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# IN DEFIANCE



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## THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

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VOLUME 5, NO. 3

JULY 1994

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

Let me remind you that the 3rd National Reunion is all set up and needs YOUR presence to be a success. You all should have received a copy of the announcement and reservation card for the reunion. If you did not receive it, please contact either me or Newsletter editor Bob McBrayer. We hope to have a good turn out. Two things to remember:

1. Hotel reservations must be made no later than July 15th to be sure of a room at the very special rate. If you mislaid the reservation form, the hotel is the Harvey Hotel - DFW Airport, 4545 W. John Carpenter Freeway, Irving, TX 750063, (214) 929-4500.
2. Please notify Martha Humphries that you will be attending. Her address is 2049 Kings Road, Carrollton, TX 75007; phone (214) 492-1631.

We are planning a good program and you should be pleased with it.

Many of you have seen the newspaper reports that Sandra McBrayer has been named the National Teacher of the Year for 1994. The last two newsletters have also mentioned her honor as California Teacher of the Year. There is no question in my mind that she has the "McBrayer look". Other family members have also commented on this. Unfortunately to date no family member (to my knowledge)

has been able to contact her to find out her family ties. I had a letter returned for lack of complete address. (Editor's note: Please see following article.)

Unfortunately the Nominations Committee has not been able to come up with a slate of candidates for the Family Association officers. We will have to conduct an election at the reunion and I hope that some of you will step forward as candidates. Ken Sears, the Nominations Committee Chairman, has been ill and was unable to devote the time necessary to solicit candidates. I talked with him recently by phone. He reports that he has a heart condition which has resulted in breathing problems that have kept him inactive. I am sure that you will join me in wishing Ken quick recovery and relief from this problem.

Hope to see you soon in Texas!

Chief Ben McBrayer



As in previous issues of IN DEFIANCE, I have to give my thanks to you members who have sent in information which can be used as newsletter articles. Without your help, there would be little family news to report and we would be reduced to the commercial newsletters claiming to represent the McBrayer Family. *Please keep it up!*

The Family Association has now purchased a CD-ROM computer program entitled "PhoneDisc@USA" in the residential version. This 2 disc program has about 81 million entries. I have been using this to update the mailing list with phone numbers and it has been useful in further identifying some members. You may know that in genealogy the records are primarily maintained by the male names. This has made it hard to find some people in Carl McBrayer's books. In many cases, the PhoneDisc@USA lists both

husband and wife and this makes it possible to do a better search. This also has given me an address (I hope) for Sandra McBrayer. Of course I hope that next issue we will all know her family ties.

PhoneDisc@USA will also be used to try to recruit new members. Just to give you an idea of the task, the following numbers of entries are listed for the surnames:

|              |             |
|--------------|-------------|
| Brier        | 2153        |
| MacBrair     | 3           |
| MacBriar     | 13          |
| McBrayer     | 1341        |
| McBriar      | 61          |
| McBrier      | 79          |
| <b>total</b> | <b>3650</b> |

Again, some of the entries will duplicate an address since both husband and wife are listed separately. This can only be a beginning of a big task as many of our members are not listed. This probably means that there are a lot more family members to be found.

If any member would be interested in making personal contacts to try to recruit members, please let me know and I will provide you with a list of people in any area you designate. The list would have the name(s), address and

phone number. Biographical sheets would also be provided.

IN DEFIANCE Editor Bob McBrayer  
Mailing Address: 952 Old Goddard Road  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453



### TO NEW MEMBERS

Barbara Ruth MacBriar of Eau Claire, WI.

Jean McBrayer Brown (M52-3/2) of Kiowa, KS. Jean is the sister of member C.D. McBrayer\*(M50-3).



### NEED A NURSE ?

There are and have been a lot of nurses in our family. Other issues of IN DEFIANCE have contained news of these nurses. This issue has more to give.

Three daughters of Joseph N. McBrayer (M 267-5\*) are active members of the nursing profession. Twin sisters Jeane Newlin (M 267-5/4\*) and Joan Jackson (M 267-5/3) are joined by younger sister, Barbara Collins (M 267-5/5\*). Jeane is Coordinator of the new Nursing Assistant Certification Program for the State of Tennessee at U.T. Memorial Hospital in Knoxville. She is a R.N. and also has a B.S. in Education from U.T. Now at U.T. Memorial for 21 years, she is a clinical educator in the Department of Nursing. Joan also is a R.N. and is Associate Administrator of Nursing at Blount Memorial Hospital, Maryville, TN. R.N. Barbara serves in the Emergency Department at Blount Memorial. (Reported by Jeane Newlin\*)

9th generation Katherine (Kathy) Turner Osten is a Nurse Manager in Critical Care at St. Thomas Hospital, a member of the Daughters of Charity National Health System, in Nashville. She earned her R.N. degree at Vanderbilt University. Kathy received the hospital's Safety Award at the Employee Awards Banquet on April 8, 1994. In one of the outreach programs, Kathy has befriended a number of Kurdish refugee children. (Reported by her mother, Doris Osten\*)

### WHEN SCOTTISH EYES ARE CRYING

In the last issue of IN DEFIANCE was a list of marvelous inventions that bettered the life of mankind (and reminded the Brits of the superiority of the Scots!). Now news has come of a new Scots invention that I am sure a number of us hay-fever sufferers would like to see on these shores. Aberdeen eyeglass maker Duncan and Todd has introduced the "Airshield" frame to keep pollen and other irritants from the eyes. Air is blown through tiny holes in the frame. Power is supplied by a battery pack with air pump worn at the waist. The makers claim 97% of the wearers were relieved of their misery. The frames can be fitted with prescription or sunglasses. They can even be used to help when peeling onions. (adapted from Newsweek, May 2, 1994)

In April 1919, "Compressed Air Magazine" reported another case of Scottish ingenuity. In South Africa the Kaffirs used the Kaffir pick which was a flat spade in the shape of a heart. It was used as an axe, spade and pick. A sample was obtained and production was started. It would not sell. A representative went from Scotland to South Africa and found that the Kaffirs also took the haft out of the shovel and used the metal part as a cattle call. The shovel produced in Scotland did not have the right note. The West Scotland Iron and

Steel Institute reported that the shovel was tuned to the correct note and an enormous trade was established.

## REBECCA McBRIER

When William (M 1) immigrated to North America in about 1736, he brought a wife, Rebecca, and two or three young sons. The number is in question since we do not know the exact date of arrival. The sons were James (who never married), William ( M 421) and Samuel (M 360). Definitely born in the colonies were David (M 78) and Sarah (M 1/5). It is David's descendants who changed the surname to Brier.

Usual accounts do not list the maiden name for Rebecca and her land of birth is questioned. Doris Osten\* has provided information recently which gives her maiden name as Brown along with a brief obituary. This obituary from the Franklin Repository and obtained from the Kittochtinny Historical Society in Chambersburg, PA follows:

DIED in Hamilton Twp. on Mon. the 12th inst., one of the first settlers and it is supposed the oldest inhabitant of this county, Mrs. Rebecca McBrier, aged 101 yrs., a native of Ireland, emigrating to this country about 1737. Soon after which her husband purchased and settled on a tract within about 7 miles of this town. On Tues. her remains were deposited by the side of her husband in the old burial ground near Mr. Brown's Mill. (Aug. 20, 1805 FR)

## The McBrayer Family

**News and Family Bulletin Board** is another commercial operation which claims to be "The

Voice of American McBrayer Households". Periodically they make an attempt to spread their circulation and sell various books, address labels, lists, calendars, heirloom items and the Coat of Arms. With a three year subscription, you can even get a free history of the family. The ad even admits that this is "A not so serious history of the family". Based on a free sample issue, as well as one seen a few years ago, part of each issue is made to fit the McBrayer name into a document which could have any other name. What documentation that is offered is probably obtained from public records and anything they can get from subscribers. Both Chief Ben and I have been in contact with the editor. I have asked for a copy of the coat of arms. If he is willing to send this and it is authentic, I will inform you in the event you would want to order it. We have a fine, documented coat of arms and we should not fall prey to those who claim to have "discovered" something else.

(Newsletter editor Bob McBrayer)

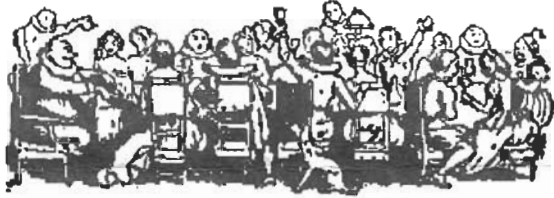
## BJUR DRIVE ☒☒☒☒☒☒☒☒

In the Vol. 4, No. 4 issue of IN DEFIANCE, an explanation was given for the naming of McBrayer Lane in Maryville, TN. It had been noticed that another member, Betty Bjur (M 186/2A\*) lived on a street, Bjur Drive, with the family name. Betty has provided an explanation. The reason is that she and her husband Allen as well as their three children and their families all live on 20 acres in the country outside Watsonville, CA. Each family has their own home, all built by Allen. Needless to say, they are a close family! The Bjur name is Swedish.

Betty taught music and sign language in the local public school system and retired on June 10, 1994. Allen was a teacher of chemistry at Aptos High School and he also retired on June 10. With 4 grandchildren and another to arrive soon, they can expect to stay busy. The grandchildren were listed in Vol. 5, No. 1 of

## IN DEFIANCE.

Betty's grandfather, James Leonard McBrayer (M 186) was born in Alabama in 1883, but moved to Texas in 1886 after his mother's death and father's remarriage. Later he moved to Watsonville and died there in 1936. Her mother, Bessie Mae McBrayer Henry, was born in Texas, but Betty was born in Watsonville.



**REUNION TIME** In addition to the National Reunion, there are no doubt smaller regional reunions this year. Please send any news of these reunions in to the Editor so all can share in the events. If you have any events planned in the future, this too can be added. Any news can be sent within two weeks of the scheduled dates for the newsletter (the first of January, April, July and October).



## THE OLD WEST

Many of our forefathers made the trek west in the 1800's. Some were never heard from again, others prospered and family members have remained in the early settlement areas. About 43% of our current membership lives west of the Mississippi.

Of course there are many tales that can come from the west and last issue of IN DEFIANCE brought back some memories to Marjorie Brier Cramer\*, a descendent of the line of David.

BRIER ↓

Near the end of the 19th Century, the American frontier era was coming to a close. Because of the earlier Gold Rush, the last frontier was not on the Pacific Coast, but in the Midwest. On September 19, 1893, the most spectacular land run of all took place in the Indian Territory that was to become the state of Oklahoma. The land run is known as the Cherokee Strip Land Run. In one day, the Cherokee Strip was occupied. More than 100,000 people raced in to claim their allotment of 160 acres. The day's events became legend and *TIME* reported in 1943 that "the glory of having been in on the Run cut a lot more ice in Enid (Oklahoma) than coming over on the Mayflower."

Marjorie's grandfather, John T. Brier, was one of the makers of the run. Along with John came his son James Elba Brier. John was 51 and James was 10 according to one record. John acquired a farm 3 miles north of Orlando, Oklahoma. On a farm across the road lived a young lady a year younger than James. Her name was Edith Mary Stumpff. James and Edith went to school together and eventually married. Marjorie was born of this marriage in 1907, followed by sister Maxine in 1909. Marjorie was born in 1907 just before the Indian Territory became Oklahoma, the 46th State of the Union. She still lives in Oklahoma, now in Ardmore. She is looking forward to being at the National Reunion in August.

New member Jean Brown\* also has had something to say about the old west. In 1979, she wrote "A History of Kiowa, Old and New on the Cowboy-Indian Frontier". The book won an award as the best book by a member of the Kansas Authors Club in 1980. In 1984, the centennial year of the founding of New Kiowa, she wrote weekly historical articles for the *KIOWA NEWS*. She has written numerous other articles for magazines and had a new book, "More about Kiowa and Other Stories", published in 1993.

**WHAT'S IN A NAME?** In going through the genealogy books, there are a number of unusual names. One which seems interesting started at the time of the Civil War. This was "James Other Lafayette McBraye". James Other was born on 14 June 1864 in Paulding Co., Georgia. A fierce battle had taken place in nearby Dallas, Georgia at the end of May between Sherman's forces and CSA troops. James' father was in Atlanta with General Johnston on the day James was born. He had a son born in 1915 who was named "Marvin Other James Lafayette McBraye". Marvin lived in Dallas, Georgia. Marvin then had a son named "James Other McBraye". Is there a chance that any of our members know the origin of the name combination "James and Other"? It does appear that there are at least some distant cousins of Marvin and James in the Family Association. If you know, please let me know so that it can be told in the newsletter.

**WHISKEY** Many people have a stereotype view of a Scotsman as a fellow wearing a kilt, swinging a golf club and, of course, enjoying his "wee dram" of good Scotch whisky (the spelling preferred in Scotland). Whisky has played an interesting part in the history of the McBraye family in America. Some of you may be aware that there was a brand of whiskey "Old McBraye" which to the best of my knowledge was last distilled by National Distillers in Cincinnati. I know that Chief Ben and I both have bottles that at least at one time held that brand. (Actually at the end of production it was not a very good whiskey, so the magical refilling was generally better.)

William Harrison McBraye, 3rd generation from the line of James, was born in Kentucky on 10 December 1821. He was a merchant and businessman and was the first judge of Anderson County in 1851. From this position,

he gained the nickname of "Judge" and many knew him only by this name. He also served in the Kentucky Senate from 1856 to 1860.

Where whiskey comes in is that he founded the Cedar Brook Distillery which produced one of the finest Kentucky whiskies. It was well known in Europe, being a favored beverage. It was reported that "it was the whiskey that made the crown heads of Europe turn from Scotch to bourbon." In the 1930's, cases of "Old McBraye Whiskey" were seen in the movie "Corsair".

In 1905, the distillery passed from McBraye hands and was sold. During the Prohibition era it was operated by the American Medical Association to produce a product "for medical purposes".

What is very interesting is that Judge McBraye was a tee-totaler and a very religious man. He was an elder of the Presbyterian Church. He was extremely well respected in his community and shared his riches with the church and community. He made a donation of \$ 30,000 to the Central College of Richmond. This school merged with Centre College of Danville and the contribution was almost forgotten.

He was the staunchest supporter of the new railroad when it came into the county and became one of the **largest stockholders** and a director of the Louisville Southern Railroad.

William died 6 December 1988 at Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. For many years he was remembered in the form of a thriving town named for him and his "Old McBraye Whiskey". The town was "McBraye" and it can still be found on some road maps situated alongside the "Blue Grass Turnpike" between Louisville and Lexington. Not much is left today, just an old building and a railroad sign "McBraye", since the town was demolished

for the highway.

Whiskey further has its part in a story regarding the "Brier" branch of the family. There have been several tales as to why the children of David (2nd generation) changed the family surname to "Brier" after his death. One son, Henry, continued to use McBrier. One story is that some of the family was embarrassed that another group were "makers of whiskey" and that the name was changed to avoid that embarrassment.

(adapted from "The McBrayer Family, Book II" by Carl B. McBrayer)

"GOODIES" Now that you know about Scotch and bourbon whisky, perhaps we should consider something to eat. The following recipe comes from Scotland and reportedly is featured in some of the tea rooms operated at properties of the National Trust for Scotland:

### STICKY TOFFEE PUDDING

2 oz margarine  
6 oz caster sugar  
1 beaten egg  
6 oz dates  
4 oz self rising flour  
4 oz wholemeal flour  
1 teaspoon bicarbonate of soda  
half pint of boiling water  
1 **teaspoon of vanilla essence**

#### Sauce

4 oz butter  
8 oz light soft brown sugar  
half pint double cream

Place **dates** and **bicarbonate of soda** in boiling water, leave to soak (preferably overnight). Cream **margarine** and **sugar**, beat in **egg** and **vanilla essence**. Add **flour** and **date mixture**. Mix well. Pour into a lightly greased dish (approximately 9" x 7" x 2") and

bake in a moderate oven ( 325 - 350° F) for 40 - 45 minutes till firm. To make sauce, melt **butter** in a pan over low heat, add **sugar** and stir until dissolved. Add **cream** and simmer for 4 - 5 minutes. Prick sponge all over with a fork before pouring on the sauce. Return it to the oven for 5 minutes or spoon sauce over individual portions. Serve hot. Makes 10 - 12 portions.

Speaking of recipes, in July 1992, Linda McBrayer Froschauer edited a booklet containing a collection of recipes kitchen tested by descendants of Seneca McBrayer, 6th generation descendant of William. The intent of the booklet was to generate interest and provide input for the possible development of a McBrayer Family Cookbook. All the recipes in the book are attributed to the contributor giving the genealogical ties.

If you have any ideas, suggestions or contributions, please contact:

Linda McBrayer Froschauer  
11 Marion Road  
Westport, CT 06880

### ANOTHER WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In going through the membership list and Carl's book, it was noted that member J. Phil. Campbell, Jr. (M 231/4C5) is one of four consecutive generations with the same name. It started with his father, 6th generation from the line of William, Samuel, John (B.), John H. who was born in 1878. This J(ames) Phil(ander)'s mother was Sarah Ann Elizabeth McBrayer who married Daniel Campbell. David's father's name was Philander Fluellen Campbell, hence the Phil. J. Phil., Jr was born in 1917. His son, J. Phil. III was born in 1948 and his grandson, J. Phil. IV was born in 1972.

Can any other member give us an account of the same name in many successive generations?

## MEMBERSHIP AND DUES

As of the end of June we have 119 members on our mailing list. Of these, 89 have paid dues for 1994. There are two concerns we may have about our membership. While I have not yet done a complete study, it is fairly clear that a major percentage of our membership is represented by senior citizens. The concern is about the relatively smaller number of younger members. We need to have younger members to be sure that our pride in our heritage is passed along to our children, grandchildren and other younger relatives. If each member could recruit a younger member during the next six months or so it would mean a lot to our family. Why not give it a try? The second concern is retaining members; we don't want to have any current members dropped from our list, but it is not fair to the paying members to continue non-payers indefinitely. If there are circumstances that would prevent payment, this can be considered by the Board, just let me know and I will pass the information along. To answer the question of where dues go, the major expense is the newsletter with printing, envelopes and mailing. There are **NO** costs to the Family Association for computer time or supplies to prepare the newsletter, those are donated. The other costs this year have been for the new computer software mentioned on page 2 (only \$ 55.00) and printing and mailing of the announcements for the National Reunion. There will be costs in the future for recruitment of new members using the new computer software. Of course other ideas need to be acted upon as well. These include the memorial proposed by Terrell McBrayer (M 341-4)\* for the grave site of William and Rebecca and potential additional donations to the school in Dumfries. Members who have not made payment this year will be reminded again with this mailing. The basic dues are \$ 10.00 per calendar year. The current paid membership is listed below. Please note that in some cases the husband and wife are both listed in the complete list; the list below is shortened to save space.

|                         |                        |                        |
|-------------------------|------------------------|------------------------|
| Anthony, Dorothy        | Backer, Beverly        | Bartels, Barbara       |
| Beaudry, Agnes          | Bishop, Clarence       | Bjur, Betty            |
| Brier, Charlotte B.     | Brier, Glenn           | Brier, Jack C.         |
| Brier, Robert M.        | Briar, Virginia        | Bright, Elizabeth      |
| Brown, Jean             | Butler, Steve          | Campbell, J. Phil      |
| Collins, Lynn           | Cottle, Alene Scott    | Cramer, Marjorie       |
| Crawford, Alicia        | Crawford, Charlotte    | Cunningham, Joyce      |
| Dixon, Bert             | Dollard, David         | Dover, Ruth            |
| Dulin, Janet            | Ellis, Merry           | Emory, Ruth            |
| Froschauer, Linda       | Girvan, Lois Brier     | Goodrich, Edson        |
| Grimes, Aura            | Headrick, Rosa         | Humphries, Martha      |
| Jacobs, Lynne           | King, Eugene           | McBrair, Marian        |
| McBrayer, Ben           | McBrayer, Bertha Leone | McBrayer, Betty F.     |
| McBrayer, Candace       | McBrayer, Charles D.   | McBrayer, COL James D. |
| McBrayer, Duffy         | McBrayer, Earl A.      | McBrayer, Hallie       |
| McBrayer, J. Earl       | McBrayer, James D.     | McBrayer, Joseph N.    |
| McBrayer, James Ralph   | McBrayer, John T.      | McBrayer, John Roy     |
| McBrayer, L.G.          | McBrayer, Larry T.     | McBrayer, Les          |
| McBrayer, Mrs. Edwin T. | McBrayer, Natalie      | McBrayer, Patricia     |
| McBrayer, Philelle      | McBrayer, Reuben H.    | McBrayer, Robert L.    |
| McBrayer, Ronald Harvey | McBrayer, Stephen      | McBrayer, Terrell      |
| McBrayer, Theresa       | McBrayer, Timothy      | McBrayer, Troy         |
| McBrayer, William C.    | McBriar, Barbara       | McBriar, George        |
| McNeil, Christine       | Miazgowicz, Ann        | Mullinax, Rachel       |
| Newlin, Jeane           | Osten, Doris           | Parady, William        |
| Pledger, Louellen       | Porter, Gwendolyn      | Purvis, Jean           |
| Quinn, Kay              | Reiser, Deborah        | Rilea, Janice          |
| Roath, Jean F.          | Sears, Ken             | Sears, Richard         |
| Spencer, Joyce          | Tiller, Amy Jo         | Vesa, Patti            |
| Wetmore, Sandra         | Wood, Oliver           |                        |

Until next issue and news of the National Reunion ! IN DEFIANCE! Bob McBrayer, Editor