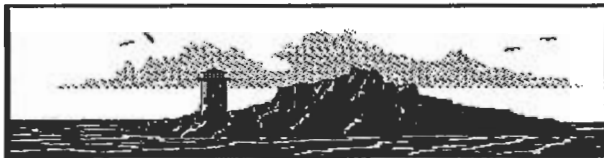

IN DEFYANCE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 6, NO. 1

JANUARY 1995



F R O M T H E CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

The New Year is here and while it is time to work on those new year's resolutions, it might be well to reflect back for a moment to the past year, a year of changes and renewal for the MacBrair Family Association. In August we held our 3rd National Reunion and had a changing of the guard as far as officers were concerned, but the objectives remain the same, to build a strong and viable family group. We have added many new members during the year, 27 since the beginning of 1994, and we now have 139 members on our mailing list. A very encouraging fact about this growth is that we are gaining younger members. The reason given by many new members for joining has been to learn more about their family's past. Some have quite good documentation, others are just beginning the search for their roots. By pooling our resources we can help fill in those blank spaces (or branches without leaves) on our family tree. EVERY member can contribute to this effort.

I want to thank those who took the time to write me following my election as Chief. The kind words are very much appreciated. A few comments were also received about having a reproduction of the family crest suitable for framing, a simulated wood copy of the crest and yard goods of the family tartan. I have begun work on these and will let you know the progress in the next newsletter. There will have to be some firm commitments once some details are developed before going ahead with any of these projects.

Unfortunately there was no response for the request for volunteers to act as regional representatives or as a candidate for the Family Council Director. In the past, the regional representatives had little to do. The objective now is to have the representatives act as news gatherers for the newsletter as well as recruiters for new members. If you are willing to help out in any way, please let me know.

Bob McBrayer, Chief (M 351, 8th)
952 Old Goddard Road
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453

Phone (313) 928-0398 or 928-3109
Fax 1-800-290-6370



WORDS FROM BEN:

Please accept my belated wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all of you. I just could not get going on a card to everyone, but my warmest thoughts are just as sincere. Helene joins me in these words.

My thanks to those who supported me during my tenure as Chief of The MacBrair Family Association. Without you we would not exist, and that we do not wish. We have a wonderful heritage and it seems that we can better develop it as we hear from more of you. I urge you to support Chief Bob and the other officers by your letters to the Editor and payment of our small dues. We need the help of all, even the many in our family who are not now members. Please encourage others to join so that we can grow and keep alive our goals and accomplishments.

We do hope you continue to have a good life, a devotion to your fellow MacBrairs and that we may see or hear from you in the future.

Sincerely,

Ben McBrayer (M 35, 7th)
Honorary Chief



ANNOUNCING - OUR NEW MEMBERS!

As introduction, each member mentioned in the newsletter is identified whenever possible by a letter-number designation and generation (such as M 351, 8th). The letter-number combination is from the code system used by Carl B. McBrayer (M 41, 7th) in his books on the family. M represents the McBrayer line and B the Brier line.

Jan Torck (M 263/4 ??, 8th) of Birmingham, AL. Jan joined to clear up confusion about the family history. Her grandmother was **Pearl Agnes McBrayer Houge**.

Dorothy McBrayer of Greenville, SC. Dorothy is the widow of Harry Edward McBrayer who died September 25th, 1983 at the age of 71. She has sent some information to help trace Harry's line which is apparently M 309-5/6, 7th. His father was Miles Avery McBrayer. Miles had at least 10 children; our current record lists only 3, so Dorothy has added a lot to our data base.

Arthur McBrayer (M 29-6, 8th) of Phoenix, AZ. Arthur recently retired from practicing law. He is working on a book on family members who served in the Civil War. So far

he has identified 39 members. If you have any information at all, including pictures and handed down stories, Arthur would appreciate hearing from you.

4437 E. Almeria Road
Phoenix, AZ 85008
(602) 273-1647

He will make the book available to the family when it is completed.

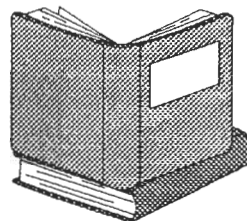
Judy Virgin (M 137-6/1G1g, 10th) of Johnstown, PA became a member for 1-½ years as a gift from her cousin, **Celia Engel** (M 137-6/1H1, 8th). As near as can be told, Judy is the first 10th generation member.

Barbara McBrayer-Brice (M 135-6/??, 8th) of Decatur, GA. She also has joined to learn more about the family. The closest ancestor we now have listed is her grandfather, Harry Gordon McBrayer.

Linda Platt (unknown connection) of Annapolis, MD became a member as a gift from her mother, Jean Roath.

Mary Ellen Harman (M 183/2C1, 9th) of Wyandotte, MI. Mary Ellen contacted the Chief on the suggestion of a member of the Downriver (Detroit area) Genealogical Society. With the information she had, paired with information from Carl's book, we were able to clearly establish her line as well as provide some clarification. Mary Ellen lives perhaps 2 miles from Chief Bob - small world isn't it? Interestingly, we may also have tracked down some information about her great-grandmother's family using an article in the local paper.

O. A. McBrayer (M 314-5, 7th) of Gordon, TX received a gift membership from Leone McBrayer (M 211-2/1, 7th).



WANT TO
READ A
GOOD
BOOK?

In the January 1994 issue of IN DEFIANCE, the book "The Story of Scotland" by our family friend Nigel Tranter was mentioned. Nigel is a well known (at least in Scotland) Scottish author who is best known for his historical novels. His "The Story of Scotland" is a very readable history of the land of our forefathers. It has recently become available at Barnes & Noble Booksellers at about half price, \$ 7.98. You should enjoy this book.



LETTERS

The following notes are pulled from some of the letters received during the last quarter.

Celia Engel of Nokomis, FL has passed along some genealogical information that helped clarify the relationships of members **Agnes Beaudry** (M 137-6/1B1, 8th), **Jane Knutzen** (M 137-6/1G2, 8th), **John W. Hemmings** (M 137-6/1C1b, 9th), **Jack B. Hemmings** (M 137-6/1D4, 8th) and **Doyle Smith** (M 137-6/1H2, 8th) as well as other members of her close family. Most of the information updated our current records.

Beverly Backer (B 164/4B1a, 8th) of Palm Springs, CA passed along Christmas greetings to the family and announced the acquisition of a summer mountain retreat in Lake Arrowhead Village, CA. Beverly said they invested in the get away instead of having to pay rent for 4 months, adding "Good Scot decision, eh?"

Geraldine Scarborough (M 350-5/2, 7th) of Rome, GA wrote in support of the newsletter and asked for any news of descendants of Peter Paul and Robert Lee McBrayer; can anybody help her?

Debra Lugar (M 335/1A, 9th) of Gary, IN wrote that she had previously written down stories told by her grandfather Ralph McBrayer. She will try to find these stories and pass them along to the family. Does anyone else have stories to share?

Carl McBrayer (M 41, 7th) of Midwest City, OK is our family historian. He wrote to say that he was still working on either new or updated family history books. He would appreciate input from the family as to which approach to take. He also is working on a picture album. If you have photos you would like to share, please send him copies NOT ORIGINALS. Send information to Carl at:

412 Char Lane

Midwest City, OK 73110

or call

(405) 732-1715

Carl also has suggested that an appropriate recognition be given to Carl Henry McBrayer for his contributions to the family history by means of his father's extensive notes and files. This is under consideration.

(Note: if you send any family history information to the newsletter, it will be forwarded to Carl.)

In addition to his family activities, Carl is working part time delivering express cargo around the country, spends some hours on ham radio activities and when possible does some prospecting. Another retiree looking for something to do.



TRINK SPRING !!!



Health news has been received about a few members. For the convenience of members, addresses are given in case you want to send personal wishes.

On October 10, 1994, **J. Earl McBrayer** (M 174, 7th) had a near fatal accident. He fell from the bed of a truck onto an asphalt drive and suffered a sub-dural hematoma. He is recovering slowly but surely for his 82½ years with virtual round the clock care given by therapists.

4215 Flemingsburg Road
Morehead, KY 40351

Col. James McBrayer (M 170, 7th) continues to have problems related to his stroke suffered in April 1994. He has essentially no use of his left hand, however he can walk with the aid of a cane. Therapy is continuing.

3850 Galleria Woods Drive, # 112
Birmingham, AL 35244

Steve Butler (B 38/7A2, 7th) recently underwent a cataract operation on his right eye. Steve has not been driving for some time and he had to give up his piano playing at the pizza parlor. He plans to go back as soon as he can - not bad for a 92 year old!

1909 Cedar Street, # 411
Berkeley, CA 94709-2038

Steve and his bride Olive celebrated their 55th anniversary last July.

Doctors continue to try to find medication to help **Natalie McBrayer** (M 351/3, 9th) fight the effects of Still's Disease, an auto-immune disease. She has had problems since December, 1993, however she has been able to return to her teaching of Yupik Eskimo children at the kindergarten level.

Hooper Bay School
Hooper Bay, AK 99604

DUES TIME

It is time again for annual dues payment to the MacBair Family Association. First, thanks to the 15 members who have already sent in their dues for 1995. The dues schedule and remittance form is on a green sheet sent with this newsletter. Prompt submission of dues would be appreciated. Your dues are used for publication and mailing of *IN DEFIANCE*. No salary is paid to anyone for the composition and editing. No charges are made for computer time, and the only software that has been paid for by the Family Association has been the original version of PhoneDisc®. What is paid for are the printer's charges, other miscellaneous copying charges (such as the dues notice and reunion notices) envelopes and postage. In addition, some of the dues money goes for bank charges for our checking account.

If financial conditions are such that a member cannot make the dues payment, please inform Chief Bob so that the matter can be handled. We do not want to lose a member for such a reason. On the other hand, we cannot continue to send the newsletter to those who have not responded to continued reminders in any way. All delinquent members will be contacted before dropping them from the mailing list.

NEW LISTS

New software is in use to maintain the mailing list. This program has much greater capability than the one used earlier. For example, some of our members have winter and summer addresses. These can both be entered along with dates when the address should be used. Multiple phone numbers also are possible. Notes can also be added and there are fields that can be used to show the member's identification number to our genealogical records along with the member's generation.

Only a limited amount of personal information has been input up to this time. A personal profile, as it is now entered, is printed on the back of your dues notice. Please review this and make any corrections along with updates to your current history. This information will be used to update the mailing list records and will be sent to Carl McBrayer as applicable.

By the next issue, it should be possible to offer an address book, with phone numbers, to the membership. The cost will be only that for duplication and mailing. This should be under \$ 1.00.

Some phone numbers have been obtained with the PhoneDisc® software and they may be in question. The same software has been used in finding spouses names, so if there is a mistake in your listing, please accept apologies.

WARNING

"The McBrayer Family News" continues to try to take our money for items of questionable value. Their summer 1994 issue headline was "McBrayers at Gettysburg???" Of course there was no mention of any McBrayer who actually served in the Civil War, much less one that served at Gettysburg. They devoted 4 pages to a list "Post Civil War Births Database". This is simply a list of names with birth date and state of birth from the Social Security Master Death File. It is of very little value and can be obtained by anyone on a CD-ROM computer disc for about \$ 42.00 and then have more information.

Their fall 1994 issue, subtitled "The Voice of 1185 American McBrayer Households" is a catalog of all the "wonderful" personalized products they offer. It is easy with today's computer capabilities to personalize any item, including the issues of their newsletters. They claim to publish newspapers for 109,048 American surnames. How much real interest

do you think they have in the McBrayer Family? One item they offer is a McBrayer Family Phone Book which was “transcribed from thousands of United States and Canadian Phone Books at great cost”. The basic information they offer is available for U.S. McBrayers on a CD-ROM “PhoneDisc®” which is available at a price of \$ 49.00. The warning here is to avoid subscribing to this publication.

An announcement has also been received for a new book, “The McBrayer Family, Who’s Who in America”. The announcement is just asking for information, not soliciting funds (at least now). A letter is being sent to these people to find out what their objective really is with regard to our family. A report will be made in the next issue of *IN DEFIANCE*.

ON THE MATTER OF NAMES

We all know that our family includes many surnames, but just to show the diversity in the names based on the original forefathers, the following variations are known from old records, including dates where the first use is recorded:

1444	McBrayr
1494	McBraare
1500	McBrar
1506	Makbraire
1510	Makbrair
1533	MacBraar
1557	Makbraar
1573	M’Brayre
1579	Makbrair
1667	M’Braier
1667	Makbrayre
1684	MaKbrair
1684	McBrayer

and from the Irish connection

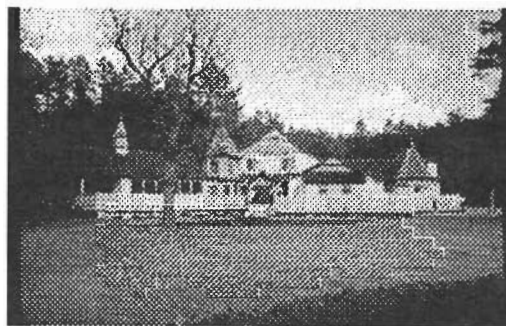
1701	M’Brears
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Also we have other variations, with Brier variations very important.

Listed in the PhoneDisc® data are:

1320	McBrayer
2	McBrayer
2082	Brier
3	MacBrayer
74	McBrier
21	McBriar
39	McBriar
13	MacBriar
and businesses	
47	McBrayer
153	Brier
1	MacBriar.

Even with this impressive list, we know that many more exist, including some of our members.



THE MEADOWS INN AND DINING ROOM - PINETOPS, ARIZONA

Steve McBrayer (M 351/2, 9th), wife Ruth and partners Brad and Nicole Edgington in mid November opened The Meadows to guests. The Inn occupies 8 acres of private grounds and Ponderosa pine forest. Steve, who received his training under a Master Chef at Skyline Country Club in Tucson, is the Executive Chef. Ruth and Nicole serve as Innkeepers. In the short time they have been open, the dining room has received many accolades for fine dining and one of the best wine lists in the country. Nearby facilities include golf, fishing, skiing and other outdoor activities. If you are interested in learning more, their phone number is (602) 367-8200. They would welcome you for a visit.