and the Ky. reunion on the 15th. We hope to see many of you there. -Carl-

INDIANA...The annual family reunion of the descendents of Seneca McBrayer will be held in the Hammond, Ind., area on the 11th of July 1982. The exact location for the event has not been decided at this time, but further information can be obtained from John McBrayer, RR 1, Gresser Rd., Hobart, Ind., 46342, tele- 219-759-2230

Several other reunions have been planned, but dates and locations are not known at this time. Hopefully, by this time next year we will have a full list of all such events, dates and locations and can publish them in plenty of time for you to plan your vacations around them.

If you have knowledge of any family gathering, by all means, send in your information so it can be passed on to others.

In the December issue (1981) of ID we carried the first of a scheduled series of instalments of the Autobiography of Charles Nelson McBrayer as submitted by his daughter, Barbara June Bartels. I must apologize for not including the second series in the March issue as planned, nor in this issue either, but I hope each of you will un-

derstand, and especially Barbara, who was very generous to loan us the information. There were plans to include it this issue, but as you will notice our room is about up. If you will bear with me I can assure you it will be carried in future issues.

I also want to reemphasize that I have not forgotten those many wonderful letters from so many of you. I know you think I have forgotten about answering them, but that is simply not the case. I have been trying to divert all time and energies to the work on the new genealogy. This leaves very little time for correspondence at this time. Eventually I will get around to replying, so keep the faith, and thanks for all the data and words of encouragement.

Work is progressing satisfactorily on the new book. I have now completed the re-typing of the first several hundred pages and have the information stored in the computer. A first draft has been printed of this information and corrections are being made. Work on the remaining pages will begin as soon as this issue of the newsletter is completed. At this time I can not give you a scheduled completion date, but I can assure you it will be just as soon as possible. I will keep you informed. To date over 450 pages have been completed which accounts for only 1/3 (approximatly) of the book.

A NEW FAMILY CONNECTION MADE !!!

On the evening of April 29, 1982, I received a most interesting and welcome telephone call from Ron McBrair of Oshkosh, Wisc.

For some time we had known there were descendents of the Newark family from Tweedhill and Broadmeadows in America, but had no idea just where or who. In talking with Ron on the evening mentioned, it was discovered that his particular line (evidently) is from Robert MacBrair (mentioned on page 9 of the first Linage Book-1980).

Ron informs us that his father was David; his grandfather was Jess. From here back his lineage reads as such: Archibald, the son of Archibald who married Euphinie Kerr on 7 May 1844, possibly in Scotland. Ron states that Archibald came to America about 1845. He died in Marion, Wisc., in 1897.

This is one of the more thrilling occurrences which has come about recently. It is a definite sign that the family circle is beginning to grow. Ron has indicated he will be sharing his personal research information with us, so, hopefully, in the future we can carry additional data on this line of the family within the pages of ID. In the meantime if anyone has any information on Archibald (the 1st generation in America) that they can share with Ron, by all means, do so. His address is: 3711 Parkview Ct., Oshkosh, Wisc., 54901, telephone #1-414-235-0312.

Our thanks to Ron for sharing his information with us thus far. We shall all be looking forward to hearing more from him in the future.

ALMAGIL

The medieval fortress is a ruin, of course. It has been for centuries. But there are a few stones there still, among the grassy mounds and the moss grown stones that nestle high on Almagil Hill in Mid Annandale. Stone was quarried here for centuries for building and repair of the fortress which looked across the river Annan to the broad vicinity of Carlisle in England. The ridge provided a spectacular view point, a natural site for a fortress. To see who was approaching. A friend or the enemy and how many. Almagil was not far from the route the English followed frequently when moving thousands of men to attack Scotland. The location of water to the fortress was as prime a consideration as the importance of the far flung view. Neither man nor beast could survive long without water. It was rough going, demanding a zig zag ascent to the crest of the hill ridge where the fortress was situated. The terrain was clothed in clumps of long tussocky grass which all but hid the sharp rocks and the bog beneath.

In 1427 Herbert MacBrair received a grant of the lands of Almagil in the Parish of Dalton. As you walk over the land you will see a Roman ruin and the Range Station which, according to the Ordnance Survey Map, is marked as "A remain from the native Iron Age".

In 1978 Lois Brier Girvan and I were shown an old planting map which is tacked on the wall in the house of the present owner at Almagil. Three items caught our attention and they were the Roman Ruin, the Iron Age remain and the statue on the ridge of a nearby hill.

May Roberts of Lochmaben (Scotland) and I investigated the Almagil site in 1981 and found what appeared to be a quarry and numerous quarried stones a hundred feet or so higher on the hill ridge, which indicted to us that something quite substantial had been built there. On March 16, 1982, Mr. Truckell, curator of the Burgh Museum, and May Roberts walked the Almagil location and Mr. Truckell verified that the fortress stone came from this site.

How many times did our ancestors gaze southwards across the Borderline into England. How often had they looked, dreading what would sooner or later bear down on them from over there, the great enemy hosts, intent on the annihilation of Scotland.

-written and submitted by Ethel Brier Koller-

PETER PAUL MCBRAYER DESCENDENTS HOLD REUNION

The descendents of Peter Paul and Mary Frances (Fanny) Cooper McBryer held their eighth reunion on Sunday, April 26th, 1982, in the Fellowship Room of the New Georgia Baptist Church which is located between Dallas and Villa Rica, Ga. There were 37 present. The event had been scheduled as an al fresco affair at Twin Lakes, but heavy rains changed the plans.

A delicious picnic lunch was spread on long tables and enjoyed by everyone. Mrs. Tom (Iva Willoughby) Stuart presided over a busi-

ness meeting following the repast. A vote was taken to change the date and place of the reunion and it was unanimously passed to hold it on the first Sunday in October of every year in the Gold Room of the Carrollton Federal Saving Building in Villa Rica, Ga. Those present decided it would be too long in between reunions to wait until Oct. 1983 so another one is scheduled to be held on Oct. 3, 1982, making two reunions this year.

Audrey Willoughby Herrell was recognized as having had a book of poems published. She then autographed a copy for each of her first cousins and presented the book to them. It is named "Rhymes for Thought or Fun from Harrell Hill" and contains 179 pages of beautiful poetry. It was compiled by her children in loving honor of their Mother.

Mrs. Stuart told of...the computer to be used in the family genealogy work, and several pledges were made toward the purchase. These included: Mr. Joe Doyal, Mr. Eugene Doyal, Mrs. Steve (Audrey) Herrell, Mr. W.R. Willoughby, Jr., all of Villa Rica, Ga.; and Mr. Tom Stuart of Merritt Island, Fla.

Mrs. Fred (Jane Wynn) Robinson was elected president of the group. Her address is: Route 2, Dallas, Ga., 30132, tele: (404) 445-2283.

The meeting adjourned with plenty of time for visiting and reminiscing.

-written and submitted by Mildred McBrayer Howell, Gainesville, Ga.-

ADDITIONAL COMPUTER CONTRIBUTIONS !!!

Just arrived and too late to include within the list of names of contributors earlier herein, I wish to acknowledge receipt of two more family contributors. First: from Ft. Payne, Ala., comes another amount from Opal McBrayer. This is Opal's second donation. From Dunnellon, Fla., comes a very substantial contribution from Dr. Ben and Helene McBrayer. Our sincere thanks to both of you.