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# IN DEFIANCE



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## THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

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VOLUME 6, NO. 4

OCTOBER 1995



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

Summer now is at an end and we enter the fall season with the ever beautiful change in colors of the leaves, at least for those of us who live in the part of the country where it happens. It is a strong reminder of the passage of time. As many of our members are in the fall of their lives we may reflect in different ways this passage and what it has brought us. There is always hope for the new life of spring which will follow the drabness of the winter season ahead.

An apology to the membership for the lateness of this newsletter. The past couple of months

have been a very busy time here at our home with the wedding of our youngest daughter, the attending visits with our families and what I had planned to be a part time job.

There is good news and bad news about our membership. The good news is that our membership continues to grow thanks to the efforts of a number of our members. Our current mailing list has 159 members; in January of 1994 we had 109 members. The bad news is that of the 159, only 128 are current in dues payments. It should be noted that some of these have been delinquent since at least 1994. It will be necessary during the coming months to prune the mailing list. It is recognized that there may be reasons why some cannot pay dues. If this is the case, a note to the Chief will be appreciated. We do not want to drop anyone who has sincere interest in the family.

Chief Bob

*PRAY FOR A GOOD HARVEST, BUT*

# FAMILY ASSOCIATION ADDRESS BOOK



A few suggestions have been received for the address book. One of these is in regard to the addressee. As the mailing list has been developed, there has been no consistency as to who is listed, husband or wife or Mr. and Mrs. In the next update of the list (planned on a yearly basis in mid-year), the direct McBrayer/Brier descendent or surviving spouse will be listed. Depending on comment from members, perhaps the list can also have others in immediate families added; please let me know your thoughts.

As to a question of the number/letter combination following the first name, this is the dues status. If there is no number/letter, this means that the membership dues are not current. Corrections to this part of the list will be made only on a yearly basis.

Corrections to the list are:

Theresa Atkinson, add "#K" to the street address.

Robert Brier, change to 6125 Hazel Ave., Orangevale, CA 95662-4562.

Phillele McBrayer, change phone number to (918) 749-3709.

## 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



## announcing new members !

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

Mary Ellen McBrayer Brewer (M 177/2, 9th), 239 Pavey Ave., P.O.Box 109, Leesburg, OH 45135, (513) 780-6165. Mary Ellen is the aunt of new member Jeffrey McBrayer.

William Paul McBrayer (M 457, 8th), 131 Creekside Drive, Forest City, NC 28043, (704) 245-4328. Paul is with Cowen Tire and Battery Company in Forest City.

Susan Kaye McBrayer (M 457-1, 9th), 3453-J N. Druid Hills Road, Decatur, GA 30033. Susan is Paul's oldest daughter.

Jeffrey Lewis McBrayer (M 209-3, 10th), 1139 5th Street, Crescent City, CA 95531. He and his wife Stephanie have two children, Tamerin and Brenden. His membership was a gift from his mother, member Hallie McBrayer.

Anita Lovell McCray Klarić (descendant of Samuel Buncombe McBrayer, M 365), 5821 Satchelford Road, Columbia, SC 29206-1508, (803) 790-2896.

Sheron Griffin Mumaugh (M 155/1B1a1,

9th), 103 Stockwood Court, Woodstock, GA 30188-3863, (770) 928-5926. Sheron is the G-G-granddaughter of Sarah Jo McBrayer, the oldest child of Humphrey P. and Elizabeth Sitz McBrayer. Sheron is looking for any information and photographs of Sarah Jo's family. If you can help her, please contact her directly.

Michael Keith McBrayer (M 434-5/2, 9th), 1906 Cimarron Parkway, Atlanta, GA 30350, (770) 673-0889. Mike is a landscape designer for the city of Marietta, GA. His membership was a gift from his father, William C. (Bill) McBrayer.

Dorothy E. McBrayer Harris, Box 885, Idabel, OK 74745. Dorothy is very active in family affairs in her area and was reelected as president for the third year for the McBrayer Reunion in Idabel; see article following.

Rebecca McBrayer Scarcello (M 351/6, 9th), 437 N. Eton, Apt. 407, Birmingham, MI 48009, (810) 614-5372. Becky's membership was a gift from her parents, Chief Bob and Betty McBrayer. (see also wedding article.)

*THERE IS NO DUTY WE SO MUCH  
UNDERRATE AS THE DUTY OF  
BEING HAPPY* - ROBERT LEWIS STEVENSON



## **FAMILY HISTORY**

Please note the separate sheet enclosed in this issue of *IN DEFIANCE*. This flyer, which you can use as a mailer, gives information about the upcoming family history book. Considerable information has been received since Carl McBrayer compiled the last book which was an update. The new book will be a complete history with pictures.

There has always been some uncertainty about the birthplace (Scotland or Ireland) of William McBrayer who is listed as "1" in our genealogy. There has been even more question about his wife Rebecca, with most accounts stating that she was born in Ireland, but her maiden name was unknown. In the July 1994 issue of *IN DEFIANCE* it was reported that Doris Osten had information that her name was Brown, that she was a native of Ireland, that she and William emigrated to America in about 1737, that she died August 12, 1805 and was buried in the old burial ground near Mr. Brown's Mill. Except for the maiden name, the information came from the Franklin Repository obituary copy. One member questioned the maiden name and asked for confirmation. Perhaps we now have something more to go on for further research.

Carl McBrayer has forwarded an abstract from a letter dated December 1, 1994 from Kirby Watkins to Mrs. Mary Dobson which gives the following information:

"This summer in Scotland, I visited the birth place of Robert Burns. They had forebearers of his McBrayer family from Dumfries listed. I was surprised to see William McBrayer and his wife Rebecca Brown .... William was born 1698 Dumfries, Scotland died 1794 in Franklin Co. PA, America, wife Rebecca Brown b. 1763 (must be a typo - should be about 1703) Dumfries d. 1804 Franklin Co., PA. Rebecca Brown McBrayer was an aunt of Agnes Brown, mother of Robert Burns. The McBrayers were listed back to the 12th century"

While there are slight variations in dates, they correspond closely with other records. There is no question that Agnes Brown was the mother of Robert Burns. It is also intriguing that William, Rebecca and son John were

buried near Mr. Brown's Mill. Was Mr. Brown a relative who may have moved to the area earlier and were a reason for William and Rebecca to settle in Pennsylvania?

Some years ago, your Editor was on military training duty in Norfolk, VA. This was before I knew more about the family. I met an active duty naval officer, Charles Brown who told me that the McBrayers and Browns were related. He said that there was a book on the Brown Family history in the Library of Congress. Perhaps one of our members in the Washington area can check this out for us. Of course, the next family member who travels to Scotland should make a point to visit Alloway, Ayrshire to try to get a copy of the information.



Rebecca Ann McBrayer, youngest daughter of Mr. and Mrs. Robert McBrayer was united in marriage to Paul John Scarcello, Jr., son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul

J. Scarcello on October 7, 1995. They were married at St. Patrick Church, Wyandotte, MI. The wedding party included her 4 sisters, brother, sister-in-law, niece and 3 nephews. Following the wedding they honeymooned in Tortola, British Virgin Islands. Becky is office manager for Scarcello Associates, her mother-in-law's commercial interior design firm. Paul, a spring 1995 graduate of Tulane Law School, is a tax attorney with Plante and Moran.

**HAPPY HALLOWEEN!**



## THE NATIONAL TRUST FOR SCOTLAND

In past issues, most recently the July 1995 issue, the National Trust for Scotland has been mentioned. I would suspect that anyone who has visited Scotland has gone to a National Trust property since they hold and maintain many famous sites. Another part of the Trust's activity is the preservation of the natural beauty of Scotland. Those of you fortunate to have visited our homeland know that there are many acres of barren land which was once forested. The Trust is part of the effort to reestablish these forests as well as the efforts to maintain nature in all its aspects in a manner for the future enjoyment of our descendants. As one of Scotland's largest landowners, the Trust owns nearly 200,000 acres including farmland and forest, moor and mountain, waterfalls and islands, cliffs, coastland, archeological sites and gardens. The Trust is currently making an appeal for help by way of donations to the "Behind the Scenes Appeal". If you would like to contribute, you can receive a tax deduction by making your donation to:

Scottish Heritage USA  
P.O. Box 457  
Pinehurst, NC 28374

Scottish Heritage will add the full amount of your donation to other funds already promised towards the cost of the Trust's Conservation Volunteers and Thistle Camps Program.

ONE man's flower is another man's weed. The rhododendron which many of us probably try to grow can be a plant pest. Huge rhododendron grow profusely in Scotland. It effectively kills off woodland flowers and prevents the growth of seedling trees stopping the natural regeneration of woodland cover. The Trust spends thousands of dollars each

year in controlling the plant.



## A HERO IN THE FAMILY!

Larry Wetmore (M 35/4B) son of Sandra Wetmore and grandson of Honorary Chief Ben and Helene McBrayer was credited with saving two teenagers from drowning. The location was Fieldson Beach at Marshfield, MA; the time about 2:25 pm on August 15. Hurricane Felix was having it's effect on the beaches along the eastern seacoast and many beaches had been closed. The two 17 year olds wanted to see big waves and they waded into the ocean. Suddenly they found themselves being swept out from the shore. Larry who is 22 is a part-time model, was working on his tan at the beach. He saw the boys waving and screaming. He told someone to call 911, then swam out to help them. The 12 foot waves and strong current hampered his efforts. Eventually another rescuer, who was not identified, arrived with a surfboard and took one of the boys. Larry swam in with the other.

CONGRATULATIONS LARRY!!!!



## REUNIONS

Reports have been received about a few local family reunions held this year.

August 12, 1995 - Anne and Roger McBrayer hosted the reunion of the descendants of John Lewis McBrayer (M 237, 7th). The reunion was held at Homestead Park, Amlin, OH. Roger (M 354, 9th) is a grandson of John Lewis.

August 20, 1995 - Naomi Gardner (wife of Howard Pope McBrayer (M 147-9, 8th) who remarried following Howard's death) and Robin Gardner Riley organized the reunion of the McBrayer Family in the Northern Indiana area. The reunion was held at Reder Park, Schererville, IN.

October 7, 1995 - New member Dorothy Harris organized the annual McBrayer Family reunion held in Redland, OK at the community building. 78 relatives and friends attended this year coming from California, Montana and Texas as well as Oklahoma. Dorothy was elected for third term as president of the group. An auction was held with Harold McBrayer serving as the auctioneer. The proceeds from the auction are used to continue the reunion. Their next reunion is scheduled for the first Saturday in October 1996 in the Redland Community Building.



Frederick Guy McBrayer (M 120, 8th) passed away on March 18, 1994 following a lingering illness. Frederick, who was the youngest son of John Lewis and Nellie McBrayer was born on January 10, 1922. He and his wife Mary had four children, three daughters and a son.

*FAR AND AWAY THE BEST PRIZE THAT LIFE OFFERS IS THE CHANCE TO WORK HARD AT WORK WORTH DOING.* - THEODORE ROOSEVELT





## THANKSGIVING BLESSINGS

*IT IS IN THE SHELTER  
OF EACH OTHER  
THAT THE PEOPLE  
LIVE* - IRISH PROVERB

### THE FAMILY TARTAN

As many of you know, the MacBrair Family has two tartans, a dress tartan with a white background and a hunting tartan with a brownish background. These tartans have been officially registered in Scotland, but the patterns have been carefully guarded. A number of years ago the old pattern, known as a "sett", was again woven using the traditional methods, including the type of vegetable dyes used at the time of the origin of tartans. Dr. Duffy McBryer (M 97-7) has reported that a small amount of the cloth is still available in Scotland. The cost and exact availability are not known, but if you are interested in obtaining the tartan, you may write:

May Roberts McKerrell  
10 Bruce Street  
Magdalene House, Lochmaben  
Dumfries, Scotland DG 111 PD

A small book, "The Scottish Tartans - With Historical Sketches of the Clans and Families of Scotland" revised by Sir Thomas Innes of Learney, Lord Lyon King of Arms, is a very interesting reference. Tartans and Clans are associated with Highlanders. In Nigel Tranter's historical novels, he makes this point very clear. In many confrontations and battles, the highlander was readily visible by his tartan. Sir Thomas points out that designs produced elsewhere are entitled to be called tartans when they resemble the traditional patterns. For the most part, our family history centers around Dumfries and Galloway, part of the

Border lands, not the highlands. As far as is known, there was no clan membership, but there is no question that the MacBrairs were prominent members of society and were for many years the political leaders in Dumfries.

Of course the familiarity of most people is with the tartan made into a kilt such as worn by Scottish regiments and pipebands. The ancient dress was quite different and was a belted plaid. This plaid (the *féileadh-mór* or great wrap) was a length of tartan cloth 16 - 18 feet long and 6 feet wide. The upper part covered the wearer's shoulders. It was belted at the waist and the lower portion hung down to the knees. By the early part of the 18th century the lower half of the belted plaid ((the *féileadh-bcag* or little wrap) was in general use as the kilt as we know it.

After the defeat of Prince Charles and his Highlanders during the Jacobite Rising of 1745, the wearing of traditional Highland dress was prohibited in an attempt to destroy the clan spirit. The ban lasted for 36 years and many of the traditional methods of fabric making with vegetable dyes was lost. Robert Burns and Sir Walter Scott in their writings helped to bring back the spirit and once again the Highlander and clans became popular and something to be proud of by the members.

### THE FAMILY CREST

Copies of the family crest or coat of arms are still available. In case you missed the offer, 8½ x 11 inch color copies are available at a cost of \$ 2.50 each including mailing. One member has called attention to a variant of the crest with the banner with the motto "IN DEFIANCE" at the top instead of the bottom. There is also a difference in the ornamental ribbons around the shield. From the published description it is difficult to tell which is correct. The member said that she had been told by an expert that the Scots had their

banners at the top. In Sir Thomas's book there is no consistency shown, some are at the top, some at the bottom. Unless we can find some historical or written record somewhere we still have a question of what is right. Does anyone have documentation to show other than what is generally accepted?

A further note, the crest shown on the masthead of this newsletter is of more recent vintage. An artisan in Scotland made this to incorporate part of the coat of arms with our family name.

In the last issue of *INDEFIANCE*, the coat of arms being peddled by Halbert's was shown. From the few comments received, family members reject that version. Again referring to Sir Thomas's book, the caveman like figure in the Halbert's version is seen in several variants in personal arms of several prominent clan chiefs. These include Brodie, Bruce, Cameron, Chisholm, Douglas, Drummond, Grant, Hay, Lamont, MacDuff, MacKenzie, MacLeod of Lewis, Menzies, Murray of Atholl, Ross, Stewart and Sutherland. The main feature of our crest, the lion rampant, is found in many more.

Just what is a clan? Sir Thomas's book also explains that. The basis of a clan is a family; the principal family along with its offshoots and branches. In Scotland, clans generally meant a group of families occupying a specific area. This might be a particular glen or an island. The families shared either in fact or claimed descent from a common ancestor. Clans had definite boundaries and you can purchase clan maps which show the areas. The head of the group was the living "Representer" of the ancestor and chief of the clan. The clansmen owed the chief respect and loyalty. They accepted jurisdiction over daily affairs and responded to the call of battle when summoned. In return, the chief had an obligation to help any member in distress.



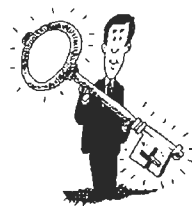
## A CHALLENGE

Family Historian Carl McBrayer has been active in recruiting new members and he offers this challenge:

"The MacBrair Family Association needs each of you and your help. Please consider our family heritage. We need to preserve each and every fact of our family history for future generations. Our present generation is important to each of us, but isn't the history of our forefathers equally important to the generations of our grandchildren and their grandchildren? I urge each of you to accept this challenge - contact at least two family members and persuade them to join our Family Association. How about it?

To this might be added, look through the address list and if you see a close relative who has not renewed their membership by payment of dues, urge them to do so. If everyone does their part, our growth will be spectacular.

*A SCHOOL IS A BUILDING WITH FOUR WALLS, AND TOMORROW INSIDE* - BARBARA KNIGHT



## OF NOTE

With the recent publicity of celebrity court cases we all have been exposed to more law than what we ever thought (of course excepting the lawyers in our family). We have seen some of the new technology used. Anne McBrayer, wife of Roger, has been at the forefront of one bit of that, the court reporter's computer. This technology is called "real time" court reporting. In this system, the

court reporter types everything that is said into a stenographers' computer. The real time process translates the encoded notes into English and displays them on the computer screen giving instant access to the judge and attorneys. Similar technology is used for closed captioning for television programs. Anne has been a court reporter for 19 years and was one of the first to learn the system. The first system she used was purchased in 1989 and is already somewhat antiquated. Even with the experience she has, some attorneys are either afraid of or unwilling to use the technology. Still it is being used in 28 states, in classrooms and seminars for the hearing or physically impaired.

John Reiser, husband of Deborah Reiser (M 351/1, 9th), received The Edward J. Kreski Scholarship Award at the Annual Honors Convocation of the Detroit College of Law on October 22, 1995. Mr. Kreski was an alumni of Central Michigan University and Detroit College of Law who established this cash award to a CMU/DCL graduate who had been involved in Moot Court and graduated cum laude or better. John graduated from DCL this spring, having earned his law degree while working full time as an Information Systems expert for the IRS. He is awaiting the results of the Michigan Bar examination to determine his next career move.



With Halloween are the typical witch costumes. Our ancestors took witches seriously. The following is taken from one of Carl's books and was written

by Ethel Koller. The original spelling of the Transactions of Dumfries and Galloway which makes for difficult reading, but if you read it out loud it will be easier. Keep in mind as you

read this that MacBrairs were influential people at the time holding high legal offices in Dumfries.

When Court was opened at Dumfries on the 2nd of April 1659, ten women, each charged with acts of witchcraft, were brought to trial. Two sets of manuscripts relating to witchcraft trials in Dumfries and Galloway have until now escaped printing. It is the fact of survival which makes the two documents important, for the records of witchcraft are so sparse, casual references to witches being burnt, expenses for the trials when there is no mention of the trial, evidence for trials but no indication of a sentence.

According to Justiciary Processes, 1650 Dittays against witches, viz on of the seven women listed was Janet Dickson, with no account as to what the real outcome was.

A true report of the makefices, charmes and other presumptions of sorcerie and witchcraft practiced by the persones following given against "Janet dikson spous to the said Thomas McBrair bailly depons that upon incarcerating the said Elizabeth Maxwell, she did bitterlie avow that it would be a dier warding whairupon very soon thair-efter, the said Thomas contracted a verie heavie disease which continuing for the space of two yeirs at last took away his Lyff in all which tyme he still apprehendit and said it to his wyff that elizabeth Maxwell and Katherin edgar were still nippin him and upon his death bed Layed it upon her and left it with his friends that the said Elizabeth had bein both the instrument of his pain and death."

And finally to end the holidays for this quarter:

