
IN DEFiance

THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR



VOLUME 6, NO. 1

JANUARY 1996

F R O M T H E
CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●



Here we are in the midst of winter with strange weather all across the country. It's been warm where it should be cold and cold where it should be warm. So much for global warming.

Many thanks to those of you who wrote or sent cards during the Christmas season. I would have liked to answer them all personally, but somehow there is more thought than action or time. I assure you however that I really appreciate your comments. Remember that this is your newsletter and the more information you provide, the more interest we should get in the Family Association.

With the New Year, I thought it might be a good idea to start with a new mast head for the newsletter which incorporates our family coat of arms. While there are at least two versions around, the one used seems to be the most common. There will be more said about arms later in this newsletter.



HAPPY
BIRTHDAY!



ROBBY BURNS

In the last issue the possible ties between our family and the great Scottish poet Robert Burns were discussed. We know

that someplace close to the Robert Burns Memorial in the churchyard at St. Michael's, Dumfries lie the bones of some of our ancestors. Perhaps in the nether world they also celebrate the birthday of Robby on the 25th of January as do Scots around the world. The celebration is often a Burns Night Dinner involving many toasts and the eating of haggis. After dinner are speeches and recitation of many of Burns' poems and the evening ends with the singing of "Auld Lang Syne". Burns was born January 25, 1759, so we celebrate his 237th birthday this year; he died July 21, 1796 reportedly from the effect of hard labor early in his life along with the effects of hard drink.

Those who have participated in a Burns Night know that there is great ceremony surrounding the haggis. Along with the haggis, the dinner can feature cock-a-leekie(leek soup), roast of lamb, neeps (turnips) and tatties(potatoes); finished off with a trifle.

While revered by many, most of us who have had the pleasure (?) of sampling haggis can wonder why it even is made. It really is nothing more than a huge sausage- ground and seasoned organ meats mixed with suet, onions and oatmeal boiled in a sheep's stomach. The name, Middle English *hagese*, probably comes from the Old Norse *höggva*, to chop or hack.

If you would like to have your own Burns Night, you may find the Americanized version of haggis below more to your taste. I have some more on the ritual if you like.

Haggis Meat Leaf

½ pound veal (calf's) or lamb liver
1 small onion chopped
1 egg
1 pound ground lamb
½ cup stock or broth
1 teaspoon salt
½ teaspoon black pepper
¼ teaspoon cayenne
½ teaspoon freshly grated nutmeg
⅛ teaspoon ground ginger
⅛ teaspoon ground cloves
Juice of 1 lemon or ¼ cup red wine
1 cup stone ground oats or old fashioned rolled oats

Chop liver and onion in food processor. Add egg, lamb, broth, salt, pepper, cayenne, nutmeg, ginger, cloves, lemon juice and oats and process just long enough to combine well.

Transfer mixture to greased 8½ by 4 ½-inch loaf pan and shape as for meat loaf. Bake at 350 degrees 45 to 55 minutes or until center is firm. Cool slightly; then unmold onto serving platter. Serve with potatoes, turnips and carrots. Makes 6 to 8 servings.

Per serving: 278 calories; 12.3 g fat (6.3 g saturated fat; 40 percent calories from fat); 180 mg cholesterol; 452 mg sodium.

Fischer's Law: A conclusion is the place where you got tired of thinking.

CORRECTION

With the October Issue was an insert announcing the passing of C. D. McBrayer. Unfortunately in my haste to get the notice in the newsletter before mailing some errors were made. Mac's mother's name was given as "Rita M.", it really is "Rena May"; the church was given as the "Congregational Church", it is "Congregational United Church"; and his sister's name was given as "Jane", it is "June". My sincere apologies to the family.

Bob



Howard Harley (Red) Bays, 77, of Wheelersburg, OH, died Sunday, Oct. 22, 1995.

Born May 21, 1918, in Portsmouth, a son of the late Lawrence and Hattie Mc Brayer Bays, he was retired from Detroit Steel and Cyclops and Predecessors. He was on the grievance committee of Local 2116 USWA.

Surviving are his wife Phyllis Ann Hensley Bays; three sons, Douglas E. Bays of Wheelersburg, Lowell A. Bays of Sciotoville and Howard Kevin Bays of Portsmouth; one daughter, Babbette L. Jarvis of Wheelersburg; one brother, Lowell Elmo Bays of Friendship; two sisters, Helen Archey of Corinth, Ky., and Janet Risner of Wheelersburg and four grandchildren. He was preceded in death by two brothers, Douglas Bays and Kenneth Bays.

Services were held Oct. 24 at Brock-Hall

Funeral Home, with the Rev. Brad Martin and the Rev. Pete Shaffer officiating, and interment in Memorial Burial Park with graveside military services by the James Dickey Post of the American Legion.



It is that time of year again to collect dues for the Family Association. You will find a separate sheet with this newsletter that gives the dues structure and the submission address. Many thanks to those of you who have already sent in your dues for 1996. You can see your dues status as recorded by your mailing label. After your first name is a date and a letter. If the date is not 96, your dues have not been paid as of the date of newsletter preparation (or a mistake has been made, in which case please send the notice back with that information). The letter stands for the category of membership.

On the dues notice there are two points that are called to your attention. One is for an E-Mail address and the other is for a Family Book reservation; more about these later, but even if you have paid your dues please send the notice back if you have entries to these two points. Many thanks!

"Uncle Dodd Buckner advises there is an easier way to get your family tree researched - simply run for president."
Burton Hillis "the man next door" BH&G Dec 1995

THE FAMILY HISTORIAN

Carl B. McBrayer reports that he has upgraded to a new computer and is busily at work creating new databases for everybody. He has received quite a bit of new information as well as some photos which will be in the next book. There will be somewhat over 22,000 names in the index and there will be more than 1000 pages. The present schedule calls for him to start preparing the camera ready copy needed for publication, so if you have any new information to send Carl, you need to do it now. His address is on the dues notice or if you have the facilities, his CompuServe number is 71430,3710.

Some additional data bases have been searched for information and Carl has this now. Only variations of the McBrayer and Brier names were searched. If you would like to have other names searched, please let the newsletter editor know. The data bases are:

Social Security Death Records: 1937-93
Marriage Records, AR, MS, MO, TX
1766 - 1925
Marriage Records, KY, NC, TN, VA, WV
1728-1850
Marriage Records, IL, IN, KY, OH, TN
1720-1926

The marriage records for the different states do not all cover the entire period, nor are all counties in a given state covered. In general, the records give the full names of the individuals, date of marriage and the county where married. It only takes moments to search any file, so please do not hesitate to ask. Since the search for information is continuous, even if the information does not make this book, it will be ready for the future.

With the last newsletter, a reservation form was sent for the book. This form did not commit anyone to purchase, it was just to get an idea of interest. To date only 18 reservations have been forwarded. With this few there is no chance for a book. If you are interested, please indicate this on your dues notice. A master record is being maintained so that no one is duplicated. Please lend your support to this important family project.



A number of Family Members are computer buffs and some are subscribers to various on-line services. Carl has suggested a posting of family information on CompuServe; there may be another way to do it on the Internet with our own Front Page. Before this effort is put forth, we need to know how many family members are interested. If you put your E-Mail address on the dues notice when you send in your dues, an E-Mail address book will be created and published.

ANNOUNCING NEW MEMBER



Lillie Washington McBrayer Hill, M 201-5/9, 7th gen., joined the Family Association in November. Lillie, a retired school teacher, and her husband Hulit, a retired cattleman, live in Haworth, OK. They are part of the McBrayer Family Reunion Group in Oklahoma that was mentioned in the last issue of *IN DEFIANCE*. Lillie is the 9th of 10 children of James Washington and Lillie Isabelle McNabb

McBrayer.

REUNIONS

It would be appreciated if anyone who has information on reunions coming up during this year, would send this information to the newsletter editor. A list will be published in the April newsletter if we get some submissions.

The next Family Association National Reunion is being planned for the summer of 1997 in Pennsylvania. The intent is to honor our ancestors by placing a memorial plaque near the sight of the burial of William and Rebecca McBrayer. The timing has not yet been set, but it will be in late June or early July. Anyone who has comments or suggestions for the reunion, please contact Vice-Chief Terrill or Chief Bob. Volunteers are needed for the planning of this reunion since we do not seem to have family base in the area. This will mean some additional work, but it should be worth it. Please help if you can.



Special Appreciation

Special Thanks to member Celia Engel, M 137-6/1H1, 8th gen, for her interest in the Family Association. She prepared and sent out 61 letters to McBrayers in Florida using a computer generated address list. It is too soon yet to know if we will get any members from this effort, but still the word is getting out. Celia reported that she also contacted a McBrayer who may be from a later branch coming to America. She is trying to follow up on this. If anyone else would be willing to try this, please contact Chief Bob with an idea of the area you would like to try. You will be

sent a list of names and addresses taken from two different computerized records.

HERO UPDATE

Last issue contained news about the heroic efforts of Larry Wetmore (M 35/4B, 9 th gen) in saving two teenagers from drowning. Word has been received that Larry has been anonymously nominated for the Carnegie Hero Award. He had to submit a long questionnaire and now awaits news of the decision. **BEST OF LUCK LARRY!**



MEDICAL REPORT

In the midst of the hub-bub in moving from their former home in Delaware to their new home in Tennessee, Reuben Osten, husband of Doris Turner Osten had by-pass surgery. Doris reports that they are now "somewhat" organized. (Note: their new address is the one published in the Family Phonebook.)

Following their annual summer travel trek, this year in the eastern part of the U.S., Grant Bartels, husband of Barbara McBrayer Bartels (M 54/1, 7 th gen), became quite ill with a blocked kidney. After emergency and follow-up surgery, as well as Home Care visits, he was improved. After cataract surgery and an implant, Barbara now reports that Grant is like new -- almost!

Life is what happens to you while you're busy making other plans - John Lennon



ON THE MOVE!

an update

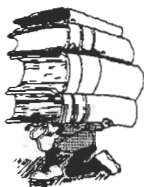
Last April's newsletter contained news of Jim (M 335/1, 8th) and Bonnie McBrayer's retirement projects working with the Roving Volunteers in Christ's Service (RVICS). They continued through the year working with this group with a couple of interruptions. In September, they sold their home in Gary, Indiana and bought a new 36 foot 5th wheel trailer to return to the RVICS work. On their way they stopped in Colorado to visit friends and found that the brakes on the trailer had failed completely. This delayed them 12 days and they decided not to go to the western mountains for their next RVICS project and were then diverted back to Texas for two projects. The first was at Riverbend Retreat Center, Glen Rose, Texas. There the men replaced carpeting in nine conference cabins and erected a fence around the water tower. The women made curtains for the 54 windows in the cabins. During this project, the group helped Jim and Bonnie celebrate their 47th wedding anniversary. In addition to usual religious activities, they were able to visit the Dinosaur Valley State Park and the Fossil Rim Wildlife Center. December found them helping at the Singing Hills Ministries (SHM), Spring Branch, Texas. SHM serves as a retreat center for about 4000 people each year. The staff is all volunteer and depends upon the donations of guests. They have a five bedroom motel complex and seven homes. The RVICS group did a lot of cleaning and repair work on all the buildings. They celebrated Thanksgiving and were able to make tours in the San Antonio area. Jim and Bonnie were to return to Gary for Christmas with their family. They planned

to surprise their daughter Deb Lugar who is to receive her Master's degree in Nursing on December 17. After the holiday, they will head back to Texas for more projects, then on to Nebraska before their final project of the current year 20 miles from home in Cedar Lake, Indiana.



KEEP ON LOOKIN'

You may never know where you will find a family member who may be able to complete information for lost branches. In the early 80's when your Chief was on Navy training duty in Norfolk, VA, he met a Navy Commander by the name of Brown who said that he was related to the McBrayers in some way. Since the Family Association was not yet founded, this was not followed up. Recently in tracking down someone in Carl McBrayer's BOOK II, the name Noel Brown popped out with the information being that he was a Navy Commander, but not much else about him. Using the computerized phone directory an address was found and a letter written. Skip, as he is known, has replied along with some information that has been forwarded to Carl. It just goes to show that maybe we can add to our family history by keeping an eye open and following up on clues. Any time you travel maybe you can look in the phone book and make a call to find another branch. Be sure to check the Briers too!



READING LIST

Some new books have been found that may be of interest to some of you. how readily they may be found in libraries

is not known, but they can be purchased in some bookstores and by mail.

"Manners, Customs, and History of the Highlanders of Scotland" by Sir Walter Scott, 1993, Barnes and Noble Books, New York. This a reprint of Scott's classic book which is introduced by the idea that Lowland Scots and the British were generally of the opinion that the Highlanders were practically barbaric warriors who terrorized their neighbors from time to time to exact protection money to leave them alone. He explains the clan system and gives a historical account of the MacGregor Clan. For the movie buffs who saw the recent picture "Rob Roy", this book would be of interest since the MacGregor history is the history of Rob Roy.

"The Folklore of the Scottish Highlands" by Anne Ross, 1976 with a 1993 edition by Barnes and Noble, New York. Ms. Ross is a Celtic scholar and the book portrays the beliefs of Scottish Gaelic society including witchcraft, omens, taboos, death rituals and many more traditions and beliefs.

"Highlanders - A History of the Scottish Clans" by Fitzroy MacLean, 1995, Viking Studio Books, Penguin Books USA Inc., New York. This lavishly illustrated book was a companion to a PBS documentary narrated by Sean Connery. It covers from the earliest Celtic origins to the nineteenth century Clearances. The pictures alone make this book worthwhile. One illustrated map of the "Kingdoms of Scotland" from 1662 shows a contrast in the style of dress between the Highlander and the Lowlander. The Highlander is draped with what we call today a tartan (the man has one shoulder bare with the bottom as a kilt and the woman wears it like a shawl and wrap), while the Lowlander

is dressed as we normally would associate with the British of the time.

“Scottish Clan & Family Encyclopedia” by George Way of Plean and Romilly Squire, 1994, Harper Collins Publishers, Glasgow. This is an extremely interesting book and some of the information in it will be used later in this newsletter. Of course as the name implies, it is meant to be for reference. Never-the-less, the history sections are easy to read. This book explains heraldry, the law and the clan system as it exists today. The Lyon Court established in 1672 is responsible for the Public Register of all Arms and Bearings in Scotland. The chief officer of this court is the Lord Lyon King of Arms. An attempt will be made to determine if our family is duly registered with this court. The many references in the book may be useful in this effort. In addition to *Burke’s General Armory* which has been stated for years as the source for our coat of arms, the reference used by Halbert’s for their version, Robert Stoddart’s *Scottish Arms 1370-1678* is a reference for this book.

FAMILY HISTORY

It is readily acknowledged by all researchers into our family history that there are some unknowns. Certainly we have no real knowledge as to why William and Rebecca came to North America, nor for that matter exactly where they departed from. Until the information regarding William and Rebecca given in the last issue of *In Defiance* it was generally thought that Rebecca was Irish born and that William may have been. Alfred Truckell, the retired curator of the Dumfries Museum, told some of us during a trip in Scotland that he thought the family probably embarked from Kirkcudbright, Scotland which is southwest of Dumfries, even though they

may have first gone to Ireland. Kirkcudbright by the way is pronounced “kur-koó-bree”.

In Carl McBrayer’s “The McBrayer Family - Book II” there appears to be contradictory statements regarding the family’s origin. In Section I, “The Early Scots” by Ethel Brier Koller, Ethel proposed that it was logical that our MacBriers came out of Ireland and certainly out of the west. She said that the “MC” gave a clue as to the origin, although she made no claim that the ancestors went immediately to the general area of southwest Scotland. It was in 1002 that a monarch of Ireland decreed that families have particular surnames. The custom arose attaching the article “O” or “MAC” to the name of some illustrious man among their ancestors.

In Section II, which is an expansion upon Section I, there are references which state for our family “ 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 settled and became quite prominent in that area and the surrounding counties.” (*Burke’s Landed Gentry*)

From Anne Ross’ book we can see, however, that there probably is no contradiction. She states that nearly all the Highland clans, and we might presume other families associated with them as well, traced their origins back to Ireland. Again we face the problem of the clan, but there is no precedent for claiming our family was ever a clan or a sept (a branch or closely related family).

Even if we cannot tie all the loose ends together, we acknowledge that we are family and certainly there are increasingly good records to substantiate our relationships in

America.

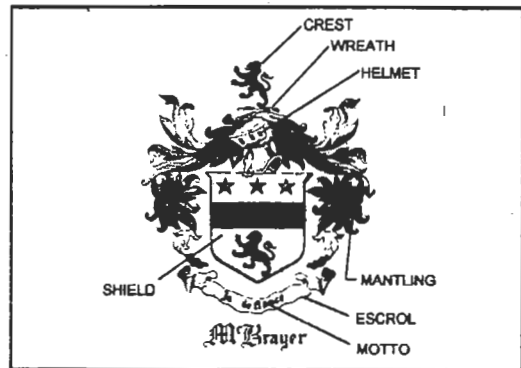
In this newsletter in the past, and probably in general, we have referred to our “family crest”. This is a misnomer for several reasons. Taking from the Way and Squire book, heraldry, or armory, is a system of identification which was developed in the 12th century and is still in use today. There are some very strict rules in Scotland regarding this system. The “arms” are hereditary and identify an individual only and it is illegal for others to use the arms. This means that in Scotland there is no such thing as a “family coat of arms”. In other countries of Europe, a system of “patronymic arms” developed - persons bearing a particular name, although perhaps not directly related, are considered to have a right to the arms of that name. For this reason we follow the rest of Europe in our use.

To identify someone by their arms requires some system and rules developed for “blazon”. A person versed in heraldry can easily visualize and draw the arms from a proper blazon. The proper name for what we call a coat of arms is “an achievement” and consists of numerous parts. Our coat of arms does not contain all of them, but they are not all required. Refer to the drawing on this page for further explanation.

The design of the shield is required for positive indication of the owner and the other elements are of restricted value without it. The shield is the foundation. Burke’s General Armory emblazons our shield as “Ar. a fesse gu. betw. three stars in chief and a lion ramp. in base of last.” The meaning is an arrangement of a broad horizontal band across the center of the shield (fesse) which is red (gu. = gules) with three stars in the upper band (chief) and a lion

standing on one hind leg (ramp. = rampant) in the lower part (last).

A helmet, always facing left unless there are two, is above the shield. The helmet design designates rank. Originally a simple piece of cloth, like a French Foreign Legionnaire’s kepi was worn with the helmet. This depicted by the mantling which has become more elaborate by artists filling in space. The mantling is held in place by the wreath, sometimes called a “torse”, a skein of silk with gold or silver cord twisted around it. There usually is no gap as shown in our arms.



Upon the wreath is placed the crest which can be about any article, real or imaginary. again it faces left unless it is specifically designed otherwise. Our crest is a red rampant lion.

The motto can be a battle cry, but this is not necessary. Normally the motto would be in Latin. The motto is place in the escrol and its position is specified. It can be either above or below the shield, although when below, there usually is another above.

That's it for this issue. Please send any news you have to the newsletter editor at the address given on the dues notice. Thanks!