

IN DEFIANCE

THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER / BRIER / MAKBRAR



VOLUME 9, NO. 1

JANUARY 1998



FROM THE CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

HAPPY NEW YEAR! Each new year begins with a resolve to either do or not do something. It also offers hope for joy, but with the knowledge that not everything will turn out the way you want it to. The following, submitted by Family Association Secretary Deb Reiser seems to be a good way to begin your thinking.

It's been a good year



Look at how far you've come in the last year. And think of how far you can go. Look at all the abundance with which you've been blessed. And think of what you can accomplish with it.

Consider all that you have learned. And think of what you can do with your knowledge and experience. Look at all the people you've come to know. And think of the richness and possibilities that they have added to your life. Reflect on the ones you love, and think of the strength they give you.

No matter what has happened, it's been a good year. You've lived and loved and learned and experienced. Though the lessons have often been sad, you've lived through pain, and you've found new joys. Your spirit has soared and your mind has met challenges.

Many things are different than they were last

year. Yet you've survived the changes, and made the best of them. You've found strength and purpose in the living. You're alive and living and ready to move forward, full of boundless possibilities.

Look at how far you've already come. And think of how far you can go.



Family Association Dues

Family Association dues are on an annual basis with payment due in January of each year. Several members have paid ahead and many thanks are made to them for this help. Dues' notices are sent only to those whose dues have not been paid. Your dues' status can be determined by the address label on the *IN DEFIANCE* mailing envelope. Following the first name is a number in a parenthesis. This number indicates the year for which dues are paid and the category of membership, Active or Sustaining. This is the only purpose for the number. Life members have only an L listed. If you feel the records are incorrect, please let Chief Bob know at the address on the dues notice and a review will be made and corrections entered as applicable. The major use for the dues is the printing and mailing costs for the newsletter. A minor amount is used for special mailings, such as for the reunion. Initial complimentary copies are sent to prospective new members. No dues' money goes for the cost of generating the newsletter information, making the master, computer time or Internet fees. Repeat dues notices are sent to those who are not current with the two middle issues each year. It would be appreciated if dues are paid during the first quarter of the year. This will save on printing, and in some cases mailing costs.



WELCOME

To Our New Members!

John Edgar McBrayer (M 375-6/1, 9th, line of William) is the youngest son of Thomas David and Mary Margaret Wood McBrayer. He and his wife Jennifer live in Forest City, NC, the site of the founding of the MacBair Family Association. John is a Deputy Sheriff in Rutherford County working as a community police officer. For the most part he has been doing public relations work. Being in a tourist area, he faces a lot of overtime from

June to November.

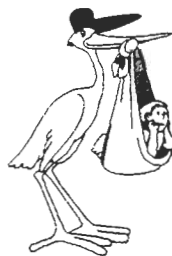
Joyce Evelyn McBrayer Davidson (M 275/5, 9th, line of William) is the youngest daughter of Larkin Wellington and Willie Kate Hollon McBrayer. She and her husband Charles E. Davidson, Jr. live in Deport, TX. She is the great-aunt of member Sohnie Hill. Some of you may know Joyce by her former married name of Williams.

Celia Smith Engel (M 137-6/1H1, 8th, line of William) a member for several years is our newest *Life* member courtesy of her cousin, Life member Agnes Beaudry. Celia lives in Nokomis, FL. Last year she helped by contacting numerous family members in Florida in an effort to recruit new members. She is also responsible for the plaque commemorating William McBrayer (M 1, 1st) on the Immigrant Wall of Honor at Ellis Island. For those of you on the Internet, you can find the Wall of Honor site at www.wallofhonor.com. When you search for William, you have to search under the name "Brayer".

Bobbie McBrayer Moore and her husband Butch from Amarillo, TX were introduced last issue. Now more genealogical information has been received. Bobbie is the daughter of Edgar Lugene and Robbie Rhea Shepherd McBrayer and granddaughter of William Mosley (M454, 6th, line of William) and Neta (Nita) Evans McBrayer. Butch (Francis Lindy) is the son of Solomon Jasper and Ocie Laveta Moore. They have two children, Michael Lindy and Noel Leigh.

Several prospective members are receiving this issue of the newsletter and it is hoped that they will be joining the Family Association soon. We are getting closer to a short term goal of 200 members. This should make it possible to get a preferred mailing rate. Please help to spread the word.

Always do right; this will gratify some people and astonish the rest. - Mark Twain



A Member for the Future

Rebekah Elizabeth Taylor Cottle was born December 26, 1997, to Daniel Lee Cottle (son of member Alene Scott Cottle, M 456/6C1, 8th, line of William) and his wife Linda Kay in Lexington, KY. Dan is a research analyst at the University of KY Medical Center. Rebekah joins 5-year-old brother Matthew Lee as a member of the family.



MEDICAL REPORT

Honorary Chief *Benjamin Edgar McBrayer* (M 35, 7th, line of William) was injured in a fall at home in the early hours of January 2, 1998. He fractured his skull and developed a blood clot on his brain which required surgery for removal. The initial recovery went well at Shands Hospital in Gainesville, FL and less than a week following the operation he was transferred to Oakview Rehabilitation and Care Center in Williston, FL. Some complications have developed, not directly involving the operation, and he has been re-hospitalized for additional treatment and testing. His wife Helene remains at home in Dunnellon, making daily visits as weather permits. Children Bob, Jim and Sandy as well as Granddaughter Lori Wetmore have spent some time visiting him and helping Helene. Ben would enjoy hearing from you who know him.

In the last issue of *IN DEFIANCE*, the medical problems of *Barbara McBrayer Bartels* (M 54/1, 7th, line of William) and her husband Grant were reported. Barbara has written that both of them had successful surgery and are recovering well. Grant's new "plumbing" is working satisfactorily, but he is still quite weak as would be expected. Barbara's surgery was not until December 8, so she was encumbered with her right arm out at a 45° angle for six weeks; hard for a right hander! They plan to leave Indianapolis about February 1 for the return to their home in Fort Pierce, Florida.

Those of you who were able to attend last year's National Reunion in Chambersburg know that *Joyce Spencer* (B 158/8C6d, 7th, line of William, great-great-great-granddaughter of James Malcolm McBrayer) was having a major problem with pain in her leg. Her husband Jim reports that Joyce has had to have two surgeries since returning from the reunion. Joyce and Jim live in Springfield, MO.

Doris Turner Osten (8th, line of William, great-great-great-great-granddaughter of David McBrayer, M 82, 3rd) experienced severe back pain on Thanksgiving Day which forced her to spend that holiday in the ER (what fun!). After many x-rays and other tests, it was determined that she had two compressed fractures of her lumbar vertebrae. Several routes of treatment have been followed, however, Doris is still limited in her activities, but she is looking forward to help in the planning of the next National Reunion in 2000. She and husband Pete live in Nashville, TN.



The Street Name Mystery

Following up on articles in the last two issues of *IN DEFIANCE*, it is now without question that the reason for the naming of streets in Dumfries for our ancestors is clear. Thanks to Kaye Quinn (B 62/1A2f, 8th, line of William) who forwarded a copy of a paper from the files of Gleason Leroy Brier (B 116, 6th, line of William), the following articles from that paper provide the answer.

Close for Provosts

Past Provosts of Dumfries may be remembered by having one of the town's oldest rights of way renamed in their honour.

Gas House Close at the bottom end of High Street is the route under consideration, although it is presently in a semi derelict state because of nearby redevelopment.

The suggestion was raised in a letter to Nithsdale District Council from local historian James Urquhart, who said: "Now that the last elected Provost of Dumfries has died (Ernest Robertson), the time may have deemed to have arrived for commemorating the long line of first citizens or leading magistrates who played such an important part in local affairs since the burgh's inception hundreds of years ago."

Mr. Urquhart called on councillors to take up his suggestions, or some other suitable commemorative idea. His letter was due to go before the district general purposes committee last night.

Dumfries and Galloway Standard, October 12, 1979

MacBrair Street

Following on a letter from local historian James Urquhart, the first known civic head of the royal burgh

of Dumfries, Provost MakBrar is to have a street named in his honour in the Lockvale housing area if a recommendation by the general purposes committee is accepted by the Nithsdale District Council.

The MakBrars (more commonly known as MacBrairs) held the influential post of Provost of Dumfries for over a century in late medieval times. The family estates included Netherwood and Almagill (Dalton). The proposed street naming should please those descendants of the clan settled in America who have several times in recent years visited Dumfries in search of genealogical information.

The last of the line of Dumfries Provosts, the late Ernest Robertson, is remembered by Robertson Avenue in the Craigs Road area.

Dumfries and Galloway Standard, November 30, 1979

Our Oldest Provost

Dumfries's oldest provost was Robert MakBrar (nowadays spelt McBair) who held that office more than 500 years ago, in 1469. Last month, following representations made by local historian Mr. James Uquhart, Nithsdale District Council approved naming of three thoroughfares after him. They will be Makbrar Road, Makbrar Place and Makbrar Court.

Dumfries and Galloway Standard, February 15, 1980

In September 1987, Ethel B. Koller reported in *The MacBrair Heritage* (a predecessor of this newsletter) that there were then seven streets: Makbrar Road, Makbrar Crescent, Makbrar Court, Makbrar Place, Makbrar Wynd, Makbrar Meuse and Makbrar Neuk.

The choice of the graphic at the start of this article (also used last issue) was not entirely deliberate. In the late 1980's, the late Ethel Brier Koller obtained a will from an ancestor who lived on The Wall Street. In this will he distributed his property down to serving spoons (quite valuable at the time). Unfortunately a copy of the will is not available to the editor; if anyone has a copy, please send it in for publication. You may be interested in the reason for the name Wall Street:

During the American Revolution, supporters of George Washington tried to build a wall in lower Manhattan to keep the British out. It was never finished because the New Yorkers kept stealing the lumber. The street along part of this construction attempt became the home of many of America's chief financial institutions: Wall Street!

With thanks to The Family Historian and Family Tree Online Vol.2, No.6.





Books

If you are looking for an easy read and brief history of Scotland, you may want to look at *Scotland - A Concise History - Revised Edition* by Fitzroy Maclean, Thames and Hudson,

London, 1993, reprinted 1997. This 240 page soft cover book hits the highlights of Scotland's history from "the mists of antiquity" to 1992. It does help to understand some of the more important events of the past such as the war of revolution (Robert the Bruce's times), the Act of Union, the changes during the Reformation and the Jacobite Rebellions. The book is available at Barnes and Noble stores and costs \$16.95.

For the *Nigel Tranter* fans, his books now are fairly readily available through the Internet offerings from Amazon at www.amazon.com and Barnes and Noble at <http://shop.barnesandnoble.com>. It is clear that Mr. Tranter continues to pour out books as there are some advertised that have not yet been published! If you have never read a Tranter book, why not try one, but a word of caution, they are addictive. While he is best known for his historic novels, he has also written non-fiction, and children's books. Those who have met him know he has a deep love for Scotland and its history. He feels history should be made a story, not just dry facts. In many of the books, the actual historical characters are identified.

Carl McBrayer reports that the first run of 45 copies of *In Defiance - The MacBraire Heritage - 1735-1998* has been shipped. The printer/binder now can process as few as 10 copies at a time at the advertised price of \$ 85.00 including packaging and shipping by UPS. Because this price cannot be guaranteed indefinitely, if you want to get a copy you should order as soon as possible. Send your check made out to Carl (NOT the Family Association) at:

412 Char Lane
Midwest City, OK 73110

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

Due to an error in early production, Carl has a few copies of the book with the pages reversed; odd numbers on the left and even on the right. If you want one of these copies and will not be critical of the printing error, they are available for \$ 41.00 including packag-

ing and shipping. Hurry if you want one since on January 29, Carl had only 14 left.



Looking for Family

For those beginning to use the Internet for genealogical purposes, you may want to look at the following sites (adding to those listed last issue):

"The How to Genealogy WWW Site" at www.firstct.com/tmapmenu.html

"Family Tree Online" at www.teleport.com/~binder/famtree.shtml. This site has a lot of links to Scotland.

Ancestry at www.ancestry.com has free links to World Tree GEDCOM files.

Everton's Genealogical Helper at www.everton.com

Traveller Southern Families at www.traveller.com/genealogy

A U.S. Genealogical site from which you can access projects in different states at www.usgenweb.org/

Searching for names can result in a lot of frustration. We already know about the various spellings of our Family name. This also occurs with others. Since we have a tenuous tie to Robert the Bruce through the **Grierson** family, they should be of interest to us. The original name may have been simply **Grier** and a son then became **Grierson** or **Griersonne**. The name **Griev** also can be the same since the handwritten "v" and "r" in the old days looked the same. The **Griev** name may then change to **Grieve**. Adding to the confusion is the way computerized records are formatted. Some records for the **McBrayer** name require searching as **McBrayer** while others require **Mc(space)Brayer** or **Brayer**. In the case of **Grier**, these names may be found under a listing for **Greer**. Spelling differences also crop up because of confusion between handwritten "o" and "a" among others.

With help from the Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter

There are some archaic terms referring to dates that will make you stop and blink if you run across them in your genealogical research. For example: Monday instant - if used, usually means "today." The 10th instant - usually means the 10th of the present month. The 20th ultimo - the 20th of the last month. Monday last - the most recent Monday. Tuesday last - the nearest Tuesday to follow. December last - the most recent December.

While the terms "next" and "last" are usually written out, the term "ultimo" is sometimes written "ULT" and instant is "INST." It is important to note the date on the document being studied as that is the key to the dates the writer refers.

Finding vital records can be a challenge as shown by the following examples. The 1820 and 1830 Wisconsin census records are with those of Michigan. The 1860 Nevada census is included with that of Utah. The 1860 schedules for the present state of Oklahoma are with those of Arkansas which was then Indian land. The 1860 census records for the present state of Wyoming are with those of Nebraska. And the 1860 schedules for Colorado are included in the Kansas census.

The two paragraphs above taken from Family Tree Online.

Another term you will find is "relict" associated with a woman's name. This term means "widow".

As we check and cross check records, errors and differences are found. Certainly the compiler did not make errors on purpose and should not be blamed for mistakes and omissions. With all of the family cooperating, we can continue to build more complete records.

Mentioned in previous newsletters is the problem of the numbering system used. The usual Standard Number system is the Ahnentafel Number system. These are generated by a formula. This states that an individual's father is twice that of that individual's number, and an individual's mother is twice that individual's number plus one. Various computer software programs can automatically calculate these numbers from Ancestor (family) trees. Other number systems also can be used if desired as has been done in previous family books by Charles Templeton Brier and Carl Bernard McBrayer. This can help when you have as many names on file as we do with our family; at least three main ancestors, cross marriage between branches and multiple people with the same first name, such as William or David,

when no middle names were used.

Carl McBrayer has begun transferring names from his earlier data bases to the Family Tree Maker software format using Version 4.0. So far he has transferred 14,000 names. If you use FTM 4.0 and would be willing to help Carl on this conversion, let him know by e-mail at cbmcbayer@juno.com.

Since any new book Carl has done is out of date to some extent as soon as it is printed, it is planned to put additions and corrections in this newsletter. If you have information to contribute, please forward it to Carl and to Chief Bob.

Revolutionary War Soldiers

In the last issue of *IN DEFIANCE*, the book *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County Pennsylvania* published in 1969 by the Franklin County Chapter of the DAR was mentioned. A copy of this book has been privately purchased and has been checked for mention of family. The applicable sections are reproduced below without editing. There is some new information to be gleaned from these records. Also it should be noted that the records are not complete and if you did not have other sources, there could be misinterpretation. The David covered by the sketch below is William and Rebecca's youngest son, listed in current records as B 78, 2nd generation. Nathaniel is listed as M 311, 1st generation but his identity is not known for certain. He may have been a nephew to the original three brothers, the son of Hugh, Son of Alexander M'Brear as recorded in the records of the Killyleagh Presbyterian Church, County Down, Northern Ireland. Another possibility is that he was a fourth brother; there is no definite proof at present. The last entry, for Andrew Reed, would normally be missed if we did not know that the Ester referred to was Esther McBrayer, the youngest daughter of the five daughters of David McBrayer, M 3, 1st generation mentioned as the earlier David in the record below. Further to add to the record is the fact that the children of Andrew and Esther changed their last name to Reid, the traditional Scottish spelling of the name.

DAVID MCBRAYER

Served in 1777-81-82 under Capt. Patrick Jack, Orphans' Court records show the above man as the son of William McBrayer of Hamilton Twp., who died intestate Oct., 1795, leaving a widow Rebecca and issue: James; Samuel; William; Sarah; who mar. Andrew Taylor; and David, all of full age. An earlier

David McBrayer had died in Antrim Twp., in 1771, leaving a wife Elizabeth (Campbell) and five married daughters. Deeds show that in 1796, Samuel and Wm. McBrayer, both of the County of Rutherford, N. C., sold their interest in a tract of land in Franklin Co., Penna. for 69 pounds, 10 shillings to David McBrayer. The map shows 137 1/4 acres, much attested. The tract granted to William McBrayer, by patent, in 1788, was sold by David McBrayer of Hamilton Twp., and wife Agnes to Daniel Leman, March 31, 1806. It is probable that David McBrayer and family removed about this period to Westmoreland Co., Penna., where he died in Mt. Pleasant Twp., Sept.-Oct., 1816. To his wife Agnes he left \$1000. cash. It is thought that Agnes, wife of David McBrayer, was Agnes Dickson, which, owing to the similarity of given names, is quite probable. Eldest son, William; Andrew; Samuel; James; John; David; a dau. Hannah Killgore; Sons Isaac; George Henry; Dau. Betsy McBrayer; son Robert, rifle gun; Dau. Rebecca McBrayer; son Matthew; youngest dau.; Nancy McBrayer; youngest children by last wife. Henry to have books and large family Bible. Of the above children, Samuel "Brier" mar. to Betsy Campbell, Jan. 26, 1804 by Dr. Robert Kennedy, of Welsh Run and Greencastle, moved to Fountain Co., Ind. John mar. Daminen West, Oct. 31, 1809, Champaign Co., Ohio; Isaac, b. June 29, 1787, in Franklin Co., Penna., mar. Mary West, Oct. 31, —, Champaign Co., Ohio; George, b. 1790, mar. Letitia Mitchell; David mar. Elizabeth Jacobs, Miami Co., Ohio. James "Brier" and wife Mary, who was the dau. of Benjamin Lodge, were of Montgomery Co., Ohio, on Sept. 1815. In Jan., 1814, Ezekiel Kilgore of Cincinnati, Ohio, appoints Wm. "Brier" of Cincinnati as his attorney. Ezekiel was son and heir of David Kilgore, Westmoreland Co., Penna. In 1818, Orphans' Court records show that Agnes, widow of David McBrayer, had mar. Samuel Coyle and guardians were appointed for the minor children, Matthew, Nancy, Robert and Rebecca McBrayer.

Penna. Arch. 5th Ser. Vol.6, p.292,296, 313, 373.

NATHANIEL MCBRIER (BREYER, BRAYER)

Served as private with Capt. Patrick Jack, 1781-82, the command of Lieut. Colonel Saml. Culbertson. He was a taxable in Hamilton Twp., 1777-82, with land, horses and cattle. He was in Hempfield Twp., Westmoreland Co., Penna., in 1783, with land, and in 1809, had pending a land grant from the government for services in the Rev. War. Deeds show that in June, 1812, Nathaniel McBryar and wife Agnes sell to Malachia Brindle of Peters Twp., Franklin Co., Penna., a tract in Hamilton Twp., 218 1/4 acres. He had previously sold a tract to Samuel McCutcheon. Nathaniel McBrier and wife Jane (Watson) widow of Alexdr., Thompson, are buried in Poke Run Cemetery, Westmoreland Co., Penna. As Court records show the second wife as Margaret the previous statement is open to question. Nathaniel McBrier settled in Wash-

ington Twp., Westmoreland Co., Penna. He had a grist and saw mill on Beaver Run and his will dated July, 1820, was prob. Jan., 1885. The son James received from his father the "Poke Run Meeting House Plantation" in 1811, also other tracts; his wife Elizabeth Dickie. The son David received the "Mill Place on Beaver Run" from his father In 1814, and Dr. Egle states his wife was Elizabeth Lochry. There were other children, but the grandsons named in the will the sons of David, who appear to be, James McBrier, Jr., wife Nancy Livingston; Polly mar. John Duff; David; Nathaniel Watson who mar. 1st Mary Ann —; 2nd — Duvall; John mar. Hannah.

Penna. Arch. 5th Ser. Vol.6, p.292, 296, 313. 2nd Ser. Vol.13, p.143.

The Franklin Repository, Chambersburg, Penna. Aug. 20, 1805. Died in Hamilton Twp., on Monday the 12th inst., one of the first settlers, and it is supposed the oldest inhabitants of this county, Mrs. Rebecca McBrier, relict of the late Wm. Mc Brier, aged 101 years. A native of Ireland, emigrating to this County about 1737, soon after which her husband purchased and settled on a tract within about seven miles of this town xxx On Tuesday her remains were deposited by the side of those of her husband, in the old burial ground near Mr. Brown's Mill.

ANDREW REED

Died, Jan. 11, 1819, wife Ester. Served under Capt. Patrick Jack.
V Ser. Vol.6, p.291

The book also lists those known to be buried in various cemeteries in the area; none of the three above are listed.

If anyone knows of other ancestors who may have lived in Franklin County at the time of the Revolution, let the Editor know and the book will be checked to find if they are listed.



Rest in Peace

We regretfully announce the deaths of the following Family members:

BONNIE McBRAYER, 78, of the Maple Grove community, Resaca, GA died suddenly Saturday, Oct 18, 1997, from injuries sustained in an automobile accident. She was born May 30, 1919, in Murray County, daughter of the late John Miller and Pearl Ragsdale Sexton. She also was preceded in death by two children, Rosa Irene McBrayer and Billy Hoyt McBrayer. Mrs. McBrayer was a lifelong resident of Murray County, was a member of Bethel Baptist Church in Calhoun and was a homemaker.

Survivors include her husband of 62 years, **Fred Cornelius McBrayer** (M 118, 8th, line of William); one daughter and son-in-law, Linda Carol (McB) and Bill Price of the Nicklesville community; five sons and daughters-in-law, John Robert and Kay (Hix) McBrayer, the Rev. James Martin and Laura (King) McBrayer, all of Cartersville, the Rev. Jerry Charles McBrayer and Lamar David McBrayer, both of the Fidelle community, Roy Lee and Rita (Bearden) McBrayer of Calhoun; two sisters, Jean Taylor of Etowah, Tenn., and Wylene Johns of Resaca; one brother, Ervin Sexton of Dalton; **grandchildren, Sonja and Lewis Hauck, Kelli and Tim Wilson, Russell and Stacey McBrayer, Joseph McBrayer, Jimmy and Mendy McBrayer, Gregory and Mona McBrayer, Mickey McBrayer, Charlie McBrayer, Billy McBrayer, the Rev. Ronnie and Michele McBrayer, Connie and the Rev. Michael Post, Timothy McBrayer, David and Charma McBrayer, Ken McBrayer, Matthew Price and Kris Price; great-grandchildren, Joshua and Hannah Hauck, Heather, Lauren and Sam Wilson, Katlyn, Jonathan and John Ross McBrayer, Braxton and Alex McBrayer, Karis and Kaleb McBrayer, Nicholas McBrayer, Brian McBrayer and Brittany Kirby; nieces and nephews. Services were at the Corinth Baptist Church with John McBrayer and the Revs. James McBrayer and Jerry McBrayer officiating. Singing was arranged by the Rev. Ronnie McBrayer. Burial was in Corinth Baptist Church Cemetery.**

BESSIE MAE McBRAYER HENRY (M 186/2, 8th, line of William) died September 1, 1997 following prolonged failing health. Her entire family was at her side at death. Her last two years were spent with her daughter and son-in-law, **Betty Sue and Allen Bjur** in Watsonville, CA. **She is also survived by her grandchildren, Julie, Kerri and Greg; and her great-grandchildren Angela, Johnny, Jonathan, Lindsay, Kelsey, Alexandria, Allen II, Gregory Jr. and Elizabeth Grace.**

Bessie was born November 6, 1911 in Memphis, TX, the middle child of James Leonard and Minnie Bell Thomason McBrayer. As a teenager, she became involved with the youth program at the Nazarene Church and committed her life to Christ. She had intended to attend Bethany Nazarene College to become a math teacher, however, the depression changed her plans. She stayed home to help her parents who lost their 360 acre farm. In search of work, Bessie traveled to Watsonville in 1934 and began working in the lettuce packing sheds. **There she met her future husband, Accie G. Henry and they were married November 30, 1937 at the Bethel Tabernacle Church. Their only child, Betty**

Sue, was born two years later. A devoted wife and mother, she continued to work full time to help support the family. Following Accie's death in 1984, she became an active member of the Watsonville Senior Center and was named "Sweetheart of the Senior Citizens" in 1985.

Hulit Arlin Hill, husband of Lillie Washington McBrayer Hill (M 201-5/9, 7th, line of William) passed away May 20, 1996 in Idabel, OK. He was born July 5, 1916 in Arkinda, AR. Hulit and Lillie had known each other since grade school. Funeral services were held at the Norwood-Leinard Chapel in Idabel with Pastors Mike Durham and Bill Woods officiating. Burial was in Denison Cemetery, Idabel.

In addition to Lillie, he is survived by brothers Marion T. of Fletcher, OK and Eugene F. of Irving, TX; sister Eula Jean Robbins of Stillwater, OK and a host of nieces and nephews.

Editor's Note: Death notices are frequently a great source of information regarding family. In some cases notices have been received from family members who sent them in even when they did not know the connection. Your cooperation in providing any death notice is greatly appreciated.



SCOTLAND

Travel to Scotland

If you are planning a trip to Scotland there is a lot of information available to assist you, particularly if you are on the Internet or have a friend or relative who has that capability. To go direct to the source, try:

www.holiday.scotland.net , this is the Scottish Tourist Board site and it gives you a lot of information and other sites to explore.

www.aboutScotland.co.uk/index.html , this site leads you to B&Bs, sights to see, etc.

Of course, searching for Scottish Travel with any of the search engines will give you more sites to explore.

If you need to write for information, the Scottish Tourist Board general information can be obtained by writing:

British Tourist Authority
551 5th Avenue
New York, NY 10176-2200

The Scottish Tourist Bureau also recommends a group called SCOTS (Specialist Councilor on Travel in Scotland) who are travel agents in the U.S. who have had special training. They are not reference sources, but they can book various arrangements. If you need help finding one close to you, you make contact Chief Bob.

Through another contact, a site was found which is the official site for the Church of Scotland. This site opens up with a view of the historic St. Nicholas Parish Church in Dalkeith which is southeast a bit from Edinburgh. The site covers both history and current status of the church and has 480 pages. It can be found at: www.btinternet.com/~stnicholas.buccleuch.

If you have ever wondered what some of the place names in Scotland mean, some of them are explained in a small book, **Scottish Place Names - Their Meanings Explained**, Michael Eyers, Sphere Books Ltd., London. 1980. Some of particular interest to us:

Dumfries - Hill or fort of the thicket
Galloway - Land of the stranger
Lochmaben - Loch (lake) in the white plain or
Loch or stone of Mabon (a British prince) or
Loch or stone of Maponus (a Celtic deity)
Edinburgh - The fortress of Eidyn
Blair - A plain
Cathcart - Castle on the Cart River
Girvan - Possibly place of rough water
Glasgow - A green hollow or a dear green place

So maybe the Glaswegians are the little green people.



Early History

Reference has been made in the past, including in the Family History books, to Edgar's **An Introduction to the History of Dumfries** with regard to our ancestors' role in the city. This book was published by J. Maxwell & Sons, Dumfries, in 1915 under the auspices of the Dumfriesshire and Galloway Natural History and Antiquarian Society as Volume I of **The Records of The Western Marches**. Robert Edgar was born about 1669, the eldest son of John Edgar. John and his brother William were admitted as burgesses of Dumfries (citizens of the borough) June 26, 1665. William paid a smaller fee because he was married "to the daughter of Thomas McBrair, lait baillie (corresponding to an alderman)", and so was a burgess' son-in-law. It would seem somewhat certain then that Robert knew

the McBrair family during his lifetime. Robert was a writer and was the clerk for various trades during his working life. He began his history about 1746, but never put them into final form. The original manuscript was lost. However, a copy made by Robert Riddel in 1791 was available and the history was published with some corrections in obviously copyist's errors by the Editor, R. C. Reid. The editing included extensive annotations which provide much more detailed information on our ancestors. Also added were the Pedigree charts (family trees) for several prominent families including the MacBrair of Almagill and Netherwood chart drafted by a Mr. Shirley. The chart was not considered complete. It starts with Andrew McBrair, Bailie 1384 and ends with grandchildren of Alexander McBrair who died in 1738. Unfortunately the chart is not complete and it does not give us a clue to the parents of our William, David and James. The chart was reproduced in Carl B. McBrayer's book **The McBrair Family, Volume I, 1987**. The late Ethel Brier Koller studied the records very carefully conducting research in Scotland and some of her additional information was included in Carl's book **The McBrayer Family, Book II, 1983**. Adding to the early history, one can use William McDowall's **History of the Burgh of Dumfries, 4th Revised Edition** with additional notes by A. E. Truckell, T.C. Farries & Co., Ltd., Dumfries, 1986. Combining the references does help to give a clearer picture of the family's early history. Bits and pieces of the record are intended to be printed in future issues of *IN DEFIANCE*.



Loud coos the doo when the hawk's no
whistling, loud cheeps the mouse when the
cat's no rustling.

Scottish proverb meaning:
When the cat's away, the mice will play.



Halbert's Is At It Again!

**THE BRAYERS IN AMERICA
FROM 1880 TO 1996**
c/o 3687 Ira Road
Bath, Ohio 44210

Halbert's continues their marketing plan to sell books of dubious value. This one was addressed to me as "Mr. Robert L. **Brayer**", a misspelling that has shown up on several mailing lists for "junk mail". Of course the letter states that I am in the never-before published book. This immediately tells you of the accuracy of the book listings. Several Internet sites

were checked to find out how many **Brayers** could be found; one listed 169 and another 177. With the spelling changes that we know about, this could be another name variant and should be pursued further. The cover letter states that there was an Alfred Brayer who lived in Litchfield, CT in 1860. Of course they have their now required "No direct genealogical connection to your family or to your ancestry statement is implied or intended" statement enclosed, but not on the letter which says "This information can often guarantee results if you are trying to locate relatives". This is the same kind of statement you see in the sweepstakes where you are guaranteed to have won ten million dollars if you return the winning number.

Halbert's is also selling some engraved tankards with the representation of what they say is our family crest. While it is closer to our coat of arms than the old "cave man" version they said was the McBrayer coat of arms, it still is not correct. It is similar to what is shown on the masthead of this newsletter without the lion rampant on the top of the helmet.

Another company which offers a "Family Name History" and representation is "The Historical Research Center". I have not yet been able to locate their home office. You may have seen their booths in shopping malls, at fairs and in some museums. This company does seem to have some validity, at least some of their facts can be verified. One that has not is the origin of the name. They say that our name came from the lands named Brair located in the county of Dumfries and that it was common to call people by the area from which they came. Now if we can find some maps from the late 1300s we could find out if that is so. Three family names are given and two can be verified. The first is Andrew as baille in 1384; this is confirmed by the Pedigree chart in the Edgar book. There is an Alexander given as Provost of Dumfries in 1473, this may or may not be true; The list in McDowall's book is incomplete. Edgar writes of an Alexander in 1607 who was involved in trying to bury a body in St. Michael's Church in 1607 when it had been prohibited. Ethel Koller had reference to an Alexander in 1491 as a witness in a law suit; could it be the same person? The third named person was Cuthbert in 1499; Ethel also found a record of him and both include the statement "movable gudis and money" in the text. The spelling of Cuthbert's last name Ethel reported as "McBrare".

The coat of arms The Historical Research Center has is of the Berwickshire (Tweedhill and Broadmeadows) branch of the family who came to America in the 1830s

or so. At least two members of the Family Association are from this branch: Marian McBair Davis and George McBriar. The coat of arms is shown below; the motto is given as "I am ever prepared". Note that the major difference is the unicorn on the helmet instead of the lion rampant. The other details are due to the artist's interpretation of the description and would be usual.



The Old Jail

Those of you that have visited Chambersburg know of the "Old Jail". The building actually was a jail from the time it was opened in April 1818 until the last prisoners were transferred in December 1970. The jail now houses the museum, Library and offices of the Kittochtinny Historical Society. In the library you can find copies of records dating from the time of our ancestors early days in America. The Historical Society is celebrating its 100th anniversary this year. One of the things planned is renovation of the crowded and out-dated library. To do this and carry out other planned events, the Society is conducting a drive to raise \$100,000. If you would like to help out this repository of family records, you might consider being a contributor in one of the following categories:

Warden:	\$ 1,000 and up
Sheriff:	\$ 500 - \$ 999
Deputy:	\$ 250 - \$ 499
Guard:	\$ 160 - \$ 249
Jailer:	\$ 1 - \$ 99

Send donations with a notation for "Anniversary Fund"
to: Kittochtinny Historical Society
175 E. King Street
Chambersburg, PA 17201



Family Mail

The following family members have passed along information of their activities.

Jim (James Ralph McB., M 335/1, 8th, line of William) and **Bonnie McBrayer** remain very active in their

RVICS volunteer service. Following training last year, they became group leaders this past fall. Their group consists of five couples; the other four couples take turns serving on the Newsletter, Social and Tour Committees. Their first assignment, September 8 to October 2, was at the Eastern Michigan District Nazarene Camp, Howell, MI. From there, they moved on to the Kentucky Mountain Holiness Association in Vanleve, KY. They ended 1997 with an assignment at the Friends of Alcoholics in Jackson, MS.

At each site, they do a variety of chores which help out the facilities in improvements to existing buildings and grounds, building new facilities, grounds maintenance, paperwork and general clean up. At the Kentucky site, which has an elementary and high school as well as a bible college, they had the additional opportunity to interact with the students during the noon meal.

While the main focus is on the volunteer service, hard work without question, they also take time to see the local sites. In Michigan, they visited a manufacturing plant, the well known Bronner's Christmas Wonderland (if you have traveled I-75 you are sure to have seen their signs), Frankenmuth's Bavarian Inn for their famous family style chicken dinner, and a dairy for an ice cream feast. In Kentucky they visited National Bridge State Park with its Sky Lift which gave them a very scenic look. They also toured the Shaker Village at Pleasant Hill where they learned about the heritage of the Shakers (The United Society of Believers in Christ's Second Appearing). Mississippi saw them taking tours in the Vicksburg area, including the battlefield.

They also participate in religious activities such as bible studies and devotions often involving the groups they are helping.

The new year sees them in Florida with projects in Tampa, DeLand and Graceville. If you are an avid RV couple and would like to learn more about these activities, you can contact Jim and Bonnie at:

5035 Chase Street
Gary, IN 46408-4144

Sohnie Fredrick Hill (11th, great-grandson of Larkin Wellington McB. M 275, line of William) became a member of the *Sons of Union Veterans* derived from his great-great-grandfather on his maternal side, Sylvester Berry. Sohnie is currently attending the University of North Texas in Denton, TX where he is majoring in Computer Science. Prior to enrolling at

UNT, Sohnie served in the U.S. Navy where he was a member of the Seventh Fleet Navy Band. He has provided a great deal of information on his particular branch of the family which cleared up some uncertainties.

Alene Scott Cottle (M 456/6C1, 8th, line of William) has passed along some clarifying information on descendants of William Parks and Elizabeth Bellew McBryer. Included are several death notices which will be published in the next issue of *IN DEFIANCE*. A request had been made to her to help learn more about descendants not currently listed in our records and specifically about William Lafayette McBryer and three following generations.

"I've learned that everyone wants to live at the top of the mountain, but all the happiness and growth occur while you are climbing it."

H. Jackson Brown

Last Note Everybody has some family story that they may be willing to share and as many as possible will be put in this newsletter. Remember, this is YOUR newsletter and the more contributions received the better.

If we can't laugh at ourselves, who can we laugh with?



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