

IN DEFIANCE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

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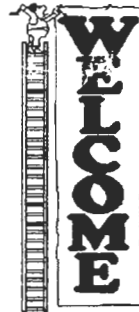


From the Chief ●●●●●●●●

Time is drawing close for our next National Family Reunion. More will be said about the events later in this newsletter. At the writing of this column, the advance reservations are very sparse, only 17, however I have heard from others that they intend to attend. A lot of effort has been put into this reunion to try to make it a rememberable event and there has been good support for funding of the memorials. As always, there are many conflicting events which prevent members from attending. For those who will not be able to make it, the next newsletter will feature a report on the events.

This newsletter, as I am sure many of you will notice, is being printed in a slightly smaller font size. The size is about the same as a typical daily newspaper. More hyphenation will also be used. The changes will enable us to have more information in our newsletter without adding more pages and increasing our postage bill. Postage is by far the largest part of sending out *IN DEFIANCE*. Your comments on this change will be appreciated.

Chief and Newsletter Editor



to our new members

Another banner quarter for new members; we welcome:

John A. Cline, Jr. (M 90/11??, 8th) lives with his wife Rosanne in Gainesville, FL. John is the grandson of Mary Olive McBrayer. They had been searching

to learn about his grandmother and were pleasantly surprised to learn of the family history efforts.

James Franklin McBrayer (M 176-5, 8th) and wife Dorcas live in Oak Ridge, TN. Jim works for Lockheed Martin Energy Systems, Inc. on the staff of the VP of the Environmental Management business. Son Jason is working on his doctorate in archaeology at Tulane and son Jesse is a freshman at Transylvania University. Jim did receive the newsletter some years ago, but somehow had been dropped from the list. He found the link back though a mutual friend of member James Donald McBrayer.

Jo Ann Fowler (M 287/3D, 8th) lives with husband Chancer Hill, Jr. in South Charleston, VA. Jo Ann is the daughter of Frances Marie McBrayer Fowler (daughter of Luther and Bessie May McBrayer). When Jo Ann joined the Family Association she wrote that her mother had passed away on December 7, 1996 in South Charleston.

Patrick Allen McBrayer (M 325-3, 8th) and wife Leslie live in Yardley, PA. Pat is a West Point

graduate and served in the Army. He is now President and CEO of EXOGEN® Inc., a company which designs and builds medical devices for the non-invasive treatment of musculoskeletal injury and disease. He is very interested in the family and is glad to be a member. Due to family plans celebrating their daughter's 16th birthday, they will be unable to attend the reunion.

John Alexander McBrayer (M 221, 8th) is an Attorney At Law in Pelham, AL. He is the son of long time member COL James David McBrayer, Jr. USMC Ret. and his wife Helen.

No genealogical information is available yet for the following new members:

William L. McBrayer of Wheatland, MO.

Robert L. McBrayer of St. Joseph, MO.

Mr. & Mrs. William C. Kearnes of Billings, MO.

Bill Robinson of St. Joseph, MO.

We are also pleased to announce that the following members have upgraded their memberships to LIFE MEMBER:

Charles William McBrayer, II (M 58, 8th) and wife Candace of Laguna Niguel, CA.

Vergie Doris McBrayer Musgrave (M 242/1, 8th) of Yuma, AZ. Vergie will be attending the reunion with her daughter, Susan Emerson.

Louellen McBrayer Pledger (M 209/1, 8th) of Brenham, TX.

Many thanks to them for showing their continuing support of the Family Association in this way.



NEVER PUT OFF UNTIL TOMORROW WHAT YOU CAN DO THE DAY AFTER TOMORROW. Mark Twain

ALL PARTS OF THE HUMAN BODY GET TIRED EVENTUALLY - EXCEPT THE TONGUE. Konrad Adenauer

FAMILY MEMBER NEWS

Jesse McBrayer, son of James F. McBrayer, finished second with a time of 1:55.52 in the men's 200-meter butterfly at the NAIA Swimming and Diving National Championships held in March in Federal Way, Washington.

Family Historian *Carl B. McBrayer* was elected Pipe Major of the Highlanders of Oklahoma City. This Pipe Band is one of the oldest in the southwest. He is introducing some new trends to the group and is attempting to build more interest in the Scottish Community of piping. The band performed at the first annual Scottish Games in Midwest City, OK, on March 22 and will lead the graduating procession at the University of Oklahoma in May. Due to Pipe Band commitments, Carl will be unable to make the reunion this year. He will be missed.

John W. Reiser, husband of Deborah McBrayer Reiser, is a prosecuting attorney with the Oakland County, MI, Prosecutor's Office. He has been promoted to Circuit Court from District Court.

Carrie McBrayer is serving as the organizer of the annual McBrayer & King Family Reunion; this will be the 51st. The event will be held on August 3, 1997. If you are interested, call Carrie at (219) 736-1510.

Note: Any Family Groups wishing to announce their local reunions are most welcome to put announcements in *IN DEFIANCE*.



NATIONAL FAMILY REUNION

In only a few short weeks we will be holding our 4th National Reunion. All members were mailed an announcement giving all the details. If you did not get yours, please contact one of the reunion committee members listed below:

Vice Chief Terrell McBrayer
825 McPherson Street
Bremen, GA 30110
(770) 537-4217

Doris Turner Osten
4105 Legend Hall Drive
Nashville, TN 37215-2420
(615) 269-2696
e-mail DKOsten@AOL.com

Chief Bob McBrayer
952 Old Goddard Road
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453
(313) 928-0398
e-mail RLMcBrayer@JUNO.com

IMPORTANT DATES:

Reunion - June 20 - 22, 1997
Reservation Deadline - June 6, 1997

We have a reservation deadline because we have to give Wilson College numbers for each event held there to ensure we have space for everyone. The deadline is for mail reservations. If you find at nearly the last minute you will be able to attend, phone reservations will be accepted by Chief Bob by phone, fax or e-mail until June 12. Please try to attend the reunion!

Chambersburg was chosen as the site of our reunion because the brothers McBrayer settled near there soon after coming to America. It also has some other important events in history associated with it in history. As noted in the Special Edition of *IN DEFIANCE*, Chambersburg suffered during the War Between the States. You will be able to stand in the town square where General Robert E. Lee issued the fateful order to march on Gettysburg. On a more contemporary note, Chambersburg residents brag that the world's first baseball game under the

lights took place here in 1884, when arc lights, powered by a steam generator, were set up on a railroad car adjacent to a town field. In the late 20s the New York Yankees played an exhibition at Henninger Field, a field still in use by the Chambersburg High School Trojans. They are rated by USA Today as the No. 1 high school team in the country. Games start at 5 PM because of the school schedule and this allows more attendance by families. They can play under the lights. A number of major leaguers have come from the area, including Nellie Fox (there is a Nellie Fox bowling center in the area today). The girls' softball team is also an outstanding team. The National Pastime is still very much alive in this small town America.

As noted in the schedule of events for the reunion, there will be a business meeting on Friday, June 20 following the Family Picnic. In addition to an open discussion, the following items will be addressed:

1. Election of Officers

Our Family Association Constitution specifies three year terms for our officers. The officers consist of the Chief (currently Bob McBrayer), the Vice-Chief (currently Terrell McBrayer), the Secretary-Treasurer (Currently Deborah Reiser) and a Director (now vacant). These officers were elected at our last national reunion in Dallas. While the Constitution calls for a 5 person nominating committee from diverse areas, following this procedure became very cumbersome and the current officers were nominated and elected at the reunion. It should be pointed out, however, that those nominated had given prior approval to the nominator. Unless there is some objection submitted to the current officers prior to the reunion, the modified procedure will again be followed. If you wish to nominate someone, please get their approval prior to the call of the meeting at the reunion. If at all possible, we should have two candidates for each office. In addition, we will ask for volunteers to act as Area Representatives. The function of the Area Representatives is to act as an additional means of contact, help in gaining new members and helping to gather news for the newsletter.

2. Membership

The health of any organization can be seen in the growth in its membership. In this regard, we are doing well. In January 1994, there were 109 names on our mailing list. 17 were taken off in 1996 since

they had not responded to multiple dues notices and a personal letter from the Chief. Of course, there were unavoidable losses due to deaths. Still our mailing list has grown with 176 now on the rolls. We know, of course, that there are many more family members out there that we have not reached. The question is how to do that. The officers need your suggestions.

3. Dues structure

Since the organization of the Family Association in 1988, the dues structure has remained the same. Should we consider an increase? What could we do with increased dues? Possibilities are a bigger newsletter, scholarship programs, encouragement of local reunion groups, additional events, etc.

4. Family trip to Scotland

It has been a few years since the last family sponsored trip to Scotland. Traveling with a family group to see the land of our forefathers adds considerably to the enjoyment of the trip. Is there interest in again having such a trip. How long should a trip be? Should it just emphasize the Border lands of our family or the entire country along with a peek at England and/or Northern Ireland?

5. Next reunion

When and where should our next reunion be? Should it be held as a separate event as have been the Dallas and Chambersburg reunions, or should it be in combination with a local reunion such as the Forest City and Indiana reunions? Should they be longer with more planned events?

While these topics will be discussed at the reunion, the opinion of the members who will not be able to attend is important. If you have some thoughts on any of these items, please send them to Chief Bob before the reunion if you can.

Reid Stewart is making plans for the tour of the area during the reunion. He has a picture of an old stone house in Williamson, Franklin County, PA, built in 1763 which may be William's. The sketch gives you an idea of what it looks like. One of the things Reid wants to do is to get permission for us to visit some of the old family farms. A Robert Statler family now lives on Da-



vid's farm.



Rest in peace

We regretfully announce the deaths of two members. Both of these fine ladies were very interested in the family and made many contributions over the years. They will be missed by the family at large.

BERTIE MAE McBRAYER, 80, of Marysville, TN, passed away Wednesday afternoon, November 27, 1996, at the family home after a short illness. She and her husband JN were charter members of Dotson Memorial Baptist Church. Bertie was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph N. "Joe" McBrayer (M 267-5, 7th) and grand-daughters, Janet O. Jackson and Dena M. McBrayer. Survivors are daughters and sons-in-law, Joan and James Jackson, Jeane and LeRoy Newlin, all of Marysville, Barbara and Lynn Collins of Greenback; sons and daughters-in-law, James N. and Donarieta McBrayer, Ronald H. and Wanda McBrayer and Douglas A. and Vicky McBrayer, all of Marysville; grandchildren, Jama L. Godwin, Marty McBrayer, Joel N. McBrayer, Jonathan N. McBrayer, Aaron McBrayer, Lisa McBrayer, Ginger McBrayer, Rondalyn Smith, Julie Heinemann; eight great-grandchildren; sisters, Gertie Ashford of Louisville, Maymie Wilson, Helen Herron, both of Marysville, Marie Simpson, Dorothy Crye, both of Knoxville; brother, William F. Owens of Atlanta, GA; several nieces and nephews. The funeral service was at 8 p.m. Friday at Miller Funeral Home Chapel, Rev. Gary Taylor, Rev. Larry Bradley, Rev. Gary Stinnett officiating. Her grandchildren honored her by singing her special song, "In The Garden" and by voicing their special memories of her. Interment was 2 p.m. Saturday at Dotson Memorial Cemetery beside her husband.

SIDNEY ELIZABETH MCBRAYER, 92, of Brenham, TX, passed away peacefully Thursday, March 20, 1997 at 9:50 p.m. at Trinity Medical Center. Funeral services were held Sunday, March 23, 1997 at 3 p.m. at St. Peter's Episcopal Church with the Rev. Cecelia Smith officiating. Interment was in Prairie Lea Cemetery. A piper played "Amazing Grace" and other appropriate Scottish tunes.

Sidney was born Oct. 16, 1904 in Lyra, Texas, the daughter of Sidney B. and Samantha Ellen (Stone) Halbert. She was educated in Mineral Wells, Texas. On Oct. 22, 1927, she was married to Jay D. McBrayer (M 209, 7th) in Mineral Wells, Texas. He preceded her in death on Aug. 27, 1967. Besides her husband, she was preceded in death by her parents, one son-in-law and two brothers.

She was a member of St. Peter's Episcopal Church of Brenham, the Episcopal Church Women, Fortnightly Club and Daughters of Republic of Texas. Survivors include her daughter, Louellen Pledger of Brenham; grandchildren, John and Lanette Pledger of Brenham, Jay and Vicki Pledger of Huntsville, TX and James Pledger of Brenham; great-grand-children, Emily, Caroline, Margaret and Rebecca Pledger; sisters-in-law, Mary Viola Halbert of Cibolo, Texas and Mary Kirk of Fort Worth; and numerous nieces and a nephew.



During the past few months, your Editor has been corresponding with Madam McKerrell of Hillhouse (known to many by her former name, May Roberts).

One item of discussion has been the availability of the family tartan mentioned in the last issue of *IN DEFIANCE*. Samples of both the dress and hunting tartans will be available at the reunion for those of you who have not seen them.

May also is involved in the organization of a new "Happening" in Scotland. This is the "Border Gathering" weekend to be held this year from August 7 through August 11. The emphasis is on the Borderland in music ballads and border games. The first four days events center around Dumfries with the last day being an Edinburgh Day including a performance of the famous Tattoo. If you are interested in this, you can contact Chief Bob for a copy of the announcement or May directly:

Madam McKerrell of Hillhouse
 (pronounced "HILL iss")
 Magdalene House
 Lochmaben
 Dumfries DG11 1PD, Scotland

This is planned to be an annual event, so maybe if we decide on a family tour it could be part of it.

Of course, our ancestors probably participated in the apparently favorite sport of the Borderlands as Reivers, that is, those who robbed, stole cattle, murdered and plundered across the border to England. You can obtain a Border Reiver certificate by becoming a Founder member by sending May a check for £ 10. By the way, May points out that a "Reiver" or "to reive" sounds much more respectable than "Robber" or "to steal".

WANTED ! Several members are looking for anyone who would be willing to part with one of the Family History books published by Carl McBrayer. If you have or know of one that is available, please let the Editor know and a list will be put in *IN DEFIANCE*.

Also the object of a search is the book "Genealogy of the Descendants of Henry McBrier and Kezia Sloan McBrier" printed privately by Edwin Merton McBrier. If you know of a copy which could be at least borrowed for a reasonable period, please inform the Editor.



Looking for the family on the Internet?

Member Tim McBrayer and his wife Leslie have set up a family

web page. For those of you who may be interested, the address is:

www.ultranet.com/~mcbrayer/family.html
 If you have any problem, you can contact Tim by e-mail at: tmcbrayer@viewlogic.com.

He has made some interesting contacts with the web page. You may find something interesting too.



stay and drink o' your ain BROUST. Scottish proverb means:
 Wait and join in the mischief you have caused.



Nigel Tranter has become a favorite author of many family members. Once you start reading his historical novels, you can't put them down. During a family tour in 1990, we visited Mr. Tranter at his home in Aberlady, east of Edinburgh on the south coast of the Firth of Forth. His home is a former stone cutter's cottage. He welcomed us and told us of his reason for beginning to write his popular fiction. He had written a number of fact books on the fortified houses of Scotland which are still well respected. They did not, on the other hand, create much income. During a depression, he took up the writing of the historical novel. He did not stop and was working on a book while we were there. The way he wrote was interesting. In the morning, he took long walks, writing in a small notebook. At noon, he returned home for lunch. After a nap, he then typed out the manuscript written that morning. Evenings were devoted to research. His housekeeper told us that he did not allow her in his workroom, but we were allowed to peek in through the window. Several of us purchased his latest book at the time, "The Story of Scotland", a history for non-historians. He explained that if history was told as a story, more people would be interested - this book shows why.

For sometime he was little known outside Scotland, but now his books are becoming readily available in the United States. Among the sources are:

Weems and Sons (probably has the most in stock)
296 Stone Fort Drive
Manchester, TN 37355

Barnes & Noble Books by Mail
One Pond Road
Rockleigh, NJ 07647

The Scholar's Bookshelf
110 Melrich Road
Cranbury, NJ 08512

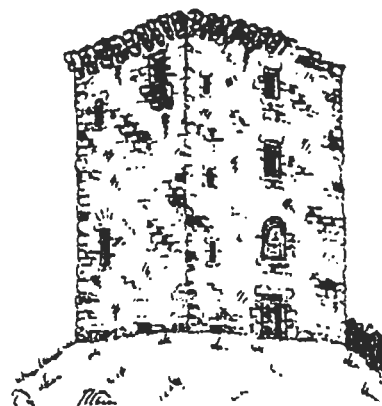
Edward R. Hamilton
Bookseller
Falls Village, CT 06031-5000

The prices quoted are nearly the same from each of the sources, so you can just check for ready availability.

As a sidelight, we know that many family names originated from the occupation of an ancestor. Tranter comes from the name of one who handles falcons; tranter, a falconer. This information was given in "The Master of Gray" trilogy.

That being said, here are some interesting books:

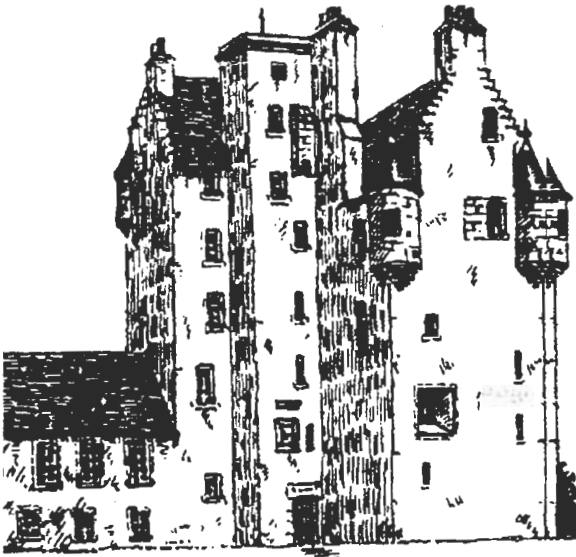
"Tales and Traditions of Scottish Castles" by Nigel Tranter, originally published by Neil Wilson Publishing Ltd, 1993, new edition by Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1997. This small book contains fascinating stories of forty-five castles throughout Scotland. Sketches of every castle were drawn by the author. At least two of these castles have some interest to our family. The first of these is Mearns Castle located 7 miles southwest of Glasgow. The reason for interest is that the castle was built by Lord Maxwell after receiving a grant to do so by James II in 1449. The Maxwells are now better known by association with Dumfriesshire and the West March (administrative district) of the Borders. A McBrayer daughter married into the Maxwell family. This castle now has been converted to a church - the Church of Maxwell Mearns Castle!



South of Ayr in the Girvan Water in Carrick is another castle of interest particularly to member Raymond Cathcart. Killochan Castle was begun in March 1586 by Ihone (John) Cathcart of Carleton and his wife Helene Wallace. The Cathcarts were originally vassals (persons who held land from a feudal lord and received protection for homage and allegiance) of the High Stewards of Scotland. The

Cathcarts were early supporters of the Reformation and opposed Mary Queen of Scots. Later, they were strong supporters of the Covenanters. In 1678, another John Cathcart married a daughter of Sir George Maxwell (another tie to the McBrayers ?), but sadly he died on his wedding night. The sixth and last Cathcart baronet died in 1916 after which the castle was sold.

An interesting feature of the castle as shown below, is a device called a machicolation projecting high above the doorway. As Tranter states it, the device was for "pouring down unpleasantness upon unwelcome visitors." Nice folks.



An interesting tale is told of Fairburn Tower near Inverness. This castle was held by the Mackenzie clan in the 17th century. Tradition tells the story that the Brahan Seer foretold that the day would come when no Mackenzie would be at Fairburn and that line would vanish from the face of the earth. The castle would stand empty and a cow would give birth at the topmost watch tower. This all came about because the seer rescued a young woman who was ridden down by a group of Mackenzies and were making sport of her. The seer rebuked them and delivered his predictions.

The seer was not around to see his predictions come true, but they eventually all did. He reportedly came to a very unpleasant end, being enclosed in a spiked barrel and rolled down a hill, then burned. And about the cow, a tenant farmer used the abandoned

castle to store hay. Somehow a cow in calf found her way in and followed a trail of hay up a narrow winding stairway before reaching the top, six stories up. Being unable to find its way out, the cow eventually delivered her calf. It became quite an attraction and special trains were run from Inverness to allow interested persons to see the wonder of the Brahan Seer's prophesy fulfilled.

"Scotland Bloody Scotland" by Frank Renwick of Ravenstone, Baron of Ravenstone, Canongate Publishing Ltd., Edinburgh, 1986. This little book is a light hearted, irreverent and satirical view of Scottish history illustrated with cartoons by the author. Even the preface makes it clear that the Baron is making a joke. He does end up by saying that by purchasing the book, you are helping in the restoration of a ruined Scottish Castle. Still you can learn some facts.

"The Stewart Kingdom of Scotland - 1371-1603" by Caroline Bingham, originally published by Weidenfeld & Nicolson, 1974, re-published by Barnes & Noble, Inc. 1995. This very interesting book starts with a brief history of Scotland before the Stewarts, beginning before the time of the Roman invasions. From there it goes into the Royal House of Scotland from David I, great-great-great grandfather of Robert I (the Bruce). Robert's daughter Margery married Walter "the Stewart" to produce Robert II. His son took the name Robert III even though he had a brother Robert. Robert III's son became James I. His great-grandson James IV married Margaret Tudor (sister of the English King Henry VIII). Their son became James V. After James IV died, Margaret married Archibald Douglas and begat Lady Margaret Douglas. She married Matthew Stuart, 4th Earl of Lennox who was also descended from James II, Stuart being the French spelling variation of Stewart. Their son, Henry Stuart, Lord Darnley was the husband of Mary, Queen of Scots, the daughter of James V. Their son was James VI & I, VI indicating King of Scots and I King of England, the first King of the United Kingdom. If this is confusing to you, don't be surprised. Without the genealogical charts in the book it is very difficult to follow. With father, son, grandson and occasionally a brother all named James, it is easy to get lost. None of the rulers had an easy time with natural death being a rarity. Most of the rulers became rulers at a very early age,

Mary, Queen of Scots was only six days old when she became queen! The book is very interesting and sets the stage for what became very important to our family, the exodus from Scotland.

“The Scotch-Irish - A Social History” by James G. Leyburn, The University of North Carolina Press, 1962. With a title like this, you might be put off, but this book is a “very good read”. Professor Leyburn taught Sociology at Washington and Lee University and undertook writing this book when one of his students complained that there was no general account of the people from the time they left Scotland. This book takes care of that with many references used and cited. The term “Scotch-Irish” is an Americanism, generally unknown in Scotland and Ireland, and rarely used by British historians. In all likelihood, when our ancestors arrived on these shores, they referred to themselves as either Ulster Irish or Irish.

As the Reformation took place in England and Scotland, Ireland remained staunchly Catholic. The country presented many problems to Queen Elizabeth (the Virgin Queen and cousin of Mary, Queen of Scots). She began attempts for the “Plantation of Ulster” but was largely unsuccessful. By the time King James VI & I took over, however, there was some private enterprise showing that it was feasible to transport Scots to Ulster to begin farming. This is somewhat ironic since the people called the Scots came from Antrim in their colonization of what is now Scotland and who fought the Picts - that is another story.

Scotland in the early 1600s was a very poor country., it was probably the poorest and most backward of all the countries in Europe. The feudal system was the standard. There was a distinct split between the Lowlanders and the Highlanders. The Lowlanders were a mix of at least nine strains of people, while the Highlanders were basically Celtic and much the same as the Irish. They spoke different languages and really did not like each other. Soap, iron and glass were not even made in the country in 1600; cropland in the lowlands was poor. The people, however, were not depressed by these conditions, and they seemed to have a robustly cheerful life. When the opportunity came however, many took the chance to go to Ulster for the rich farm lands. The native Irish were displaced and there seems to have been little intermarriage to give

what would be the natural meaning of Scotch-Irish. Documentary evidence is lacking to prove the point either way. Instead, the term really seems to refer to Scottish Lowlanders who migrated to America after passing through Ireland, sometimes the passing being for several generations. The debate continues.

The reasons for migration to Ireland were economic and religious. Northern Ireland became a strongly Protestant area. While the author does not state so, this may be the reason for the conflicts in that country today; Scots displacing most of the now minority Catholic Irish.

The migration to America began in about 1717 and between then and the Revolutionary War about a quarter million Ulstermen came to America. They started the migration due to economic conditions, religious problems and a series of crop failures. The center of activity was the Philadelphia area. The movement then was to the West and South by way of inland routes. Later migrations by Highlanders started on the southeastern coast, particularly in North Carolina.

The book goes into the attitudes of the people, their strong religious faith and their pioneering spirit. They were instrumental in setting up the first colleges in America. As in Scotland, these universities started as schools for the training of religious leaders. It has been said that the Revolutionary War was a “Scotch-Irish Presbyterian rebellion” and that the war was basically a religious war. Certainly this did not hold for all those of Scottish ancestry, but enough were to consider the Scotch-Irish as fervent American patriots.

You will gain a good insight to our ancestors by reading this book.

Happy birthday John Paul Jones

One of those Scottish patriots of the Revolution actually came directly from 13 miles southwest of Dumfries. A number of the family have visited the small cottage that is his birthplace. His father was a gardener, his real name was John Paul. The fact the cottage is still there is due to American interest and fund raising. The cottage is now open as a museum complete with audio-visual presentation capability.

John was apprenticed as a captain's boy at the age of 12. After serving on slave ships, he resigned in disgust and returned home in 1768 as a passenger on the merchantman *John* of Kirkcudbright. Both the captain and the mate died of fever and John Paul was forced to take command for the rest of the voyage. He was rewarded by being appointed as captain for the ship's next voyage to America. In 1770, there was an incident which could have ended his career. He had a ship's carpenter punished with a cat o'nine tails. The man died, and John was imprisoned on return to Kirkcudbright. In days it was proven that the death was due to fever, not beating. Two years later, his fiery temper (a Scot with a temper, who ever heard of that?) led him to draw his sword and kill a sailor who, he later claimed, had tried to club him. He fled to America and hid under cover using the name of John Jones in Fredricksburg, VA, at the home of his brother William, a tailor.

In 1775, calling himself John Paul Jones, he rushed to Philadelphia and offered his services to the infant Continental Navy. His reputation grew, and in 1777 he sailed to France, capturing two British ships on the way. The next year he made raids in the Irish Sea. Returning to France, he was given command of a ship renamed the *Bonhomme Richard* and sailed for British waters. During a battle on 23 September 1779, when it was going badly for his ship, he gave his now famous reply to an offer of surrender, "I have not yet begun to fight". Of course he ended up winning the battle. He returned to France and was honored by Louis XVI. In 1781 he returned to America and spent the rest of the war advising on the establishment of the Navy and officer training.

When peace came, he went to Paris where he met Thomas Jefferson. Jefferson recommended him for service with Russia. In 1788, he was made a rear Admiral with the Russian Navy, a higher rank than he held in the American Navy. Serving with distinction as Pavel Ivanovitch Jones, he fought against the Turks in the Black Sea. He returned to Paris in May 1790 in failing health. He died on 18 May 1792 and was buried in an unmarked grave. In 1905, his body was returned to America and now reposes in a magnificent marble sarcophagus at the U.S. Naval Academy. This year marks the 250th anniversary of his birth - on 6 July. Not bad for a small town boy who was condemned as a traitor in his own land, hailed as a hero on the other side of

the Atlantic, and universally regarded as an exceptional man of the sea.

If you want to learn more, the Internet address for the John Paul Jones Cottage is www.open.gov.uk/nithsdal.

(The article above is derived from an article in *Naval History* magazine written by David Lockwood, Service Development Officer, Dumfries Museum, The Observatory.)

Our Scottish connection

Our family contact in Scotland, Ken Harvey has written to say that he is willing to undertake research for our members at very reasonable rates. If anyone has any enquiries which they want undertaken at the Scottish Records Office, West Register House, National Library of Scotland, The Public Records Office, Kew or St. Catherines House in London, you may write Ken at the address given below. He can also undertake research in the Registers of Births, Deaths and Marriages for Scotland, though not yet for England.

K. R. Harvey
6 Mathews Court
Lockerbie
Dumfriesshire
DG11 2NB
Scotland

Ken has gotten very much into the family history and is beginning to trace many UK descendants of the McBairs of Almagill. He has managed to find one or two families through the female line, but male side descendants are few and far between. He is trying to unravel the reason why the McBairs went to Ireland. It appears they may have settled on land owned by the Maxwell Earls of Nithsdale to whom they were closely related.

Information we have on this side of the pond is of interest to historians in Scotland and Ken will be using some articles from *INDEFIANCE* for articles in the Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter.

Two McBairs Ken is tracing are Robert, messenger at arms in Dumfries, from around the turn of the 18th century and Alexander, merchant in Glasgow. He's also trying to find out more about his great-great-great-grandfather Samuel McBrier "who

seems to have fallen out of the sky into the bogs of Ireland, fully grown and married with a grown up son."

Delia, Ken and Mary's daughter, is getting ready to go to France later in the year on an exchange visit. The family is having impromptu French lessons over breakfast, lunch and dinner. Somehow this seems appropriate since in the days before the United Kingdom, French was a common language for the aristocracy and the educated in Scotland. France and Scotland were frequently allies in battles with the English.

Family tales

The following story comes from member OA McBrayer. He researched the information when he wrote a longer paper for a local family reunion in October 1991. He called this story "The Civil War Experience"

J.(James) M.(Martin) McBRAYER was nineteen years old when the 63rd Georgia Infantry was transferred from guarding the Georgia-Florida coast to North Georgia. There the 63rd Georgia joined the Confederate Army of Tennessee to fight Sherman's US Army headed toward Atlanta. The Sixty Third Georgia infantry - a unit which served both as an infantry and heavy artillery unit during its career - was organized at Savannah, Georgia, 11 December 1862.

North Georgia was home territory for James M. who had been born on a farm 5 3/4 miles from Resaca and 9 miles from Calhoun, the county seat. The two armies swept across first one town and then the other during the second week of May 1864. (For graphic examples of the effects of the war on this area see "Climb the Hills of Gordon", a Gordon County, Georgia history by Jewell B. Reeve , 1962)

J.M. and an older brother, HUGH A., were listed in the 63rd Georgia Infantry. This unit was composed of Olglethorpe Artillery of Savannah and the Thirteenth Georgia Infantry Battalion as well as new recruits. It is possible that one or the other or both brothers had been in action prior to this date. They were in the Thunderbolt Battery. The 63rd Georgia Infantry was assigned guard duty on the Georgia-Carolina-Florida coast until April

1864. Family traditions have reported that Thunderbolt Battery was assigned to the Florida Coast. The battle lines where his unit fought are detailed in the "Capsule History 63rd Georgia Infantry" and the pages 743-755, "Battle Cry of Freedom, The Civil War Era" by McPherson.

The 63rd Georgia Infantry was moved to North Georgia to help the Confederate Army stop General Sherman and the Union Army's drive to Atlanta. This location brought the war to the very homes of the McBrayer brothers. Every few days battle lines were drawn by the Generals and then redrawn a little further south as the Union Army descended upon Georgia. The land and properties in their paths were pillaged and or destroyed. It was said of Calhoun, the seat of government for Cass (later renamed Gordon) County, that the only building remaining was the courthouse.

Finally, the Confederate Army declared that the Chattahoochee River eight miles north of Atlanta be the final stand against the Unionist. "The South would prevail at this point."

It was during the early hours of that very battle that J.M. and Hugh were captured. It was the 5th of July at the Chattahoochee River. Upon their capture J.M. and Hugh were sent to Nashville. From Nashville they were routed through the Military Prison at Louisville, KY on 14 July and quickly shipped out to the POW Camp Douglas, Chicago, IL arriving on 16 July 1864. After a bad winter with much sickness Hugh was transferred on 14 March 1865 to City Point, VA. He was in Jackson Hospital, with rheumatism, March 22-28 1865, and then furloughed from the hospital for 60 days. The C.S. Army surrendered during his furlough.

There is more to tell about J.M. in a future issue of *IN DEFIANCE*.



The area around Dumfries is considered by the Scottish Tourist Board to be the "South West". A few of the food specialties are:

- Ecclefechan Butter Tart - pastry filled with dried fruit and nuts
- Ayrshire Shortbread - a rich variety with cream
- Cock-a-leekie - traditional broth made with game birds and leeks