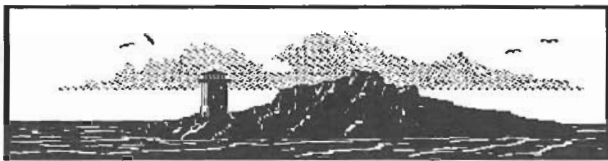

IN DEFIANCE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 6, NO. 3

JULY 1995



F R O M T H E CHIEF●●●●●●●●●●

Just last issue I was bemoaning the cold weather here in Michigan. Now we have seen the Fourth of July pass and it is definitely summer. If one looks at the weather map now, most of us are seeing a quite warm summer with storms ravaging certain parts of the country. But as Mark Twain was reported to have said "Everybody talks about the weather, but nobody does anything about it."

While on the Fourth of July, did you ever think what our ancestors thought of the events of the day? We do know that some served in the Revolutionary Army, most notably David

McBrayer/Brier (B 78, 2nd gen), the youngest son and only son of William to serve in that war. We know David served at least from October 1777 until October 1782. Maybe some were sympathetic to the British Crown. While we are not certain why the family immigrated to the New World, we can assume that the Glorious Revolution of 1688 of Britain and the Jacobite Rebellion influenced some of the family. They fought for their civil and religious beliefs in both cases. If anybody has any stories that have been passed down about the early days of the country and our family, why not pass them along. I am sure that everyone would be interested. My Grandfather, John Lewis McB (M 236, 6th gen) said that the reason for leaving Scotland was because of a religious dispute (although he also said at one time it was because of horse thievery).

Chief Bob



FAMILY ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK



At long last the Family Association Address Book is being distributed. The only excuse can be that "while I try to take things one day at a time, lately two days have been attacking at once". The address book contains the names of all family members on our mailing list whether they have paid their dues this year or not. We want to keep those members and perhaps some of you who are current in dues status can give information about those who are not. It is difficult to know the status of some people when we have not heard from them in some time. To clarify the entries, after the name on the first line is the dues status. This status reflects dues paid since the spring of 1993 when the records were turned over to your present newsletter editor. Unfortunately no records were forwarded on the passing of Ethel Koller. The dues status is coded by a date (the year paid) and classification of membership (A, S, L or X). This has been the easiest way to keep track of the membership status. Where available, both home and business addresses have been given. If any corrections or additions are required, please send them to the newsletter editor.

MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOC. OFFICERS

Chief Robert L. (Bob) McBrayer
Vice Chief Dr. Terrell McBrayer
Secretary Deborah (Deb) Reiser
Regional Representatives
Martha Humphries
Judy McBrayer Sparks
Newsletter Editor Robert L. (Bob) McBrayer

travel for travel's sake. The great affair is to move."

Robert Louis Stevenson

THANK YOU !!!

Many thanks to those of you who have sent in information both for the newsletter and to forward to Carl McBrayer for the next family history book. Without your input the job is more difficult. We want the newsletter to be a real means of communicating with the family. Some members have dropped out because they do not know anybody anymore in the family. This is a shame because we all have some story to tell and you would be surprised how many people really do have interest in YOU.

SANDRA McBRAYER

Over the past year many of you have sent in news articles from various sources about the Sandra McBrayer who was 1994 Teacher of the Year. Many efforts were made to reach her, but all to no avail. At last we do have some information that was forwarded recently from Earl McBrayer (M 98, 7th gen). His daughter June met Sandra at the Ohio Education Association meeting in Columbus this spring and was able to spend some time with her. Sandra was put under a lot of stress during the past year and eventually had to move and insulate herself from many contacts. She had a personal secretary who screened mail and this no doubt was the reason we did not hear from her. She was happy to talk with June and the family. Sandra does not know much about her family ties, basically only that her father was one of seven brothers who left Missouri to go west. At present, Sandra wants to get back to her life of serving the poor and homeless children in San Diego. She accepts only limited contact now and Earl has

"I travel not to go anywhere, but to go. I

forwarded to her the latest issue of "In Defiance" Perhaps in the future we will hear more.

Her program " Homeless Outreach Educational Program" was featured in "The Price Costco Connection" (a warehouse club) in January 1995.

REST IN PEACE

It is always sad to announce the death of our family members. I am sure that your kind thoughts and prayers will comfort their families.

MYRTA E. MADDUX McBRAYER, wife of Troy McB (M 393, 7th) passed away on May 1, 1995 at the age of 81 after a four year bout with lymphoma. Troy had written shortly before that time to report that he had had to place Myrta in a care home on March 24 due to her poor health. She had fallen in June 1994 and broke her shoulder, then fell again in August and broke her pelvis. She received many pints of blood during her illness. He reported that having to put her in the home was the hardest thing he had ever had to do up to that time. In addition to Troy, who lives in Fort Worth, Texas, she is survived by Daughters Gaynelle Kelley and family and Kaye Younger and family.

JOSEPH NELSON MCBRAYER (M 267-5, 7th) passed away on August 22, 1994 at his home in Maryville, TN. He was nearly 83. He was the last of the original McBrayers who moved to Blount County in 1917. He is survived by his wife Bertie Mae Owens McBrayer and six children. He had 11 grandchildren (2 deceased) and 7 great grand

children. He was buried at Dotson Memorial Baptist Church Cemetery off Morganton Road.

During his life Joseph worked on a small farm, at his dad's coal yard, at his brother Robert's shoe repair shop, drove a school bus, at a button factory and for 31 years at Alcoa until he retired in 1970. Some of you may remember the article in a past "In Defiance" telling the story of how the road he lived on was named "McBrayer Lane". Joseph was very active in sports and played some of them until he was fifty. He had fields for many sports on his farm land and the children of the area often congregated there for their sports.

WILLIAM RAY McBRAYER (M 309-5/12, 7th) passed away May 18, 1995 at the age of 73 from cancer of the esophagus. He was buried on May 21. He was the youngest child of Miles Avery and Frances McBrayer and is survived by a brother and sister as well as numerous nephews and nieces.



announcing new members !

This issue we are proud to introduce the following new members of the Family Association:

Vergie Doris McBrayer Musgrave (M 242/1, 8th) of Yuma, Arizona. She is the oldest child of John Newton McBrayer, Jr. and Reva McBrayer.

Harry Edward (Rob) McBrayer, Jr. (M 309-5/8.A, 8th) the son of the late Harry Edward McB and member Dorothy McB. Rob is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Poquoson, VA. He and his wife Ruth live in Hampton, VA.

Judy McBrayer Sparks (M 32-4/8, 8th) the daughter of the late Bascome Luther and Mable McB. Judy really is not a new member; we welcome her back after a few years absence. She has graciously agreed to serve as the regional representative in the southeast and you may be contacted by her in the future. As with all our members, her phone number(s) is in the new family address book. Judy says it will be easier to reach her at work, Realty Mart. She and husband Neil live in Maryville, TN.

Learn from the mistakes of others - you can never live long enough to make them all yourself.



ON THE SICK LIST

Miles Avery McBrayer, Jr. (M 309-5/9, 7th) suffered a stroke on May 7, 1995. Miles will be 82 on September 9, 1995. His prognosis is uncertain.

Natalie Ann McBrayer (351/3, 9th) continues with treatment for Still's Disease which struck her in December 1993. This disease is the adult onset of juvenile rheumatoid arthritis. Unfortunately every case is different and the doctors have to search for the best treatment to alleviate the symptoms. She is receiving care at the University of

Michigan Hospital this summer, but she plans to return to her teaching career in Alaska in August.



FAMILY ADDITIONS

Paige McBrayer Kelley (M 393/1A.3) was born on June 12, 1995 in Dallas, TX. She is the great granddaughter of Troy and the late Myrta McBrayer. Her parents are Kevin and Kathryn Kelley of Dallas and she joins brother Marshall Kevin Kelley and sister Anne Kathryn Kelley.



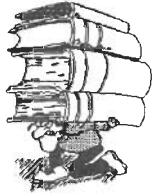
HAPPY BIRTHDAY !!

It is not often we can wish someone a happy birthday on their 100th birthday, but

this year we all can. **Carolyn Louise Schoor Hind** (B 264/3E, 6th) was born on August 27 1895 in Spokane, WA. She was married on October 20, 1920 in Pasadena, CA to Oswald Arthur Hind of Hawaii. Oswald managed a sugar plantation in Hawaii for over 30 years. They retired by 1956 to California. Carolyn and Oswald had three children. Her daughter Elizabeth Thompson reported in a recent note that Carolyn is still very astute, but is tired. WE WISH HER OUR BEST CONGRATULATIONS ON HER BIRTHDAY.

To travel hopefully is a better thing than to arrive.

Robert Lewis Stevenson



FAMILY HISTORY

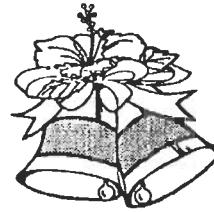
Family Historian **Carl B. McBrayer** (M 41, 7th) reports that he continues to receive a lot of new or

updated information on family members. Some of this has come from you members who have provided updates with dues payments. Other inputs have gone directly to Carl, including many who previously knew little or nothing about our family history efforts. Carl reports that his objective is to publish a new book next year. At the present time he is not sure of the format, that is whether or not it will be a complete revision or just an updating. Carl is now reformatting his data into a WordPerfect format, but is somewhat limited by the computer he is using.

Carl said he was contacted by Edna Faye McB Nelson (M 206-5/3, 8th) regarding the availability of one of the earlier books. If anyone is interested in selling their copy of one of Carl's books, please contact Carl.

While not about a book, member **Bert T. (Tom) Dixon** (M 174/5A, 9th) has called attention to a magazine "The Highlander" which some of you may find of interest. It contains articles about Scotland, Scots in America, Scottish products, History, Festivals and the like. This magazine costs \$ 13.50 per year (7 issues) . Subscriptions can be sent to The Highlander, Circulation Department, P.O. Box P44044, Chicago, IL 60644. You can also get this magazine by joining *Scottish Heritage USA* an organization working with the *National Trust for Scotland*. The *National Trust* owns many historic properties in Scotland and works to preserve them and their history. Several "In Defiance" articles have been derived from the *Trust's* magazine "Heritage Scotland" This magazine also comes

with membership in *Scottish Heritage USA*. There are several categories of membership. If you are interested, contact *Scottish Heritage USA*, P.O. Box 457, Pinehurst, NC 28374. Please note that neither Tom Dixon, your newsletter editor nor the MacBair Family Association would receive any monetary benefit from your subscription/membership.



Theresa Ann McBrayer (M 173/3, 9th), daughter of Dr. and Mrs. James D. McBrayer was united in marriage to Jeffery William Atkinson, son of Mr. and Mrs. George W.

Atkinson on June 10, 1995. They were married at the Worthington United Methodist Church, Worthington, OH. Following the wedding they honeymooned in the Bahamas. Jeff had been working in California and Tammie in Ohio. They now are living in Orange, CA. Tammie is a teacher and has already been able to find a teaching position for the coming year.



In the olden days, the man who saved his money was a miser, today he is a wonder!



DOWN ON THE FARM

The May 15, 1995 issue of "FarmWeek" a publication of the Illinois Farm Bureau, GROWMARK Inc. and the IPLA had on its front page a picture of **Ralph McBrayer** of Ellsworth in McLean County. Ralph is a corn farmer shown after he had planted 45 of his 365 acres and before the rains started. Does anyone of our members

know this Ralph? There are 3 Ralph McB's listed in Book II that could possibly be this Ralph, but not enough information is available. If you have any ideas, please drop a line to the editor.

THE FAMILY CREST

A number of members have written to request copies of the family crest. In case you missed the offer, 8½ x 11 inch color copies are available at a cost of \$ 2.50 each including mailing. One thing learned about the offer is that family members who are not members of the family association are being reached by the newsletter. While this is good, we would still encourage all family members to join the association to share experience and heritage with us all.

Over the years, many of you have received offers from companies such as Halbert's and the Family News for books, newsletters and publications. There is no question that the books published by Halbert's are good looking and give information which seems to reflect the family interests. If you look closer however, you will see that the information on the family is purely from public records such as Social Security Records and directories available to anyone. There is nothing that ties the family together and nothing that shows the various branches such as Briers, MacBrairs, as well as all those who are decedents.

Lest one think that I am just picking on Halbert's, it should be pointed out that it is very easy to check their publications since they are offered with a money back guarantee if you don't like what is sent. Their recent "The World Book of McBrayers" is an example which points out a few things.

As our family historians have searched into the past, it is fairly clear that our origins are not clearly defined. Several well respected books

such as Robert Edgar's "An Introduction to the History of Dumfries 1791", William McDowell's "History of Dumfries" (with a 1986 additional chapter by family friend Alfred Truckell) and Sir John Burke's "The Landed Gentry" mention the family. Burke states "an ancient family of Dumfriesshire that originated in the Highlands of Aberdeen, as the name supposedly itself indicates, and migrated to the south where they became quite prominent in the area and the surrounding counties." Truckell states "The McBair family, first appearing in 1384, is clearly in the saddle during this century: Robert McBair seems to have been provost (mayor) most of the time between 1453 and 1477; etc.", also he reports that records in Holland reporting dealings in the wool trade as early as 1330-31. Some dispute the highland origin and research continues.

The body of the name (Briar or Brair) has never been fully defined. "Mac" contracted to M' or Mc, is a Scottish or Irish surname (Gaelic) meaning son. Edgar writes "The name of M'Brair contains in itself a reproach to a celibate order - MacBrather or Braher - the Friar's son." (In this regard, Halbert's agrees, but without attribute.) Celibacy apparently was not practiced in the early era and "brother (friar)" has several literal meanings. There may yet be another meaning if we can determine the exact origin of the family. In the time before the family is known in Dumfries, there was significant influence from the south in Britain. While there is no real evidence of this, perhaps the family originated in Britain (after all the British kings put people loyal to them in positions of influence in Scotland - even Robert the Bruce was originally loyal to a British King.) J. R. Dolan in "English Ancestral Names" lists BRAYER as a man who makes pestles. P. H. Reaney in "The Origin of English Surnames" puts a different slant on it by stating that BRAYER is a man who sells pestles and gives the origin as old

French “breie of broie”. Remember that the French also are of Celtic origin as are the Scots. Robert the Bruce was originally Robert de Brus (or Brux). We may never know.

Now to the family crest. The recognized family crest is shown below. Burke describes the crest and attributes it to a date of 1580.



Now we come to a real dispute with Halbert’s. They claim the coat of arms is described in “Stodart’s Scottish Arms” and is shown below. After searching the catalogs of three local libraries, no mention of this reference has yet been found. If anyone knows of this reference, please inform the editor. As cartoonish as it appears, at least the upper half of a man as shown is reference in James Fairbairn’s “Heraldic Crests: a Pictorial Archive of 4,424 Designs for Artists and Craftspeople” which was originally published as “Fairbairn’s Book of Crests of the Families of Great Britain and Ireland”.



Which do you prefer? For me “IN DEFIANCE” suits us better.

Perhaps surprisingly, Halbert's does not touch at all upon another facet of Scottish Heritage, the tartan. Recent movie releases “Rob Roy” and “Braveheart” have as their main characters strong men wearing kilts. Before it evolved into its current style in the Victorian Era, the kilt was a continuous bolt of fabric known as a “plaid”. The Scot wrapped it around his waist, then tossed the excess fabric over his shoulder, keeping it in place with a larch brooch. If needed, the plaid could be put in service as a blanket. In the early days, men normally went about their tasks barefoot since rain and mud would make shoes rather pointless. When they needed foot covering, they wore moccasins without socks.

The colors of the tartans were based on natural dyes and purple, pink, brown and green. Red was the most expensive color available, made from a certain beetle, and was a sign of wealth.

Some of our current members are proud owners of either clothing or piece goods of our family tartans, dress and hunting. They are similar. The base color of the dress tartan is white whereas the hunting tartan is light brown. The other colors are red and green with the red dominant. The tartan is very old, however it was lost for over 250 years. In the late 1960's a search began and it was finally found again and was rewoven. Registration was undertaken with the Scottish Tartan Society.

A couple of issues ago, the question was asked about interest in the tartan. Very few expressed interest, however, some additional research will be done to determine what it would cost to duplicate the plaid today.

As a note of interest, at one time in the Queen’s Bedroom Museum in Edinburgh Castle there was a small scrap of the McBrayer

Tartan on display described only as an ancient tartan. The museum was displaced when a new communications center was built under the castle.

McBRAYERS IN LITERATURE

In the last issue was an excerpt from “The Master of Ballantrae” by Robert Lewis Stevenson. Stevenson was born in 1850 and died in 1894. He wrote his historical romance, “The Master of Ballantrae” in 1889 while he was in the United States. While we do not know why Stevenson used the McBrayer name for characters of prominence, we might surmise that he had known someone of that name even though he did not live in the area of Dumfries, but rather in Edinburgh.

Another famous Scottish author is Sir Walter Scott who also used the name McBrayer in his historical novel “Old Mortality” published in 1816. Sir Walter was also born in Edinburgh (in 1771), but the success of his extremely popular early novels, including “Old Mortality” and “Rob Roy”, permitted him to build a large country home, Abbotsford, which many of our family have visited. In 1826, the financial collapse of a bookselling and printing business in which he was a partner put him in debt and ruined his health. Thereafter he wrote incessantly and while not among his better works, they allowed him to come out of debt. Exhausted from overwork, he went on a cruise, but returned more ill than when he left and died in 1832.

“Old Mortality” is a fictional account of the 1679 Battle of Bothwell Bridge. One of the heroes Scott created was Ephraim Macbrair. The time was the reign of Charles II. In the introduction to the book, the writer states: “Undoubtedly Scott’s sympathies leaned strongly to the Tory Side ***. On the other hand, he has shown in his portrayal of such

characters as Macbrair and Morton that he was not blind to the merits of those who had risen in arms against the intolerant measures of Charles II.” Ephraim Macbrair was portrayed as one who could present his cause fluently and convincingly. He believed with all his soul and mind in religious liberty and was always faithful to a friend or trust. Scott quoted a sermon of Ephraim’s and wrote : “The eloquent preacher was rewarded, etc.” and later “Macbrair, clergyman, pleads eloquently for religious liberty.” Scott records the trial of Ephraim with his torture and persecution, with the charge that he was an effective crusader for religious liberty and refused to give information that would incriminate a friend. He was pronounced guilty, which he admitted, and condemned to death. He was executed the next day.

Since we know that family members were intimately involved in religious activities at the time, there is a good chance that Scott was familiar with the family name from his research for the book. In both Stevenson’s and Scott’s books, the McBairs portrayed were upright and conscientious people we can be proud of.



Deborah Ann McBrayer Reiser (M 351/1, 9th) has been elected to a two year term on the Board of Directors of the SOS Crisis Center of Ypsilanti, MI. The SOS Crisis

Center is a non-profit agency providing crisis intervention, problem assistance, assessment, referral, shelter, housing and advocacy services to low income and homeless families throughout Washtenaw County.

Patricia Ann McBrayer (M 351/5, 9th), a practicing architect in San Francisco is being recognized in an upcoming issue of “Architectural Digest” for her work on a vacation home in Telluride, CO. The article title is “Mining the Architectural Traditions of Telluride.”