

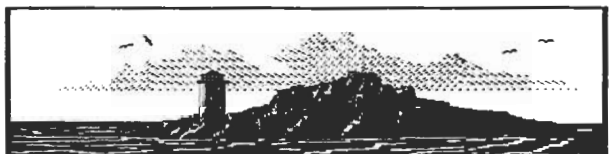
IN DEFIANCE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 8, NO. 4

OCTOBER 1997



FROM THE CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

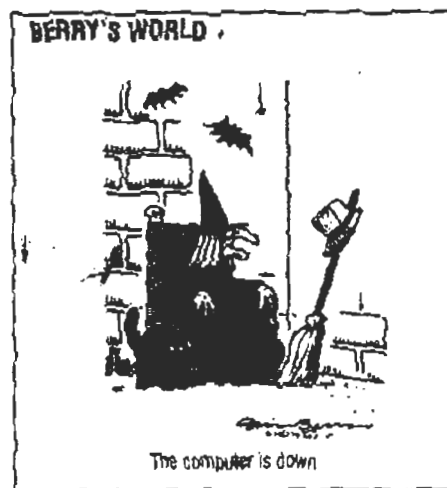
More years ago than what I want to remember, I was told never to start a letter with an apology, however, I feel that I should in this case. In the last newsletter I told you of my problems upgrading computer software. After that I did even more, I changed computers, all other hardware and nearly all software. As some of you might expect, this was not an easy task. However, now the obstacles should be overcome and the newsletter should get back on schedule with the January 1998 issue - you will not miss any issue. You will see an appearance difference due to the software changes.

Two of the objectives of the Family Association are: 1) To collect and preserve the history, traditions and landmarks of the Family, and 2) To compile, maintain and preserve a roll of all known family members. In an effort to fulfill the first, the newsletter has been used to give both direct family history stories and the traditions of our Scottish fore bearers. For the second, as new members join, every attempt is made to get whatever information is possible on the genealogy. Now with computer assistance, more information than ever is available and that source is now being tapped. With the thousands of descendants of the three McBrayer brothers who came to America, this is no small task. The efforts started at least in the 1920's, well before the computer age. Errors crept in because there was not enough information and there were real problems in tracing individuals. Some other problems will be mentioned later in this newsletter.

While some question the current system of listing

individuals in our genealogy, that is, while it does not follow one of the standard numbering systems, it has served well in building the data base and listing people whom we have not yet clearly put into a "slot". Efforts are being made to "standardize", please give your help and understanding. It will take time.

Chief Bob



This is what it was like for me on Halloween!



To our new members!

Heather Randal Brier (B 117/2a, 9th) is the granddaughter of member Glenn Wilson Brier. She lives in St. Paul, MN. Heather provided some valuable new information on her family's 8th and 9th generations.

Lorena Sue McBrayer Coffman (M 375-291/1, 8th) is the daughter of the late Theodore Roosevelt McBrayer. Sue and her husband Tom live in Idabel, OK. She, an aunt and cousin were responsible for setting up the first local family reunion in Idabel in 1985; it is now an annual

event. Sue has been doing family research on the Internet using a computer at the local library. She has a few questions to ask of the family:

ok
1. In research of her great-grandmother's lines, she was told that Burton McBrayer was the youngest son of William Ervin and Elizabeth Jane Burgess McBrayer. No one in the family to that time knew of Burton. Sue found a marriage record from Cherokee Co., NC for Burton McBroyer (yes with o) and Margaret Morrow on 11 December 1898. Does anyone have further information on Burton?

ok
2. She also found a record of a Mrs. Brayer as the 4th wife of Andrew Jackson Kilpatrick, b. 1828, d. 1910, Cherokee Co., NC. It is assumed that she was really a McBrayer. Does anybody have an idea here?

3. Sue is also looking for pictures of William Ervin and Elizabeth McBrayer. Does anyone have a picture?

Sohnie Fredrick Hill (11th generation) is a student at the University of North Texas, Denton, TX. Sohnie (pronounced SA-NI) is the great-grandson of the late Larkin Wellington McBrayer (M 275, 8th). He has provided a great deal of family information which has assisted Family Historian Carl McBrayer to fill a number of gaps in Larkin's branch. This has included copies of a number of documents. He also has been active in making contacts with other family members via the Internet.

Carlotta Mercedes Stivison McBrayer, and her husband Harold Theodore McBrayer (M 135, 7th) live in Kansas cities, MO. Their son Brian is active in a pipe band and son David has developed a new product called "Haggis Pups" (see articles following).

Bobbie McBrayer Moore and her husband Butch are from Amarillo, TX. Genealogical information is not yet available.

ok
Diana Kay Allison Norris (M 417/ 8C3a, 8th) is a cousin of member Dixie Graham Allison Mott Algary. They share Lavina Eveline McBrayer Allison as the common ancestor. Lavina was the 8th child of William McBrayer (M 417, 4th). Kay, her husband Robert and sons Robert Bryan, Jr. and John Joseph (Josh) live in Charlotte, NC.

Robert Reid and his wife Lorene live in Tillamook, OR. Robert is a descendant of David McBrayer (M 3,

1st) and was a major contributor toward the monument to David dedicated during the Chambersburg reunion. Details of his line are not yet available.

Several other family members are in the pipeline and are expected to join the Family Association soon. We will soon reach the 200 mark!

It is said that the FBI has over 780 million fingerprints. So has every home with small children. - The New York Times.



LOOKING FOR FAMILY

Some family members have visited old graveyards in search of information. Here's a hint from the Kittochtinny Historical Society (Chambersburg) newsletter that may help you in reading stones. Use a block of foamed polystyrene (such as used for packaging or building insulation and commonly referred to as Styrofoam®) to clean off moss and soil debris. It will not damage the stone.

The Historical Society also has found some copies of "American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County Pennsylvania", a research study published in 1969 and out of print for years. An effort will be made to obtain a copy for the Family Association.

Use of the Internet has opened many possibilities for research and several family members have been active in this area. For those who are active, or those that would like to but do not know where to start, You may want to consider the following:

TREASURE MAPS is a free monthly e-mail Genealogy Newsletter written by Robert Ragan. This newsletter gives many tips on how to conduct a genealogical search, how to use the Internet as a source and sources to be tapped. You can subscribe by sending an e-mail to "ragan@southeast.net" with the message "sign me up." You can also sign up by going to the **Treasure Maps** Web site at "www.first.com/fv/tmapmenu.html". This site also has tutorial site links and links to the Church of the Latter-day Saints Family History Library in Salt Lake City.

Family Tree Maker, one of the popular computer programs for genealogical study, has a very interesting Web at "www.familytreemaker.com". This site contains among others things a **FamilyFinder Index** which gives the archive type for information available from **Family Tree Maker** on CD-ROMs. (I have a number of them.) For example: information on Major McBrayer may be found in the Social Security Death Records and on Adam McBrayer in the 1870 NC Census records. The site also has how-to, classified and message board sections.

The Ellen Payne Odom Genealogy Library in Moultrie, GA in addition to a bimonthly newspaper has a very interesting on-line version of **Family Tree** at "www.teleport.com/~binder/famtree.shtml". This is a very interesting and well done site. Articles from this site will be used in this newsletter. You can subscribe to the newspaper by writing The Odom Library, P.O. Box 2828, Moultrie, GA 31776-2828 or by e-mail at "hugh.waters@lost.com". The paper is sent free.

Member **Tim McBrayer** (M 173/2, 9th) and his wife **Leslie** have a Web page at "www.ultranet.com/~mcbrayer/family". This site has a partial family tree starting with William and Rebecca and a link to the Newsletter Editor.

There is a new CD-ROM **Ancestry Genealogy Library Vol. 1** available by accessing "mall.infobases.com/ancestry/Deptcomputer.hmx". This contains the **Worldwide Genealogy Message Board Archive** featuring nearly 200,000 ROOT-L and GENAM-L messages. The Windows 95 version also contains the **Library of Congress Genealogy and Family History Catalog**.

Without question there are many other sites to tap. If any member has a favorite and/or their own Web page, please inform the editor so they can be mentioned in the newsletter. You can contact me at "RLMcBrayer@Juno.com" or "RMcBrayer@driveninc.com".

Judith McGowan provided the following information on a probable family member from the Notre Dame archives (<http://archives1.archives.nd.edu>):

McBair, Alfred H. -OH Portsmouth - 1875/76
Since a number of McBrayers are from the Portsmouth, OH area, does anyone know who this Alfred is?

Complications in research stem from a number of situations. One of these is the lack of middle names. This has led to misidentification of individuals and has

caused disputes in families, including our own. Old English law made the use of middle names illegal except to persons of royal rank. The law was definite and admitted no infractions, and punishment was severe. For a first offense was whipping, second perhaps removal of a thumb or ears and further offenses by hanging. It took several generations of McBrayers in America to accept the middle name as a matter of routine. (from "Family Tree Online")

Dates can also be off by about two weeks. This is due to the differences in the Julian and Gregorian calendars and the use of the current system was not observed in Great Britain until the late 1700s. This is also why the Russian October Revolution is celebrated in November.

Name variations also cause problems. William's estate record in the Courthouse in Chambersburg has three different name spellings in the same record.

DO YOU KNOW WHAT AN ORPHAN IS?

Most of us would say certainly, but it was not always what we now accept as the definition.

In reading the history of William, records show that Rebecca and son David appeared in Orphan's Court. This seems puzzling until you learn that until the last century, a mother had no legal custody of her children. The term "orphan" meant only that the father of the child(ren) was dead. (Thanks to "The Family Tree" and "The Genealogy Society of Southern Illinois Newsletter")

Local Reunion News

The 51st annual McBrayer-King reunion was held on Sunday, August 3, 1997 in Schereville, Indiana. Carrie McBrayer was the organizer. It was attended by between 40 and 50 descendants of brothers Wade and Ralph McBrayer and their sister Bette McBrayer King. The picnic lunch began about 1:00 p.m. and, for some, continued for several hours; as always, there was enough food to feed twice as many people as attended. The traditional "Bozo buckets" game was played by the children and water balloons were tossed by all age groups. As an additional activity, T-shirts were tie-dyed and sixteen very colorful T-shirts were hung around the picnic shelter to dry.

This reunion is traditionally the 3rd Sunday in August but often gets changed; watch *IN DEFIANCE* for the schedule next year. (Reported by Lynne Jacobs)

The George Worthy McBrayer (M 226-5/2, 7th) Reunion was held at the home of Mattie Sue McBrayer Ragan (daughter of George W. and Ethel Todd McBrayer) September 7, 1997 in Buchanan, Ga with approximately 50 in attendance. Next year the reunion will be held at the same location on August 16, 1998. (Reported by Linda Green)



BOOK NEWS

The main book news this issue is from Family Historian **Carl McBrayer**. He has now finished up the ready to

publish copy of the latest family history book. The book will be 967 pages and contain more than 23,000 names. Quotations are now being obtained from printers/binders. Watch for the details of cost and ordering in the next issue. Please let any family member you know that is interested about this. Books will be printed to order means that there will be no extra copies printed. Perhaps some will want to donate copies to suitable libraries. The Family Association will probably present a copy to the Odom Library. If you have such plans, please let Chief Bob know so that there can be coordination of donations and so they may be recognized.

Carl also has in the works a photo album keyed to the big book. More details on this will be given later.

EDINBURGH - A Travellers' Companion selected and introduced by David Daiches, Athenium, New York, 1986, is a collection of excerpts from many sources. Subheadings include: *Character of a City, The Approaches to Edinburgh and Life, Customs and Morals*. In the excerpt from *Edinburgh, Picturesque Notes*, Robert Louis Stevenson in 1878 refers to the city as "The windy city" and states "But Edinburgh pays cruelly for her high seat in one of the vilest climates under the heaven . . . The delicate die early, . . . And yet the place establishes an interest in people's hearts; go where they will, they find no city of the same distinction; go where they will, they take a pride in their old home." The Scots are hardy people.

Some of the excerpts have been left in the original spelling and grammar. The excerpt below will demonstrate the difficulty in reading such old texts.

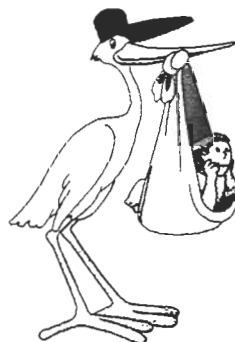
Strange animals in the Canongate, in the 1650s;

from *A Diary of Public Transactions and Other Occurrences Chiefly in Scotland from 1650 to 1667* by John Nicoll.

(John Nicoll, c.1590-c.1667, was born in Glasgow but spent most of his life in Edinburgh, where he was a Writer to the Signet and a notary public.)

"At this tyme, thair was brocht to this natioun ane heigh great beast, callit ane Drommodrary, quhilk being keipit clos in the Cannongait, nane hade a sight of it without thrie pence the persone, quhilk producit much gayne to the keipar. ... Thair wes brocht in with it any lytill baboun, faccd lyke unto a naip."

Note: Canongate is located at the foot of High Street which leads to Edinburgh Castle. At the other end is Holyroodhouse, now used by the Royal Family when in Edinburgh.



NEW ADDITION TO THE FAMILY

Quinn Thomas McBrayer (M 351/2C, 10th) was born October 19, 1997 at St. Joseph Hospital, Tucson, AZ to Stephen and Ruth Conway McBrayer. Quinn

weighed in at 8 pounds 6 ounces and was 21 inches long. He joins brothers Ryan and Collin as great grandsons of Honorary Chief Ben and Helene McBrayer and grandsons of Chief Bob and Betty McBrayer. Their home is in Tucson.



REST IN PEACE

We regretfully announce the deaths of the following Family members:

ARCHIE JOSEPH ROATH, 83, passed away Sunday, Aug. 10, 1997, in Socorro, NM. He was born on the family farm near Wheatland, WY, on May 3, 1914, the 7th of 10 children of Arthur Joseph Roath and Lena Simpson Adams Roath. He served with the Civilian Conservation Corps during the Depression years and graduated from the University of Wyoming with a B.S. in Agronomy in 1939. He served in the U.S. Army, Second Armored Division from 1941-46 where he

received a good conduct medal and a presidential unit citation. He worked with the Soil Conservation Service in New Mexico for many years and was active in the National Association of Retired Federal Employees and the CCC Alumni Association; he was a life member of the NM Wildlife Association and the Wyoming Alumni. He is survived by his beloved wife of 51 years, **Jean Fraker Roath** (B 158/8E4a, 6th); son Jack L. Roath of Pueblo, CO; daughter **Linda** (B 158/8E4a1, 7th) and husband Gregg Platt of Annapolis, Md.; daughter Gwen Roath of Socorro. Two sisters: Marjorie Woods and Evelyn Fischer both of Salem, OR; Sisters-in-law Val Roath of Bryan, TX; and Lucy Roath of Vaughn, MT; many grandchildren, great-grandchildren, nieces and nephews. A Religious Society of Friends (Quaker) memorial service was held at 2:00 p.m. Friday, Aug. 15, at the NM Tech Library. Archie had been involved in Quaker activities at the state level. At his request, memorial contributions were made to the American Cancer Society.



While the immediate cause of Archie's death was a series of heart attacks, he had survived the ravages of cancer. In later years he was forced to use a wheelchair which ended his hunting activities, but it did not stop him from fishing. He caught "the big one" a 34-pound halibut while sitting in a chair during a 1991 cruise to Alaska. Archie attended the

MacBair Family Reunion in Dallas in 1994.

Richard Lavander "Mac" McBayer (M 334, 7th), 81, died September 2, 1997, at his home in Asheville, NC. A native and life long resident of Buncombe County. He was a retired building contractor and a member of Oakley Baptist Church. His life revolved around his family, his friends, his enjoyment of gospel music, and his love of travel. He was the son of the late Richard Lavander and Delia Lankford McBayer, and the husband of the late Mary Marlowe McBayer. He is survived by his daughter, Barbara Baskerville; son and daughter-in-law, Richard and Nancy McBayer; and granddaughters, Meredith and Mallory McBayer, all of Asheville. Funeral services were at 11:00 a.m. Saturday, September 6 at Nesbitt's Chapel United Methodist Church with the Rev. Bob Harris officiating. Music was provided by Frank Same and Rex Cutshall. Burial was in the church cemetery. (Note: Mac was not a member of the Family Association.)

Helen M. (McBrayer) Robinson (M 277-5/3, 7th), 60, of St. Joseph, MO, died Sunday, Dec. 22, 1996 at a local hospital of a perforated ulcer. She was born Jan. 30, 1936, in St. Joseph, and lived there all her life. She graduated from Lafayette High School. Mrs. Robinson worked in the cutting department at Whitaker Cable Co. She was a member at St. Peter Lutheran Church, St. Joseph. On June 11, 1954, she married Billy Robinson in St. Joseph. Preceding her in death was her parents, Leander Able and Mary McBrayer. Additional survivors: two sons, Thomas of Ogallala, NE, and Tim of St. Joseph; four daughters: Jackie Healey of Parkville, MO, Beth Peterson and Karen Williams, both of St. Joseph, and Judy Dempsey of Arlington, TX; two brothers, William McBrayer, of Galmey, MO and Robert McBrayer (since deceased, June 24, 1997); a sister Elvona Kearnes of Billings, MO and 10 grandchildren. Her funeral service was at 1:00 p.m. Tuesday, Dec. 24, 1996 at the Gladden-Stamey Chapel, St. Joseph with burial at Memorial Park Cemetery, St. Joseph.

(Note: while Helen was not a member of the Family Association, her husband Billy, brother William and sister Elvona are.)

PIPE BANDS



Many of you are aware that Family Historian **Carl B. McBayer** is a skilled piper. He is the Pipe Major of The Pipes and Drums of the Highlanders of Oklahoma City. This keeps him active in preparation, including teaching, and participation for many performances. **Brian T. McBayer**, son of Harold T. and Carlotta McBayer is also active in this field. He is the Drum Major for the Kansas City St. Andrews Society Pipe Band. Their paths crossed at the Tulsa Highland Games, September 20 - 21, 1997. Brian served as the Head/Lead Drum Major for the massed bands at the closing ceremonies. Brian held Carl's band on the field as other bands marched off. He then asked Carl if he could lead the Highlanders off the field since their Drum Major was not present; of course Carl agreed. To the best of his knowledge, this is the first time that a pipe band was led by a Drum Major and a Pipe Major whose surname was McBayer!



*Dogs come when they are called;
cats take a message and get
back to you.* - Mary Bly



HAGGIS (revisited)

Quite some time ago in this newsletter it was reported that there is some speculation that Rebecca was the aunt of Robert Burn's mother, but this is yet to be verified. What does this have to do with the family and haggis? If we are indeed related to the famed Robbie, we should take some notice of his ode to the noble haggis. Traditional Burns Night Dinners (January 25) feature haggis with great ceremony. The taste for the authentic haggis certainly is an acquired one - the knowledge of the recipe is enough to turn many people off.

Now there is an alternative. *David McBrayer*, another son of Harold and Carlotta McBrayer, has developed a product called "Scotsfare Haggis Pups". He had become frustrated after 20 years of attending Scottish Games, inviting people to come to learn of Scottish culture and then serving them hot dogs or Polish sausage. He studied the art of making haggis, then developed his own version based on very lean pork, with secret seasonings and spices and fully smoked. He had success with these at two years of sales at the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games and is now setting up national marketing. The recent *Highlander* magazine has a prominent ad on the inside front cover. If you want to learn more, you can contact David at:

Scotfare, 408 E. 71st Terr., Kansas City, MO, 64131, phone (816) 361-2451 or e-mail scots@micro.com.

SPEAKING OF POETS...

Maybe we should name *Pete Osten*, husband of *Doris Turner Osten* (M 82/8-, 8th) our Family Poet Laureate for the following short limerick written at the Chambersburg Reunion:

A pious family by the name of McBrayer
Lead a life of high morals and prayer
They were lead astray
By a big sinner's way
Now they're much wiser and much grayer.

"Of that ilk"

In reading Scottish literature and searching old family records, you may have come across the term "of that ilk". Just what does it mean?

"Ilk" derives from the Old English "ilca" meaning

"same". While the term "of that ilk" was used in both Scotland and England, over time the meanings became different. In England it means "kind" or "class". The Scottish meaning has more to do with kinship. According to *Collins Pocket Scots Dictionary*, "ilk" is used in personal titles to indicate that the person named is proprietor or laird of the place named. "Laird" in turn is a lord, especially the owner of a large estate.

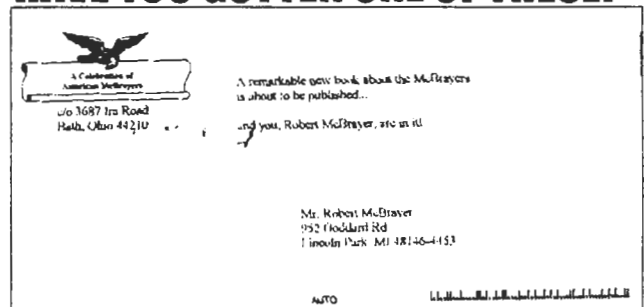
(With help from *Family Tree Online*)



COULD THIS HAPPEN TO OUR FAMILY RECORDS?

Family Tree Online passed along information from Irah Pfalser of Caney, KS regarding burning of several truckloads of old Grant County, Oklahoma Court Records, some dating back to the late 1800s. A newspaper clipping showed a huge cloud of black smoke behind a sign saying "No Dumping". This could happen anywhere as the importance of old records is ignored. Why not take some action in your area to ensure it does not happen again. At least make sure that there is some provision for safe storage of microfilm copies, but keep in mind some film is not very durable. Old paper records often are found in extremely good condition since the paper used was processed in a way that avoids the breakdown you often see in more recent documents.

HAVE YOU GOTTEN ONE OF THESE?



The envelope shown above contained "exciting news" about a new book *A Celebration of American McBrayers*. While the cover letter makes all kinds of promises regarding the tracing of our family history, the order form clearly states "No direct genealogical connection to your family or to your ancestry is implied or intended". Unless you look at the return envelope, there is no way to know that the offer comes from the Halbert Company. This company is well known for offers such as this and the disclaimer above

was mandated by the Federal Government. If you have ever seen a Halbert's book, you will know that they are a waste of money, without the disclaimer they would be fraudulent.

A similar offer has come from The McBrayer Archives in Denver. This company (The Family News or Morphcorp LLC) also sells books of value similar to Halbert's, but they apparently have not been as pushy as Halbert's, so they do not have a disclaimer. Attempts have been made to contact the publisher regarding the publications without success.

Family members with other surnames often receive similar offers with their surname. Neither company has in the past provided serious consideration and some members have reported their complete dissatisfaction with publications when they have purchased them.



MEDICAL REPORT

In August, **Barbara McBrayer Bartels** (M 54/1, 7th) wrote that on travels following a six-week tour by motor home to Alaska, she fell and sprained both her left ankle and right shoulder. While there were no breaks, her shoulder sprain was aggravated by earlier calcium build up which indicated surgery. This was planned for later during a trip to New York. She wrote again in September that on Labor Day all plans changed. Her husband **Grant** was rushed off to the emergency room at Indianapolis Methodist Hospital where it was diagnosed that he had bladder cancer. Surgery was then scheduled for Grant in Indianapolis. Barbara also planned for her shoulder; Grant's to be done in early October. No report has been received yet on his status. Barbara reports that follow up will require them to stay in Indianapolis for four to six months. We wish them both well!



Danielle McBrayer, age 14, was seriously injured in a backyard swimming pool incident on August 14, 1997. She slipped on the edge of the 4-foot deep pool and hit her head on the bottom. She broke two cervical vertebrae and she immediately felt her whole body

going numb. Fortunately her 9-year-old cousin Heather McBrayer was there to notice that Danielle was not coming up for air and could drown. Heather pulled Danielle's head up and rested it up on her shoulder while her brother went for help. She is now hospitalized with a halo to stabilize her neck. In late August she was paralyzed with only muscle spasm movement in her arms. Extensive therapy will be required and the halo should be off in November.

Danielle has a very positive attitude and is determined to walk again. She wants to get back to school, East Bank Junior High in Handley, WV where she was a ninth grader, an A student and a majorette.

She is the granddaughter of **Donald and Carol McBrayer** (Don's sketch will be in the new family book) and **Ann Bobbitt** with whom she lives. The grandmothers have been staying with Danielle in the hospital around the clock, each half the day. Mrs. Bobbitt was working, but now she has to depend on welfare to meet expenses.

Danielle's family will have trouble meeting her medical expenses even though there is some support from the Shriners. Anyone wishing to donate may send money to the Merchants National Bank, Attn. Judy Shawkey, Financial Services Officer, P.O. Box 1109, Montgomery, WV 25136. (Thanks to Kay Bryant for providing this information.)

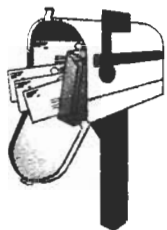


THE McBRAYER FAMILY AND STREETS

A number of years ago during a family trip to Scotland, the late **Ethel Brier Koller** (B 130/1, 6th) showed family members the will of a McBrayer who had property on Wall Street in what is now downtown New York City. If anyone has a copy of this will, please let the Chief know and supply a copy if possible. Searching for this will would be an interesting project for family researchers.

Last issue, a question from our Scottish cousin Ken Harvey was posed about the reason from naming several streets in Dumfries for the family. Several members came forward and said that the effort was spearheaded by Ethel to get the names assigned. She probably had some help from Alfred Truckell, former curator of the Dumfries Museum who was a good

friend to the family. The family also donated some money to an elementary school near the streets. If anyone has one of the early newsletters telling of these efforts, please pass it along so it can be shared by the family.



FAMILY MAIL

Here is some of the mail received from family members during the past months.

If you don't see something you sent, please watch for it in the future. All members are encouraged to send in any information regarding the family whether the person is a member of the Family Association or not. Everyone is important and it helps to complete our genealogical files.

An e-mail message was received by Chief Bob on October 7, 1997 from **Steven Michael McBrayer**. He said that all he really knew of his ancestry was that his father's name was Nicolaus and that he thought he was from Missouri. Neither could be found in the immediately available information, so e-mail messages were sent the same day to several people including **Stephanie McBrayer** (wife of **Frank L. McBrayer**, descended from John Abel McBrayer, M 219, 4th). Stephanie has been working to complete information on the Missouri branches. She was able to clarify the relationship immediately. Steve's dad is Frank's brother. Even more interesting is that Frank and Nicolaus's mother had been in Scottsdale, AZ for the past few months visiting her daughter and had been trying to find Steve. As it turns out, she was not far from finding him; Steve lives in Tucson! Within six hours of Steve's e-mail his family ties had been established. This shows a real benefit of a Family Association, to bring us together.

Karen Williams (daughter of **Billy and Helen McBrayer Robinson** - see Helen's obituary above) is also helping to clarify the Missouri branch. She has also embarked on a new adventure. With her youngest going into first grade and her oldest a senior in high school, she has started at age 37 to attend college with the initial objective of becoming a para professional working in a local school. She is doing well, getting all "A"s on her midterm grades. Karen still has all the "mom" jobs to do and is PTA vice president for the high school and co-president at the elementary school.

Odell L. McBrayer (M 315, 8th) reports that he has

taken on the tasks of the chaplain of City of Idabel, OK City Council, Police Department, Fire Department and city employees. Just a little something to do for a retiree.

Zelda White (descended from William C. McBrayer (M 433, 5th), 8th) passed along this "Family Tree". It shows quickly it becomes more difficult to do ancestral research. It's a good thing that we have some common relatives.

We ALL have:

2 Parents
 4 Grandparents
 8 Great Grandparents
 16 Great-Great Grandparents
 32 Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 64 Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 128 Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 256 Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 512 Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 1024 Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great-Great Grandparents
 After just ten generations

(FROM: North Texas Cornish Society, reprinted in THE FAMILY TREE, Oct. - Nov., 1996)

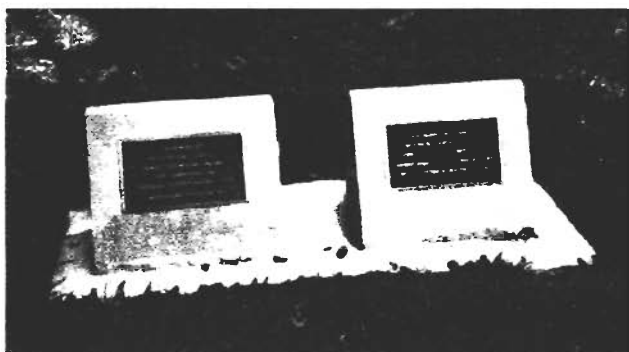
Kay Quinn (B 62/1A2f, 8th) has passed along some copies of some interesting documents from the past. Among these is a single page newsletter dated May 1956 reporting on a family reunion of the Brier Branch of the family. It was held at the Oakland, CA, home of Ethel Brier Koller on February 18, 1956. Fifty family members attended. Mr. & Mrs. Oscar Vivian Brier and Alice Moulton Ulsh were the guests of honor. Those attending were Messers & Mesdames J. F. Peterson, Arne Hoye, Leonard Epperson, J. C. Brier, Harry Ulsh, Thomas Backer, Gerald Douglas, Charles T. Brier; Mesdames Junius C. Brier, A. C. Green, Jean Brier Curtis, George Boyce, Ethel Brier Koller; Misses Hazel Brier, Charlotte Koller, Karen Koller; Masters Merritt Koller, Frederick Brier Backer and Bruce Backer.

We still have several of the people named above as members of the Family Association. Perhaps they will be able to pass along some more stories of the activities of the group in tracking family history. As a result of their work, Charles Templeton Brier edited records and privately published *The Brier Family - A Collection of Data Tracing this Family from its Earliest Beginnings in Dumfriesshire, Scotland to the present day in The New World* in October, 1956. Kay has provided a copy of this book. It is being scanned into a computer to permit reissuing. Since scans often result in typographical error, this will take some time to complete.

Louellen McBrayer Pledger (M 209/1, 8th) reports that her son **John** was commissioned an Admiral in the Texas Navy by Governor George Bush in recognition for his contributions to the Brenham State School for the handicapped. The commission was presented to John by Nancy Low, the governor's special emissary, at a ribbon cutting ceremony for Patrick Heard Park at the school. John had donated extensive engineering assistance to the park project. The park boasts a multipurpose, open air pavilion with kitchen and restroom facilities, as well as covered picnic sites. The facility is accessible by wide concrete sidewalks.

In response to an inquiry placed in the *Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter*, a note was received from R. M. McLean of West Lothian, Scotland. He reported that Margaret Thomson McBrair died at Colvend on 18 July 1844 and George McBryer, hawker, died at Minnyhive (possibly Monaive - Dumfriesshire) on 9 August, 1866. This information may help our Scottish cousin **Ken Harvey** in his family research.

VIEW FROM THE CHAMBERSBURG REUNION



Monuments to William, Rebecca and son John McBrayer on the left, to David and Elizabeth with daughter Esther and her husband Andrew Reed on the right. Located in Old Brown's Mill Graveyard, PA.

More pictures will be given in the next issue. Improved scanning capability will be used.



AND



STORES

Some of you are no doubt aware of the connections between our family and the "Five and Ten Cent" stores, Woolworth's being among them. What you may not know is that the original name of these stores was

Woolworth & McBrier.

For the past two issues of In Defiance, a request was made for a copy of the Edwin Merton McBrier book: *Genealogy of the Descendants of Henry McBrier and Kezia Sloan McBrier*". A copy of this book has now been found in the Burton Historical Collection at the Detroit Public Library. While this book cannot be removed from the library, it can be copied and selected pages have been to date.

In the introduction to the book, Edwin clearly associates his family with other McBrayers (by various spellings) who originated in Scotland. He corresponded with, and referred to the family history book written by Mrs. Charles R. Whitaker and Dr. L. B. McBrayer in 1927. Name spelling differences are pointed out, and he found that in the Presbyterian Historical Records in Belfast, Henry's name is spelled as McBrair, however, he always used the McBrier spelling in America. Two of his sons used an older form "McBryer" which they apparently took from old school books brought from Ireland.

Henry McBrier and Kezia Sloan were both born in County Down, Ireland, Henry on March 21, 1801 and Kezia on September 15, 1801. They married in Ireland on January 17, 1824. Their first two children, Esther and John were born in Killinchy, County Down. They came to America in 1827 where Mary, Fanny, Henry, William, Jane and Albon were born, all in Rodman, NY.

Esther married Seth Woolworth on January 1, 1846 and they had three children. This is not the Woolworth of store fame.

Fanny married Seth's brother John Hubbell Woolworth on January 14, 1851. Their first son, Frank Winfield, was born April 13, 1852. This is the F.W. of store fame.

Albon married Calista Carey Brown on November 12, 1863. Their first son, Edwin Merton was born July 16, 1865. Edwin wrote the book referred to above.

Adding to the plot, Jane Emily married James H. Knox on February 6, 1855. Their first son, Seymour Horace, was born April 11, 1861.

The cousins F.W., Edwin and Seymour entered into a partnership in New York on August 29, 1887 to form a business known as a Five and Ten Cent Store situated

at No. 83 Main Street, Lockport, New York, the name of the firm to be known as Woolworth & McBrier. Edwin and Seymour each put up \$2,000 to capitalize the business. F.W. was to buy goods and keep the books. For this he was to receive \$6.00 per month to cover expenses of the store besides the stationary, postage, etc. Seymour was to manage opening of the store and visiting it as necessary. Edwin was to actually run the store. His starting salary was \$6.00 per week. At the end of business in 1887, profit paid to F.W. and Seymour was \$400.62 each, while Edwin received \$801.23.

Edwin retired from F.W. Woolworth Company as it eventually became to be named, as Vice President. He then traveled extensively and took a great interest in education in China. In 1940, he received the Order of Jade from Chinese Ambassador Hu Shih for his efforts.

The information in this book provides some clues for further research on this branch of the family which has been referred to as "The Irish Connection", somewhat strange since William, David and James also came to America from Ireland as far as is known.



PIONEER CHRISTMAS

With Christmas approaching, you may be interested in the following story taken from the Brier Book by Charles Templeton Brier.

Reverend James Welch Brier (B 164, 4th) was born October 14, 1814 at Stillwater, OH. When he was 13, he moved with his parents to Crawfordsville, IN. On September 23, 1839, he married Juliet Wells in Michigan. He was in charge of the Kalamazoo Circuit as a minister of the Methodist Church; later in California he changed to Congregationalism. In 1849, James, Juliet and their three small sons set out for California. Here is their story:

Over one hundred years ago, the parched and exhausted Brier family sat at the edge of Death Valley, under the winter stars, and listened to the first Christmas sermon preached in Nevada. Possibly it was over the line in California, the records are vague; but we do know that instead of the usual "dissertation on giving" it was a simple little talk by the Reverend Brier urging his three small sons to improve themselves through education.

The Rev. J. W. Brier, his tiny wife Juliet, and their sons, aged nine, six and four, had just walked across

most of central Nevada with its rocks, lava beds, sagebrush and alkali desert. Their route lay from Illinois to Salt Lake and Pinto Creek, Utah. There the party split, the Briers to head due west for Walkers Pass with the historic Jayhawkers party. In desolate Forty Mile Canyon the Briers were forced to abandon their precious wagons and continue on foot, driving the cattle to California. They soon dropped farther and farther behind the all-male and fast-moving Jayhawkers.

The day before Christmas, 1849, found the Briers approaching Death Valley along the Amargosa Valley. Reverend Brier went ahead to scout for water, and Mrs. Brier followed, driving the stumbling cattle, and carrying the little four-year-old on her back. The mother and three children walked in this fashion all day, on into the setting sun and desert twilight.

As the stars came out, Mrs. Brier would sink to her knees every few hundred yards and feel for the ox tracks and wheel marks of the Jayhawker party ahead. The smallest child cried out at times for water, but the six and nine year old boys were as brave and uncomplaining as their mother.

At midnight they met their father at a tiny campfire and he picked up the smallest boy. Together the little family made the last six miles to camp and water. In hot and cold springs, they scrubbed off the white alkali dust and lay down to rest. Soon they were joined by two teamsters who had been with the Jayhawkers, and the little party killed one of the scrawny oxen for Christmas dinner. It was so thin, the slimy meat was almost gone but they made stew and served it with black coffee and biscuits. Too utterly tired to sing carols, and more to take their minds off the dangers ahead and their condition, the Reverend Brier preached his little Christmas sermon.

He was just finishing when William Lewis Manley arrived, scouting ahead of his wagon train, and the group soon caught up with the Jayhawkers again. But the Briers, according to the record, walked most of the 400 miles from Forty Mile Canyon in Nevada to Los Angeles, after still more adventures more arduous than those of Christmas Eve. The tiny, five-foot Juliet Brier was indomitable.

During the three final weeks she lifted her big athletic husband to his feet each morning, steadying him a moment so he could stay on his feet all day. To the very end, she was an inspiration to the exhausted and discouraged men of the party, but she arrived safely in southern California where she bore several more children and lived to a happy old age.



Count your blessings!

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO ALL



The MacBray Family Association, Inc.

952 Old Goddard Road • Lincoln Park, Michigan 48146-4453 • (313) 928-3109 • Fax: (800) 290-7996
E-mail: RLMcBrayer@JUNO.com



NEW FAMILY HERITAGE BOOK NOW READY FOR ORDERING!

Just as the October newsletter was being readied to mail, Carl McBrayer reported that he is ready to begin the printing and binding of the latest book he has compiled, "*In Defiance - The MacBraire Heritage - 1735 - 1998*". This book builds on those previously compiled by Carl and adds considerable information that has been submitted by family members over the past six or seven years.

In order to get the printing/binding process under way, Carl will need to have your order and payment in hand. He is targeting late February or early March 1998 for the printing date. Please be aware that this book is being printed privately by Carl; no Family Association funds back his effort. Only books ordered prior to the printing date deadline will be available with certainty. After the initial order, books would have to be ordered in minimum quantities of 10 at a price approximately 50% higher than the initial publication price. The initial publication price at this time has to be estimated based on the quotations Carl has received. Once the number of books ordered is known, the price may require adjustment.

Book size 970+ pages, 23, 176 names indexed

Initial publication price - \$ 85.00, including packaging and postage

Order deadline - February 15, 1998

Please let everybody in your family know about this book. For those of you with Internet access, Carl has an ad in the Classified section of the Family Tree Maker Web site: <http://www.familytreemaker.com>, ad # 38136.

Send your order with payment made out to Carl.

Carl B. McBrayer
412 Char Lane
Midwest City, OK 73110

Phone: (405) 732-1757
e-mail: cbmcbrayer@juno.com