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# IN DEFIANCE



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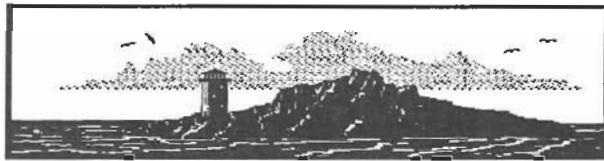
## THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

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VOLUME 5, NO. 1

JANUARY 1994

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**F R O M . . . . . T H E  
CHIEF**

Now that the holidays are past and properly enjoyed, we have a busy year ahead of us. the Third Family Association National Reunion will be held in Region 3 ( Oklahoma, Texas, etc.) this summer - in mid-June or July. The exact date and place will be announced in the April "In Defiance". Martha Brooks Humphries is in charge of making the arrangements for the location, date, accommodations and the like. She will appreciate any help that you may wish to give her, including suggestions for activities. Her address is 2040 Kings Road, Carrolton, TX 75007.

We want to provide a program to suit your wishes since the organization can grow and prosper only if we have active participation. I have a letter that suggests: "At the next reunion I would like to have someone who really is knowledgeable about the family history to give a talk; maybe two or three people breaking it down. Maybe one person to speak on the original family in Scotland, another on the family arrived in America and another as the family spread out. Possibly some of the folks with other family names can talk about their family connections." Another suggestion from the same individual is to have a talk on methods of expanding the Association and attracting new members. I know these suggestions are with merit and we need your input to further them and add others. **WHAT DO YOU THINK?** Please send us your ideas. Send them to me ( 23488 S. W. Pony Ridge Drive, Dunnellon, FL 34431-2761) or to Vice Chief, Bob McBrayer (952 Old Goddard Road, Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453); we will get together on them.

In a separate article, the Nominating Committee is announced and nominating procedures are given. It is time to look ahead to your leadership for the next three years. Please read that article and respond.

Now for a more personal note - It has been a pleasurable, but difficult, six years as your Chief. I have tried hard, but I know I have not satisfied everyone of you. I am sorry for that and I apologize if I have done wrong. At times this has been an almost impossible job. I must say that I have enjoyed meeting many exceedingly nice people, a few difficult ones and a couple of downright mean ones, but they all have one redeeming feature, they are all FAMILY MEMBERS. I will not be a candidate for office in the Association on an active basis in the future. The Constitution provides that the Immediate Past Chief serves as a member without vote on the Family Council, acting in an advisory position only. Be it as it may, I wish to thank you all for your good relationship.

One last word - For the past two months plus I have been unable to do much. On November 10, I had surgery, a total replacement of my right knee. Progress is good, but it will take time before full recovery. I will not accept a challenge to a foot race very soon. Without the help of my wife, Helene, these past weeks would have been much harder to endure. As we approach our 63rd anniversary, I can truthfully say she has been all that anyone could ask for as a wife, mother, grandmother and all around good person.

Thanks to all of you I am serving,

Sincerely "IN DEFIANCE", Chief Ben McBrayer

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*FROM THE EDITOR.....*

I had planned to get this issue of the newsletter out soon after the turn of the year and now must apologize for the late completion. I should explain the reasons. First, I switched to a new version of the software used for preparing the newsletter. This created some problems with the memory available in my computer which has given me fits and I will have to make do this time. This should be remedied next issue with both a software a hardware upgrade. The other reason is that our daughter Natalie\* (M - 351/3) has been in the hospital and my wife Betty and I have spent a great deal of time with her. Natalie is a teacher in a small Eskimo village, Hooper Bay, in Alaska. The middle of December she began feeling bad with high fevers. Her village does not have a doctor and she did not get any

meaningful treatment from the health clinic. When she came home for the Christmas holiday she was not in good shape and we had to put her in the hospital. After many tests and good care in two hospitals she was able to return to our home for a few days for further recuperation. Unfortunately complications arose and she had to return to the hospital where she remains at this writing. There has not been a firm diagnosis, only "fevers of unknown origin".

Last issue a policy was made to identify people as much as possible by reference to Carl McBrayer's\* (M 41) books on the family. I started by listing page numbers. This will not be a satisfactory way to do it. For this issue, a new scheme will be tried. This will use a prefix of:

- M for the McBrayer line
- B for the Brier line



have renewed their memberships. In addition, we have 5 new members. Obviously with so few renewing membership, we have a problem. Please send in your dues payment as soon as possible to:

R. L. McBrayer\*  
952 Old Goddard Road  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453

using the form from the last issue if possible. If you do not have the form, please just send your check in with your complete name, address, telephone number and any updating of genealogy.

As to the amount, the following is from our Constitution:

#### **ARTICLE V - DUES**

Section 1. Active Member - annual dues for immediate household, including subscription to the quarterly Newsletter shall be Ten Dollars (\$10.00) per calendar year. New members joining after July 1 will pay Five Dollars (\$5.00) for the balance of that year.

Section 2. Sustaining Member - including subscription to the Newsletter shall be Eleven to One Hundred Dollars (\$11.00 to \$100.00) per calendar year.

Section 3. Life Member (after age 60) - including subscription to the Newsletter shall be One Hundred One or more Dollars (\$101.00 or more) at the person's choice.

For those who sent in dues with checks payable to the Family Association, these have not yet been cashed as we have had a delay in setting up the new bank account. Unfortunately we have not been able to locate some of the files that Ethel Koller maintained. It is hoped that this will be clarified by the end

of January.

The mailing label for this issue of "In Defiance" is marked to show if your dues have been received as of the date of mailing. Above your name is a code, either 94A or 94S, if dues have been received.

#### **JOHN W. ANTHONY\***

"Jigger" Anthony passed away on December 13, 1993 as a result of congestive heart failure. He was 78. He was the husband of Dorothy Sloan Anthony\* (M 3/3B5c3C) who survives him along with sons John Dennis of Manama, Bahrain and David Foster of Knoxville, TN; daughter Diane Overly of Sacramento, CA; seven grandchildren and six great-grandchildren.

Jigger retired in 1980 as office manager at Falls Welding and Manufacturing in West Farmington, OH after 20 years of service and was an estimator for 15 years for various construction contractors. He was a volunteer for the Farmington Volunteer Fire Department for 30 years where he was a charter member and served for 12 years on the Farmington Board of Education. A life member and chancellor of the Knights of Pythias Lodge, he served more than 50 years as its Master of Finance. He was a member of the West Farmington United Methodist Church for 65 years as well as the Windjammer Club, Packards International and PIE Midwest Region.

As those who knew him, Jigger enjoyed collecting, restoring and driving Packard automobiles. You could always get a good story from him about his cars.

(condensed from information supplied by Dorothy Anthony)

#### **ELIZABETH I. LEOLAS**

Elizabeth Idella Turner Leolas, the last

surviving aunt of Doris Turner Osten\*, passed away April 8, 1993. She was born April 6, 1899. Her husband was Wilfred Leolas (b July 30, 1895 d October 22, 1933). Additional information on the family may be found on page 55 of "The McBrair Family", Volume III. (information from Doris Osten)

Kelsey Elizabeth born May 7, 1993  
 Child of Kerri Bjur Barrick  
 Alexandria Claire born October 1, 1993  
 All live in Watsonville, CA.

Barbara Collins\* (M 267-5/5) reports the birth of a great nephew, Kyle Robert Smith in October 1993. His mother is Rony McBrayer Smith\* (m 354-7/2).



**WELCOME NEW MEMBERS !!!!**

Since the last newsletter, the following family members have joined the Family Association:

- Mr. and Mrs. John McBrayer of Beltsville, MD
- Joyce Cunningham of Mattoon, IL
- Stephen and Lynne (M 335/1B) of La Porte, IN
- Tim (M 173/2) and Leslie McBrayer of West Chester, OH
- Tammy McBrayer (M 173/3) of Columbus, OH



**RAG TIME OR YOU'RE NEVER TOO OLD !**

Steve Butler\* (B 38/7A2) of Berkeley, CA started his "new job" at the age of 89 - he will be 92 in February. Twice a week, on Tuesdays and Thursdays, he plays piano in a local pizza parlor, nothing later than 1915 tunes, and mostly Scott Joplin rags. Wife Olive reports that he is having a wonderful time! They had to buy a piano and much new music. Steve spends hours practicing for his very responsive audience and it has given him a new lease on life.

*Bjura*



**KEEP AN EYE (AND NOSE) OUT FOR NEW MEMBERS !**



**CONGRATULATIONS !!**



**FUTURE MEMBERS**

Betty Bjur\* reports to us about her grandchildren and the great grandchildren of Bessie

McBrayer Henry:

- Children of Julie Bjur Nelson:
- Jonathan Allen born August 1, 1989
- Lindsay Ann born April 4, 1991

Barbara McBrayer Collins\* graduated from the College of St. Francis in May 1993 with a BS in Health Arts. She is a board certified Emergency Nurse and works in the Emergency Department of the Maryville, TN hospital. She and her husband Lynn live 5 miles from McBrayer Lane where Jasper Newton McBrayer, her grandfather, purchased the old home place. (See also the October 1993 issue of "In Defiance")

Sandra McBrayer has been selected as one of California's Teachers of the Year for 1994.

According to an article in the CTA Action of November 1993, Sandra teaches a variety of subjects to 7th through 12th grade students in the Homeless Outreach School Program in San Diego. She has BS and MS degrees from San Diego State University and was named its "Distinguished Alumnus of the Year in Education" in 1992. Since establishing one of California's first educational programs for homeless and unattended youth in 1987, she has taught over 1,000 students. She earned \$15,000 last year from speaking engagements and used the money to pay for college tuition, medical attention, food and clothing for her students.

(condensed from information submitted by Bertha Leone McBrayer\* {M 211-2/1})

Editor's Note: Neither Leone nor I have been able to find the family connections for Sandra. If any member knows more about her, please send this information to me and it will be included in the next newsletter.

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Rebecca McBrayer Farmer (M 341-4/1) recently completed her studies for the degree, Specialist in Education, from West Georgia College. Her husband Gregg is well on his way to a Masters Degree in Education.

(submitted by Terrell McBrayer \*{M 341-4})

## GEORGIA CHARACTER EDUCATION ASSOCIATION

Dr. Daniel McBrayer (M 299-5/12) recently donated the 100 acre family farm to Foundation named in the honor of his parents and grandparents. Dr. Terrell McBrayer\* will be leading the development of a worship-counseling-recreational center on the family estate which is located near Buchanan, GA. The family settled on this site many years ago. (Submitted by Terrell McBrayer)

## MEMORIALS

Over the years, even before establishment of

the Family Association, there has been talk about family memorials in various locations. Among these have been at the site of a probable family fortress at Almagil on a hill overlooking the valley in Annandale in Southwest Scotland. The site now is a sheep meadow and there are only some stones strewn about to give an indication of a building at sometime, the possible time was in the 1500s. A monument here would be difficult to access and someone would have to negotiate with the current owners. Another site is St. Michael's Church in Dumfries. It is known that this was the house of worship of the family and that a number of members were buried under the main aisle at one time. During a renovation, the bones were removed, never to be seen again although they may be in a common "box" near the site of a monument to Robert Burns in the churchyard. So far there has not been a lot of success in getting the approval to place a monument in the church. Last year a donation of \$ 500.00 from the Family Association funds was made to St. Michael's. Dr. Duffy McBrayer\* (M 97-7) presented the donation to the Rev. John Pagan and reported that the gift was much appreciated and will be put to good use. Several donations have been made in the name of the family to the library of a public school in Dumfries across from the development that has several streets named for the family using the various spellings. Our old family friend, Alfred Truckell (retired Curator of the Burgh Museum, Dumfries) has helped with this effort. Mr. Truckell has also written a prefatory chapter to the fourth revised edition of McDwell's "History Of Dumfries" which includes mention of our family.

A site closer to home has also been considered for years. About 7 miles from Chambersburg, PA is the grounds of the Old Brown's Mill School and Cemetery. There is documentary proof that William and Rebecca McBriar, first generation settlers were buried here. In 1992,

Terrell McBrayer visited the area and found that the cemetery and building are well kept, but more than 75 years of neglect have left our ancestors without a marker or identification. Terrell reports that permission has been received to place plaque in the cemetery . The suggested plaque would read:

### MEMORIAL

**WM. McBRAYER(McBRIER) 1702-1795**  
**REBECCA McBRAYER(M'BRIER)**  
**1704-1805**  
**SON: JAMES McBRAYER, BURIED**  
**1796**  
**PIONEER SETTLERS (1737)**

What are your thoughts about this memorial?  
Please send your comments to:

Dr. Terrell McBrayer  
418 Allatoona Way  
Woodstock, GA 30118  
or call (404) 924-0302.

It would be good to have a memorial in place this year that we can all be proud of and perhaps visit.

### ODDS AND ENDS

Frederick Guy McBrayer (M 120), son of John Lewis McBrayer (M 237) and brother of John Roy McBrayer\*(M 245), Helen Bishop\*(M 237/2) and Ruth Emory\*(M 237/5) is now in Arbor Home, Hilliard, OH.

Martin V. McBrayer (M 299-5) celebrated his 92nd birthday on October 1, 1993. Martin and Mary have 10 children living: Daniel (M 299-5/12) is a practicing gynecologist at Georgia Baptist; Jerry (M 299-5/8) is an attorney; Terrell (M 341-4) is a clergyman-educator; Martha (M 299-5/9) is a teacher; all other children are in significant roles as keepers at

home.

Duffy McBrayer\* reports that he and his wife attended the Roots Festival in Scotland in May 1993. This was the first major gathering of the Border Clans and Families and included the McBrayers along with the Jardines, Scotts, Armstrongs, Maxwells, Littles, Johnsons and Grahams. During the Festival, Duffy received his Grant of Arms and was privileged to represent the McBrayer Family as an Armigerous Nobleman of Scotland. The Lord Lyon King of Arms graciously granted Arms to Duffy's ancestor James McBrayer (M 162) and his arms are matriculated through him. Duffy suggests that if you are interested in applying for a Grant of Arms, you contact:

McKerrell of Hillhouse  
Magdalene House  
Bruce Street  
Lochmaben  
Dumfries DGE 11 IPO

(Editor's note: May McKerrell, formerly May Roberts is known to many family members.)

Alfred Truckell also provided some information about the Roots Festival in a letter to Ethel Koller. The Festival featured an elaborate program of events, with small places like Langholm and Dalbeattie having museum displays for the delegates to see. Mr. Truckell gave some talks at the Station Hotel in Dumfries (on the early Galwegians - inhabitants of Glasgow area) and at Castle Douglas (on Family Lands and Trade). He did meet two American couples at the Station Hotel and found them to be nice people.; he had hoped to meet more. He reported that Paul Jones' Cottage (boyhood home of John Paul Jones) had hoped for visits by Americans, but none made it there.

Also from Mr. Truckell is news that he is transcribing the 1571 Burgh Court Records

and is running into McBairs all the time. When money had to be sent to Edinburgh to Provost Archibald McBair when he was on army duty there, it was Thomas McBair "rynnar" (runner-messenger) whom the Council sent with the money.

## **HAPPY HOGMANAY !!**

You may not recognize this as a greeting for a happy new year, but that is what it is. It is an old Scottish greeting along with others that remind us of many of the New Year's traditions not the least of which is Robert Burns' *Auld Lang Syne*. Since Robbie Burns is from the area of our ancestors, perhaps you would be interested in learning more about this song as well as other traditions.

The style which we celebrate the end of one year and the beginning of another is rooted in Caledonia's ancient religion and mythology. Hogmanay connotes feasting and partying. Ceilidh, pronounced "kay-lee" simply means a party usually accompanied by singing, dancing and story telling.

While it is difficult to translate *Auld Lang Syne*, the literal meaning is "In times gone by". The singing of the tune is intended to bring back fond memories of times past. Robbie Burns claimed *Auld Lang Syne* was "just a fragment I discovered." Scholars dispute that statement and its modesty as both the original poem and its melody show the distinctive craftsmanship of Burns. The tune to which it is now sung is, however, not the work of Burns but of a contemporary, George Thomson.

Until recent times, Scots paid little attention to Christmas which was primarily an English and French Holiday. New Year's is another matter. Although historians argue about it, the first references to Hogmanay appear in connection with Druidic rituals observed on the first day of the year. Practitioners went off into the

forests, made animal sacrifices, gathered mistletoe and returned home to roast or boil the game for a grand feast. The feast and the mistletoe remain today.

Later the word "Hogmanay" was associated with oat cakes - a Scottish traditional food. Poor children went around the homes of the wealthy demanding "Hogmanay" in a manner of trick or treating at Halloween, another holiday with Druidic overtones.

Scotland also has a tradition of "first footing". Friends go from home to home to share a wee dram with neighbors. It is thought that a household will have good luck in the coming year if the first to put his or her foot over the doorstep is dark haired. Blondes carry a lump of coal when calling.  
(adapted from the "Detroit News")

The history of Scotland is more than a mass of dry historical facts and documentary evidence. It is a rich and wonderful story. Many family members are familiar with the writing of Nigel Tranter. Nigel has written, among other things, a series of historical novels which are fascinating reading. Some of us have had the privilege of meeting this fascinating author. In 1987, he had published his "The Story of Scotland". Nigel makes history live! in his preface to the book, he states "Let there be no mistake about this - I am not setting out to write a history book. For one thing, I am not a qualified historian - only a story teller with an interest in history." If you are interested further, you should be able to get the book since it was published in the U.S. by Routledge & Kegan Paul Inc. , 29 West 35th Street, New York, NY 10001.

**REMEMBER THAT THIS IS YOUR NEWSLETTER AND YOUR INPUT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED. PLEASE PROVIDE ANY NEWS NOTES FOR THE NEXT ISSUE BY MARCH 15, 1994.**