

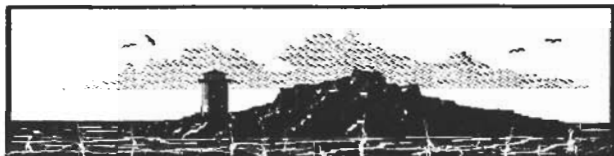
IN DEFIANCE



THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR

VOLUME 9, NO. 2

APRIL 1998



FROM THE CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

Once again I have to come hat in hand to you to apologize for the lateness of a newsletter. As you know from the January newsletter, my father was injured on January 2. Unfortunately he did not recover from the injury and he passed away on February 3, please see the obituary below. A few family members learned of this in various ways. For those that did and sent their condolences, A unique bouquet consisting of a sheaf of wheat, heather sprigs and fresh red and green grapes represented the family association at the funeral thanks to the efforts of Doris Osten. Please accept the heart felt thanks of the immediate family.

Needless to say, this meant a lot of things had to be done and I fell behind in many projects. I promise that you still will get four newsletters this year; the July issue will be started soon after this is finished.

Another apology is due, this one to Carl B. McBrayer, our family historian. In the last issue I reported that Ethel Koller had written a newsletter *The MacBrair Heritage* which I said was the predecessor to *In Defiance*. This is incorrect. Carl wrote the first issue of *In Defiance* in at least 1979; SORRY, Carl!

With my father's passing I have acquired many early family association records, including old newsletters and will be pulling some things from the archives in future issues. You may find some of these of interest and worth repeating even if you have read them before.

Many thanks to those of you who responded to the first

request for dues payment; there were 75 of you. Due's notices are being sent with this newsletter to those past due. If you believe the records are incorrect, please let me know.

With this issue we will begin, what will no doubt be a continuing effort, giving updates to family information. Since quite a few members have at least one of Carl's family history books, the format used in the books will be used for updates when possible. Please be aware that records are being transferred to the *Family Tree Maker* format. This will permit import and export of records in GEDCOM and PAF formats. If you have new information which you can provide in these formats, please send it to both Carl at highlander@theshop.net and me at mcbraayer@driveninc.com. The updates will be published in this newsletter as soon as possible.

 Chief



This is the Saltire, the national flag of Scotland, the white St. Andrew's cross on blue. The red and gold Lion Rampant so often assumed to be so really belongs only to the monarchy.

WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Teff Ayrat, 10th generation, is the great-grandson of Henry Grady McBrayer (M 295/4, line of William). Teff was born in Alabama, now lives Huntington Beach, CA and is a manager of a retail outdoors store. He has recently taken up genealogy as a hobby; he also enjoys bird watching, skiing and making jewelry.

Noel Warren "Skip" Brown, 7th generation, was born April 25, 1937 in Attica, IN, the son of Noel William and Maxine Eleanor Butt Brown and grandson of Sally C. Brier Butt (B 15/6, line of William). His great-grandparents Andrew and Malinda Brier were cousins descended

from David Brier (B 78, 2nd, line of William). Noel retired from the Navy after 22 years, he was an Intelligence Specialist (Chief Bob met him while on training duty several years ago). He now works for Newport News shipbuilding on "security and special projects". He has three married children, one widowed. His son-in-law was a Naval aviator who was lost over Bosnia in March 1993. His grandson was born two weeks after the death of his father, so Noel is playing "father" instead of the grandfather.

Mattie Lou McBrayer Smith, (M 226-5/6, 7th, line of William) the daughter of John Columbus and Dorcas Evelyn Davenport McBrayer was born in Buchanan, GA, September 6, 1906. She married Homer Lewis Smith in the late 20s. She lives now in Roswell, GA. Her membership is by courtesy of her daughter, Family Association Member Joyce Cunningham.

Chelsea Charles Taylor II is a descendant of James Briar who came to America from Ireland in 1815. The connection to MacBrairs is as yet unknown. James' oldest child Susannah, Charles's great-great-grandmother was born at sea during the journey west. The history of his son Joseph as given in the "Biographical Review of Cass, Schuyler, and Brown Counties, Illinois" published in 1892 may give someone a clue to the connection, so is reproduced below. Charles and his wife live in Virginia, IL.

JOSEPH BRIAR, one of the old settlers of Hickory precinct, Cass county, Illinois, was born in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania, February 3, 1823, son of James Briar, a native of Ireland. His grandparents were born in Ireland, of Scotch ancestry, and spent their entire lives in their native land. James Briar was reared and married in Ireland and came to America about 1815. He first lived in New York city and afterward in Philadelphia, Baltimore and Pittsburgh. He was a contractor on Government works, and while in New York city was engaged in building lighthouses in New York harbor. Subsequently he was one of the contractors on building of the State prison at Allegheny. In the fall of 1836 he came to Illinois. He spent the winter at Beardstown, during which time he looked around for a location suitable for a home, and in the spring entered a tract of Government land in the Sangamon river bottoms. As there were no improvements on his land, he rented an improved farm east of Virginia, and a part of the family set on that farm while the rest took up abode on the land he had entered, and at once began its improvement. He resided on this place until his death. February 22, 1884. The maiden name of his wife was Mary Davis. She was born in Ireland, and died on the home farm. They reared nine children.

Joseph Briar was thirteen years old when he came to Illinois with his parents. There were no railroads in this State at that time, and their removal was made via the Ohio, Mississippi and Illinois rivers, landing Beardstown November 19. Beardstown was then a small place, but was the market and depot for supplies for many miles around. Central Illinois was sparsely settled and much of the land still owned by the Government, while in the northern part the surveys were yet incomplete. Deer, wild turkeys, prairie chickens, and other game abounded. He resided with his parents till attaining majority, when he settled on the farm he now owns and occupies. This place is located on section 4, township 18, range 10, and includes 122 1/2 acres of the best of Sangamon river bottom land. He has erected a nice set of frame buildings and enjoys all the comforts of a pleasant home.

In 1847, Mr. Briar married Mary A. Harris, a native of England, who came with her parents to Cass county when she was a girl. She died in 1853, and the following year he married Eliza Smith, a native of New York State. There are two children living by the first marriage: Martha J. and Emily D. Of the seven children born by his present wife, four are living: Joseph, Harry, Frank and Annie. Lillie, Bertie and Effie are deceased.

Mr. and Mrs. Briar are members of Cumberland Presbyterian Church.



FUTURE NEW MEMBERS

Andrew Lawrence Wetmore was born March 31, 1998 at 5:34 p.m. at St. Elizabeth's Hospital, Brighton, MA to Lawrence David Wetmore (son of member Sandra McBrayer Wetmore, M 35/4, 8th, line of William) and Michelle Ellis. Starting out at 8 pounds 4 ounces and 20 1/2 inches, at six weeks Andrew had grown to 23 1/2 inches and 12 pounds. Andrew and his parents live in Marshfield, MA.

Rebecca Christine McBrayer entered the world May 14, 1998 at 10:41 p.m. at St. Vincent Hospital, Worcester, MA to Timothy James (M 173/2, 9th, line of William) and Leslie Gilliland McBrayer. She was a big girl, weighing in at 8 pounds 14 ounces and was 21 inches long. Rebecca joins her parents and big sister Katie at home in Shrewsbury, MA. Tim and Leslie proudly show

off their daughters on their web site:
<http://www.ultranet.com/~mcbrayer>.

Both babies are the great grandchildren of Helene and the late Honorary Chief Ben McBrayer.



Medical Update

Barbara McBrayer Bartels (M 54/1, 7th, Line of William) reports that she and husband Grant have returned to their home in Fort Pierce, Florida and are recuperating well from the previously reported surgery.

Doris Turner Osten (M82/8F1e1, 8th, line of William) is recovering well from her previously reported back problems. She and husband Pete live in Nashville, TN and make many trips to various Scottish weekends. Doris is actively working on the planning for our next National MacBair Family Association Reunion.

Joyce Lasnier Spencer (B 158/8E6d, 7th, line of William), as reported earlier, has had serious back problems. She reports that since last July she has had seven CT scans, two myelograms, an MRI and two surgeries! While the surgeries were successful, Joyce was left with severe pain which incapacitated her. She says that as a last resort, she went to an acupuncturist and that eventually did the trick. While still left with a back problem, she has been pain free and said that she was even excited about being able to do dishes since for many weeks she had been unable to stand long enough to brush her teeth. Joyce and husband Jim live in Springfield, MO.

Rest in Peace

While we celebrate the beginning of life and the continuation of life through medical help, we also must sorrow in the passing of loved ones. The passing of the following family members is sadly reported.

Benjamin Edgar McBrayer, M.D., (M 35, 7th, line of William) 91, of Rainbow Lakes Estates, Dunnellon, FL, died on Tuesday, February 3, 1998, in Williston, FL. He had been injured in a fall on January 2, 1998. He was born in Seelyville, Vigo County, IN, the youngest child of John Lewis and Minerva Rutherford McBrayer on March 13, 1906. In 1912, he moved to Colorado with his mother due to her health; the rest of the family followed in 1913.



He attended elementary and high schools in Walsenburg, CO and Dawson, NM. In 1925 he went to the University of Colorado and from 1926 to 1929 he was engaged in first aid work, Bureau of Mines training and coached first aid teams in international competition.

Following graduation from The University of Colorado Medical School in 1931, he and his bride Helene (married April 11, 1931 in Wheatridge, CO) went to Indianapolis where he interned at Methodist Hospital. They then moved back to Colorado where they set up a private practice in the front room of their home in Arvada. In 1935, he became an employee of the Colorado Fuel & Iron Company in Pueblo, CO where he worked at Corwin Hospital and the steel mill dispensary. On July 8, 1942 he entered the U.S. Army Medical Corps as a First Lieutenant and served in posts in Colorado, South Dakota and Alaska. He left active duty on January 26, 1946 with the rank of Major. He then attended courses specializing in anesthesiology at the Polyclinic Hospital in New York City and returned to Corwin hospital in Pueblo. In May 1950 he joined the U.S. Government Civil Service in Mt. Edgecumbe, AK where he first served as Chief of Anesthesia Service for the Alaska Native Health Center, then as Clinical Director and finally as Medical Officer in Charge. While in Alaska, he became president of the Alaska State Medical Society.

In July 1963, he was transferred to Oklahoma City, OK where he was in charge of Indian Health for the southern U.S. While in Oklahoma, he became an Honorary Life Member of the Creek Indian Council. June 1967 saw a transfer to Silver Springs, MD where he became Chief, Office of Special Affairs, Division of Indian Health. Serving in this position for only 10 months, he retired April 30, 1968 and he and Helene moved to Florida. Retirement was filled with activity as he was a member of the Rainbow Lakes Estates United Methodist Church, R.L.E. Hospital Association, R.L.E. Civic Club, R.L.E. Masonic Club, R.L.E. Garden Club, AARP, National Association of Retired Federal Employees, Ocala Scottish Rite, Morocco Shrine of Jacksonville, FL, South Pueblo Masonic Lodge #31, The Retired Officers Association, American Legion, Marion County Medical Society, Florida Society of Anesthesiologists and the American Society of Anesthesiologists. Ben was extremely interested in family history and was instrumental in the formation of the MacBair Family Association.

He served as the first Chief. Several trips to Scotland

ok were conducted under his leadership. Survivors include his wife Helene McBrayer of Dunnellon; sons Robert Lewis McBrayer of Lincoln Park, MI and James Donald McBrayer of Ovieda, FL; daughter Sandra Ann Wetmore of Marshfield, MA; ten grandchildren; and eight great-grandchildren.

Funeral services were held at the R.L.E. United Methodist Church on February 7, 1998 with Dr. William E. Zopp of the church and Dunnellon Masonic Lodge #136 conducting under the direction of Roberts Funeral Home. Members of American Legion Post 58 acted as pallbearers and conducted grave side services at the cemetery. Interment was at Good Shepard Memorial Gardens, Ocala, FL.

(Information from personal records of B.E. McBrayer)

The following obituaries are from days past, but have not previously been reported and are being provided to update records.

ok Mrs. **Ruth McBrayer Hunt** (M 456/7, 6th, line of William), 75, passed away at her residence, 2500 Sparks Street, last night at eleven o'clock, after an illness of six years.

Born April 30, 1866, in Greenup County, the daughter of William Parks and Elizabeth Bellew McBrayer, Mrs. Hunt had lived in Ashland for 40 years and was a member of the Missionary Baptist Church of South Ashland.

The body was moved prior to burial from the John Steen Funeral Home to the home of a cousin, Mrs. Gerald Dowling, 2217 Liberty Street. Funeral services were held Saturday at 2 p.m. from the Missionary Baptist Church, Rev. L.H. Tipton in charge, assisted by Rev. W.K. Woods, pastor of the Pollard Baptist Church. Burial was in the Hart Cemetery on Hoods's Creek.

Surviving Mrs. Hunt was her husband John Hunt, a son Lafe McBrayer of South Webster, OH, a foster son, Elmer Dixon of Otway OH, three grandchildren and 3 great-grandchildren.

(Adapted from obituary in the *Ashland* (KY) *Daily Independent*, exact date unknown)

ok **William (Lafe) McBrayer**, 83, of South Webster, Scioto County, OH, was dead on arrival May 3, 1971 at Scioto Memorial Hospital, Portsmouth, OH. The cause of death was congestive heart failure and heart blockage.

He was born December 19, 1887 in Greenup Co, KY, the son of Ruth McBrayer, and was a retired employee of Armco Steel Corp of Ashland, KY.

Surviving are his wife Dora, two sons, Earl of South

Webster and William M. of Van Buren, AK; a daughter Ruby Harry of DeLand, FL, a foster brother Elmer Dixon of Coal Grove, OH; six grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.

ok Arrangements were under the direction of the D.W. Davis Funeral Home of South Webster.

(Adapted from obituary, May 3, 1971 issue of *The Portsmouth* (OH) *Daily Times* and State of Ohio Certificate of Death No 7301 dated 5/6/71)

Mrs. **Dora Morris McBrayer**, 88, of Fort Smith, Ark., a former South Webster resident, died Sunday in a Fort Smith hospital.

A native of Breathitt County, KY, and a Baptist, she was preceded in death by her husband, Lafe.

Survivors include two sons, Earl of South Webster and Morton of Fort Smith; a daughter, Mn. Ruby Harry of DeLand FL; a brother, Anthony Morris of Ashland, Ky.; a sister, Mrs. Rebecca Penix of DC Land; 12 grandchildren and seven great-grandchildren

Services were Friday at 10 a.m.. at Caniff Funeral Home in Westwood, KY, with Rev. Vernon Barker officiating and burial in Hart Cemetery on Ashland Rt 5.

(Adapted from obituary, February 1, 1978 issue of the *Portsmouth* (OH) *Times*.)

Thanks to Alene Scott Cottle (M 456/9H1, 9th, line of William) for the three obituaries above.

TRADITION

Family history is not simply a listing of family members with birth dates and the like, but also is traditions that make us unique. **Jean Roath** (B158/8E4a, 6th, line of William) wrote a letter to *Smithsonian* Magazine responding to a nostalgic article on apple boxes in the February 1998 issue. In this she added to her branch's family tradition:

"As an elementary school teacher just prior to World War II, I painted two apple boxes green and used them as a stand to hold the water bucket and wash basin. A third held chips for starting the fire in the big old stove. I still have two apple boxes that later served as toy boxes for my two daughters and now hold toys for my great-grandchildren. I used to file papers in an apple box. However, I now use a metal file to lose things alphabetically."



Odd things animals. All dogs look up to you. All cats look down to you. Only a pig looks at you as an equal.
Winston Churchill

Family stories also pass along family events which might otherwise be lost. In the April issue of *In Defiance*, was a story from member O.A. McBrayer about James Martin McBrayer (M 190, 5th, line of William) and his early experiences in the Confederate Army. The following is a continuation of that story, and is entitled "Galvanized Yankee".

Family traditions have told that when the recruiters for the 5th U.S. Volunteer Infantry came to Camp Douglas (a POW camp), James Martin McBrayer signed up. The reason for his action, so the story goes, "He was certain that he could not survive another winter in the prison camp." This is a realistic reason when one reads the descriptions of Camp Douglas and the Prisoners of War and their lack of warm clothing, sanitary conditions, and medical care.

There must have been many factors involved in the decision of James Martin McBrayer to join the Union Army, but the living conditions were surely foremost.

Some of the other reasons that could have influenced his decision to join the U.S. Army may have been:

1. His brother no longer needed him to care for him in POW camp;
2. The war was over before his enlistment date April 24, 1865, and there was no way to know how long it would take to get the "Prisoners of War" back home,
3. There was no one to need his immediate return to Georgia. His family whom he had left at home as he entered the Army of Georgia were now dead e.g. His mother and the youngest sister, Mary;
4. With the devastation at the family farm the possibility of earning some hard cash to help with rebuilding could have been a factor; And,
5. And, perhaps, the beckoning of the frontier was in his blood!

J. M. McBrayer served with the 5th U.S. Volunteers during the Plains Indian Wars. Research has not yet found his exact location during this year. However, records show the 5th US Volunteers were busy that year from Leavenworth, KS to Colorado, the Santa Fe Trail, and the trails toward California. Their mission was to repair the Telegraph Lines, give safe passage to mail carriers, wagon trains and stagecoaches. And, James Martin McBrayer was where ever the army sent him. He completed his duties 11 November 1866 and returned to Georgia.

Soon after, J.M., his wife Nancy and year old baby Oscar Alonzo left Georgia for Texas. O.A. speculates they left due to scorn from the home community for his joining the U.S. 5th Volunteers. The following helps further to explain the "Galvanized Yankees"

Henry Horton Stanley was best know as the reporter that said 'Dr. Livingstone, I presume' when he located the Missionary to Africa. He also wrote about his recollections of Camp

Douglas. (See: Dee A. Brown's "The Galvanized Yankee" Chapter III)Mr. Stanley wrote:

Our prison-pen was a square and spacious enclosure, like a bleak cattle-yard, walled high with planking, on the top of which, at every sixty yards or so, were sentry-boxes. About fifty feet from its base, and running parallel with it was a line of lime-wash. This was the "deadline" and any prisoner who crossed it was liable to be shot.... To whatever it was due, the appearance of the prisoners startled me. The Southerners' uniforms were never pretty, but when rotten, and ragged, and swarming with vermin, they heightened the disreputability of their wearers; and if anything was needed to increase our dejection after sweeping glances at the arid mud-soil of the great yard, the butternut and gray cloths, the sight of ash-colored faces, and the sickly and emaciated condition of our unhappy friends, were well calculated to do so...

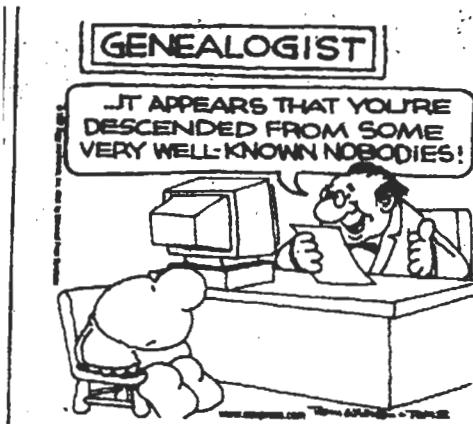
In our treatment I think there was a purpose. If so, it may have been from a belief that we should the sooner recover our senses by experiencing as much misery, pain, privation and sorrow as could be contained within a prison; and, therefore, the authorities rigidly excluded every medical and pious, musical or literary charity that might have alleviated our suffering....

Left to ourselves, with absolutely nothing to do but to brood over our positions, bewail our lots, catch the taint of disease from each other... we were soon in a fair state of rotting, while yet alive.... Everything we saw and touched added to its pernicious influence - the melancholy faces of those who were already wearied with their confinement, the number of sick, the premature ageness of the emaciated, the increasing degeneration of manhood, the plaints of suffering wretches.... The men began to suffer from bilious disorders; dysentery and typhus began to rage. Day by day my company began to diminish; and every morning I had to see them carried in their blankets to the hospital.

The latrines were all at the rear of our plank barracks, and each time imperious nature compelled us to resort to them, we lost a little of what respect and consideration we owed our fellow-creatures. For on the way thither, we saw crowds of sick men, who had fallen, prostrate from weakness, and given themselves wholly to despair; and, while they crawled or wallowed in their filth, they curse and blasphemed as often as they groaned. In the edge of the gaping ditches.... there were many of the sick people, who, unable to leave, rested thee for hours, and made their condition hopeless by breathing the stenchful atmosphere.... dozens of these dead-and -alive men, who oblivious to weather, hung over the latrines, or lay extended along the open sewer, with only a few gasps intervening between them and death. Such as were not too far gone prayed for death, saying, "Good God, let me die! Let me go, O Lord!"

Mr. Stanley was in one of the first groups of POWs to join the Union Army.

We can be happy that we are not like poor Ziggy!



When our ancestors came to America they settled on farms and as generations moved on, many settled in new areas as farmers. Even when the farms were no longer active as such, the properties sometimes remained in the family, even up to today.

Here is a story of one of those farms as reported in the November 14, 1967 issue of *The Asheville Citizen*:

A Deed Was Found, A Story Born by Bob Terrell

Davy Crockett was only four years dead at the Alamo and discovery of gold at Sutter's Mill in California was still nine years away when William McBrayer bought a piece of land in Buncombe County.

The deed was dated Sept. 30, 1840. For 127 years that deed remained in the possession of McBrayer descendants, but it was never recorded - until yesterday.

Shortly after 9 a. m. Monday, William W. Mott, an accountant and son-in-law of Mrs. R. L. Allison, who lives alone on the property in question on Old Fort Road in the Fairview community, walked into the office of the Register of Deeds in Buncombe County Courthouse and properly filed the deed.

"I couldn't file it myself," said the 71-year-old Mrs. Allison. "I had to teach school." She is a substitute teacher in the Buncombe County system and yesterday was teaching the eighth grade at Black Mountain Elementary School.

She discovered that the deed was not on file recently when she attempted to sell the 334 acres her husband left her on his death two years ago. "When I found a cloud on the title," she said, "I left no stone unturned until I found that deed. This land has not changed hands in 127 years. We've kept the taxes paid faithfully and that's why it never came to light that the deed was not on record.

"Well, I did some research and a little gumshoe work that led me to the deed. William McBrayer's will is on file here. He left the property to my husband's mother and three of her sisters. Anyway, I discovered that my husband's mother gave the deed to Will Allison of Black Mountain. Will is dead now, but the trail led to his house, and his son, John C. Allison, found the deed last Friday and gave it to me."

Mrs. Allison, who will be 72 in April, said her brothers have urged her to sell and move closer to Asheville. "They tell me I have no business living out here alone, just me and my shotgun," she said. "So I decided to sell and move closer in. I'll have a sister with me, Mrs. H. E. Wooster. She's Choo Choo Justice's mother-in-law."

That's how the simple finding of a deed yesterday morning led to a story.

The story though, goes back a lot farther than 1840.

It began in 1794 when four men, Samuel McBrayer, James Pinkerton, William Miller and James Whitaker, came down from Pennsylvania and bought up a lot of land.

"They came to Rutherford County first," Mrs. Allison said. "Then when they heard the Indians had been cleared out of Buncombe, they came on up here."

That was when the Cherokee nation was strong and posed a threat to the white man along the Smokies and Blue Ridge.

But Samuel McBrayer lived peaceably in Buncombe County, and raised a family - a big family.

Samuel McBrayer packed up and moved again in 1823. Henry Clay's Missouri Compromise of 1820 had cleared Missouri for slavery, so McBrayer took part of his family and his slaves and moved to Missouri.

"There were four of his children who stayed here," Mrs. Allison said. "One, Lavinia, married a Reed, another married Dr. M. H. Fletcher and Maria Beale Fletcher (Miss America, 1962) is a descendant of that branch. The other two who stayed were boys, James McBrayer, who is buried in Cane Creek Cemetery, and William McBrayer, my husband's grandfather. (Note: There appears to be some mixing of generations in this description - too complicated to unravel here.)"

"William bought this land from a man named C. F. Blackstock, a representative of the trustees of the Presbyterian Church which had been given a State land grant of 20,000 acres here. William paid \$25 for the land."

The deal was made in 1840, just one year after the Cherokee Indians, who figured prominently in Samuel McBrayer's decision on where to settle, were moved to Oklahoma along the infamous Trail of Tears.

William McBrayer was a pioneer, perhaps one who trusted the protection of his own strongbox over that of court authority, and so he chose not to file the deed.

His decision stood - until yesterday, when necessity borne out of the official red tape that dictates modern living forced his descendants to conform.

Member Dixie Allison Mott Algary (M 417/8D1, 7th, line of William) in addition to sending in the newspaper article, has provided additional information. The Samuel referred to was third generation (M 361), the son of William's (M 1) son Samuel (M 360). When he acquired the land it was in Burke County which extended all the way to the Mississippi. While he was in Missouri, the county was renamed Buncombe. William (M 417, 4th) was notified that the land had to be preregistered. It was at least a three-day horse and buggy trip to Asheville in those days, he was busy and so did not go. He then learned that the land had been given to the Presbyterian Church as part of a larger grant. As stated above, William bought it back for \$ 25. The property remains in family hands to this day. And now you know the rest of the story. (Apologies to Paul Harvey)



Looking for Family

The following are inquiries regarding family members. If you have any information regarding these individuals, please let Chief Bob know.

A McBrier Family in Rhode Island: descendants of William McBrier of Belfast, Northern Ireland (pre WW I). An American member of this family was John Herald McBrair. It is reported that this family had a family tree going back to the 1100's.

James Harold McBrayer: he was a high school teacher. He was last known to be living in Nashville, TN.

Tom McBrayer: it was reported in the January 17, 1998 issue of a newspaper as being named chief operating officer at Nashville - based SourceNet. He was previously a senior consultant with The Healthcare Management Group.

McBryar Family members : this variation of the name has been seen in a magazine article and on the Internet. Contact has been made with Mike and Betty McBryar in Texas which will help develop information for at least one branch stemming from Thomas Jefferson McBrayer (M 381-5, probably 4th). There is some uncertainty about Thomas's lineage, so any additional information would be appreciated.



Family Reunions

Karen Williams, daughter of member Billy Robinson (husband of the late Helen McBrayer Robinson M 277-5/3, 7th, line of William), passed along the following information:

MCBRAYER FAMILY REUNION
JUNE 20TH, 1998

HOSTED THIS YEAR BY DAN & PAT INGRAM AT
1921 Washington Ave., Lexington MO

We will provide meats and drinks and ask that you bring a side dish and desert. If this is difficult for you, please do not let this stop you from coming - There will be plenty! If you would rather bring bread, condiments, paper plates, etc. please call me- This too will be a big help. Extra lawn chairs or blankets would be appreciated. We will have games and activities for the kids, we also plan to have a bus tour of our town. Please come and enjoy this Family Day. Lunch will be served at noon -but please come early - we will be ready for you by 8:00a.m. with coffee and rolls - and we'll put you to work.

Looking forward to seeing you,

Pat and Dan

R.S.V.P. - Pat 660-259-2672 or Delbert 816-628-4586

Note: Lexington is about 50 miles east of Kansas City.

Planning is underway for the next **National Family Reunion** with Doris Osten coordinating. The tentative time is the summer of 1999 - please keep this in mind. The exact dates and location are not yet set, but it is hoped that this will be done by the time the July issue is sent out. If you will be willing to help, please let us know.



A Tip of the Hat to :

Jeffrey Michael Asbury (M 139/2A1, 9th , line of William), son of Eddie and Donnie Sue

Asbury and grand-nephew of family historian Carl B. McBrayer, graduated from the University of Oklahoma Medical School on May 31, 1998. He will serve his internship in Oklahoma.

Carl (M 41, 7th , line of William) also reports that he has joined a newly formed pipe and drum band where he will be both a bagpiper and bass drummer. The band will play in their first combination concert with the Territorial Brass Band of Oklahoma (a British style brass band) on July 12, 1998.

Nicole Ann Miazgowicz (M 351/4A, 10th , line of William), daughter of Ann McBrayer and Tony Miazgowicz, had her second role with the Sauk Children's Theater, Jonesville, MI. She was one of the Indians in the musical production of *Peter Pan*. (The original play was written by a Scotsman, James Barrie.)

Chief **Bob McBrayer** (M 351, 8th , line of William) has kept busy with the presentation of three-day polyurethane technology seminars this year in Atlanta, GA; Basel, Switzerland and Clemson, SC. He is also a member of the Concert Choir of St. Patrick Parish, Wyandotte, MI. The Choir performed G. F. Handel's *Messiah* in early May.



Books

Carl McBrayer reports that he is close to going to press again with the new family history book, *In Defiance - The MacBraire Heritage - 1735-1998*. Books can be printed in quantities of at least ten

at a time, so if you are interested you should order now to avoid the possibility of being left out. The cost is \$85.00 including packaging and shipping. Carl also reports that he has available on a first-come, first-served basis four copies of the mis-printed book at a price of \$41.00 including packaging and shipping. The mis-print is a reversal of pages, it is not random and the book can still be used as a reference. **DO NOT ORDER THIS BOOK BY MAIL; CALL CARL FIRST** to determine current availability. Carl can be reached as follows:

412 Char Lane, Midwest City, OK 73110

Phone: (405) 732-1757

e-mail: highlander@theshop.net or
cbmcbayer@juno.com

Janice Rilea (B 172/1A2, 8th , line of William) reports that she has available a copy of *Genealogy of the Descendants of Henry McBrier and Kezia Sloan McBrier* by Edwin Merton McBrier. She is willing to make a copy for anyone interested. You may contact her at:

2209 Wildwood Drive S.E., Salem, OR 97306-1106
Phone: (503) 588-2682

Nigel Tranter is one of Scotland's most well known authors. The list of his books is extensive and covers both fiction and non-fiction topics.



Many family members became acquainted with him through his historical novels and during family trips, some of us have met this very delightful personality. While at one time his books were difficult to obtain in America, they are now readily available, at least through the on-line book services including Amazon and Barnes and Noble. If you want to learn the feelings of

this man, and he is not modest about expressing his opinions, you would enjoy his book *Nigel Tranter's Scotland - A Very Personal Review*, Penguin Books worldwide, 1981. Even though dated now, you can learn a lot about the man, his opinions and importantly, gain a better understanding of the land of our forefathers. It would be interesting to learn his thoughts now as Scotland becomes ever closer to separating from the United Kingdom; ironic since it was a Scottish King, James the First & Sixth, who brought it about.

Note: An addition to the last sentence above. At my seminar in Switzerland there were a number of attendees from England in attendance. One day at lunch, the table conversation included a discussion of genealogy. One of them commented about the ease of traveling to get family information, although Wales was a bit of a stretch. Then the comment was made that of course they did not venture "North", meaning across the border into Scotland. I said it sounds as if they did not like the Scots; they said yes. I said it appears the feeling is mutual and that maybe that would change if the union dissolves; to that they said in effect, good riddance! So now we know. Chief Bob



News from Scotland

A couple of our members have been in Scotland this year and next issue we should have full reports available from *Patrick McBrayer* and *Terrell McBrayer*.

One of the more important things facing our family is to find the ties from our family in America back to Scotland, specifically to Dumfries. Some progress seems to be being made, but we need the cooperation of all family members to share any information they may have.

One of Terrell's objectives was to make the necessary contacts to have a suitable monument placed at St. Michael's Church in Dumfries. The historical records clearly state that McBrayers were active in this church and a number were buried there, both in the church itself and in the churchyard. Unfortunately the efforts were again unsuccessful; one of the objections appears to be that we have not shown our direct relationship to the Dumfries family. Terrell has provided a lot of information that needs to be studied further to direct continuing research.

Our Scottish resident cousin, *Ken Harvey*, has been hard at work searching old records and attempting to bridge the gaps. These records will be included in Ken's history of the McBairs of Almagill. One of these records will be given below - be aware that it will be difficult to read as it is in the spelling of the time, 1587.

Many of you are aware of the story of Archibald McBair, Provost of Dumfries in 1568, who slew Archibald Newall reportedly on the steps of the city hall in Dumfries. Ethel Koller had found in historical records that the sentence imposed upon our Archibald was to have "his head smote from his body". Ken reports that Alfred Truckell, retired Curator of the museum in Dumfries and an authority on our family, has found town records that show that Archibald was alive eight years after the execution was to have taken place. Mr. Truckell intends to continue his search and perhaps this will help us learn more about our family and the movement to Ireland.. Once you try to read the following excerpt from the records, you will understand what a task this will be.; please be aware that this excerpt was previously edited by R. C. Reid who also edited Edgar's *History of Dumfries* early this century. If there are spelling mistakes from the original, you will understand the reason why.

Register of the Privy Council p.172

No remission for the slaughter of Archibald (Newall), till his widow and children are assythed. -1587

The late Archibald Newall, burgees of Drumfries, "wes maist cruellie and unmercifullie murthourit and slane be Archibald Mckbrair of Ailmagill, Robert Mckbrair, his sone and appeirand air, Thomas Kern and their complices, upoun the ___ day of Aprilie last bipast, immediatlie befor his Majeistie enterit into the toun of Drunfreis for ordour-taking with sic enormities as wes thair committit, - quhairthrow it manifestlie appeirit that the said Archibald and his complices foirsaidis tuke small regaird of his Majeistreis purpos to resorte to the said burgh." Further, "the said slauchtar and murthour being than estemit swa odious, swa schamefullie committit upoun foirthocht felony and umbesetting of the said Archibald Newallis way, he being single him allane without ony kynd of armour," his Majestiy "having commiseratioun and pitie of the estate of Eister Hill, the relict, and pure bairnis of the said umquhile Archibald," had promised on his princely word "that na respett nor remissioun be grantit nor gevin for the said cruell murthour quhill it were sufficientlie verefeit that the relict and her bairnis of the said umquhile Archibald wer satisfeit for the said slawchter." His Majesty is nevertheless informed "that divers personis, in name and behaulff of the said Archibald Mckbrair and his comliceis, ar to sute remission for the abhominable cryme foirsaid, quhillk May be grantit unto him be tyme throw obliuion, giff remeid be not providit;" and therefore the Treasurer, and the keepers of the Signet, Privy and Great Seals are discharged from passing or expeding any remission for the said crime without evidence that the said relict and bairns are satisfied and assythed.

Ken amplifies this as follows:

I can now flesh out some of the background relating to the "execution" of Archibald McBrayer, errant provost of Dumfries.

It seems that the whole case revolves around a dispute over part of the Netherwood estate, the four acres of Over Netherwood, on which Archibald's father, John McBair had granted a lease to Patrick Newall, the father of the unfortunate Archibald Newall..

Archibald McBair later dispossessed Patrick Newall of the property and his son had been attempting to get reinstated there. Patrick Newall appears as a witness on a number of charters involving transfers of property between the McBairs, particularly John, and the Burgh

of Dumfries. It is possible, indeed likely, that he was a relative of the McBrairs but at this time I have no information regarding that.

Archibald McBrair murdered Archibald Newell and then went on the run, being apprehended and returned to Dumfries for trial. As we know he was sentenced to death but somehow managed to have his sentence changed to being held in ward for a number of years.

The death sentence was probably dropped because Archibald's son, and heir Robert McBrair, agreed to pay Esther Hill, Newell's widow, 800 merks and to reinstate her and her children in the property of Over Netherwood. This is recorded in the Register of Deeds for the Dumfries Commissariat, vol 33, folio 461, at Register House.

Things might not have settled down for the widow, as there was a caution recorded at Holyrood House on the 24th January, 1588 for 2000 merks, whereby Roger Grierson of Lag (Archibald McBrair's grandfather), agreed that Esther Hill, her kin, tenants and servants "shall be harmless" of the said Roger.

In 1590 we find Archibald Maxwell of Cowhill standing as cautioner in 1000 merks for Robert McBrair of Almagill, and both of them standing as cautioners for Archibald McBrair, burgess of Dumfries (the father of Robert, by now living in Dumfries) in 500 merks, that they will not harm Katherine Kirk of Dumfries.

At the same time, John Herries of Crochmuir stands surety for Katherine Kirk that she will not harm Archibald McBrair, described as "in Dumfries".

By describing him as a burgess, and being "in Dumfries", we can see that he is now living as a tenant in the town, and that he owns little or no property having been forfeited at the time of his trial.

Indeed at this time, around 1590- 1591, there are several documents in which the McBrairs, or their associates, agreed not to harm various members of the populace of Dumfries.



Over the next few months Ken hopes to be able to piece together more of the material that is coming to light.

WARNING !!

Earlier this year, *The Family Tree* published this short article:

Illinois records closed!

The Illinois State Legislature recently passed an act restricting access to public records only to those with a

Private Investigator's license. The current interpretation means that a genealogist, regardless of where they reside or work, must have a Private Investigator's license before requesting birth, marriage, death, obituary or estate records.

A private investigator is defined as any person who, for a fee or other valuable consideration, engages in the business of obtaining information relating to the identity or whereabouts of any person. Anyone obtaining information for genealogical purposes is not exempt from the regulation.

Obviously if this kind of legislation was to spread across the nation, our efforts at tracing family members would be seriously hampered. This is an appeal to everyone to make sure this does not happen in your state and to anyone in Illinois to push for repeal of the law.

OCUPYUSHIEN - CENSUS TAKER -

I am a census taker for the City of Bufflow. Our city has groan very fast in resient years and now in 1865, it has become a hard and time consuming job to count all the peePhill. There is not many that can do this work, as it is necessarrie to have an ejucahun, wich a lot of person still do not have. Ahnuther atribert needed for this job is good spelling for many of the peePhill to be counted can harle speak inglish, let alon spel there names.

It is not known if the above ad (previously published in a number of publications) is true or not, but it does point out the fallibility of old records. Anyone who has looked at old handwritten records is familiar with the problem.

HELP !!! This is your newsletter and your help is needed to continue to provide interesting and informative information. Please submit items of interest and they will be used as soon as possible. Of particular interest are updates of genealogical records, stories of the past and current reunion reports.

The MacBrair Family Association Officers

Chief and Newsletter Editor, Robert L. McBrayer
952 Old Goddard Road, Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453,
e-mail: rmcbrayer@driveninc.com

Vice Chief, Dr. Reid W. Stewart, 2942 Leechburg Road, Lower Burrell, PA 15216-4233

Secretary, Deborah A. Reiser, 5055 Bosuns Way B3, Ypsilanti, MI 48197, e-mail: DAReiser@aol.com

Director at Large, Dr. Terrell McBrayer, 825 McPherson Street, Bremen, GA 30110

FAMILY TREE UPDATES

The following updated information is keyed specifically to the latest Family History book, *IN DEFLANCE - The MacBraire Heritage - 1735-1998*, and so uses the numbering system in that book. Since this book is an update of previous histories, it may be difficult to reference earlier books. Please be aware that the latest book entries are being input into the *Family Tree Maker* format which gives the possibility of transferring data by GEDCOM files.

Page 490, correct as follows:

309-5/8. HARRY EDWARD MCBRAYER, b 7 Feb 1912, d 25 Sep 1983, m 24 Nov 1938 to **DOROTHY MAUTHE**, b 24 Nov 1915. They had issue (8th gen):

8A. **HARRY EDWARD "ROB" MCBRAYER, JR.**, B 26 Nov 1946, m (1) **ANNA ROPER** (div), m (2) **RUTH MINTER WHITE**. He is a Doctor of Veterinary Medicine in Poquoson, VA. They live in Hampton, VA.

8B. **MARY JOHANNA MCBRAYER**, b 19 Dec 1951, m **WILLIAM T. HOXIT**

(Information from Dorothy M. McBrayer)

Page 705, change as follows:

454/5. EDGAR LUGENE MCBRAYER, 7th gen, b 19 Mar 1915, d 27 Aug 1993, m **ROBBIE RHEA SHEPHERD**, b 26 Jul 1913, had issue (8th gen):

5A. **BOBBYE MCBRAYER**, b 30 Nov 1942 in Dumas, TX, m 17 Jul 1964 in Dumas TX, **FRANCIS LINDY "BUTCH" MOORE**, b 27 Sep 1942 in Arnett, OK, the son of **SOLOMON JASPER** and **OCIE LAVETA MOORE**, had issue (9th gen):

5A1. **MICHAEL LINDY MOORE**, b 6 Dec 1965 in Amarillo, TX

5A2. **NOEL LEIGH MOORE**, b 23 Jan 1968 in Amarillo, TX

5B. **DEBORAH DEE MCBRAYER**, m (1) _____ **PENDLETON**, (2) _____ **COOPER**, had issue:

5B1. **KAREN PENDLETON**

5B2. **CHRISTOPHER COOPER**

(Information from Bobby Moore - 1997)

Page 707, update as follows:

456/7. RUTH MCBRAYER, 6th gen, b 30 Apr 1866 in Greenup County, KY, d 1961 in Ashland, KY and was buried in Hart Cemetery on Hood's Creek. She had a son born out of wedlock. Family oral history says that his father was an Ashland, KY, city policeman, Kurt Newman, but no factual evidence exists. She m 12 Jun 1899 at the home of H. B. Smith (the officiating officer of the marriage) in the presence of W. J. Henry and Mrs. H. B. Smith in Ashland, KY, **JOHN T. HUNT**, b ca. 1875 in Boyd County, KY. While she was 33 at the time of her marriage, the marriage certificate lists her age as 22.

7A. **WILLIAM LAFAYETTE "LAFE" MCBRAYER**, b 19 Dec 1887 in Greenup County, KY, d 3 May 1971, m **DORA MORRIS**, d Jan 1978. At the time of his death, he was a retired employee of Armco Steel. His death certificate lists "John McBrayer" as his father. William and Doris had issue at least (8th gen):

7A1. **EARL MCBRAYER** who was living in Wheelersburg, OH in January 1998 had issue:

7A1a. **WILLIAM EARL MCBRAYER, SR.**, had issue at least:

7A1a1. **WILLIAM EARL MCBRAYER, JR.**

7A2. Twin to Earl, Bill, who was killed at about age 12 when a dirt bank they were playing on caved in.

7A3. **MORTON MCBRAYER** (may be William Morton)

7A4. **RUBY MCBRAYER**, m _____ **HARRY**, living in DeLand, FL in 1997.

(Information from Alene Scott Cottle January 3, 1998; Ruth Hunt obituary in *Ashland Daily Independent* (Ashland, KY); William Lafayette McBrayer obituary in May 3, 1971 *The Portsmouth Daily Times* (Portsmouth, OH); Dora McBrayer obituary in February 1, 1978 *Portsmouth Times* (Portsmouth, OH); William Lafatte (sic.) McBrayer Certificate of Death, # 7301, Ohio Department of Health; and Ruth McBrayer/John T. Hunt Marriage Certificate from Boyd County, KY)

Page 212, change as follows:

133-85. GRADY L. MCBRAYER, 6th gen, (Walker-402, Humphrey-155, Andrew-12, Samuel-360, William-1), was the son of Walker Benson and Martha O'Donnell McBrayer. He was m (1) to **EMMA DODD** (dec'd), had issue (7th gen):

- 
1. **ROBERT BENSON "JACK" MCBRAYER**, owned A Buick dealership in Dothan, AL.
 2. **CAROLYN MCBRAYER**
 3. **GENE MCBRAYER**(dec'd)
 4. **HAYDEN MCBRAYER** (dec'd)


Grady married (2) to **MARY DOWDY** (div, later married _____ RAYBURG) and had issue (7th gen):

5. **Wandless Leston McBrayer**, b 1928 (#405-7)

(Information from Wandless Leston McBrayer, February 1998)

Page 633, change as follows:

405-7. WANDLESS LESTON MCBRAYER, 7th gen (Grady-133-85, Walker-402, Humphrey-155, Andrew-12, Samuel-360, William-1), the only son of Grady and Mary Dowdy McBrayer b 30 Oct 1928 in Gadsden, Etowah County, AL, m **BERTIE LOU WILLIAMS**, b 2 Aug 1928, had issue (8th gen):

- 
1. **KATHERINE PATRICIA MCBRAYER**, m **PATRICK PORT**, had issue (9th gen):
 - 1A. **JASON PORT**
 - 1B. **JOEL PORT**
 - 1C. **LIDA PORT**
 - 1D. **AMITY PORT**

2. **WANDLESS LESTON MCBRAYER, JR.**

3. **RICHARD MARK MCBRAYER**, m **KAREN PARRIS**, had issue (9th gen):

- 3A. **JANNA BETH MCBRAYER**
- 3B. **WESLEY MCBRAYER**


4. **CINDY LOU MCBRAYER**, m **THOMAS WOODSMALL**, had issue (9th gen):

- 4A. **JUSTIN WOODSMALL**
- 4B. **ADAM WOODSMALL**
- 4C. **TYLER WOODSMALL**

(Information from Wandless Leston McBrayer, February 27, 1998)

Page 505, change as follows:

323-7. OTIS LESTER MCBRAYER, 8th gen, (Otis-323-5, Benjamin-33, Andrew-27, Samuel-365, Andrew-12, Samuel-360, William-1), was the second son of Otis Ben and Lena Virginia Ash McBrayer. He was born 18 Dec 1939 in St. Clair Co., AL. He married 25 Jul 1959 in St. Clair Co. to **TOMMIE SUE SMITH**. She was born 1 Jul 1941, the daughter of **THOMAS ANDREW** and **SARA SUE LILLY SMITH**. They had issue (9th gen):



1. **PHILLIP ALLEN MCBRAYER**, b 12 Jul 1960 in Jefferson Co., AL, m 18 Jul 1984 **KIM FONG-POON**. Kim is Chinese born. Both are teachers at the University of Hong Kong. They had issue (10th gen):

- 1A. **SUN-YI ROBIN MELANIE MCBRAYER**, b 10 Jun 1987

2. **CORA BETH MCBRAYER**, b 24 Jun 1961 in Jefferson Co., AL.

3. **CARLTON LESTER MCBRAYER**, b 10 Oct 1962 in Jefferson Co., AL, m (1) **TERRI ANNEL WADE** (div 1987), had issue (10th gen):

- 3A. **GWENDOLYN NICOLE MCBRAYER**, b 23 May 1982
- 3B. **DAVID ANTHONY MCBRAYER**, b 27 Jul 1983
- 3C. **THOMAS CARLTON MCBRAYER**, b 8 Jul 1984

He married (2) 12 May 1990 **JULIE JEAN SANFORD**, had issue (10th gen):

- 4D. **BENJAMIN CHANDLER MCBRAYER**, b 31 Mar 1997

(Information from Tommie Sue McBrayer, April 10, 1998)