

IN DEFIANCE

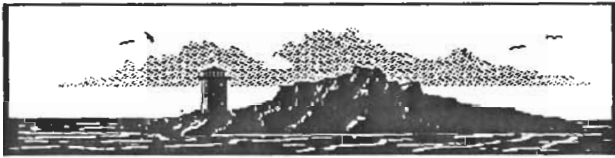
THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION

Researching the variations of the names MacBair, McBrayer, and Brier



VOLUME 12, NO. 3 & 4

July/October 2001



FROM THE CHIEF ●●●●●●●●●●

In an effort to get caught up with the issues of In Defiance, this issue will be a double issue. Doing it this way will save some time, and a little money, since only one set of envelopes and one set of labels along with one round of preparation, proofreading and stuffing envelopes will be required.

Also with this issue, the dues notice for 2002 will be sent to those who owe dues. If you don't receive a dues notice, your dues are current. As a reminder to long time members and as information to new members, you can tell your dues status by the mailing label. Following your first name you will find in a parenthesis a number/letter or just a letter. The number indicates the year for which dues are paid. Your dues are current if the number is 02 or more (except any number 9- where dues are past due). The letter stands for the membership category: Active, Sustaining or Life.

Thank you to those of you who have sent in dues ahead of time. It is greatly appreciated. The main use of dues is in support of this newsletter and the dues structure has not changed since the foundation of the Family Association in 1986. In that time, the newsletter has grown from four mimeographed (we have some younger members who may not even know what that means!) pages to the much larger newsletter with pictures you now are receiving. As copying methods have improved, pictures have become more viewable. Copy costs have been kept as low as possible, partially through a substantial discount from the supplier. The

largest single cost now is postage and that will again have increased this summer. Please consider making your dues payment with the first notice. Some members have been dropped because of nonpayment, but only after they were contacted. I hope we will not lose any more members for this reason. There are currently 282 on our mailing list.

J. EARL MCBRAYER, 1910- 2002

With sadness we report the passing of a family patriarch, **James Earl McBrayer** (M 174, 7th gen., Charles 52, Lewis 282, James 193, Ichabod 156, Samuel 360, William 1). J. Earl loved the family and always had a story to tell about someone he had found and met during his travels. Everyone enjoyed his stories and he will be sorely missed.



His obituary appeared as follows:

MOREHEAD - James Earl McBrayer, 91, of Morehead, died Monday, Jan. 28 at his residence. He was born June 4, 1910 in Morehead the oldest son of the late Charles Henry and Mary Elizabeth Johnson McBrayer.

He attended Rowan County Schools and the Morehead Normal School. He began his teaching career in Rowan County one month past his 18th birthday. After one year of teaching, he took employment with the Kentucky Highway Department as an engineer and later transferred to the Forest Service in the same capacity. He opened his retail merchandising business in 1934. Later, he expanded his business interests to include a retail wholesale lumber business, two radio stations, various real estates, farming and breeding pure-bred livestock, a mortuary and memorial park. He was a veteran of World War II, serving with the United States Air Corp. He has been a member of the a First Church of God of a Morehead since he was 14 years old. He served as a Sunday school teacher, Board of Trustees member, building committee member and other offices of the church through the years. He was also a member of the Morehead Masonic Lodge #654.

Survivors include his wife, Helen Johnson McBrayer (Widow of Rev. Ramah L Johnson); five daughters Edna Pauline (Harold) Ellington of Morehead, Stella Frances (Rev. Gary) Ausbun of Elkhart, IN, Phyllis Ann (Bert) Dixon of Baltimore, MD and Hildreth Marie (Wayne) Chapman of Winter Haven, FL.; two sons, Jack Lane (Deborah) McBrayer of Morehead and Phillip Ray (Nere) McBrayer of Lexington; two brothers, the Rev. Bert (Mary) McBrayer of Clearfield and Herbert McBrayer of Lexington; a sister, Thelma (Mervil) Bradley of Lexington; 16 grandchildren; 34 great-grandchildren; one great-great-grandchild; and several nieces and nephews.

He was preceded in death by his first wife, Martha Ann Pettit in 1980, whom he married in 1929; a son, James Kenneth McBrayer in 1933; two granddaughters, Connie Fultz and Jamie Green; two sisters, Mabel Irene Sargent and Lillie Marie McBrayer; and two brothers, Charles Arthur McBrayer and Beecher G. McBrayer.

Funeral services were conducted Thursday, Jan. 31 at Morehead First Church of God with the Rev. Stephen

Carney, the Rev. Bert McBrayer, the Rev. Gary Ausbun, Dr. John Conley and the Rev. Brian McBrayer officiating. Burial at Forest Lawn Memorial Gardens. Pallbearers: Kevin Chapman, Darren Chapman, Bert Thomas Dixon Jr., David McBrayer, Danny McBrayer, Bert Dixon Sr., Wayne Chapman and Harold Ellington. Honorary pallbearers: men of the Morehead First Church of God. Contributions suggested to the Gideons International, Morehead First Church of God or Rowan County Christian Academy. To view the online memorial or sign the online guest book, visit www.lanestuckygray.com. Lane-Stucky-Gray Funeral Home cared for all arrangements. (Obituary from *The Morehead News*, Morehead, KY, February 1, 2002, an abbreviated version of this obituary appeared in the Lexington, KY, *Herald - Leader*, January 29, 2002)

The Program from J. Earl's Funeral Ceremony

<i>A Service of Celebration</i>	
<i>11:00 A.M. - Thursday</i>	
<i>January 31, 2002</i>	
<i>Procession</i>	<i>Betty Lewis</i>
<i>Scripture Reading & Prayer</i>	<i>Rev. Gary Ausbun, Son-in-law</i>
<i>"Blessed Assurance" No. 650</i>	<i>Congregational Hymn</i>
<i>Family Remarks</i>	<i>Rev. Bert McBrayer, Brother</i>
<i>"No Form At All" No. 650</i>	<i>Lynnette & Bessie Kaule and Laila McBrayer Wells, Granddaughter</i>
<i>Rational Remarks</i>	<i>Dr. John W. Lowrey</i>
<i>"My Wonderful Lord"</i>	<i>Rev. Brian McBrayer, Grandson and Laila McBrayer Wells, Granddaughter</i>
<i>Message</i>	<i>Rev. Stephen D. Carney</i>
<i>Family Selection</i>	<i>Leigh Ann Ellington Cooney Granddaughter</i>
<i>"How Great Thou Art" No. 47</i>	<i>Congregational Hymn</i>
<i>Procession</i>	<i>Lynnette Kaule</i>
<i>Worship Leader</i>	<i>Rev. Brian McBrayer, Grandson</i>
<i>Prayers</i>	<i>Leigh Ann Ellington Cooney Granddaughter</i>
	<i>Lynnette Kaule</i>
<i>Committal</i>	<i>Betty Lewis</i>



OBITUARIES

Some may question why so many obituaries are published in this newsletter. Perhaps a way to look at them is to quote from an article which appeared in the Genealogy column of the **St. Petersburg (FL) Times** of July 4, 2002. Columnist Donna Murray Allen wrote:

Obituaries are more than a memorial to the deceased and public notice of the time and place of the funeral. These thumbnail sketches of a person's life provide solid clues for conducting more research. That's why they remain a staple among genealogical resources.

For this newsletter, obituaries are obtained from family members and many more from the on-line service "Obituary Daily Times" - your editor is a contributor to this service and so has ready access to the complete obituaries from other contributors. In addition, some obituaries are found through the various on-line genealogical sites.

Obituaries may be considered a primary source of information. A primary source is a record created at the time of the event. The obituary would certainly be a primary source for the date of death, place of burial and perhaps the cause of death but it would not be considered a primary source for the date of birth unless the death occurred soon after birth. So, a primary source is one that is recorded close to the time the event took place and where the one creating the record has direct knowledge. Any record that is not primary, even though the information may be part of a primary source, is considered a secondary source. An important thing to keep in mind is that classifying a source as primary or secondary is not the same as making a statement as to accuracy. An example of this might be, the obituary for first generation William's wife Rebecca states she is a native of Ireland. This does not mean that she was Irish. We still think she may be of Scottish origin, just born in Ireland.

Death certificates are certainly a primary source and most have a signed doctor's statement as to the cause of death. Other information may be hearsay and questionable. One account I have read gave the

Going home...



Birds in Flight symbolize our Christian life. One Bird is shown leaving the flock and "going home" to his final reward. The three remaining birds continue their journey through life with peace of mind knowing their loved one is now in God's care.

Through the greatly appreciated assistance of Family Association members Gordon and Ginny Lambert, it was possible to have a floral memorial to J. Earl at his funeral. The following note was received from his widow, Helen.

PERHAPS YOU SENT A LOVELY CARD,
OR SAT QUIETLY IN A CHAIR.
PERHAPS YOU SENT A FUNERAL SPRAY,
IF SO WE SAW IT THERE.
PERHAPS YOU SPOKE THE KINDEST WORDS,
AS ANY FRIEND COULD SAY.
PERHAPS YOU WERE NOT THERE AT ALL,
JUST THOUGHT OF US THAT DAY,
WHATEVER YOU DID TO CONSOLE OUR HEARTS,
WE THANK YOU SO MUCH WHATEVER THE PART.

THE FAMILY OF

James Earl McBrayer

Thank you for the beautiful floral arrangement. Earl would have been pleased and humbled by all the love and attention shown him during this time. We will miss him.

Helen

example of a death certificate where much of the back information was supplied by a grandson who "thought" his grandfather was from Scotland. In fact, the grandfather was born in America, but of Scottish born parents; a big difference.

Never-the less, obituaries give us a lot of information that we might not have otherwise and which gives us clues for further research.

JOSEPH GLYNN MCBRAYER

Glynn McBrayer, 98, of Buchanan Highway, Temple, died Jan. 2, 2002 at DeKalb Medical Center in Decatur. Mr. McBrayer was born April 21, 1909 in Paulding County, son of the late Joe Brown McBrayer and the late Mrs. Emma Tommie Humphries McBrayer. He was a member of the Draketown Baptist Church in Draketown. He was retired from the Agriculture Dept. for the State of Georgia where he was a checker at the State Farmers Market. In addition to his parents he was preceded in death by his wife, Ruvie Hannah McBrayer. Survivors include one daughter and son-in-law, Tommie and Jack Sanders of Tucker; one grandchild; one great-grandchild and a number of nieces and nephews. Funeral services will be conducted Friday, Jan. 4 at 1 p.m. at the chapel of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home in Villa Rica with the Rev. Don Rackley and Dr. Garlan Oden officiating. Internment will follow in Draketown Cemetery with Mrs. Elaine Rackley officiating. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday from 11 a.m. to 1p.m. Those wishing to do so may make contributions to Concord Baptist Church, 3376 Harmony Road, Temple, GA 30179 or to the Villa Rica Senior Citizen Center, in care of Jones-Wynn Funeral Home, 306 Westview Drive, Villa Rica, GA 30180. (Obituary from the *Times-Georgian*, January 3, 2002)

(M 265-5 Joseph Glynn McBrayer, 7th, Joseph 262, James 189, Andrew 15, John 223, Samuel 360, William 1)

In addition to the above obituary, Family Association member Dr. Terrell McBrayer provided the following:

The Draketown McBrayers lose Joseph Glynn McBrayer, 7th gen. from William.

Glynn was with us 93 years, and he was a special person! Glynn was a devoted husband, father, and grandfather. He was alert until the end, and although he became feeble, he loved to have company and to share on our family history.

Glynn was born April 21, 1909 in Padding County, Georgia, son of the late Joe Brown McBrayer and the late Mrs. Emma Tommie Humphries McBrayer. He was preceded in death by his wife, Ruvie Hannah McBrayer. He is survived by one daughter and son-in-law, Tommie and Jack Sanders of Tucker, Ga., one grandchild, one great-grandchild, and number of nieces and nephews. He was a member of the Draketown Baptist Church, and retired from the Georgia Department of Agriculture.

He was a great supporter of the extended family history and reunions. He kept the old family dinner bell in his yard until his death, and Tommie, his daughter, has passed the bell on to Dr. Terrell McBrayer for continued keeping for the family and community heritage. The bell was used in the 1800's by Andrew Erwin McBrayer, 4th gen from William, on the family farm located near Draketown, Georgia.

Glynn and his family were selected as the FAMILY OF THE YEAR for 2001 on the third Sunday in July at the 115th annual reunion of the descendants of Andrew E. McBrayer, 4th gen. from William. He will be greatly missed. "Glynn, we will see you on the other side."

ETHEL MCBRAYER 1912 - 2002

Ethel Lambert Stamper McBrayer, 89, of Clearfield, died Thursday, March 14 at St. Claire Medical Center in Morehead. She was born Sept. 4, 1912 in Rowan County to the late W.L. and Arvillie Crum Lambert. She was a former employee of Cowdens Manufacturing Company in Morehead and was a member of Morehead Eastern Star and attended the Church of God. Survivors include a son, John Vernon Stamper of

Clearfield; one daughter, Judy Stamper Dunaway Riggsby of Clearfield; a step-son, Darrell McBrayer of Florida; one stepdaughter, Vester McBrayer Manley of Ohio; a brother, Sid Lambert of Muncie, Ind.; two sisters, Lottie "Dottie" Scaggs of Morehead and Bessie Lambert of Clearfield; and three grandchildren, Stan Stamper, Michelle Dunaway and Stephanie Dunaway. She was preceded in death by her husband, Beecher McBrayer, on April 3, 1990; three brothers, James A. Lambert, John H. Lambert and Dock Lambert; and five sisters. Lucy Lewis, Ardelia Clark, Jessie Caskey, Hettie Berdar and Vernie Quesinberry. Funeral services were conducted Sunday, March 17 at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Mike Clark officiating. Burial at Clearfield Cemetery. Pallbearers: Clifton Baidridge, Woodrow Cecil, Guy Lambert, Jack Landreth, Vernon Riggsby and Stan D. Stamper.

(Obituary from *The Morehead News*, Morehead, KY, March 19, 2002 provided by Family Association member Arthur McBrayer.)



Ethel was not mentioned in Carl McBrayer's 1998 family history. Noting her maiden name, Family Association member Gordon Lambert was contacted to find out if he and Ethel were related. He reported that Ethel was the 5th of 12 children of William (Will) L. Lambert. Will was a brother of Sam Lambert who was the father of Gordon's father Luster Lambert. Luster

married Martha Jane McBrayer (M 439/6, 7th gen), the daughter of William Edmund "Ed" McBrayer and Smatha Susan Slusher. Gordon Lambert is their son.

Ethel was married first to William Hollie Stamper and they had issue: John Vernon and Judy Nadena. They divorced and she married Beecher Garrett McBrayer (M 32-5, 7th, Charles - 52, Lewis -282, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1). Arthur McBrayer is a nephew of Beecher. See what we learned as the result of an obituary?



CYRIL CLIFTON CONN

Cyril Clifton Conn, 73, of View Lane of Morehead, died Sunday, April 7 at his residence. He was born Oct. 1, 1928 in Rowan County to the late Sherman and Myrtie McBrayer Conn. He was retired from Morehead State University as Building and Grounds Night superintendent; a veteran of the Korean War where he served with the U.S. Army; a member of Morehead Masonic Lodge No. 654; and a member of Elliottville Baptist Church, Chairman of Trustees and member of the choir. Survivors include his wife, Evelyn Lyons Conn; two daughters, Lucy Moore and Lois Faye Tackitt, both of Morehead; one sister, Beulah Marie Cotter of Wabash, Ind.; five grandchildren, Joshua Ferguson, Jessica Tackitt, Dwayne Moore, Carey Davis and John Moore; and one great-grandchild, Morgan Davis. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, April 9 at 2 p.m. at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals Memorial Chapel with the Rev. Tim Rhodes, Rev. Bert McBrayer and Rev. Joe Planck officiating. Burial at Conn Cemetery with full military rites conducted at the graveside by Morehead American Legion Post No. 126. Masonic rites were conducted Monday. Visitation anytime at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to St. Claire Hospice. Pallbearers: Joshua Ferguson, Floyd Conn, Curtis Ray Conn, James Conn, David Conn, Johnny Conn, Bobby Ray Barker and Keith Barker. Honorary pallbearers: Clayton Stigall, Kenny Adkins, Wilburn Jennings, Fred White, Bob Fouch, Gene McDaniel, Glen Boodry, Freeman Hamilton, Curt Pennington, Kenneth Baker, Travis Trent, Luster Lambert, Gordon Lambert and Randall Barker.

(Obituary from *The Morehead News*, Morehead, KY, of April 10, 2002 was provided by Family Association member Gordon Lambert, Cyril's first cousin.)

Cyril Clifton Conn, M 439/1B, 8th gen, Myrtle-439/1, William - 439, Lewis - 282, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1

"ONE LOOK BEFORE IS BETTER THAN TWO BEHIND." - Irish Proverb

STALEY THOMAS MCBRAYER



Staley Thomas McBrayer 92, died Sunday April 14, 2002, in Fort Worth. Memorial service: 2 p.m. Saturday at St. Andrew's Episcopal Church. The Rev. Bert Honea and the Rev. Stanley Maneikis will officiate and Organist and Choirmaster Christopher Cotton will lead the St Andrew's Episcopal Church Choir Burial: Greenwood Memorial Park.

Memorials: the Beverly and Staley McBrayer Endowed Scholarship Fund at Texas Christian University, University Drive, Fort Worth, Texas 76110.

Staley Thomas McBrayer was born June 22, 1909, in Saltillo. He grew up in East Texas and attended East Texas State University, now Texas A&M University-Commerce, and the University of Texas at Austin with academic concentration in journalism. He served on the staff of university newspapers, the East Texan at Commerce as well as The Daily Texan at Austin.

After the University of Texas, Mr. McBrayer worked for the Austin American Statesman. In Austin he met and married Beverly Wills of Fort Worth. They moved to Commerce where he became business manager of the Commerce Daily Journal.

In 1940 the McBrayers bought a printing plant in the historic Knights of Pythias building at Third and Main streets in Fort Worth. Mr. McBrayer bought or started weekly newspapers and small daily newspapers in communities and towns between Fort Worth and Dallas. It was in the Knights of Pythias building that McBrayer made innovations and changes to the offset press that adapted offset lithography to newspaper production. According to Dr. Otha C. Spencer, professor emeritus of journalism and graphic arts at Texas A&M University-Commerce and author of the book "Staley McBrayer and the Offset Press Revolution," "McBrayer dramatically changed the basic processes of

newspaper printing and energized the entire publishing industry."

After much experimentation, success was achieved by Mr. McBrayer and his research team, composed of Grant Ghormley (of Ghormley Engineering and Manufacturing Co.), Herbert Killick (project manager), Herbert H. Chapman (printing plant superintendent), Troy M. Armstrong (press operator), and Charles Ozment (experimental plate making). A new company was founded by Mr. McBrayer, president; Ghormley, vice president; Jenkins Garrett, Fort Worth Attorney and a partner of Mr. McBrayer's; and Herbert Killick. The press was named The Vanguard Press and was sold at a modest price that enabled neighborhood newspapers to take advantage of a less expensive and more reliable technique. Later, major newspapers changed to offset and completed the revolution. The Vanguard Co. was ultimately sold to Harris-Intertype.

Mr. McBrayer was recognized for the following: Editor and Publisher Magazine has honored Mr. McBrayer as one of the 50 individuals who made a difference in journalism in the 20th century. In 1997, a book was published by the East Texas Mayo Press, Texas A&M University-Commerce, and authored by Dr. Otha C. Spencer, entitled "Staley McBrayer and the Offset Newspaper Revolution." Mr. McBrayer was awarded an honorary doctorate by Texas Christian University Chancellor Michael R. Ferrari and the board of trustees May 2, 2001. The American Newspaper Publishers Association presented Mr. McBrayer With a plaque "In recognition of a landmark contribution to the cause of a strong free press." The Texas Daily Newspaper Association awarded Mr. McBrayer for the development of the rotary offset newspaper press, "a most significant printing advance in modern times." Mr. McBrayer was given an outstanding alumnus award by the College of Communication at the University of Texas at Austin. Texas A&M-Commerce recognized him as a distinguished alumnus and named the building at the Southwest's largest college for instructional printing the Staley T. McBrayer Instructional Printing Facility. He served as national president of the Society of Professional Journalists in 1967-1968. The Society of Professional Journalists bestowed upon him the Well Memorial Key, the highest honor given by that group. He received the National Elmer Vaught Award for

exemplary service in the field of graphic arts education and Mr. McBrayer is listed in the De Pauw University Journalism Hall of Fame.

Survivors: Sisters, Elena Jolly and husband, James, of San Angelo and Mary Beth Hale of Junction; nieces, Mary Margaret Hale King and husband, Kenneth, of San Antonio; nephew, William M. Hale and wife, Sally of Hendersonville, N.C.; sisters-in-law, Lettie Wills Hamm of La Jolla, Calif., Helen Wills Post and husband, Dr. A. Alan Post, of Sacramento, Calif., and Katherine Wills Perlo of Wichita. Falls; brother-in-law, Joseph B. Wills, Jr. and wife, Dorothy, of Chico, Calif.; and nieces and nephews, Beverly Wills Bonelli Rase and husband; Dr. Howard Rase, of Austin, Diana Bonelli Cunningham and husband, Dr. Atlee M. Cunningham of Fort Worth, William Giles Hamm and wife, Kathleen, of Lafayette, Calif., John Will Hamm and wife, Peggy, of Dallas, Jennifer Rogers Hamm Enders and husband, Rob Enders, of Covina, Calif., Dr. Dorothy Davis Wills of Clairmont, Calif., and Joseph B. Wills III and wife, Dorothy Wood Wills, of Chico, Calif.

Greenwood Funeral Home

3100 White Settlement Road; (817) 336-0584

(Obituary from the *Star-Telegram*, Dallas-Fort Worth, TX, of April 18, 2002. Several Family Association members provided obituaries for Staley. Newspapers included the *New York Times* of April 20, 2002; the *Minneapolis Star Tribune* of April 17, 2002, the *San Jose Mercury News* of April 22, 2002; and the *Rocky Mountain News* of April 16, 2002. No doubt there were others.)

Staley Thomas McBrayer, M 372-8, 7th gen, George 128-5, Andrew - 24, Humphrey - 155, Andrew - 12, Samuel - 360, William - 1

Dr. Spencer's book, **Staley McBrayer and the Offset Newspaper Revolution**, was published by the East Texas Mayo Press in October 1997. The book is 200 pages in length and the publisher's price for the hardcover book was \$ 24.50. The book is no longer in print. Checking several book sellers (as well as eBay), the book may be found only used at prices from \$80.00 to well over \$200! What an investment a few of those books would have been.

OTHER MARVIN MCBRAYER

Other Marvin McBrayer, 88, formerly of Dallas, GA, died Friday Jan. 18 at the Union County Nursing Home in Blairsville, GA, where he had been a resident since May 1977. McBrayer was born in Paulding County, GA on Aug. 10, 1913, the son of James O. L. McBrayer and Amanda Brown McBrayer. He was married for 40 years to Catherine Page McBrayer, who died Dec. 20, 1996.

McBrayer was employed by Bell Aircraft Corp. "Bomber Plant" and received an award for his work on the B-29 super fortress. He later worked and retired from Camp Cap Company in Villa Rica, GA, where he had many friends. He also worked for Smith and Cantrell Motors in Dallas, GA for 15 years.

Next to his family, his love was playing baseball. He was known for his left hand pitching when he played for Aiken Park Ball Team, years ago, as well as other community teams in New Georgia and Villa Rica. He loved attending Atlanta Braves games with his family and the old Atlanta Crackers years ago. He enjoyed photographing family and friends, taking care of his cars, reading and keeping up with politics, as well as spending time with his family.

Survivors include his daughter and son-in-law Cathy and Vaughn Morris of Blairsville; son Jeffery McBrayer; grandson Master Daniel McBrayer of Mineral Bluff; nieces; nephews; and many friends. Funeral services were held Jan 20 at 1:30pm from the Benson Funeral Home Chapel in Dallas with the Rev. Joe Condra officiating. Special music was presented by Charles Cole and Gregg Walker. Pallbearers were Billy Wheeler, Marvin Frey, Timothy Frey and Jamie Benson. Internment was at the Mt Zion Baptist Church Cemetery in Dallas. Benson Funeral Home of Dallas was in charge of the arrangements.

(Obituary from the *Blue Ridge News-Observer* (GA), January 22, 2002)

In our past records, Other was listed as "Marvin Other James Lafayette McBrayer" M 303, 7th, James 192, William 432-5, John 231, John 223, Samuel 360, William 1. His mother's first name was previously given as "Amelia," his wife's name

as "Kathleen Pace" and his son as "James Other McBrayer." There may be some question as to his daughter's name, given as "Kathleen Rebecca" since the new information gives her mother's name as Catherine. Nothing was recorded previously about the work he did nor was anything given about his hobbies. If any family member has any further information, please send it along.

STEWART WILLIS MCBRAYER

Stewart "Mac" McBrayer, a father of four, died Friday, May 17, 2002. He was 81. Mr. McBrayer was born in Clifton, Ariz., and lived in Hayward for many years. Family members said he worked in the petroleum industry for various companies, had a talent for writing, and enjoyed composing stories for his grandchildren. He is survived by his wife of 55 years, June McBrayer of Hayward; daughters, Peggy Flynt of Hayward and Bobbie Crowder of Tilgard, Ore.; sons, David McBrayer of Castro Valley and Allen McBrayer of Santa Cruz; sister, Elizabeth Eddy of Chatsworth; seven grandchildren; and one great-grandchild. Private services will be held. The Neptune Society in Castro Valley is handling the arrangements. The family prefers that any donations be made to the Alzheimer's Association, 330 Distel Circle, Los Altos, CA 94022. (Obituary from *The Daily Review*, Hayward, CA, of May 22, 2002)

Stewart Willis McBrayer was the son of Willis Floyd and Marcella Stewart McBrayer, M 375-25, 7th gen, Willis 462-8, Andrew - 22, Ransom - 336, Samuel - 361, Samuel - 360, William - 1.

JOHN HENRY MCBRAYER

McBRAYER, JOHN H., age 79, of Vandiver, AL., passed away on Thursday, March 28, 2002. He was of the Methodist Faith. He was a Veteran of the Marine Corps from 1941 -1944. He was preceded in death by his parents, Lycurgus and Hannah McBrayer. Survived by his wife, Dora McBrayer; daughter, Debbie Austin; sons, Jerry, Wade, Earl, John and Bill McBrayer; nine grandchildren; one great grandchild; and a host of nieces and nephews. Memorial Service will be held Monday, April 1, 2002 at 2:00 PM in the Field of Honor Garden at Jefferson Memorial Gardens East.

Jefferson Memorial Trussville directing.
(Obituary from the *Birmingham News* on March 31, 2002 provided by Family Association member Pat McBrayer Inabinet, John Henry's niece.)

John Henry McBrayer, 7th gen, Lycurgus 288-5, William - 456, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1

Pat also gave the following information: John's Marine Corps service was in 1941 - 1944 and he was at Guadalcanal. He was born October 5, 1922, and was the last of the 13 children of Lycurgus and Hannah to pass away.

In Carl McBrayer's book, only eleven children were listed for Lycurgus and Hannah. The only children listed for John and Dora are John Edward and William McBrayer. He was cremated.

MILES AVERY MCBRAYER, III

Miles A. McBrayer, III, age 56, passed away June 28, 2002 at Tranquility Hospice. Following graduation from the Police Academy in 1990, Miles chose Investigative work in the Solicitor General's Office as his career. He was dedicated to law and justice, working until two weeks before his death. Miles was a lifelong member of Second Ponce de Leon Baptist Church. He is survived by mother, Mrs. Henry (Melba) George; daughters, Julie A. McBrayer (Philip) Cochran, and Robin D. McBrayer; and several nieces and nephews. The funeral services will be held Monday, July 1st at 11AM at Patterson's Spring Hill. Interment Arlington Memorial Park. The family will receive friends TODAY from 3:00-5:00PM at Spring Hill. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in memory of Mr. Miles A. McBrayer III, to the American Cancer Society, 2200 Lake Blvd., Atlanta, GA. 30319. H.M. Patterson & Son, 1020 Spring St. N.W., 404-876-1022.

(Obituary from the Atlanta (GA) *Journal-Constitution* of June 30, 2002)

Miles Avery McBrayer, III, son of Miles Avery McBrayer, Jr. and his first wife Melba - ? -, M 309-5/9A, 8th gen., Miles, Jr 309-5/9, Miles 309 - 5, H. David 134 - 5, James - 188, James - 162, Samuel -360, William -1

Basically all the information in Miles' obituary provides new information because all that was published earlier was his name.

GENEALOGY

What do we mean by genealogy? We can look at what the American Heritage Dictionary says:

ge·ne'al·o·gy n., pl. ge·ne'al·o·gies. 1. A record or table of the descent of a person, family, or group from an ancestor or ancestors; a family tree. 2. Direct descent from an ancestor; lineage or pedigree. 3. The study or investigation of ancestry and family histories. [Middle English *genealogie*, from Old French, from Late Latin *geneālogia*, from Greek : *genea*, family]

If we limit ourselves to just the first two definitions, it would be a rather dull subject. The third, if we expand, it gives us, as Paul Harvey says "The Rest of the Story." We need to understand a bit of what was going on and the culture at the time when our ancestors were alive. That is why from time to time articles in this newsletter that may not at first appear to have anything to do about our family. Still the more we know about our history, the more we will appreciate our ancestors.

IDENTITY THEFT

Identity theft has become a serious issue throughout the U.S. This is affecting the ability of legitimate family researchers to gain access to official records. Some governmental agencies have revamped their systems as a result of the September 11, 2001, terrorist attacks and some web sites have temporarily (at least that is what has been claimed) be shut down.

Rootsweb.com, one of the largest genealogical sites, removed index information on Texas and California. This was due to governmental actions in those states. *The Dallas Morning News* reported on December 12, 2001 that the Texas Department of Health website had permanently removed names, dates, and places of birth and death from their web site. The records can still be accessed by visiting libraries and the Texas Bureau of Vital Statistics in person or by mail, but anyone who

has made searches this way knows how long it can take.

The same paper reported that California Governor had suspended the state release of birth and death data there.

The State Legislature in Michigan has legislation to limit access to data unless the record is one hundred years old or older. Of course, there has long been a restriction on U.S. Census records for open access. Census records are released seventy two years after the census. This does not mean that more recent records cannot be accessed, it just takes more time and the reason has to be fully justified. The late Chief Ben, for example, was able to use a Census Record to prove his age for purposes of Social Security. His birth records were destroyed by fire and no copies were available.

There are a number of genealogy web sites which offer family tree or pedigree chart information. Many of these by default eliminate certain information on living persons. The problem is that if the originator of the file does not take action to update records, they may never be updated.

Of course, one of the main reasons for our Family Association is to collect and disseminate among family members whatever information about family we can. It is hoped that everyone will continue to do so, but also that all will protect the information. The mailing list for the Family Association is not shared in any way with any outside entities. The dues notices are destroyed by shredding after the dues are recorded. As far as is known, newsletters are distributed only to family members.

GRAVE DESECRATION

In December, 13, 2001 on-line issue, the Owensboro, KY, *Messenger-Inquirer* published an article "Task force proposes more felonies for digging up graves." The task force was proposing legislation that would class purposely digging up a grave without authorization a felony offense. Kentucky currently has a law which makes it a felony to dig up human remains for "exploitation or commercial sale." The statute was written specifically to protect Indian burial mounds. This law does not apply to any other grave desecration such as land development or reburial. There are other

statutes that prohibit these, but violation is not a felony. This has led to a number of recent legal actions. The newly proposed legislation would help to clarify the situation.

A weakness in Kentucky law is the absence of specific rights of access by descendants, proven friends or historical societies to cemeteries on private lands. While the General Assembly has not placed any rights in statutes, Kentucky courts have since 1871 declared limited rights to access. Obviously providing clear laws would be of great value to genealogists.

The task force is also calling for better cemetery records and proposes a statewide grant program for cemetery maintenance and preservation. The task force identified almost 14,000 cemeteries and was certain that it had missed thousands more. It is estimated that the cemeteries identified occupy at least 70,000 acres!

Many of us in the family have visited graveyards throughout the country in search of the graves of our ancestors. We have seen cemeteries that have been lovingly maintained, but unfortunately, we have also seen those that are not maintained at all.

Perhaps we should all contact our state legislators to find out what our state's statutes provide concerning cemeteries. If you want a copy of the newspaper article referred to at the beginning of this article to bolster your inquiry, please let me know and I will send you a copy. If you get feedback, please share it.

WHY DID THEY DISAPPEAR?

Occasionally we find that ancestors disappeared, moved suddenly without much of an explanation or a number in the family died around the same time. What happened? A short article in the Dec./Jan. issue of *Family Tree* may provide the reason. Epidemics of disease must be considered as they greatly affected the populace before control means were developed. Here are some we have to consider:

1732 - 33, worldwide, Influenza
1738, South Carolina, Small Pox
1747, Connecticut, New York, Pennsylvania and South Carolina, Measles

1759, all of North America inhabited by white people, Measles

1761, North America & West Indies, Influenza

1772, North America, Measles

1775, North America, particularly hard in New England, an unknown epidemic

Just to give you an idea of what an epidemic can do, as many as 700,000 may have died in the United States during the 1918-19 influenza epidemic. This is more than the total U.S. combat losses in WW I, WW II, the Korean War and the Vietnam War combined. (*Naval History*, April 2002, p 37)

NATIVE AMERICAN HERITAGE

A number of family members claim Native American ancestry and some have clear proof. It is not surprising that this should have happened considering the fact that many McBrayer men went into unmapped lands early in the history of our nation. The book "Whites among the Cherokees" mentions a number of McBrayer men and this book is being studied further to clarify the status of these men. Basically, this book covers the Cherokees in Georgia.

John E. McBrayer, 5th gen, M 228, Jonathon - 259, Andrew - 12, Samuel - 360, William -1, became prominent in the Choctaw Nation in what was the Indian Territory in Oklahoma. He married Virginia Harrison, the daughter of Judge Mitchell Harrison, a "widely known Choctaw Indian Citizen." As a result, John was considered a citizen of the Choctaw Nation by marriage and was appointed Circuit Clerk of the First Judicial District of the Masholatubbe District. John's sketch in Carl McBrayer's book is a very interesting one.

Recently, an eBay auction offered a handwritten Choctaw Indian Nation record book titled "Masholatubbe" covering the period from 1882 to 1897. The book was offered first to current Choctaw leadership, but apparently there was no interest. The open bidding started at \$ 610 and went to \$3000 before suddenly some bids were withdrawn and the seller took the record off auction.




Some interesting information given by the seller was a

map of the Choctaw lands in Oklahoma, given on the next page (marked up to try to clarify the original which was in color). Clearly listed in the book was the name "J.E. McBrayer" as a clerk. A "Mitchell Harrison" was also listed as a clerk. An attempt is being made to find out what happened to the record book because it surely would be a source of interesting information.

John and Virginia had sons Eddie and John L. Eddie lived his life in Oklahoma, dying as far as is known without issue. John L. died young.

The McBrayer family lived in this area

Choctaw Nation

Present day counties 
 Districts of the Choctaw Nation 
 Counties of the Choctaw Nation 



map overlay by Ron Henson



WEDDINGS

Ronald Stewart McBrayer (M 96-6/2, 9th gen., Donald 96-6, Ralph - 335, Seneca - 370-1, William - 456, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1) son of Donald Waid and Gail Lois Alexander McBrayer was married October 6, 2001, to **Jessica Turbes** at Hidden Lake Park (near Merrillville, IN, site of a previous National Reunion). The wedding was planned for an outdoors Gazebo, but it was too cold and it had rained for two days previously. Therefore, the wedding was inside the reception hall. A bagpiper played as Jessica walked in.



Jessica is from Powell, Wyoming, and is of German extraction. She was previously married and has a ten year old daughter from that relationship who is being adopted by Ron. They met by e-mail. She was a friend of a friend of Ron.

Ron's middle name Stewart came from his mother's paternal grandmother who was a Stewart. The grandparents had a candy shop in downtown Chicago and sold mint tofflets at Marshall Fields with the brand name "Royal Stewart Mint Tofflets."

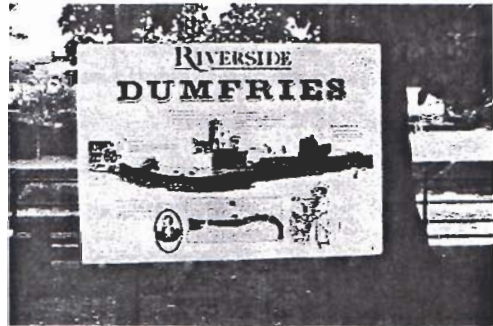
They are making their home in Bloomingdale, IL, where Ron is an Environmental Geologist for Boelter & Yates and Jessi works for Boise Cascade Office supplies.



RENEWAL OF VOWS

On July 31, 2001, Family Association members Paul and Lyn Brier renewed their wedding vows at Comlongin Castle, near Dumfries. Richard Paul Brier (B 117/1, 8th gen, Glenn - 117, Albert - 11, John - 174, James - 150, James - 150, Andrew - 17, David - 78, William - 1) and Lyn Gralow Sullivan were married May 13, 1972.

Paul and Lyn started their "second honeymoon" trip with a stop in London. They then went to Dumfries for a four-day stay. Lyn's comment "What a gorgeous place Dumfries is." They stayed at the Carindale hotel and recommend it highly. Of course they wandered the city and visited St. Michaels where they saw our commemorative plaque to our ancestors. They attended services at St. Michaels on Sunday and felt they were the centers of attraction!



Paul at Robert Burns statue with St. Michaels Church in the background.

Then on to Comlongon Castle for the renewal of the vows. Comlogon Castle has been visited in the past by a number of our family members. You can learn about the castle by visiting their web site: www.comlongon.co.uk . It is said that a distant cousin of ours, Lady Marion Carruthers, haunts the castle. She committed suicide by throwing herself off the tower of the great hall. Her ghostly presence is supposed to be indicated by the smell of apples - they did not smell apples.

The ancient Celtic ceremony was conducted by Jock Ferguson of Dundee. Friends Dr. David and Betsy Chester served as Best Man and Maid of Honor. The ceremony included drinking from the quaich (a small shallow cup) and the exchange of Family Association lapel pins. Wording of the ceremony had the exchange of daughter of Edna, daughter of Alice, daughter of Elizabeth except that in her excitement, Lyn said "son of." The ceremony ended with them kissing the sword and plunging it into the earth. They processed into the Great Hall up a small spiral staircase preceded by a piper. The fireplace had a huge fire and the hall was lit by candles. Entertainment featuring piper Evan Whitmore and his band was followed by a six-course meal. Paul and Lyn spent that night in the bridal suite of the castle.

The Briers, accompanied by the Chesters, then headed off on a motoring tour. First to Edinburgh, staying at the Caledonian Hotel overlooking Edinburgh Castle. They missed the tattoo by a day, but were able to visit the castle and take in a whiskey tour. On the way to Glasgow they stopped at Stirling Castle. From Glasgow they traveled to the Isle of Skye where they stayed at the Skeabost Hotel. From there they went to Braemar where they were fortunate to stay at the guest house (Lyn said it looked like the White House) of John Kluge, the fifth richest man in the world. Mr. Kluge invited them to dinner which they thoroughly enjoyed. A visit to Balmoral Castle was planned, but the Queen arrived the day they were going to visit, so that was that.

As sometime happens, they were blessed by fine clear weather with only one period of rain, that when they were driving from the Isle of Skye to Braemar.

Their trip home started from Aberdeen where they flew back to London. They took a hop-off tour and floated down the Thames. The "honeymoon" finished up by seeing the "Lion King" at the Lyceum Theatre.

Lyn and Paul at the right at Comlongon Castle



They enjoyed Scotland so much they are headed back to Scotland for a two-week stay in July 2002.



Luther Junior McBrayer married the former Virginia Mae Slate on March 17, 1951. The ceremony was performed at the Burnwell, WV home of Luther Junior's parents, Luther Cutlip and Bessie Mae McBrayer.

The bulk of their adult lives were spent in Mansfield, OH, where Luther spent 17 years with Borg-Warner; while Virginia worked 12 years for the Smith Dairy Company. Luther and Virginia subsequently retired from Therm-O-Disc Corporation after stints of twenty and fifteen years respectively. In October of 1996, they completed their retirement plans by returning "home" to West Virginia, settling in Eleanor to be nearer their families.

The 50th Anniversary Dinner was held in Room B of the old Eleanor, WV, Town Hall on March 17, 2001. One hundred-plus guests friends, family, neighbors, and well wishers were in attendance. The happy couple's only child, Randy Lyn McBrayer of Elizabeth CO, planned and coordinated the event with the aid of a variety of out of town friends and local family members. Slate family sisters Betty Johnson and Patricia Moore baked a beautiful tiered cake for the occasion, and coordinated the food line.

Luther underwent quadruple heart bypasses in June 1994 and unfortunately suffered a stroke during the operation. A year later, he had half of his right lung removed due to cancer. Needless to say he needs constant care. Virginia underwent cardiac catheterization on October 23, 2001, with a subsequent triple bypass a few days later. In January 2002, son Randy reported that she was doing well and headed to a complete and successful recovery.

(The above information was provided by Randy McBrayer. Randy also has had his share of medical problems with multiple back surgeries over the past year. You can learn more about Randy by checking his web site at www.bigdrumdaddy.com)



Luther, Randy and Virginia at Luther and Virginia's 50th anniversary party

Luther Junior McBrayer, M 183-9, 7th gen, Luther - 287, Hartwell - 137-6, William - 445, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1, was listed as James Junior in Carl McBrayer's family history book. Also to be added to the information in the book is Virginia's birthplace of Hugheston, WV, and Randy's of Burnwell, WV.



BABIES!!!!

Three families added seven babies to our Family late in 2001. Starting off with **QUADRUPLETS** born to **Lisa McBrayer White** and her husband **David "Aif" White**. They were born

August 16, 2001 at UAB Hospital, Birmingham, AL. Birth weights were: **Ian**, 2 lb. 11 oz.; **Blake** 2 lb. 7 oz.; **Reed** 2 lb. 2 oz and **Seth** 1 lb. 5 oz.

Lisa is the daughter of Jimmy Ray and Sandra Gaye Palmer McBrayer. Jimmy, M 213-5, 8th gen., Otis 323-5, Benjamin - 33, Andrew - 27, Samuel - 365, Andrew - 12, Samuel - 360, William - 1. This information was provided by Otis and Tommie McBrayer, Lisa's uncle and aunt.



Dad, Mom, Zach and the twins



**Christmas 2001 with the Quads
Blake, Reed, Ian
Seth**



Alexandra



Lucas

Next we welcome **Christopher Thomas McBrayer** born November 1, 2001 at Harris Hospital in Fort Worth Texas. He is the son of **David Anthony** and **Jenni Dowty McBrayer**. David is the son of Carlton Lester and Terri Annell Wade McBrayer. Carlton, M 323-7/3, 9th gen., Otis 313-7, Otis 323-5, Benjamin - 33, Andrew - 27, Samuel - 365, Andrew - 12, Samuel - 360, William - 1.

This information was provided by Otis and Tommie McBrayer, the great Grandparents of young Christopher.

And now twins **Alexandra Noel** and **Lucas William Atkinson**, the children of **Theresa (Tammy) Ann McBrayer** and **Jeffery William Atkinson**. They were born December 13, 2001, Alexandra at 5:34 a.m. weighing in at 5 lb. 11.5 oz and 18 ½ inches, while Lucas came along at 5:54 at 6 lb. 6.3 oz and 19 inches. They join big brother Zachary at home in Cypress, TX.

Tammy (M - 173, 9th gen., James - 173, Benjamin - 35, John - 236, Henry - 141, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1) is the daughter of James Donald and June Ann Reiss McBrayer.

Grandparents Jim and June McBrayer provided the information.

SCOTS ARE EVERYWHERE!

Lloyd Bockstruck, writing in his "Family Tree" column in *The Dallas (TX) Morning News*, says, "If your great-grandparents came to the United States from Poland and if you have delved into the church records of the ancestral town in that country, you might be surprised to find that they, and you, are not Polish after all. Instead, you discover you are Scottish."

Mr. Bockstruck says that in the 1600s more than 100,000 Scots settled in Ireland and Americans extrapolate on the fact that Ireland had been the country of choice of Scots for decades before, but says that history is written differently. In the medieval period, Scottish knights had accompanied the Teutonic knights on their crusades against the heathen Letts. From 1550 to 1650, more Scots followed the shores of the Baltic Sea to the east. Poland was their favorite destination. He says that by the 1640s, there were more than 30,000 Scots living on in Poland.

David Dobson has written *Scots in Poland, Russia and the Baltic States, 1550-1850* which is a great source for clues which may provide the ancestral clues you need to find your own Scottish history. The book is available for \$20 plus \$3.50 s/h from Clearfield Co., 200 E. Eager St., Baltimore, MD
(by permission, The Family Tree, October/November 2000)

SEARCHING FOR OUR ROOTS

Nothing is so dear to many in the family as finding our roots, who were the ancestors of William, David and James, and for that fact Nathaniel. Were William, David and James really brothers? Where were they born? When did they actually come to America and from where?

If you search the Internet, you will find any number of genealogical sites with fairly extensive family trees. "Facts" are stated giving answers to the above questions. The problem is, nobody yet has provided documentation. Without documentation we are just relying on stories which may or may not be true. In contacting some of the people who created these family trees, the comments have been that the "facts" were something they had heard or read somewhere. Many family members have searched over the years, but there is nothing definite.

It has been felt that a professional genealogist might be able to help us, so a search began to look for someone. It is easy to find firms and individuals who claim they can find ancestors, the problem is to access the qualifications and get an impression if the particular firm/individual can deliver. There are two basic ways we might go: search on the American side or search on

the United Kingdom side. We have to remember that our ancestors came to America as pioneers to a barely developed group of British colonies. Since our ancestors presumably were British citizens, be they from Scotland or Ireland, there was little record keeping as they moved from one place to another. The written records we have are from when the brothers obtained land, had surveys done, paid taxes or died and left wills. None of these found to date have provided any early history. Still new records appear from time to time and sources are continually searched to see if something comes up.

As pointed out in the January 2001 Issue of "In Defiance," we do have a problem with what name to look for. Records have been found with several variations of our name even for the same person. More will be said about this problem in the next issue as some recently found data are checked.

Our cousin Ken Harvey in Scotland has done considerable research but has not yet found our connection. He has relied on many resources, including Alfred Truckell, a retired curator at the Dumfries Museum who probably knows as much about our family as any outsider. During a trip to Scotland he told our group as we stood on the shore near his home in Kirkcudbright overlooking ruins of an old pier, there's where your ancestors left for Ireland. He has found old town records since and has told Ken about results. We hope to have these eventually transcribed and added to our records.

During the past year, certain records from Scotland have begun to become available on the Web. They are not complete and are fairly expensive to search. Still, these have led to the names of a few researchers. One in particular seemed to be one who would give us a fair assessment of the potential for finding something to help us. The firm is Scottish Roots Ancestral Research Service which was started by Tony and Stuart Reid in 1984. Both are active in the firm and they have added a team of researchers, all of whom have at least 15 years of experience at the record office. One very attractive feature of their service is that they will consider our starting point and give an opinion if they feel they can provide information worth the cost.

I contacted Stuart Reid giving him a shortened version of what we know and what we were looking for. His response was: "Sorry Robert - it is all too early. There are very few decent birth/marriage/death certificates in the 1700's, never mind the 1600s. Please be wary of those who advise otherwise...."

Their web site points out the following:

Statutory birth, marriage and death certificates did not start in Scotland until 1855.

As in the U.S., census surveys are done every 10 years in Scotland, but they did not start until 1841.

Before 1855 all records were grouped according to parish and there were just more than 900 Scottish parishes in total. Records vary considerably between parishes.

From another source (Ancestry.com on-line course "How to Trace Your Scottish Ancestors"), it was found that before record keeping became statutory, it was more or less on a voluntary basis. Adding to the problem, during certain periods of history, there was a tax levied upon those entering records. Needless to say, many did not file records.

Another large genealogical research firm in the UK, Ancestors of Dover Ltd., was considered based on what appeared to be a broad possibility of searches and a guarantee on results. While it sounded good at first, the guarantee applied to research AFTER 1900. For any research prior to 1900 requires submission of all documentation available. While this is done to avoid duplication of effort, it means we would have to do a lot of the work to even get a start. From that point on, they just search on an hourly fee basis with no guarantee of finding anything. Another matter of concern is that the firm is also in the business of creating coats-of-arms (shades of Haberts). This firm is no longer being considered.

Deciding to try another approach, an end run so to speak, it was decided to try following up on the story that William's wife Rebecca was the aunt of Robert Burns' mother Agnes Brown. There is a fine web site, referenced by several Scottish origin or genealogical

sites, www.robertburns.org, which gives a lot of information about Burns and his ancestry. The site is maintained by John Burness, recognized by many as a Robert Burns expert.

As it turns out, Robert Burns' name was not originally Burns, but was Burness, a name which was used from his birth in 1759 until March 1786. Both names come from the same root *burn*, which means a small stream, and originated from an ancestor who lived beside a *burn*. Other names from the same root are Burn and Burnes.

It is clearly documented that the maternal ancestors of Robert Burns were the descendants of John Brown, father of Gilbert Brown, the maternal grandfather of Robert Burns. Gilbert Brown, born in 1708 in Kirkoswald, Ayrshire, Scotland, was married to Agnes Rainie on June 3, 1731. Their first born Agnes Brown, born March 1731 or 32 in Culzean, Ayrshire, Scotland, married William Burness on December 15, 1757 in Ayr. Their oldest child was Robert Burns.

At least now we can see that the timing is right taking the calculated birth date for Rebecca to be 1704. Adding to the story is an indication that her maiden name really may have been Mary Brown (see page 18 of Carl McBrayer's 1998 book.)

So what does the record show for John Brown? John was born about 1665. He married Jannet McGren on December 24, 1695. Their children are given as:

Jannet, baptized June 7, 1702

Agnes, baptized March 18, 1705

Gilbert, born 1708

Jannet, baptized August 28, 1709 (did the first Jannet die?)

James, baptized January 6, 1712

No Rebecca and no Mary! So we are left still with uncertainty as whether or not Rebecca was a Brown, a sister to Gilbert or the aunt of Robert's mother Agnes.

I contacted John Burness to determine if he could provide any clarification. Unfortunately he could not, stating that his interest was primarily in the Burness family, Robert's paternal ancestors. He has not done searches for the Browns. A couple of years ago I contacted a Brown researcher in Dumfries regarding

this possible connection. He told me he had nothing to add.

So we are left with nothing more than we started with. Still, with additional records from the Scottish Records Office becoming available there is still hope.

Indices are now available for the following records:

Old Parish Register Index and Statutory Register Index

Birth and Christenings (1553-1900)

Marriages (1553-1900)

Statutory Register Index Deaths (1855-1925)

1881 Census

1891 Census

1901 Census

Now the fun begins! As we know, there are numerous name variations which have been recorded. Searching by this approach, gave the following results:

McBrayer	30 records
MacBrair or McBair	141 records
McBriar	43 records
McBrier	44 records
McBryer	86 records
McBryar	18 records
Brier	45 records
Briar	21 records
Brair	5 records
Makbrair (1510)	4 records
McBrayr (1444)	18 records
Mckbrair (1684)	1 records

The dates in the left column are the dates reported for the first use of the name variation.

The following name variations were searched without results: McBrear, M'Brair, Makbrar, M'Brears (1700s), Macbraar(1533), Makbraar(1557), McBraare (1494), M'Braier (1667), Makbraire (1506), McBrar(1505), M'Brayre(1573), Makbrayre(1667) and Makbriar(1579).

So there are a lot of places yet to search, however, it will take time. The problem still is to find the links between families. Keep in mind that we have that here

in America where the history is more recent. Hardly a month goes by that a McBrayer/Brier is found through various contacts and we don't know where that person fits in.

Every family member can help. If you have documentation in any form, please pass it along and share it. Let's not have a lot of people working in one small area of research. If you have some special source, let others know about it and keep everyone informed. This newsletter can be the means. It has been noted during Internet searches that there are a number of web sites maintained by family members. If you have a site, please let me know so this information can be shared. You never know when someone may find (or have already found) that little piece of information you may need. Please send the URL to: RMcBrayer@metroshores.net or if you have problems with that address, RLM952@aol.com.

DNA PROJECT

Last issue, the idea of a family DNA project was introduced. To say the response was disappointing is putting it mildly. There are presently only two Family Association members involved: Patrick Allen McBrayer and myself. One other member gave qualified support. Even with this limited participation, we will be able to learn something. Pat and I are the same generation, but our common ancestor is first generation William. Even a close partial match here will prove a relationship covering more than 200 years!

Perhaps there is some misunderstanding what is involved and what the testing will show. Every day we can read in the newspapers or magazines, or see on television reports of the use of DNA testing to prove the identity of suspected criminals or to release those unjustly convicted of crimes. DNA is also used to identify remains found under various conditions and was widely used in the aftermath of the 9-11 tragedy. It is my understanding that Ken McBrayer was identified in this way.

In our project, the testing is intended to identify only the male parentage relationship (Parental Ancestry Signature). This requires that those tested be males with the McBrayer/Brier or variations thereof as their

surname. The test characterizes the Y-chromosome passed on from father to son. Women do not carry the Y-chromosome, so of course cannot be included in the testing. The testing program is administered by Ancestry.com .

The test itself is very simple from the participant's standpoint. It involves rubbing a cotton swab on the inside of your cheek. Two swabs are used. These are then sent in for analysis. The analysis for the test we are using identifies 23 "markers" in the Y-chromosome. This is the most accurate test available today. Sample results for a fictional set of men is shown below. You can see that all the markers match in this example. This proves a match. There may be non-matches for some markers the further back in time you go, but if most markers match, there is a good indication of relationship. In the case of Pat and my tests, if William and Samuel (William's sons) were in fact brothers, we may have a close match as the time is not too long.

Why should we want to get our Y-chromosome tested?

1. **Database matching.** Our results will be compared to other results to find out if there are other matches. This may be other family members we don't even know or for whom there are no written records.

2. **Proving relationships.** This is the most useful aspect of DNA testing. We will be able to prove relationships and remove some of the shadowy ancestors we now have. These are the ones we know little about. Exact matches indicate people are related back about five generations. If one or two markers are different, the people are still related, but the relationship is more distant. There is a statistical model that can be used to estimate the number of generations between the individuals.

3. **Surname reconstruction.** We have several variants of our name, are we really related? The testing can help track back to a common ancestor.

♂ Your Paternal Ancestry Signature (Y-Chromosome Test)

Name: Frank W. Howard **Birth:** 12 Jun 1924 **Place:** Milton, Massachusetts

Markers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Your Values	180	37	10	13	10	10	27	23	11	13	13	11	15	11	11	12	186	13	10	13	11	23	11

♂♂ Your Genetic Relatives

Name: Jacob Howard **Birth:** 25 Feb 1913 **Place:** Hackensack, New Jersey

Markers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Values	180	37	10	13	10	10	27	23	11	13	13	11	15	11	11	12	186	13	10	13	11	23	11

Name: Richard L. Howard **Birth:** 30 Dec 1901 **Place:** Sacramento, California

Markers	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Values	180	37	10	13	10	10	27	23	11	13	13	11	15	11	11	12	186	13	10	13	11	23	11

Marker Names

1) DYS3:0	5) DYS388	9) DYS391	13) DYS437	17) GGAAT1B07	21) Y-GATA-A7.2
2) DYS384	6) DYS389	10) DYS392	14) DYS438	18) Y-GATA-A10	22) Y-GATA-C4
3) DYS385a	7) DYS389II	11) DYS393	15) DYS439	19) Y-GATA-A4	23) Y-GATA-H4
4) DYS385b	8) DYS390	12) DYS394	16) DYS462	20) Y-GATA-A7.1	

The data presented are examples only.

Copyright © 1998- 2002 , MyFamily.com Inc. and its subsidiaries

This will take a good number of participants to be of greatest value.

There are some important facts to keep in mind about these Y-Chromosome tests:

A. The test will **NOT** reveal any information about your health or tendency toward any disease. The test does **NOT** look at any regions related to health or genetic traits.

B. The test will **NOT** create a unique genetic fingerprint that will identify you as an individual. We expect to have a good number (eventually if we get cooperation) of identical or nearly identical signatures. What it does do is provide a unique **FAMILY** signature.

There is a maternal signature test, but the data base is small and results are not useful in determining a paternal lineage, the normal way we trace family genealogy today. Both men and women have mitochondrial DNA (mtDNA) in their cells. This mtDNA is passed along by the biological mother. While a son inherits his mother's mtDNA, he does not pass it along to his children. His Y-chromosome is inherited from his father and he passes it along to his sons only, daughters do not inherit it.

Please consider if you are a candidate for testing. You can help our family to prove our relationships and build on our family history. An attempt is being made to identify at least one McBrayer/Brier surname man in Scotland to become involved in our program. If we can do this, we will have another route to tracing our ancestors back to Scotland. Testing is simple and painless. Cost is about \$200. The actual cost will depend on how many test kits are ordered and what kind of deal can be arranged at the time of order. If you are willing to help, please let me know.

What if we don't get matches from those tested? It can happen. An interesting article appeared in the May/June 2002 issue of *Family History Magazine* that addresses this issue. The article is entitled "DNA Testing Dispels a Genealogical Myth." The Smolenyak family traced its roots back to 1740 in the small isolated village of Osturňa in the Ukraine. Church records showed that the

Smolenyaks lived in the same four households for decade after decade. Members of each household immigrated to America between 1890 and 1909. Their descendants were well identified and it was possible to begin a DNA testing program using a 12-marker Y chromosome test, the standard at the time. Much to their surprise, they found that none of the households matched and did not even come close! They did find individuals descended from a given household did match. While the results were disappointing to this family, they now know the relationships. They do have proof of a blood tie between households, but this is through a collateral (that is non-Smolenyak) line.

How could this happen? The author came up with some possibilities:

"Duped Daddy" Theory. Possibilities of children fathered by other than a husband, but raised by the husband thinking the child was his own. Similarly, there is the possibility of an unwed mother. We know this has happened in our family and if one of the descendants there were to be tested there would be no match.

Surname Origin Theory: The surname originated as a consequence of some characteristic such as the variations of Burns mentioned earlier. In our case, one proposed origin of the name has been "son of a friar" - see the January 2001 Issue of *In Defiance*, page 8. Many clergy in the early days in Scotland were far from chaste and if the name origin is correct, there could be numerous "sons of friars" running around. We have no proof one way or another.

Surname Evolution Theory. Blended families that occur due to death (and divorce more recently in history) and remarriage. In such households, there are often children that are his, hers and theirs. Children may or may not have kept the name of their father. Of course then, a son of a non-McBrayer may later in life be known as a McBrayer and if tested would be no match.

We can add to that other possibilities. At the Dallas National Family Reunion, J. Earl told a story which relates to this. J. Earl in his travels often stopped to talk

to whatever McBrayer he came across. He visited a family and began to ask about ancestors. The husband, named McBrayer, was very reticent and did not offer any answers. When he left the room, his wife told J. Earl that her husband's birth name was not McBrayer. He had grown up with an abusive father. A McBrayer was a kindly next door neighbor. The husband so much admired Mr. McBrayer that when he was old enough he changed his name. No ties there!

Also in our history we know of former slaves adopting our name when they were freed. Several are listed in Carl McBrayer's history. We may have the same situation as the Thomas Jefferson descendants have where it is claimed that Thomas fathered children by a slave, Sally Hemmings. Of course, the father could have been another male relative of Thomas. The Parental Ancestry Signature would be the same.

With all this, we can see some importance to the DNA testing even if we do not prove our ties to Scotland or Ireland. If any family member has contact with a McBrayer/Brier surname male anywhere in the world outside the U.S., please pass the name and address along and we will try to get them to participate in our project.

SAVE YOUR DNA

As mentioned above, DNA was used to identify many victims of September 11. In the future scientists may be able to do even more with DNA analysis that will benefit our descendants. How can we save suitable samples to pass along?

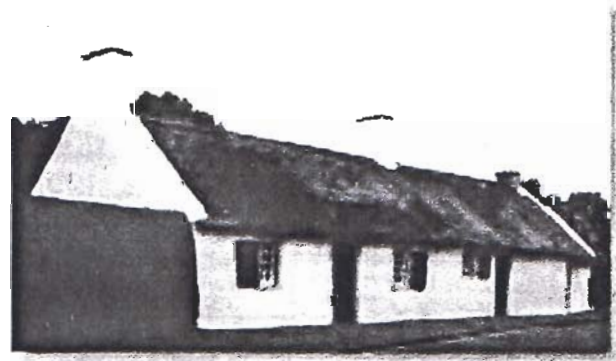
The December/January 2001/2002 issue of *Family Tree On-Line* has a suggestion. Next time you get a haircut or trim your fingernails, save a sample, put them in an empty pill bottle, label the bottle with your full name, birth date and other appropriate data, then put the bottle in a safe place such as a safety deposit box at a bank. Your descendants may be very grateful that you did.

WORDS OF WISDOM

If at first you don't succeed,
then skydiving definitely isn't for you!

BURNS COTTAGE UNDER THREAT

Just as people around the world were celebrating the birth of Robert Burns (on January 25, 1759) the trustees of the cottage where he was born have revealed that they are making a loss on the tourist attraction. And due to dampness in the building due to an unrepaired leaking roof, some of the collection of original songs and letters have been damaged. The Burns National Heritage Park also operates the "Tam O' Shanter Experience" visitor centre and last year there were over 300,000 visitors in Alloway. But only 40,000 paid the modest admission charge to the cottage and museum. The thatched roof now needs to be renovated but that will cost over £3200,000 which is beyond the resources of the Trust. The charity receives no government funding but is hoping that they may be eligible for a grant from the Heritage Lottery Fund - without which many loss making charities would not survive these days. (Scottish Snippets, 26 Jan 2002)



The Burns Cottage

SEARCHING

Carl McBrayer received the following e-mail from England asking for assistance in locating a friend's relative who married a McBrayer. Carl could not identify the McBrayer family member. Can anyone help? If you can, let Carl and me know.

I have seen your details on a web page and wonder if you can help me.

My friend is trying to find her sister who emigrated to the States some time ago and I wonder if you can help in any way....She was born Muriel Margaret Gill in Liverpool, England on the 1st March 1937. She left the UK and married Staff Sergeant James McBrayer of the US Air Force in approx 1956. They had two children, Steven Raymond McBrayer and Sharon Michelle McBrayer (of course she may now be married). They divorced and in approx. 1966-1968 she married Otis Kenneth Barnett of the US Navy and they went on to have three children (no names as yet). From what I have been told so far, they did move around quite a

bit and have lived in San Diego, Mexico and possibly Texas. There is vague news of Muriel becoming a born-again Christian and actually preaching although I have no firm information in this regard.

I would be extremely grateful for any assistance you can offer in this matter. My friend was only about 12 years old when her sister emigrated and is desperate to find her.

Thanking you in anticipation of your assistance.

Mrs. Jay Nicholas

Determining relationships can often be confusing. The chart below may be useful to you. To use it, start in the upper left corner with the common ancestor. Count down each axis for the individuals you are finding the relationship for and the crossing point gives the relationship. The chart also helps to clarify the "removed" relationships. What it means is that there is a difference in generations.

	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
1	Common Ancestor	Son or Daughter	Grandson or Daughter	Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	7th Great Grandson or Daughter
2	Son or Daughter	Siblings (Brother or Sister)	Nephew or Niece	Grand Nephew or Niece	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece
3	Grandson or Daughter	Nephew or Niece	First Cousin	First Cousin Once Removed	First Cousin Twice Removed	First Cousin Three Times Removed	First Cousin Four Times Removed	First Cousin Five Times Removed	First Cousin Six Times Removed	First Cousin Seven Times Removed
4	Great Grandson or Daughter	Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin	Second Cousin Once Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Six Times Removed
5	2nd Great Grandson or Daughter	Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Twice Removed	Second Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin	Third Cousin Once Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed
6	3rd Great Grandson or Daughter	2nd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Three Times Removed	Second Cousin Twice Removed	Third Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Four Times Removed
7	4th Great Grandson or Daughter	3rd Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Four Times Removed	Second Cousin Three Times Removed	Third Cousin Twice Removed	Fourth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Three Times Removed
8	5th Great Grandson or Daughter	4th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Five Times Removed	Second Cousin Four Times Removed	Third Cousin Three Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Twice Removed	Fifth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed
9	6th Great Grandson or Daughter	5th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Six Times Removed	Second Cousin Five Times Removed	Third Cousin Four Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Three Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Twice Removed	Sixth Cousin Once Removed	Seventh Cousin	Seventh Cousin Once Removed
10	7th Great Grandson or Daughter	6th Great Grand Nephew or Niece	First Cousin Seven Times Removed	Second Cousin Six Times Removed	Third Cousin Five Times Removed	Fourth Cousin Four Times Removed	Fifth Cousin Three Times Removed	Sixth Cousin Twice Removed	Seventh Cousin Once Removed	Eighth Cousin

Next issue will contain some family line updates, a story about finding names in various census records and how it came about that the history of Sanford Logan - he is definitely related - was revealed.

If I have not included news or stories you have sent in, please forgive me. I will get them in as soon as I can.

Until next issue - Chief Bob