



McBrayer

NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION
OCTOBER 1 & 2, 1988

FOREST CITY, NORTH CAROLINA

McBrayers and their decedents from all over the country will gather on October 1 and 2, 1988 for a grand reunion of the family. This reunion will be held at the First Baptist Church of Forest City in the foothills of the beautiful North Carolina mountains and within easy driving distance of the Great Smoky Mountains National Park, Nantahala and Pisgah National Forests, Biltmore House and Gardens, and other scenic and historical sites too numerous to mention. Come to North Carolina to visit and remember with McBrayers from all over the nation.

Accommodations

There are two nearby facilities:

The Big Horn Inn, Spindale, N.C. (704/286-3681) and the Henderson Inn, Forest City, N.C. 704/248-1711

(The Henderson Inn is a new 64-room facility about 1/2 mile from the church. Mr. Henderson has graciously allowed McBrayer Reunion attendees a reduced rate for lodging: \$34.00 single, \$38.00 double per night. Tell the motel personnel you are coming for the McBrayer Reunion and receive a reduced rate.)

Registration

There is no mandatory registration fee; this is to insure maximum attendance. We are, however, operating on a shoestring budget that will barely cover postage and promotion. Therefore, we ask a voluntary \$3.00 donation per adult with the intention of using this money to hire live entertainment (a bagpipe and drum band!). A full band will cost around \$350.00; a smaller version will cost around \$150.00 - \$200.00. We believe this would add tremendously to our reunion. If you are going to make a contribution, please send it as soon as possible, but no later than August 31, 1988. If you are a "well-off" McBrayer and wish to contribute a greater amount, please feel free to do so. A full accounting of this reunion's budget will be presented at the reunion. A registration form is attached. (Pre-registration is strongly recommended but not required.)

MCBRAYER NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

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Schedule

The exact schedule is still being developed. In general, October 1 is for any family member who wants to schedule meetings on family association formation, historical discussions, or any other special purpose. October 2 will be the full family reunion, dinner and entertainment.

The meal will be a cover dish dinner. Past experience has shown that this results in a far better meal than is available from any caterer. For those of you traveling great distances, kitchen facilities will be available at the church. More on this later.

To schedule events for October 1, contact Alan McBrayer at 704/525-4525. Volunteers are also needed to help with reunion preparations.

Family Contacts Needed

Help! Our mailing list is far from complete. Spread the word to all family members. Contact Alan McBrayer if you wish information sent to anybody. We need your help!

Further Information

Further information will be published in In Defiance, the McBrayer family newsletter, in months to come. Questions can be answered by calling Susan McBrayer at 704/484-7016 weekdays only or Alan McBrayer at 704/525-4525 nights and weekends.

REGISTRATION FORM

Name _____

Address _____

Enclosed is \$3.00 each for _____ adults

Additional contribution of _____ enclosed

SEND TO: McBrayer Reunion
c/o Alan McBrayer
1320 Heather Lane
Charlotte, NC 28209



In

THE
MCBRAYER FAMILY
NEWSLETTER

Defiance

MARCH 1988

PRIVATELY PUBLISHED BY CARL B. MCBRAYER, 412 CHAR LANE, MIDWEST CITY, OK., 73110

AS AN INTRODUCTION TO THIS ISSUE OF "IN DEFIANCE" I MUST DIRECT YOUR ATTENTION TO SEVERAL IMPORTANT ARTICLES AND ATTACHMENTS. FIRST THERE IS THE STORY ABOUT THE "FAMILY MEMORIAL FUND" BY TERRELL MCBRAYER. SECONDLY THERE IS THE ARTICLE ABOUT THE FAMILY ASSOCIATION BY DR. BEN MCBRAYER. ATTACHED IS AN ADVERTISING FLYER ABOUT OUR FIRST "NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION" BY ALAN MCBRAYER AND SUSAN MCBRAYER. I ASK YOU TO PAY PARTICULAR ATTENTION TO EACH AND THEN PASS THAT INFORMATION ON TO OTHERS OF YOUR PARTICULAR FAMILY. THE REUNION NOTIFICATION HAS BEEN PRINTED AND SUPPLIED BY ALAN AND IS BEING INCLUDED HERE FOR WIDEST POSSIBLE COVERAGE. YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO MAKE COPIES AND TO PASS THEM OUT TO FAMILY MEMBERS IN YOUR AREA. PLEASE.....HELP US OUT! AND PLAN TO ATTEND THE REUNION.

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MCBRAYER FAMILY ASSOCIATION NEWS

by Dr. Ben McBrayer

PROGRESS IS BEING MADE !!!!!!!

When you read this in the March issue of IN DEFIANCE, a meeting will have taken place in Atlanta, GA, by a group of devoted and determined McBrayers to complete work on the Constitution and plans for incorporation. Family members will be there from the Pacific Coast area, the Midwest, East Coast, South and Southeast areas. It will be a representative group meeting March 5-6.

After the work is done we will have a full story available for the next issue of this paper and members of our group will be available to make presentations to local and regional reunions. We are positive that this is an answer to solidarity of purpose and desire to preserve the McBrayer Heritage for all time and to work to restore some of our lost or misplaced parts of the McBrayer family. Watch for our next account of the happenings in Atlanta.

Those in attendance do so at their own expense for the love of our family.

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REPORT ON DUMFRIES MEMORIAL FUND

by Dr. Terrell McBrayer

We deeply appreciate the way that Carl has promoted communicating to all of you the project which we are excited about - placing a memorial to ALL of the McBrayers who trace their ancestry to Dumfries, whatever the current variation of spelling in the name.

We presently have \$1,201.20 in savings. Here are the recent contributors:

Jean Brown, Carl McBrayer, Marian McBrair Davis, Ethel Koller

In order to obtain the best way to reach the most people, I am proposing that we set our deadline for June 1989 so that we can include the National Reunion and give adequate time to get the message to most of our kin. EVERY ONE TRY TO GIVE SOMETHING. SEND TO: Terrell McBrayer, 418 Allatoone Way, Woodstock, GA. 30188.

There will be a full audit of funds, and balance on hand will earn interest until disbursement for the project. THANKS.

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ALWAYS THE SOLDIER

At Age 92, Colonel's Still Teaching Cadets

(article by Fred Mares of the Mid-America Staff - contributed by H.T. McBrayer, KC, MO)

LEXINGTON, MO - "Tom, No!"

Col. James McBrayer Sellers, 92, peered from behind his glasses toward the young cadet 71 years his junior. "Look at it. Pronounce it. It's right in front of you there."

"Yes, sir," replied Tom Hale, 21, a sophomore from Indianapolis who sat inside the Wentworth Military Academy office where Sellers serves as president and teaches a one-hour Latin class with Hale as the only student.

Hale said later: "He's very demanding. He knows the subject in and out. He's got a really good memory. You know he's one of the oldest Marines still around from World War I."

According to the Marine Corps Museum in Washington, of the 29,775 Marines who were part of the American Expeditionary Force in France, Sellers is among fewer than 200 survivors who will celebrate Veterans Day this year.

To me its Armistice Day and always will be," reminded Sellers in an office where walls are chock-full of framed citations, letters and gifts from top military brass, state officials and dignitaries, including both President Reagan and Vice President George Bush. In the corner stands a red flag depicting the battle colors of the Marine Corps. A steel helmet from World War I covers several books on a bookcase behind him.

Sellers name is synonymous with Wentworth, one of the nation's oldest military schools.

His father, Col. Sandford Sellers, became superintendent of the school a year after it was founded in 1880. And Sellers' son, Col. James McBrayer Sellers, Jr., is the current superintendent of the campus, which consists of a junior high, high school and junior college. Capt. James McBrayer Sellers, III, 27, recently returned to the campus and is working in the admissions office.

Sellers today has conquered health problems to enter his 60th year of teaching on this 137-acre campus where he was born.

"I've often said that working here at Wentworth either kills you or keeps you young," the elder Sellers jokes to a visitor.

"I would be lost without having something to bring me here every day. To feel that I was doing a little something for the good of the country - and myself."

As he climbs into a car and drives a visitor around the campus, the reason his work is not finished comes into view: a group of young cadets marching across the grass.

"We've got a fine bunch of kids here," said Sellers, who still eats with cadets daily. "We've got a highly intelligent group from all over the world. They will be our leaders one day."

It was more than 70 years ago that Sellers joined the Marine Corps after

graduating from Wentworth and earning Phi Beta Kappa honors at the University of Chicago.

"Believe it or not, I didn't know what the Marine Corps was," Sellers wrote in his memoirs. "I had a vague idea that it was something like the Merchant Marines, but I went down to the recruiting office to inquire. There I was sold."

That was April 1917. A year and a half later Sellers was in France for Armistice Day, Nov. 11, 1918. Along the way he had served as company commander with the 6th Marines and was wounded in battle. He earned the Distinguished Service Cross, Navy Cross, Silver Star, Purple Heart and French croix de guerre.

Sellers and his men celebrated Armistice Day in a fashion that maybe only a soldier could appreciate.

"We built a fire for the first time, and I took off my underwear and killed the cooties (lice)," he said. "I counted 30 some of cooties off my underwear. See you couldn't build a fire before then because the smoke would give your position away."

Later he and his men started the five-week hike to Germany, where for six months they served occupation duty. Today a framed photograph of his company, taken in Germany, hangs just inside his office doorway.

"Armistice Day means to me that we stopped fighting and stopped losing men," Sellers said.

Sellers was released from active Marine duty in 1920 and came back to Wentworth academy and bought a one-third interest in the school. He subsequently became commandant, executive officer and superintendent at the school. He also taught military subjects, mathematics, Latin and English and coached tennis and intramural football. In 1960 he resigned as superintendent but remained president of the board.

He married Rebekah Hall Evans of Independence on Dec. 28, 1925. She was the great-granddaughter of Stephen G. Wentworth, a Lexington banker who founded the school in 1880, and the daughter of L. Fred Evans, treasurer and chairman of Emery, Bird and Thayer of Kansas City. The Sellerses were married 60 years until her death in 1985.

Sellers said he was a true believer in the notion that mental attitude controls physical condition.

He drives his own car, cooks his own weekend breakfasts. He still plays the piano. His favorite television shows are political talk shows and "Wall Street Week in Review." He is a devoted newspaper reader, including the stock tables and "my crossword puzzles."

Sellers jokingly says he's had every known operation "except the Caesarean section." He survived a heart attack after playing tennis in 1950. Both hips have been operated on, one of them twice, and he uses a cane.

"I played golf until my game got so horrible I got no pleasure out of it and took up mowing my lawn."

Recently, he had to give that up too when he tried to start up the mower and instead injured muscles in his right shoulder.

"I can't salute with my right hand," said Sellers, always the officer. "I have to salute with my left hand."

Capt. James McBrayer III described his grandfather this way: "He's like a book, and he just loves to be opened up and let the history spill out of him. Its amazing."

Back in his office, Sellers stand up, closes his Latin textbook and grabs his cane. Before he walked out the door he glanced back at the photograph of his World War I comrades.

"We were lighthearted and thought we could lick the world," he said.

"And we did."

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R E N E W A L N O T I C E

I sincerely apologize to each and every one for a regrettable oversight on my part. I have been failing to mention in ID information concerning the renewal rates and dates of the news letter. Many did not know the current rates of renewal and I have been failing to mention or remind you of the expiration dates of your subscriptions. I will do my utmost to remember in the future. SO!.....Subscription rates for ID are \$12 per year. The date of expiration for each subscription is carried on the line just above your name on your address label. BE SURE TO CHECK IT EACH TIME. If you have sent a renewal and it does not reflect the correct date let me know immediately so the records can be corrected. I don't want anyone to miss their copy of ID ... And I do make mistakes in entering information into this computer. Thanks for being patient with me. Carl

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H O S P I T A L N O T E S

Our sincere best wishes for a speedy recovery to all our ill cousins:THOMAS McB, Lorena, TX, is now able to get around with the aid of a cane. Ill health "has curtailed his activities with the Civil Air Patrol (CAP)....LLOYD W. and MARY MADGE MCB MITCHELL are now at home recuperating after a bout of illness....HELEN MCB, wife of JAMES EARL MCB, Morehead, KY, is recovering from a stroke suffered in early 1987....

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A CLOSE CALL

(The following story has been provided by James E. McBrayer of Morehead, KY. It is not known at this time from what book the information was taken.)

In the latter part of the Summer of 1862, the Ohio and Sandy Rivers at Catlettsburg were extremely low. The Sandy at the ford at the Mouth was not over nine or ten inches deep, with a well beaten track, over which teams, horsemen, and even footmen, by stepping from rock to rock, could cross with perfect ease and safety. Catlettsburg at the time was the depot of vast quantities of Government stores, as well as having located a corral, where many government horses and mules were kept to supply sudden demands for horses used by the army of occupation in the Sandy above. At the time the general stores of the place carried large stocks of goods, especially in the line of ready-made clothing. Not a soldier was on hand to guard the Government stores, much less to protect the private property of the town. Ten armed men could have come in and captured the place, including the rich Government treasures.

At about eleven o'clock A.M., on the day indicated, the few persons who happened to be passing up Front Street were attracted by a dense cloud of dust a mile or two distant on the road leading to Ceredo, West Va. By the time the first observers had called to others to come and look, it was discovered that the great cloud of dust was put in motion by the feet of several hundred horses, whose riders carried the colors of the Southern Confederacy, and wore the gray, the emblematical uniform of that party. From the time the flying dust was first noticed, not more than five minutes had elapsed when it was apparent to all beholders on the banks that a large force of Confederate cavalry in a few minutes would be in Catlettsburg, capturing rich government stores and private booty, and, perhaps, would not stop at carrying away as much stores as they might choose, but would burn the town as well. But when the troopers had come within three hundred yards of the ford over Sandy, all stopped as suddenly as if a thunder-bolt had struck both horse and rider dead. The soldiers remained sitting on their reined-in steeds as if in a short consultation. Their halt or check-up added consternation to the few denizens

of the anticipated ill-fated town at the mouth. The consultation of the troopers was at an end in less than two minutes, when the whole regiment turned about and rode away in the direction from which they came. Both joy and wonder filled the hearts and minds of every beholder who viewed the maneuvers of the troops.

Why they came so near the town with no obstacle to their coming or staying, and why, when within two minutes' ride of all that would gladden the hearts of men half fed and clothed, was a profound mystery, but was made plain within less than twenty-four hours. On the morning in question Solomon McBrayer, a citizen of the East Fork country, who had moved into town for a temporary purpose, was living in the old Catlett house, since torn down. McBrayer had persuaded two young men, refugees from Virginia, to accompany him that morning on a squirrel-hunt in the dense forest lying between the Sandy River and Ceredo. Having no guns, they by some device procured each a government Enfield rifle. The trio walked to Hampton City, an upper suburb of Catlettsburg, crossed the Sandy, and went up to near the upper end of the woods near Ceredo. They were in sight of the toopers as they passed down the road, and the men believing capture, and perhaps, death would be their fate if they returned to town before the Confederate soldiers had left, and fearful that their lurking-place might be discovered on the return of the troops, concluded to seek a safer retreat, and also one from which they could view the force on its return from sacking Catlettsburg, discovering thereby the result of the raid. They hastened toward Twelve Pole Creek, keeping near the hill which reached from the Sandy to almost Twelve Pole, so they might not be observed. Coming to the Creek, they easily crossed over, and ran up the hill by the residence of Fred Holden, who was a brother-in-law of Congressman Eli Thayer, who founded Ceredo. Immediately on the top of the hill, or rather cliff, a dense growth of trees and underwood were interlocked, making it impossible for any passer-by on the road, which lay at the foot of the cliff, to see any one within two hundred feet of him.

A soldier living nearly opposite Ceredo, in Ohio, was at home on a furlough, and had his Enfield with him. Seeing the troops passing down in the direction of Catlettsburg, and expecting their return after they had sacked the town, he took up his gun and walked down near the edge of the water in the Ohio River, a dense willow thicket having grown up, and a large pile of drift accumulated in the preceding Spring fresher. Behind the drift-pile he placed himself, and, concealed by the willows, awaited the return of the raiders. They returned much sooner than he had anticipated. When the man took his position in the willow thicket, he intended to fire into the ranks of the soldiers as they passed back on the highway. But when the cavalymen reached a point where at that time stood a large mill, and perceived a road leading down the river bank (just below Ceredo), they turned in that direction, and kept on to the river for the purpose of watering their horses. The man in the thicket took aim and slew one of the troopers, who fell into the river. Two of his comrades jumped from their horses, hastily raised the dead man from the water, and, placing him before another soldier, the whole party, carrying their comrade with them, scampered away. Ten minutes brought them to the place where Sol. McBrayer and his companions were lying in ambush. Riding in haste, and greatly chagrined at their ill-undertaken expedition, they were not looking for any more danger ahead, as they were beyond the range of a ball from a gun fired from the Ohio shore. But how often is it that the very moment we feel most secure is the one we are in the most danger!. When the troops were immediately opposite the ambush, the three concealed hunters all fired at once, yelling at the top of their voices to an imaginary main body of troops to come to the front and fire in companies, leaving the impression on the minds of the surprised raiders that a large Union force had collected to cut off their retreat. The men in ambush discovered that two of the fleeing raiders had been wounded by their shot, and news reached Catlettsburg afterwards that they had both died.

The Confederates hastened on to Guyandotte, to meet the frown and receive

the rebuke of the colonel of the regiment, who had given strict orders to his men to keep away from Catlettsburg. Many of the men had been recruited in the neighborhood of Guyandotte, and the colonel had permission to go with them there, that the men might visit their families, and procure, if possible, a better outfit of clothing and camp equipage. On the morning of the attempted raid some of the officers and men told the colonel that it would be a good thing to go down to Catlettsburg and sack the town. but the commander forbade it in the most positive terms; "for," said he "I have many friends in Catlettsburg, some of whom are Union people, and I can't find it in my heart to inflict an injury on them, especially so when it is probable that if we should go down there and raid the government stores, a greater calamity would be visited on us that we might scourge them with." But, the colonel being absent from his command for an hour or so, the restive subordinate officers resolved to go, in disobedience to the order of their chief. On returning to head-quarters, the colonel was overwhelmed with anger to find the men away, and, on learning where they had gone, hastily wrote an order, and put it in the hands of a safe courier, mounted on a fleet charger, commanding the messenger to travel with all speed, and if possible, overtake the men before they reached Catlettsburg; but if not so successful, to go into the town and bring the men away, and to tell them to leave their plunder behind.

Sol. McBrayer, two or three days after these stirring events, went to Louisa and volunteered in the 39th Kentucky Infantry, and a day or two after, while sitting on a dry-goods box, a rusty nail projecting through the wood scratched his thigh, causing a slight abrasion of the skin, producing gangrene, which terminated in his death within twenty-four hours. His widow's pension runs back to the day of his death.

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T I D B I T S

Thanks to CARL T. and PATSY MCBRAYER of Seattle, WA, for the gift of the beautiful Scottish Tartans book. It is great addition to my library....Cousins JOYCE and DICK ROUNDY, Pea Ridge, AR, spent the night with CARL and PAT MCB, Midwest City, OK, in mid Dec. They were on their way to CA to spend Christmas with their children....Sincere appreciation to the following for their contributions to the family fund: HAROLD T. and CARLOTTA MCB, Kansas City, MO; AMY and BOBBY TILLER, San Antonio, TX; CARL and PAT MCB, Seattle, WA; JUDY M. SPARKS, Maryville, TN.....A descriptive auto bumper sticker recently observed on a vehicle in Oklahoma City - "OKLAHOMA'S POLITICIANS - THE BEST THAT MONEY CAN BUY"....

A word of caution - The lady, previously from PA, now operating out of OH, is again trying to pass off a "so-called genealogy book on the McBrayers". I ordered one of these books several years ago just to see what she had to offer and let me tell you, it is a sham and a miserable excuse for a genealogy book. If you want to do your own research she gives you hints and methods to use to track down the records, but she has NOTHING about the lineage of our family - just a few names and addresses that have been extracted from some old telephone books - and even many of those are no longer valid. This same text is offered to many other surnames with only the list of names in the back changed to reflect that surname. BE CAREFUL!!!!....I have also had several cousins ask my advise on a new offer being made from a company in Colorado concerning "THE MCBRAYER FAMILY NEWS" and an address listing. I have not ordered the address listing, but I did subscribe to the 'news'. The first copy was received in early December and I wasn't surprised. There was no information about any McBrayers - only requests for information about 'the oldest McBrayer in America', old photographs, etc. Unless this company can produce a much better product than what was recently mailed, I would suggest against subscribing. Perhaps they may improve at which time I can possibly change my attitude. I do think, however, the editor/ publisher is sincere in

his attempts,

....From the CLOUTIERs of Hurst, TX - BRENDA is busy working on her family and 20 year high school reunions and is happily employed with a law firm in the area, while STEVE now has a new job in Hartford, Connecticut. He will be in that area for about 2 years before returning to TX permanently. Daughter RANI has begun her sophomore year at L.D. Bell High School. And daughter CHRISTA is in her sophomore year at the University of Texas at Austin....GRANT BARTELS, Lake Worth, FL, entered the field of the 'retired' on the 30th of Nov. 1987, while wife BARBARA begins the agonizing count-down of seven months until she, too, can join him....JESSICA LINDSEY MCBRAYER, daughter of CHARLES and JOYCE MCBRAYER of Birmingham, AL, celebrated her first birthday on June 30 (1987). Grandparents are CHARLES and LINDA MCBRAYER of Crossville and JOAN SWAFFORD of Birmingham. Great-grandmother is HATTIE MAE CAMPBELL of Fyffe (AL).

....A program from the Scottish Gathering and Games in Santa Rosa, CA, in Sept 1987, provided a map of Scotland showing the Clans of the land. The MacBrairs were listed in this map. Thanks to HAROLD T. and CARLOTTA, Kansas City, MO, for the program....JAMES EARL and HELEN MCB, Morehead, KY, spent an enjoyable night with BUD and MARGARET MCB of Fairview, NC, in July, 1987....JAMES E. also reports that granddaughter CARLA CHAPMAN will obtain her medical degree from University of Tampa in March (1988)....Congratulations are in order for TIMOTHY ALAN ROUNDY and PATRICIA ANN POWELL. They were married 14 Jan 1988 in ceremonies in Las Vegas, NV. Tim is the son of DICK and JOYCE ROUNDY of Pea Ridge, AR. Patty is the daughter of MR. and MRS. LUCIAN POWELL. They will be making their home in CO.....Additional news of illness in the family - MELVIN RAY, husband of LOETA MCBRAYER RAY, a long-time sufferer of Parkinson's disease, was recently diagnosed with Alzhiemers'. Loeta also reports that her mother, LILLIAN B. RICHARDS, 87, a resident of Roseburg, OR, suffered a stroke in April 1987 and then broke her hip in May. Although she is considered legally blind, she does almost everything herself.

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PATRICIA ANN MCBRAYER, daughter of ROBERT L. and BETTY MCBRAYER of Lincoln Park, Mich., and grand-daughter of DR. BEN and HELENE MCBRAYER, Dunnellen, Fl., graduated from the University of Florida on December 19, 1987, with the Degree of Bachelor of Design in Architecture. Patty is currently employed in an architect's office in Gainesville, Fl., but plans on taking post-graduate studies in the near future.

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D E A T H S

CHESTER CAROL PRESLEY, 91, died 16 Dec 1987 in a hospital in Porterville, CA. Chester, born 1 Jan 1896 in Weatherford, TX, was married 8 Jul 1917 to Willie Beason McBrayer. She died in 1942. Chester remarried 2 Jun 1948 to Orpha Pauline Moody Tharp, who died 22 May 1986.

He had been in the hospital for a week before he died. Funeral services were held Friday, 18 Dec 1987 in Porterville. Burial was in the Porterville Cemetary.

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SETH LANE MCBRAYER

Seth Lane McBrayer, infant son of CONNIE and DON MCBRAYER, of 12 First St., Albertville (AL), died Tuesday, 13 Sept 1986, at the Baptist Hospital in Gadsden, AL.

Grave side services were held Thursday in the Hillcrest Cemetery with the REV. HURSELL WOFFORD officiating and Adams-Brown Funeral Home directing.

Other survivors include grandparents, MR. and MRS. BOYD MCBRAYER, BESSIE

HUFF and LESIE HAMBY, all of BOAZ (AL). (info by R.B. and MAE MCBRAYER)

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DR. ARCHIBALD JOHN BRIER

Dr. Archibald John Brier, 94, OF TOPEKA (KA), a former Kansas City physician and allergist, died Oct. 30, 1987, in a hospital in Topeka.

Dr. Brier graduated from the St. Louis College of Medicine in 1924 and went into private practice in Topeka for 45 years. After retiring in 1960 he moved to Kansas City and worked for the Veterans Regional Office. Later he returned to Topeka.

He served on the staff of St. Francis Hospital and Stormont-Vail Regional Medical Center in Topeka. He was a member of the American Legion, the Siloam Lodge, the 35th Division Association, the Sons of the American Revolution and was former president of the Shawnee County Medical Society. Dr. Brier had work published in several medical journals.

He was an Army veteran of World War I. He was a member of the First Presbyterian Church in Topeka.

He was born in Topeka and lived there most of his life.

Survivors include his wife, ELIZABETH BRIER of the home; and a brother, GUY A. BRIER, San Bernardino, CA.

Services were held at the First Presbyterian Church with burial in Topeka Cemetery.

(Item from the KANSAS CITY STAR, 1 Nov 1987, contributed by H.T. McBrayer, KC, MO.)

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EVERETT J. MCBRAYER

Everett J. McBrayer, 63, Warsaw, MO, died Oct 9, 1987, at a hospital in Columbia. He was born in St. Joseph and lived in Overland Park, Macon, MO, and Moberly, MO, before he moved to Warsaw in 1978. Mr. McBrayer was a mechanic for Allied Elevator Co., before he retired in 1963. He was a Marine veteran of World War II and a member of the Newton-Davis Post of the Veterans of Foreign Wars. His first wife, MILDRED MCBRAYER, died in 1984.

Survivors include his wife, DONNA MCBRAYER of the home; a son, DAVID K. MCBRAYER, Platte City; two stepsons, RODNEY E. MILLER, Wheat Ridge, CO, and CRAIG A. MILLER, Des Moines, Iowa; two stepdaughters, SONDRRA K. HARRIS and MICHELE R. BARTON of Platte City; two brothers, DELBERT MCBRAYER, Excelsior Springs, and BUD MCBRAYER, St. Louis; four sisters, ELIZABETH ADAMS and JOAN CAROLYN LASTOURGEON of Bucyrus, KA, MARY ANN PEARSON, Bremerton, WA, and MILDRED THOMAS, Kansas City; and six stepgrandchildren.

Services were held the following Tuesday at the Meierhoffer-Fleeman Chapel with burial in Mount Auburn Cemetery, St. Joseph, MO. (from the KC Star, 10/11/97, contributed by H.T. McBrayer, KC, MO)

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A TRIBUTE TO AN OUTSTANDING COUSIN -- JUDGE HAROLD MURPHY

by Terrell McBrayer

Judge Harold Murphy is the son of Gladys McBrayer Murphy who passed away just a few months ago. Judge Murphy has made the news in an extraordinary way at least twice in recent years. And the comments by those in his profession are most noteworthy.

Harold handled the famous Thevis case of the notorious pornographic criminal. In this case in 1979, a former U.S. Attorney said of Judge Murphy, "He's the perfect judge to hear the case; he's fair; he's decisive." An Atlanta lawyer says: "He is the best trial judge I know of anywhere. He is

excellent, superb. He is a most decent, courteous, polite man." In a recent legal newspaper Judge Murphy was reported to have been the only Federal Judge who received an EXCELLENT rating from those who practice in his court.

Frankly, I have never read so many good things about another human being, and I rejoice and thank God for Harold. His mother was a gracious Christian who left her testimony of an outstanding life just a few miles from where her grandparents cut the original timber, cleared the NEW GROUND, and carved a place in God's history book. Friends, this at Buchanan, and Felton, Georgia, just a few miles from DRAKETOWN, USA!! Yes, Aunt Gladys was the principal of the Feiton Elementary School, where she helped shape the lives of hundred of children. Her husband, Uncle Lloyd Murphy, has been bedridden for several years in a nursing home.

May we join in prayer for our loved ones who have served our generation but who now are unable to enjoy life as many of us do.

May I just say that I am glad for the NATIONAL REUNION, THE WORK THAT IS BEING DONE ON A FAMILY ORGANIZATION, AND THE COMMUNICATION THROUGH THE FAMILY NEWSLETTER. MY HOPE IS THAT WE CAN UNDERGIRD EACH OTHER WITH OUR GOODWILL AND CONCERN AS WE SHARE OUR GOODLY HERITAGE.

TERRELL MCBRAYER

THANKS FOR YOUR SUPPORT!!!!

In the mid 1970's, when I first became interested in our great family and began to delve into our history and lineage, I was primarily interested in locating my personal roots, but as I searched the old records and contacted those I felt could help, more and more information surfaced and then even more more distant relatives became known. I turned my research sights from a personal endeavor to the family as a whole. I began to search for, collect, and put together the puzzle of OUR heritage.

Here, I thought, was something I could share with others - those who unknowingly already shared some thing in common with me - our kinship. Thus was given the birth of a newsletter called "IN DEFIANCE". It began on a 'shoestring' and soon developed into a booming outlet for communicating family news, history, and announcements.

As ID grew and interest in our family increased I began to envision even more advances toward the recognition and growth of our family. I saw a NATIONAL FAMILY ASSOCIATION in which each member of the 'clan' could have a part and a say. I dreamed of a NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION where each of us could meet those distant family members of whom they perhaps had read about in ID or who had been 'turned up' in the family research and we could meet in harmony, fellowship and love and could work as a group and with unity to make OUR family a FAMILY TO BE REMEMBERED. I dreamed of each of us working together - hand in hand - without dissent, without arguments, discussing our disagreements and resolving the same equitably.

I begged, I urged, and I pleaded for your assistance in making these dreams come true, not for any personal glory or personal gain, but because I love my heritage and I love my family. Many of you responded. Many helped in whatever way you could. And I must say - without your help I could not have accomplished all that I did. This was not something I did; it was something WE did.

I think most important, though, was the fact that you believed in me and in what I was attempting to do and you expressed your confidence through your support.

Through the years I set one principle above the rest - what was to be accomplished was to be so done NOT at the expense OF the family but FOR the family. I feel that I have met and kept that principle.

Those goals I set in the beginning have been fulfilled or will be shortly. Our newsletter is a reality. My family received the benefit of the work of many in the form of information. The National Reunion, which would hopefully unite us is now more than a dream. The first such reunion is now being planned and will be held in October 1988. The Family Association I envisioned has now been given life. It is in the planning stages and is nearing actual reality.

All of this is not been just my work. Many have been responsible for these dreams coming true. I could not have possibly done all of it alone. It has taken each of you - first just to be interested, second to participate and do your part. Never-the-less I feel my dreams have been or are nearing completion.

Therefore, I think the time has arrived for me to step aside and allow others to begin their work toward making this an even greater family unit. We need new ideas! And as one Pacific coast cousin once wrote "It's time for new blood." Perhaps it is.....

This will be the last "IN DEFIANCE" I publish. Beginning with the June 1988 issue your new publisher will be DR. TERRELL MCBRAYER of Woodstock, Ga., (whose address appears in another article of this issue) who has accepted the challenge and who has the potential and resources to continue and improve on my meager beginning with the newsletter. I support Terrell in this effort and I strongly urge each of you to give him your fullest cooperation. Let us not waste all the efforts we have expended in the past 10 years and lose our sole means of family 'long distant communication'. In addition let us each support Terrell in his efforts toward the McBrayer Memorial Fund. As many McBrayers, Briers and McBairs as there are in this country, one dollar (or two or five or whatever) from each could swell the coffers in short time. The Dumfries Memorial would be there for our grandchildren's grandchildren. Wouldn't it be nice to be remembered in the years to come as a contributor to a worthy cause?

In addition I sincerely hope each of you will lend your support to Dr. Ben in his efforts to establish our National Family Association. His is a healthy task and not an easy one. He needs the help and support of all. This organization can only succeed with the active participation of all. One person cannot maintain it. Be active. Be supportive.

Let's not forget the National Family Reunion. Alan McBrayer and Susan McBrayer have undertaken an unforgettable task - one they will surely remember for years to come. Hopefully, the memories will be good ones, though. The job of getting something of this magnitude into reality will prove a tremendous challenge and again they cannot do it alone. They must have help - support, money, actual assistance - whatever. Please, let's help them!!!!!!

I want to take this last opportunity to thank all of you who have stood by me during the past few years, who have supported me with your confidence, your blessing and most of all your friendship. Again....I could not have done anything without each of you. Although I am removing myself from the publication of ID, I am not abandoning any of you in my efforts to help maintain our family heritage. I will continue to support the Family Dumfries Memorial Fund, the McBair Family Association and the National Family Reunion, but I must limit my participation at this time because of personal and work commitments. I will, however, continue to maintain our family records and, of course, will from time-to-time submit update information on 'new finds' to "IN DEFIANCE". I also hope that with the release of some pressures I might be able to contribute more time my correspondence, which, I ashamedly admit, has not been in best form recently.

Until we meet in a future issue of ID or at a family reunion sometime, I thank you and I sincerely remain to each of you - "IN DEFIANCE".
Carl McBrayer

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