

IN DEFENSE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 7, NO. 2

APRIL 1996



FROM THE CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

As I begin this newsletter, Mother Nature still has not decided here in the north what the weather should be; one day cold, the next warm. Never-the-less, the promise of spring is here. Of course this was heralded by the joy of Easter.

Our membership list has continued to grow. From 109 in October of 1994, we now have 168. Unfortunately this has to be tempered by the fact that 20 of those on the list will have to be dropped. These people were either originally on the list in 1994 or had expressed strong interest in joining with us in the meantime, but they have never paid dues during this period. It is not fair to you who are supporting the Association to continue sending the newsletter when there is no response. Every one of the 20 was written a personal letter; they did not respond. I should add that one other who had not been up to date did respond and renew their membership.

Thanks to those of you who have sent in your

dues for 1996. To date, 90 are paid and it is encouraging to note that several increased their membership level. Many included notes which help to make the newsletter more of a family effort. Please continue to send in your news.



I should be made to stand with my nose in this corner. In the correction box last issue, a

mistake was again made in the name for C. D. McBrayer's sister. Her name is Jean [Brown] not June or Jane. Again I apologize.

Another error is that the volume number was wrong; it is 7 not 6. Computers are wonderful and spell checkers can correct spelling errors, but they cannot overcome the mistakes of mankind.

NUMBER SIX AND COUNTING

It started on December 10, 1866 when Jasper Newton McBrayer (M 207, 6th), the first "J.N." McBrayer was born. Since then, five more have been added:

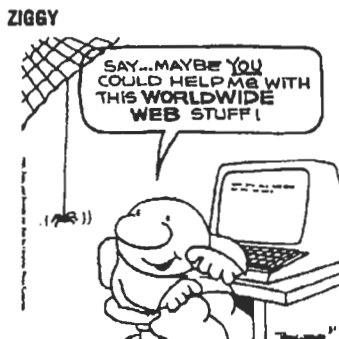
- Joseph Nelson - son of Jasper
- James Nelson - son of Joseph
- Jonathan Nelson - son of James

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Joel Nelson - son of James
Jacob Nicholas - son of Joel

Bertie McBrayer, widow of James, says it is now up to Jonathan and his wife (who were married in December 1995) to add the 7th "J.N." She predicts they will have a girl who will be named Jeanie Nicole!

Jasper's grandfather was also named James, James Madison McBrayer. This James was a preacher in the corner of North Carolina, Tennessee and Georgia. He was a prolific writer of church music which he never copyrighted since he felt it belonged to the Lord. One of his songs was the theme song for Burl Ives who called it "Wayfaring Stranger". The original title was "Wayfaring Pilgrim" and the song was changed somewhat when B.B. McKinney re-arranged it for the Baptist Hymnal.



A number of members have sent in their E-Mail addresses. A list will be compiled with these addresses by the time of the next newsletter. If you haven't sent it to the Editor yet, please do so, so that we will have as complete as list as possible. Our Family Historian is looking into a way to send each person with an E-Mail address the lineage record of their family.

No man goes before his time. Unless, of course, the boss leaves early.

LIFE MEMBER NUMBER THREE

Julia Helen Alexander Braddy (M 421/4B2c2, 7th) has become our third Life Member joining Agnes Beaudry and Elizabeth Bright. Julia, the widow of Herman Asa Braddy, lives in Waverly Hill, Ga. She and Herman had two children; Julia Helen and Herman Asa, Jr., both married and have children. She has been a long time member of the Family Association and we thank her for her continued support.



TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

This has been a banner month for new members!

Roger Allan McBrayer (M 354, 9th) and his wife Anne live in Amblin, OH.

Donna McBrayer Hackworth (M 107/1, 9th) and her husband Donald live in Grand Blanc, MI.

Sharon McBrayer Reiselt (M 107/4, 9th) and her husband Edward live in Carroll, OH.

Roger, Donna and Sharon were given memberships by their aunt, Ruth Emory.

Teresa Kim McBrayer (M 387-5/1, 9th) lives in Mechanicsburg, PA.

Bert William McBrayer (M 36-5, 7th) lives in Clearfield, KY. His membership was a gift from his son, member Arthur McBrayer.

Naomi McBrayer Shaeffer (M 36-5/8, 8th) lives in Winchester, VA. She became

interested in the Association when she received information from her sister, member Janet Dulin.

Linda Kay McBrayer Thompson (M 314-5/1, 8th) and her husband C.W. live in Alpine, TX. Linda is a RN and serves as the Director for Health Services for the Big Bend Region of Texas. C.W. is Ass't Chief Marfa Sector, Border Patrol, INS. They have three grown children: Victoria, Tani and Chad.

Cynthia Ann McBrayer Hibbitts (M 314-5/2, 8th) and her husband Richard live in Marfa, TX. Cynthia teaches Computer Science in the Marfa School and Richard is a coach in the same school. They have three children: Jennifer, Stacey and Wesley.

Linda and Cynthia received their memberships as a gift from their father, member OA McBrayer.

For the information of our new members, the numbers following a member's name refer to the access number assigned by Family Historian Carl McBrayer and used in the family history books. The letter, M or B refers to the family branch, McBrayer or Brier. The final number is the generation in America.

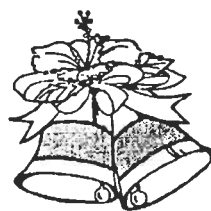


Honorary Chief Ben McBrayer (M 35, 7th) celebrated his 90th birthday on March 13, 1996. He was born in Seeleyville, IN and grew up in Colorado and New Mexico. He attended the University of Colorado and graduated from the School of Medicine in 1931. There he met his wife Helene who attended the School of Nursing. They celebrated their 65th anniversary on April 11, 1996. His first practice was in his home and Helene was his

nurse. He later worked for the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company. During World War II, he served in the Army Medical Corps. Following the war he specialized in anesthesiology and ended his active medical career with the Public Health Service in Washington, D.C. He and Helene retired to Dunnellon, FL in 1968. They live in the home they built there then and keep up their two acres. They have kept active in community and church affairs.

Nicole Miazgowicz, daughter of Ann Marie McBrayer (M 351/4, 9th) and Tony Miazgowicz (and great grand daughter of Ben and Helene) received honors as a member of the 6th grade team at Camden-Frontier (MI) School for the "Knowledge Master Open" an academic world-wide competition via computer. Her 12 member team placed 2nd in Michigan and 23rd in the world. She also was on a 5 member team for the "Quiz Bowl", a county wide academic competition, where they placed first among 12 schools.

Christopher Miazgowicz, Nicole's younger brother, and his father Tony won for the 4th year in a row, the Cake Bake Competition for his Cub Scout Pack. This year's entry was a sand castle. The rules require that the cake be completely edible, including all decorations, and that no woman helps out in making the cake.

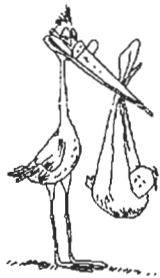


RECENT WEDDINGS

Alice Diane Anthony (3/3B5c3C3, 8th) daughter of John and Dorothy Anthony was married to Barry Spiller on January 31, 1996.

William Frank McBrayer (M 239/2, 9th) was married to Sue Ann Elizabeth Isbell on July 20, 1995 in Phoenix, AZ. Their first born is due in April.

You know you're getting old when.....
 The gleam in your eyes is from the sun hitting your bifocals;
 You feel like the morning after, but you haven't been anywhere the night before;
 You know all the answers, but nobody asks you the questions;
 You sit in a rocking chair and you can't get it going;
 Your back goes out more often than you do;
 You sink your teeth into a steak, and they stay there;
 You join a health club and don't go;
 You look forward towards a dull evening.



FAMILY ADDITIONS

Tanner Lee McBrayer (M 70-95/3B2, 10th) was born November 13, 1995 in Winter Haven, FL. He weighed in at nine pounds four ounces! His parents are Terry and Shari McBrayer and his paternal grandparents are Ralph and Juanita McBrayer of Wheelersburg, OH. He joins big sister Haleigh Casandra McBrayer who was born September 25, 1993.

Katherine Terese (Katie) McBrayer (M 173/2A, 10th) made her entrance to the world in West Chester, OH on February 27, 1996 at 4:07 AM. She weighed seven pounds fifteen ounces and is the first born of member Timothy and Leslie McBrayer (and the 5th great grandchild of Ben and Helene McBrayer).

Tucker John Troups (10th) was born January 21, 1996 in Phoenix, AZ. He is the son of John Terry Troups, Jr (M 122/2A, 9th) and Jennifer Troups, grandson of John and Gayle McBrayer Troups and great grandson of Garland and Lou Grady McBrayer.

"Though in the wilcerness, a man is never alone" THOMAS BROWN

✝ REST IN PEACE

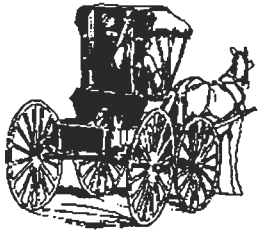
Harvey E. McBrayer, 82, (M 139-5, 7th) of Morehead, Kentucky died Thursday, Feb. 1, at the St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead.

He was born Dec. 2, 1913 in Rowan County to the late William Edman and Smatha Susan Slusher McBrayer.

He was a member of the Baptist Church, a retired farmer, Past Master of Morehead Masonic Lodge Number 654 and was a retired District Director for Federal Crop Insurance of Nashville, Tenn. He was preceded in death by one daughter, Mary Edna Roe in 1959. Surviving are his wife, Anna Margaret Perkins McBrayer; three sons Edman McBrayer of Peru, IN, Charles Douglas McBrayer of Morehead and John Harold McBrayer of Independence, MO; one daughter, Reba Faye Davis of Vienna, VA; two sisters, Ida Mae Smiley of Muncie, IN. and Martha Lambert of Clearfield. Also surviving are 10 grandchildren and 12 great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were Saturday, Feb. 3, at the Northcutt & Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Bert McBrayer officiating with burial at the McBrayer Cemetery. Masonic Rites were held Friday by Morehead Masonic Lodge No. 654. Pallbearers were Byron Lane McBrayer, Stephen J. McBrayer, Eric Harvey Davis, Harvey S. McBrayer, Mitchell Garland Roe and Douglas John McBrayer.





FAMILY TALES

In the July 1995 Issue, John Lewis McBrayer's (M 236. 6th) story of horse thievery as the reason for our forefathers immigration, reminded Dorothy Anthony of a long ago wish to find a horse thief in the family. She recounts:

Back in the 50's and 60's when I first started "climbing the tree", I had to do most of my research by correspondence for the genealogical libraries and published records were few. Needless to say living in a small town like Farmington [Ohio] we were on a first name basis with the postmaster and as I probably mailed more letters than anyone else in the village he was much aware of my correspondence "far afield". One day he said, "Jigger, [Dot's late husband] if Dot isn't careful she's going to find a horse thief back there in your family." Actually I thought that would be quite intriguing, but no such luck--the closest I got was a sheep thief.

Family oldtimers in my Sloan side of the family (a Sloan married a McB) swear it's true that my uncle Albert, a few generations back in the early 1800s was trekking down a back country road in western Pennsylvania when he came on a flock of sheep straying untended down the lane. Just as he came up behind the flock, a couple of men with a team and wagon came along. Stopping to pass the time of day one said "Those are fine sheep." Albert having already noted that they were exceptional stock and assuming they were the new breed of

sheep which he had read were being imported, he glibly said "Yup, they are fine sheep - merinos.

"How many are there?" the stranger queried. "Bout twenty five I guess," Albert replied. "What are they worth?" he was asked. Albert threw out a figure. "Sounds fair to me, I'll buy them".

Albert pocketed the money, turned and went back the way he had come. None of the family ever seemed to know if the rightful owner retrieved his flock or not.

With the report in July, Dot now has her horse thief as well!



Family Historian Carl McBrayer reports that he has the final printout of the next family book underway. IT IS STILL TIME TO GET UPDATED MATERIAL INCLUDED IF YOU SEND IT TO CARL **NOW** ! His address is 412 Char Lane, Midwest City, OK 73110. He can get information in as long as he receives it before your particular sketch is being completed. On the 16th of March, Carl had 70 pages out of over 1000 done, so if your name starts with a letter early in the alphabet you may be out of luck. You might also call Carl at (405) 732-1757.

One member asked about pricing of the book. We have somewhat of a chicken and egg situation. The price cannot be determined until we know how many will be printed. Carl feels we need a minimum of 150 copies to be able to get it done. Presently we are less than half way there with the current reservations. If you have not made a reservation, please do so as

soon as possible. Write either Carl or the Newsletter Editor.

Some books that you may find interesting are:

“The Druids” by Peter Berresford Ellis, 1994, Wm. B. Eerdmans Publishing Co., Grand Rapids, MI. This book looks at the history of the ancient Druids as the intellectual caste of the Celtic society. While some scholars claimed that the Druids were not in Scotland, there is ample evidence that they were and that the religion influenced the Roman Church as it grew in the country. One of the famous early church sites in Scotland, the Isle of Iona was once a Druid center.

“How The Irish Saved Civilization” by Thomas Cahill, 1995, Nan A. Talese, an imprint of Doubleday, New York. The influence of the holy men and women of Ireland is told in this book. The Celtic peoples had a role in saving the culture of the Western World during the dark ages. Early missionaries from Ireland brought the Roman Church to Scotland. Much later, our ancestors apparently passed through Ireland on their way to America. Our heritage relies heavily on the Irish.

A fictionalized version of the early history of the Church and the Druid influence is given in Nigel Tranter’s “Columba”, 1987, Hodder and Stoughton Ltd., Dunton Green, Sevenoaks, Kent. Like all of Tranter’s other books, this is hard to put down.

News

Earl McBrayer (M 98, 7th) was written up in the October 1995 issue of the AARP Bulletin in an article on retiree activities.

Earl McBrayer, 69, of Cincinnati, for example, had been collecting coins “since I was a kid.” When he retired

from his teaching job he first worked for a coin dealer, then opened his own mail-order coin business.

After running ads in a coin collectors’ magazine, McBrayer soon had “all the business I wanted.”

Some early retirees look to combine a new career with a dramatic change in lifestyle.

Family Historian Carl McBrayer (M 41, 7th) has turned a long time interest into a second “part-time” career. He is working 4 to 6 hours a week, 6 days a week for the Metal Detector Shop. Carl enjoys treasure hunting with a metal detector as well as gold prospecting. A year or so ago while coin hunting in a local park, he found a diamond ring. After holding on to it for a while, he decided to have it appraised. It was worth \$ 2205! Carl has five metal detectors to hunt with. His pride and joy is a White’s Spectrum XLT which he says has two problems: 1) it doesn’t tell you the date of the coin when it finds it, and 2) it doesn’t dig it up for you.

Chief Bob McBrayer (M 351, 8th) keeps busy “part-time” consulting to the polyurethane foam industry. In March he was one of the instructors for a week long course “Basic Principles & Manufacturing Technology of Polyurethane Foams” given at the Polymer Institute, University of Detroit Mercy and in April will present a one day seminar “Advances in Polyurethane Foams Formulation” which is sponsored by the Technomic Publishing Co. A long term project has been done with a major manufacturer of bowling balls to develop a new method of production that will be installed this fall.

Janice Rilea (B 172/2A1a2, 7th) who lives in Salem, OR had reported in February about the floods in her area. She said that during the second week of February the floods were

receding. It had looked like a giant lake around their valley, but they were untouched by the rising water directly, but they had to conserve water. (Sounds strange with a flood.) They had only a two day supply until the filtration system

Jean Roath (B 158/8E4a, 6th) reports that she ordered some of the family hunting tartan from Mae Roberts McKerrell. The price was \$38.40 per yard (54 inches wide), shipping was \$ 8.00 and it about one month for delivery. In case you want to obtain some of the yard goods, contact Mae at:

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

Evelyn McBrayer (M41/1, 8th), daughter of Family Historian Carl, is recovering well from cancer surgery in January. She was able to return to her 2nd grade teaching position in Harrah, OK in early March.

ROBBY BURNS - revisited

In the last issue, our family ties to Robert Burns were covered. Doris Osten has provided information on another tie. Burns' first cousin's son married Jane Stewart. Jane was the sister of William Stewart (1781-1850). William is the great great grandfather of Reid Stewart (see more following about Reid). Reid Stewart is a descendant of Ester McBrayer Reid. Ester was the daughter of David (M 3, 1st) and Elizabeth Campbell McBrayer. This same branch also gave us current family association members Dorothy Sloan Anthony, Harriet Sloan Sears, Aura Sears Grimes and Richard Sears. (Editor's note: If any one was left out, please let me know.)

Now we are tied on both sides of the ocean. Oh what a tangled web we weave!

national reunion

As has been reported earlier, we plan to hold our next Family Association National Reunion in July 1997 in Chambersburg, PA. The location was chosen to honor our family's origins in America at the burial site of William (M1, 1st) and Rebecca McBrayer and their son John at Brown's Mill Cemetery. Vice Chief Terrill McBrayer agreed to serve a chairperson for the reunion.

Doris Osten has now stepped forward to help. Doris has 22 years experience as a Certified Travel Counsellor which certainly should help in planning a first class affair. Further, she has visited the area and has first hand knowledge as well as good contacts. She hopes to get some support from Reid Stewart. Reid has lived most of his life in Pennsylvania and Scotland where he received his Doctor of Divinity at the University of Edinburgh. He has been active in genealogical research and is the immediate past president of the Western Pennsylvania Genealogical Society. He intends to retire from the active ministry this summer and is planning to build a home in Lower Burrell, PA. The site is part of the old Stewart family farm which adjoined the William McBrayer (1, 1st) property.

Doris also has a distant relative on the Blair side (her grandfather's line) who lives in Chambersburg and who will provide advice on arrangements.

BRAVEHEART LEGACY OF OUR FOREFATHERS

As you all know, Mel Gibson's movie *Braveheart* was the big winner in this year's Academy Awards. Gibson, in addition to directing the movie, plays the main character, William Wallace. This movie returned to the screen a grand theme of valor that has been missing for decades. It is long, about three

hours, and it certainly is not for the squeamish. While based on events that did take place in Scotland at the end of the 13th Century, the movie is not historically accurate as it weaves legends with facts and puts known characters in different places at different times than the known record. Never the less, the main theme of bravery is clear. Nigel Tranter in his "The Story of Scotland" says that one could almost say that William Wallace was the *inventor* of patriotism as far as Scotland was concerned. This was in a time when there was not a clear concept of a nation or nationhood. Without Wallace, Scotland may never have developed into an independent nation.

Little is known about Wallace. He was of the Celtic race. The name Wallace is a corruption of the Welsh "le Waleys" even though his family was not from Wales., but they were of Cymric or Strathclyde stock. In the film, Wallace comes from very humble roots, a farmer's son, whose father is killed by the English. Both Tranter and J. D. Mackie (in his "A History of Scotland") say that he was the son of a Renfrewshire knight, Sir Malcolm Wallace of Elderslie. What is clear from both the historical and film record is that Wallace lead a popular uprising against the English while the Scot nobles were essentially ineffective in resisting the tyranny of Edward I (Longshanks), in fact, many nobles, including the future King of the Scots Robert the Bruce, switched sides during the conflict.

Wallace, in 1297, led a lightly armed band of Scots against a great English army at Stirling Bridge on the Forth River. The battle was one of the greatest defeats for the English in history. The movie has the battle taking place on a broad plain, while in actuality Wallace used a strategy of placing the battle at the narrow Forth crossing and a causeway through the marshlands to bog down the heavy English cavalry.

Following the victory, Wallace was knighted.

The historical record does not make it clear who knighted him, but it is very likely that it was Robert the Bruce.

Following action by the Scots did what they could without facing the might of the English. Finally on July 22, 1298, Wallace's forces were cornered at Falkirk and forced to fight. As shown in the film and in fact, the English cavalry was repulsed by the Scottish spears. When Edward brought up his archers, being willing to even kill his own troops, the Scots were forced to flee. Wallace escaped with Bruce's help. Edward branded Wallace a traitor and made every effort to capture him. Eventually a combination of threats and bribes resulted in Wallace's capture eight years after Stirling. He was taken to London, tried as a traitor to the King. He was sentenced to die by hanging, but was cut down while conscious, then disembowelled, decapitated and dismembered. His head was displayed for some time on London Bridge and parts of his body were sent to three cities on Scotland on one in Northern England, the exact places are not known. This ended the Scottish Rebellion.

In the film, Wallace and his main lieutenants went into battle with their faces painted blue; why? While there is no reason given, perhaps this can be a tradition carried from the early inhabitants of the land known now as Scotland, the Picts, a name given to them by the Romans. Picts comes from the Latin *pictor*, a painter, or *picutatus*, painted. One school of thought is that the Picts painted their bodies blue instead of wearing clothes. A nice story, but as Tranter points out it, is too silly to waste time on. If the Picts had relied only on paint, they would not have lasted long in the climate, but they may have been blue from the cold.

More about Scottish patriotism and how it came to America in the next issue of "IN DEFIANCE."

