

IN DEFiance



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 7, NO. 3

JULY 1996



completely new address list IF the members want it. Please let me know your thoughts.

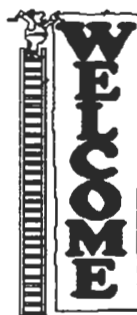
Chief

From the Chief ●●●●●●●●

Summer is quickly going by, where does time go? Several family groups have had their annual local reunions and several more are scheduled. Please send in information on YOUR reunion, I am sure that others in the family would be interested in hearing about it. Local reunions should also serve to let the family know about the Association. If you are willing to act as a recruiter at your reunion, let me know and I will send you member data sheets and dues notices.

As reported in the last issue, personal letters were written to people who were on the list in 1994 or who had expressed strong interest in joining the Family Association. Unfortunately only two replied, so the other 18 have been dropped from our newsletter mailing list. Since we still want to let them know about our National Reunions or any other extraordinary event, a separate mailing list will be maintained for these people.

With all the changes that have occurred in the mailing list it might be time to send out a



To Our New Members

Last issue we welcomed eight new members, this time there are nine! Particular thanks to those members who sponsor new members by paying their first year's dues.

John Tolbert Harris (M 389/2G??, 9th) and his wife Kaye live in Rogers, AR. They have three daughters.

Zelda Gene White (M 15/6???, 8th) lives in Decatur, GA.

Frank Lee McBrayer (M 218/8???, 8th) and his wife Stephanie live in Smithville, MO. They have two daughters. Frank and Stephanie hosted the McBrayer Family Reunion in Gladstone, MO on June 15th.

Jerrel N. McBrayer (M 242/2, 8th) and his wife Betty live in Oroville, CA. They have two sons and a daughter. Jerry is an agent for State Farm Insurance. His membership was a gift

from his sister, member Vergie Musgrave.

Dixie Mott Algary (M 417/8D1, 7th) lives in Asheville, NC. She and her sons still hold 146 acres of the original 300 acre land grant to Samuel McB, Jr. dated July 7, 1794. Her sons and their families have their homes on that land. Dixie and Frank McB (see above) are descended from the same Samuel - see more about him later.

James Nelson McBrayer (M 190-7, 8th) and his wife live in Marysville, TN. They have two sons and a daughter. His membership was a gift of his mother, Bertie Mae McBrayer (who is not his wife as mistakenly reported last issue). Other children of Bertie Mae and her late husband J.N. who are members are Ronald McBrayer, Jeane Newlin and Barbara Collins.

Member Barbara Channell gave membership gifts to her aunt, Lucille Allen Lloyd (M 310/10A, 7th) of Forest City, NC and her brother and sister. Arthur Monroe Dyer (M 310/10B2, 8th) and his wife Carol live in Lakeside, CA. They have a son and a daughter. Mary Alice Dyer Jones (M 310/10B1, 8th) lives in El Cajon, CA.



FAMILY TALES

As mentioned above, new members Dixie Algary and Frank McBrayer (my apologies to others that are also in this line) share an ancestor, Samuel McBrayer, Jr. (M 361, 3rd). Samuel had an unusual nickname - "Rooter". How did he get this name? When he first moved into the valley in Buncombe County, NC, he went alone. He did not waste time building a house, but went straight to raising crops. His "home" was under the shelter of a rock overhang on the side of the mountain. By living here he gained the nickname "Samuel Rooter".

Member Arthur M. McBrayer (4437 E. Almeria Rd., Phoenix, AZ 85008) has been working on a project to get information on McBrayers who served in the "War Between the States" aka "The Civil War". He asks that anyone with information on family members in that war to send it to him - pictures are particularly desired. Arthur shares the following with us based on one lead he has followed. He has ordered a government supplied tombstone to be placed on a grave and when in place we hope to have a picture to put in the newsletter.

George W. McBrayer, CSA, is buried in the Hollywood Cemetery, Richmond, VA. The record there states "McBrazier, G., Co. E 14th Regiment, Georgia, May 7, 1865, buried section W391."

Arthur believes that George is the youngest son of Jason (M 205, 4th). Records from the North Carolina Archives, "North Carolina Troops, 1871" Vol III, p297 states: "Co. D 2nd Battalion, N.C. Infantry: McBRAYER, George W., Private. Enlisted in Forsyth County, GA, July 22, 1861 for twelve months. Captured at Roanoke Island on February 8, 1862. Present or accounted for on company muster rolls through October, 1862. No further records."

Records from Georgia, "Roster of Georgia Volunteers" Vol. 2, p876" states: Muster roll of Company E, 14th Regiment, Georgia Volunteer Infantry, Army Northern Virginia: McBrayer, George W. - Private May 8, 1862. Captured Wilderness, VA May 6, 1864. Paroled at Elmira, NY for exchange Mar. 2, 1865. Died of typhoid fever in Jackson Hospital at Richmond, VA May 7, 1865. Buried there in Hollywood Cemetery. Also in the same record on page 881: McBrayer, George W. - Private July 22, 1861. Captured at Roanoke Island, NC Feb 8, 1862. Transferred to New Co. E. 21st Regt. Ga. Inf.

Apr. 11, 1864. Died at Richmond, VA in 1865.

The cemetery records show a "z" in place of "y", but since other records match, it is assumed there is a typographical error when the records were taken from the handwritten 1869 records. If that is the case, then who is the next Confederate listed below George's name : "McBrazers, J.F., 12th Regiment, Alabama, October 14, 1861"?

Also in Hollywood Cemetery are buried Jefferson Davis and J.E.B. Stuart.

It is interesting to note from family history that there was another George W(ashington) McBrayer who was in the Civil War. This George (M 131) was the grandfather of member Jack Lafon McBrayer, great-grandfather of member Raymond McBrayer and great grand-uncle of new member Zelda White. This George also was from Georgia. He applied for a Civil War pension (so obviously he is not the one buried in Hollywood Cemetery) after he had moved to Texas, but his claim was denied since no record of service could be found in the official archives. He had affidavits from his brothers William C. and Joseph C. as well as from a long time friend that all gave the same information. George served in 1864 and 65 in Col. Weaver's regiment and John Robins Company of Home Guards organized in Paulding County, GA. The command was demolished and disbanded without official discharge due to Sherman's March through Georgia.



Ever notice that we trust banks with our money,
but they don't trust us with their pens ?



Family Historian Carl McBrayer reports that he is having some computer problems which in part is delaying completion of the next volume of the family history. (I am sure he would be glad to suggest what computer you should not buy.) Because of this, a publication date cannot be given, however, it does give the chance to get some additional information into the records. His address is 412 Char Lane, Midwest City, OK 73110. You might also call Carl at (405) 732-1757 if you are not certain as to what he has on your particular "twig" on our big family tree.

During a short trip to Northern Michigan, Chief Bob and wife Betty visited a used book sale. Four old books were purchased which have interest to either the musicians or historians in the family. "The Songs of Scotland" edited by J. Pittman and Colin Brown. The publication date is not given, but the original owner of the book, Maggie Masson, signed and dated it April 1874. It contains the words and music of 150 songs along with a brief discussion of Scottish music theory. An example of what it contains is "Comin' Through The Rye" which we associate with Robert Burns. In this book, the title is given as "Gin a body meet a body". Some questioned the Scottish origin of the song as it appeared in an English opera in the 1790's, but Burns clearly had contributed the words earlier. He in turn, had taken from earlier verses referring to the ford at Daltry in Ayrshire -

Jenny's a' wat, puir bodie,
Jenny's seldom dry,
She draigl't a' her petticoatie
Comin' thro' the rye

Comin' thro' the rye, puir bodie,
Comin' thro' the rye,
She draigl't a' her petticoatie
Comin' thro' the rye.

If anybody is looking for such music, please write or call Chief Bob.

A second old book without publication date is W. A. K. Johnston's "Historical Atlas" which has small maps of Europe from Roman times until "the present year" followed by a listing of important dates in history for England, Great Britain and Scotland. The newest dated map in the book is 1885. An attempt will be made to duplicate some of these maps for future issues of "In Defiance".

The third book was written in 1915 and the copy obtained was printed in 1929. It is Volume I (of 2) of "A Short History of the English People" by John Richard Green. It covers the period from 449 to 1610 with an additional chronology that goes to 1914. This book will be used to try to tie up some historical points in our history.

The fourth book is the new one, published in 1958 and so may be available in large libraries. It is "The Three Edwards" by Thomas B. Costain. The Edwards were the Kings of England, Edward I, II and III who reigned from 1239 through 1377. The book is not dry history, but written as a novel. Since it covers the time of William Wallace and Robert the Bruce, you might find it very interesting.

1997 NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION DATE IS SET!

Mark your calendars for the weekend of June 20-22, 1997 for the MacBair Family Association Fourth National Reunion to be held in Chambersburg, PA. The Reunion Committee of Terrell McBrayer and particularly Doris

Osten is hard at work on making the plans. If you want to help, you can contact them:

Dr. Terrell McBrayer
825 McPherson Street
Bremen, GA 30110
(404) 537-4217

Doris Turner Osten
4105 Legend Hall Drive
Nashville, TN 37215-2420
(615) 269-2696

Chambersburg, being a small town, does not have too many motels or restaurants and meeting space is limited. A place has been found however that will meet our needs; Wilson College. A block of rooms is being reserved which has each of two rooms sharing a bath. The number of these rooms is limited, but regular dormitory rooms with a bath down the hall will be available. It must be mentioned that the bedrooms are not air conditioned, so it is suggested that you bring a fan. Wilson College has meeting rooms available - we have an 88 seat room set now - and meals will be available at the college. Prices are very attractive. For the rooms, singles are \$16.50 and doubles are \$14.50 per person. Meal prices are \$3.30 for breakfast, \$4.60 for lunch and \$6.80 for dinner. Of course, if you do not want to stay at the College, information will be made available on the area motels which have rates of \$60 and up per room.

A major event of the reunion will the placement of a bronze plaque honoring William and Rebecca McBrayer and their son John who are buried in the Brown's Mill Cemetery between Chambersburg and Greencastle. William, of course, is considered number 1 in our genealogy in North America. While we are not certain of the exact site of the graves, we know the plaque will be close.

Dr. Reid Stewart, who is retiring from the active ministry this August, a descendent of

William's brother David will also place a plaque at the site honoring David and his wife Elizabeth. David and Elizabeth had no sons, but other descendants are members of the family association including Dorothy Anthony, Harriett Sears, Richard Sears and Aura Grimes.

Since the area around has many other places of interest, including Gettysburg, Hershey Park and the "Pensylvania Dutch" communities, the committee will be gathering information which we hope to highlight in the next issues of "In Defiance". This way, you might spend your summer vacation in the land of our forefathers.

Most people know how to say nothing; few know when.

Braveheart - continued

Last issue told about the movie and a brief story of William Wallace. In this issue, additional information is given.

The movie was filmed largely in Scotland, however, the actual sites of Wallace's battles with the English were not used - some are in very much modern areas now. Instead, the outdoor scenes were shot in Gen Nevis and Glencoe (also written as Glen Coe). Glencoe is a mountain valley located north and west of Glasgow and south of Ft. William. The glen is owned by the National Trust for Scotland so it is protected from commercialization. The original portion of 12,800 acres was purchased in 1935 and 1937; additional land was purchased in 1972, 1976 and 1992.

In addition to the geological importance of Glencoe, it is an important historical site since 1692. The land was controlled by the Mac Donald clan. The chief of the clan, apparently on purpose, failed to pledge allegiance to William III, the new King of England. Sir John Dalrymple, the secretary of state for Scotland,

sent a regiment of Campbells to punish the MacDonalDs. The troops lived among the MacDonalDs for about a week before massacring many of them on February 13, 1692. Needless to say that the massacre left deep anti-English and anti-Campbell feelings among all Scots.

When "Braveheart" was shown in Scotland movie audiences tended to give it a standing ovation. It must be remembered that unlike Wales and Ireland, Scotland was never conquered by England. The two countries joined by the Act of Union in 1707 leading to what is known now as the United Kingdom. Many Scots would like to see an independent Scotland again.

As we know from our own family history, times were hard in Scotland, Ireland and Wales in the 18th century. The Celtic people from these countries made massive migrations to North America. While some landed in the Carolinas, the majority landed in Philadelphia, moved through Pennsylvania and down the Appalachian and Shenandoah valleys. The first U.S. census in 1790 showed that people of Celtic descent outnumbered the Anglo-Saxons by two to one! Further, it was estimated that in the decade before the Civil War, three quarters of the white population of the South was of Celtic descent. The Confederate rebel yell was very similar to the war cry of the Highland Scots!

Wallace's warrior tradition carried to America with those of Scottish descent. Among those we can count John Paul Jones (actually born in Scotland), Andrew Jackson, Davy Crockett, Sam Houston, Stonewall Jackson, Jeb Stuart and George Patton. We can add to this list member COL James D. McBrayer, USMC (Ret) who was much decorated during WWII. Southerners of Scottish descent have won the Congressional Medal of Honor far out of proportion to their percentage of the population. Of 78 Medals of Honor awarded to Army

personnel during the Korean War, 31 went to Southerners, half of them of Scottish descent from small towns in Appalachia.

Truly these honored people follow the principle in one brief part of the movie spoken by Wallace to King Robert the Bruce: "What does that mean - to be noble? Your title gives you claim to the throne of our country, but men do not follow titles, they follow courage! Just lead them to freedom, and they follow you."

ROBBY BURNS

In the past two issues of "In Defiance" articles have covered the ties between our family and the famous Scottish poet, Robert Burns. During July, many events in Scotland commemorated the death of Robby on July 21, the 200th anniversary. Even though much revered today, during his lifetime he was not, at least as not with financial success. He was a farmer poet turned poet who died in debt.

His poetry was praised by critics in London and Edinburgh, but it rewarded him little. He had to self publish some works to earn the £20 he needed to emigrate to Jamaica. He did return to Scotland and spent the last ten years of his life in or near Dumfries.

Scots now quote Burns like the Bible to prove a point or comment on everyday life. A famous quotation of his in the original version is: "The best laid schemes o' mice an' men gang aft agley."

Burns had a sense of his destiny when he told his wife on his deathbed, "Never mind, Jean; I'll be more thought of a hundred years hence than I am now." How true he was.

Halbert's At It Again!

Several family members have reported the

most recent solicitation from the Halbert's, "The World Book of McBrayers". The letter, signed by Sharon Taylor, makes claims which are broad enough to avoid fraud but based on seeing an earlier version of the book, give little really useful information. For the most part, the earlier book was "generic", that is, the same text could be used for any family. The McBrayer part is very limited and does not include important variations of our name, most notably the Briers (which I suspect get their own book offer). The McBrayer part is largely a listing which can be generated with any of the many computer phone listings available today. While the ads state that the search for McBrayers was world wide, the earlier book listed no McBrayer outside the U.S.; we know that there are McBrayers who live in Scotland today as well as in other countries. Notable too is that the ad clearly states on the order form "No direct genealogical connection to your family or to your ancestry is implied or intended."

In earlier solicitations, "Elmer McBrayer" had been listed as "Family Director" to offers from Halbert's made to our family members for books containing the McBrayer name in the title. CONSUMER REPORTS, July 1995 issue had the following to say about Halbert's and the "Family Directors". CR Production Manager Maggie Brenner received a letter on the book "The Brenners, Since the Civil War" signed by George P. Brenner. When CR called the number given and asked for George Brenner, there was some hesitation before the customer representative said that George Brenner was a real person who allowed his name to be used for advertising but who had no responsibility for publication of the book. The book's publisher, Numa Corp., which also does business as Halbert's, pays a 2 percent commission to the family directors for books sold to people with the same surname. Following past mailings, some family members have complained to Halberts about the "Family Director"; perhaps this is why the recent offer

was signed by "Sharon Taylor".

CONSUMER REPORTS article also said that there was no relative's signature on the family book pitch made to the San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic. The letter was addressed to Fernando V. San trying to sell the clinic a book on the San family in the U.S.! There are at least 699 San families in the Western U.S., but the clinic obviously is not one of them.

If you happened to order the latest book, it is strongly suggested that you send it back upon receipt for a refund of any payment made. Of course in the future you can direct such ads directly to your recycling bin or the round file.

What's in a Name?

Why are the Scots called Scots? Several references were checked to try to find the answer. It is not really clear. The American Heritage and Merriam-Webster Dictionaries give Middle English, Old Norse and Late Latin origins to the name. Basically they refer to members of the (Celtic) tribe that migrated to northern England in the sixth century from Ireland. The Late Latin word "Scotti" means Irishmen. Peter Berresford Ellis in his book "The Druids" says the Romans called the inhabitants of what is now Scotland "Scotti" which meant raiders. This definition fits well with the activities of the Scots who for many years harassed the Romans and raided northern Britain to steal crops and cattle. Nigel Tranter's books frequently describe these raids. It also caused the Romans to build Hadrian's Wall. Well, I guess we can accept both the origin and activities as the reason for calling the people Scots, but please do not call them Scotch - use that for whisky!

You probably have heard the phrase "to get off scot free". This has nothing to do with the Scot definition above. This scot was a Middle

English word meaning money accessed or paid. Now the phrase makes sense.

The Scots have contributed many colorful and useful words into the English language. A dozen of these words are given below along with meanings - see if you can match them. The answers are on the last page.

- | | |
|-------------|---|
| 1. cairn | a) Position; station; site |
| 2. fey | b) Frightful; inspiring repugnance |
| 3. reek | c) A dashing about with anger; boisterous agitation |
| 4. gruesome | d) Smoke or vapor |
| 5. stance | e) Acting as if enchanted or under a spell |
| 6. rampage | f) A mound of stones set up as a marker or memorial |
| 7. dirl | g) Dangerous; weird; strange |
| 8. glen | h) Suffer; endure |
| 9. dour | i) A shirt or loose dresslike garment |
| 10. sark | j) Vibrate; tingle |
| 11. dree | k) A small, secluded valley |
| 12. uncanny | l) Sullen in aspect; stern |



Doris Turner Osten and her daughter, Katherine Turner Osten, both of Nashville, TN, were recently conferred membership in the "First Families of Tennessee" as part of Tennessee's Bicentennial celebration. This came through their ancestor Peter Avery who came to the area in 1787, before statehood in 1796. Peter was born in New York state and was in the Revolutionary War. After the war he migrated south. Because he had an excellent sense of direction, he gained the nickname "Compass Head". He laid out the Avery Trace which later became Highway 70. Peter's son Allen married Sarah McBrayer (M 82/8, 4th), the

daughter of David and Mary Young McBrayer. Doris is 8th generation and Katherine is 9th.

Family Historian Carl McBrayer has participated in a documentary on gold mining in Oklahoma to be shown on Oklahoma City local TV on July 27 and state-wide educational TV later. Carl will be shown demonstrating techniques and working with Boy Scouts. Part of the video was shot in the treasure shop where Carl works. The rest will be shot on location of the mining activity.

Member Steve McBrayer, son of Chief Bob and Betty McBrayer was also on TV on Phoenix Channel 3 on July 23 as part of the "Good Morning Arizona" show which is patterned after "Good Morning America". The show did a week long feature on great escapes in Arizona's North Country. Steve and his wife Ruth operate "The Meadows Inn and Restaurant" in Pinetops, Arizona. Promotions for the show showed the inn. Steve did a live cooking demonstration on the 23rd. He has previously won awards for his abilities as a chef.

What Do Those Numbers Mean?

For the new members and for some who may have forgotten, the following is an explanation of the numbers that are in this newsletter and the on the mailing envelopes. Numbers such as "M 351, 8th" help identify a member uniquely from the official records maintained by our Family Historian Carl McBrayer. Actually Carl does not use the first letter. The reason for using the first letter in the newsletter is because there are the same numbers used in different branches of the family, for example, there is a 5 in both the McBrayer and Brier branches. M5, 6th refers to the sixth generation Abijah T. McBrayer, while B5, 5th refers to the fifth generation Aaron Willard Brier.

On envelopes, you will see a number in paren-

thesis between the first and last name. This is the way you can see the dues status. the number refers to the year and the letter refers to the grade of membership. If the date is not 96, dues are in arrears. If you have paid your 96 dues and this is not shown correctly, please inform Chief Bob at:

The MacBrair Family Association, Inc.
952 Old Goddard Road
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453
Phone (313) 928-0398
Fax (800) 290-7996
E-Mail: RLMcBrayer@juno.com

Speaking of E-mail, all those who have sent in their E-mail address will be sent the list of Family members with such addresses by E-mail. If you have E-mail and do not get this list by August 1, please let Chief Bob know.



Scotland Yard is the familiar name for the London (England) Metropolitan Police, including the famous

Criminal Investigation Department (CID). Why Scotland Yard? The name was given to the first headquarters building of the London Police Force when it was established in 1829 by Home Secretary Sir Robert Peel (hence the nickname "Bobby"). The rear entrance of the building was situated on the site of a 12th Century palace used for visiting Scottish royalty. The name stuck with a move in 1890 and was changed only to New Scotland Yard with the move to a new building in 1967.

Answers to the Word Match:

1.f; 2.e; 3.d; 4.b; 5.a; 6.c; 7.j; 8.k; 9.l; 10.i; 11.h and 12.g.

Nobody can do everything, but everybody can do something!