



IN DEFIANCE !

VOLUME 13
NUMBERS 3 & 4
JULY & OCTOBER
2002

THE MACBRAIR FAMILY
ASSOCIATION, INC.

RESEARCHING THE
VARIATIONS OF THE
SURNAMES MACBRAIR,
MCBRAIR AND BRIER
SEARCHING FOR OUR
SCOTTISH ROOTS

Contact:
Robert L. McBrayer
Chief and Newsletter Editor
952 Old Goddard Road
Lincoln Park, MI 48146-4453
Phone: 313.928.3109
Fax: 313.928.3109
E-mail: RMcBrayer@metroshores.net



FROM THE CHIEF ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Thanks to those members who wrote me regarding the change in format for this newsletter. Since the response was positive, it will be continued for the present.

This newsletter is being written in January 2003 and will, as another double issue, complete the obligation for four issues per year for 2002. I hope to do better this year. The problem is not one of having information, but it is one of sorting it out and putting it in some sort of understandable fashion.

With this newsletter, the dues notice for 2003 is being sent out to *everyone* on the mailing list. This does not necessarily mean that you owe dues. If you check your mailing envelope, you will find that it is coded by having either a number/letter or a letter in a parenthesis between your first and last name. If there is a number, such as 02, that means the year for which dues have been paid. If the number is 03, you have paid for this year. Life members are coded with L and naturally do not owe dues. If you feel our records are wrong, please let me know. All checks are recorded before they are deposited.

The change in the dues notice is to try to update our records and to get an indication of the interest in having another National Reunion. We need to have an indication of interest in reunions in general, what the family is looking for in a reunion and where might be a good place for a reunion. Please provide this input even if you will be unable to attend, everybody's opinion is valuable. Results will be reported once a sufficient number of replies are received.

Some of those on our mailing list are being dropped off with this issue. Those dropped either moved without providing forwarding addresses or have failed to respond to individual correspondence regarding their interest after being delinquent in dues for some time.

WHAT'S IN A NAME?

In the January 2001 and April 2001 issues of *In Defiance*, the origin of our name was discussed. The "accepted" source seemed to be that *Mac Brathair* was translated to "the friar's son." Maybe that is correct, but again maybe it is not.

First off, it has been commonly accepted that "Mac" connotes Scottish



© Ashleigh Brilliant
www.ashleighbrilliant.com
used with permission

*Memory is a device for
forgetting as well as
remembering. To that extent,
every autobiography is a work of
fiction and every work of fiction
an autobiography.*
P.D. James



heritage while “Mc” connotes Irish heritage. According to Roderick MacRae & Faye E. Moore writing in the January/February 2003 issue of “The Highlander” magazine, there is no historical truth to this understanding. The term comes from the Gaelic “Mhic” meaning “son of” or “of the kin.” Apparently, the abbreviations came into vogue when Highland names were put in English forms. “Mac” was changed to “Mc” or M with a raised small c underlined. Old documents may give names starting with Mhic, Vhic, Mac, Mc or M’, and they all mean the same. The last part of the name may be patronymic (descended from an actual person), or descend from a place or occupation. In our case we would take it as an occupation - a friar if the definition is correct.

Now to further confuse the issue, Nigel Tranter in his historical novel “Fast and Loose” introduced some characters who gave themselves the title of *Mhic Brathair-athar*, which he said translated to Son of the Uncle and that indicated some measure of junior status to the main family in the book, one Clan MacColl. The lead character of the novel, Colin MacColl refers to the followers of Mhic Brathair-athar as his cousins. This certainly puts a different light on the possibility for our name.

Compounding the problem with understanding names, the female form would replace “Mac” with “Nic” and the last part of the name is lenited (an “h” is placed after the first consonant in most cases) according to *Gaelic - A Complete Course for Beginners* by Boyd Robertson and Iain Taylor. This book also gives the translation for *bràithar* (the plural is *bràithrean*) as brother - uncle is not given. The on-line dictionary *Majstro*, when translating from the English brother to Scottish Gaelic also gives *bràithar*. Just for reference, father is *athair*, mother is *màthair* and sister is *nighean*. Definitions could not be given for uncle, cousin or aunt.

So maybe our prime ancestor was the brother of somebody else who was more important. And so the search continues!

SPEAKING OF NAMES –

While it may seem that emphasis is placed on the McBrayer spelling of our surname, I can assure you that searches are being made with other variants. These variations include: Brair, Briar, Brier, Bryar, Bryer and Brayer. The way most search engines on the internet and even the CD-ROMs sold by several sources. it is not necessary to add the prefixes of M’, Mc, or Mac in order to get “hits.” Some sites even bring up “Breer” and other variants. The name Brier very often gives more hits, but this is very misleading since it will pick up a lot of place names such as Greenbrier, towns named Brier, streets and roads such as Brier Lane, and names containing the Brier such as Brierley and Briere (pronounced Bree-air, a fairly common French Canadian name). Actually, the Briere variant may, if we were to go back far enough, be from the same roots if we believe one train of thought that our ancestors came from French-speaking Normandy as did many early settlers to Scotland. The ties between Scotland and France were very close at one time to the point that a citizen of one was essentially considered to be a citizen of the other. French was a commonly used language of commerce and government in Scotland.

Brier has also been found to be a name which has come to America with German immigrants. There have even been some from Russia. This is not to say that some of these may have not been Scots that went to mainland Europe a couple of centuries ago and now have come here. It is just hard to know. For this reason, unless we already know of ties or the documentation clearly states that the person is of Scottish or Irish heritage, they generally will not be reported.

It will be greatly appreciated if any member seeing information on any of the name variants and they know of at least a possible link, passes that information along to share with the family in this newsletter.

WHAT GENERATION ARE YOU?

The *Word Court* column in *The Atlantic Monthly* magazine has in the January/February 2003 issue a question regarding generation counts. Basically the question was the definition of “first-generation.” In all the published

books so far on our genealogy, William, James and David who first came to America have been considered our first-generation and we have counted up from there. Now, certain genealogy software creates descendency information with whoever you start with as the first generation. For example, if I were to create a record with myself as the beginning, I would be first generation even though I am eighth generation descended from William. Clearly the definition has changed. What does the dictionary say? *The American Heritage Dictionary, Third Edition* states:

first-gen'er'a'tion (fûrst'jûn'ə-rā'shən) *adj.* 1. Of or relating to a person who has left one country and settled in another. 2. Of or relating to a person or persons whose parents are immigrants.

Webster's Third New International Dictionary gives this definition:

first-generation 1; born in the U.S. – used of an American of immigrant parentage 2: FOREIGN – BORN – used of a naturalized American.

You can see that not even the dictionaries agree. By the Webster's definition, it would be difficult to tell exactly who we would consider first-generation. When the three brothers came, America was just another colony of the UK so they had no naturalization to consider. After Independence would they have been considered naturalized? I suppose you could take that point and they would remain first-generation by that definition. So is the term first-generation really useless? If we define it clearly, then it has value. Wherever possible in this newsletter, the three brothers will be considered our first-generation and count from them.

DEPUTY SHERIFFS CARL B. & JACK L. MCBRAYER

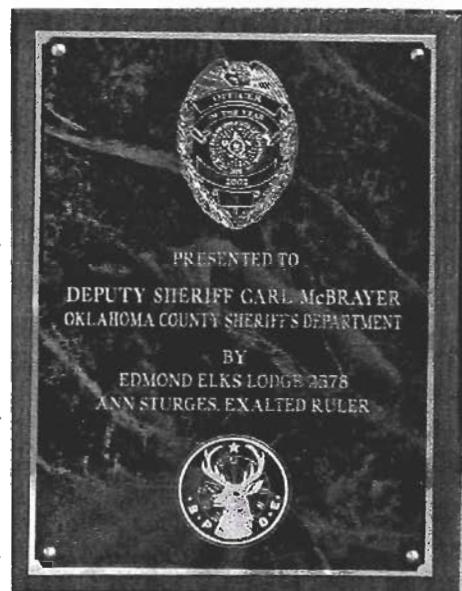
In the January 2001 issue of *In Defiance* it was announced that Carl and his son Jack were commissioned as Reserve Deputy Sheriffs in Oklahoma City.

Jack was honored last fall as reported in *The Standing Ready*, the Oklahoma County Sheriff's Department monthly newsletter for the Reserve Division.

DEPUTY OF THE MONTH - We have a small core group of Reserve Deputies that have been doing most of the work lately. Deputy Jack McBrayer was nominated for being one of these Deputies that seem to show up everywhere. When the call goes out Jack is one to count on. He was on a post at night on the 4th of July. The post was so far out he had trouble getting a break and never complained. When the call went out for help to cover a crime scene, he was the first to call in for the assignment. When the NAACP was conducting a meeting in front of the jail, Jack showed up without being called, to help the front door person out. Jack we thank you for your efforts and example you set for the Reserve Division. -
DEPUTY OF THE MONTH IS JACK MCBRAYER.

Following this, Carl was called by his Captain late in July and was told to be at the Edmond, OK, Elks Lodge on a Saturday night to receive an award. He had no idea what was going on or what kind of award he was to receive. Of course the Captain wasn't going to tell him. He was expecting a letter or a pin or something of the sort. When his name was called and the Sheriff and Carl went forward, he found that he had been nominated and selected as the Oklahoma County Reserve Deputy "Officer of the Year for 2002". The Edmond Elks Lodge has an annual Officer Appreciation Banquet each year to present awards to officers from the Oklahoma County Sheriffs Office, the Logan County (OK) Sheriff's office, the Edmond Police Department, the Luther (OK) & Arcadia (OK) Police Departments for outstanding community/law enforcement work. His Sargent had nominated him without his knowledge.

Our congratulations to them both for continuing to serve their fellow



citizens. Carl has worked in a part-time paid position with the Transport Section of the Sheriff's Office as well as a minimum of 16 hours per month with the Reserve Division.

WHAT DID THEY DO HERE?

Family Association member Aura (M 3B5c3A1, 8th gen, Harriet Sloan, James Z. Sloan, William Sloan, James Sloan, John Sloan, Mary McBrayer, David - 3) and her husband Nick Grimes were U.S. Census workers in 2002. While in Screven, Wayne Co., GA, Nick saw an industrial building for sale or lease. The sign on the building of course caught his attention. He asked about the company and was told that it may have moved to Waycross, GA, not too far away. Attempts have been made to try to identify the company, but no success thus far. Does any family member have a clue?



WPA

I'm sure anyone over a given age recognizes the WPA as a government agency. The Works Progress Administration was created on May 6, 1935, as an independent agency funded by congress. It was the Roosevelt Administration's most ambitious undertaking to provide employment for the jobless during the Great Depression. It brought under one agency the previously established Federal emergency Relief Administration (FERA), the Public Works Administration (PWA) and the Civil works Administration (CWA). It was meant to assist only people who were able to work, but jobless. Sometimes called a "make work" program, the WPA eventually provided employment for about 1/3 of the 10,000,000 unemployed, paying them \$ 50 a month.

Projects in the early '30s were mostly in the construction industry and you see many federal office buildings which can be attributed to this time. Other types of workers generally were not helped. One exception was a 1933 grant to the Treasury Department by the CWA for the Public works of Art Project. More than 3,600 artists in 48 states were given work to create murals and sculptures for public buildings. It ended in 1934 when the CWA was terminated.

WPA continued the work of construction of building and improving public facilities. It did however, expand into areas employing other than construction workers and specialized artists. New projects created the Federal Art Project (FAP), Federal Music Project (FMP), Federal Theatre Project (FTP), Federal Writer's Project (FWP) and the Historical Records Survey (HRS). It is this last project that is very important to those interested in genealogy.

The Historical Records Survey was created as a part of the Federal Writers Project. Its mission was to conduct a national records survey. In 1936, Luther Evans was appointed director.

Unemployed clerks, teachers, writers, librarians and archivists were used to catalog, analyze, and compile inventories of state and county records, which also included a historic and legal description of the county and the value of its records. Other state materials included manuscript collections and church archives. Inventories of early American imprints were supervised by the bibliographer Douglas McMurtrie, while other projects included supplements to the union list of newspapers, and surveys of portraits in public buildings. Bibliographies of American history and literature were prepared as well as a historical index of American musicians, an atlas of congressional roll call votes, list and index of unnumbered executive orders, and a collation of collections of presidential papers and messages. Many census records, particularly in the southern states, were also indexed as part of this project and have proven to be very valuable to genealogical researchers. Microfilming projects were

initiated across the country and a survey of Federal agencies in each state was undertaken.

The HRS was financially the most efficient of all the Federal programs and averaged 2,500 employees a month with a high in 1938 of 6,000 employed at an average salary of \$73.00 per month. With the end of the project in August 1939, Luther Evans resigned and the new director, Sargent Child tried to complete all the survey projects already underway. The Historical Records Survey subsequently became a part of the Community Service Program, and by 1941 the central staff was reduced to only 12 employees.

While the WPA was generally a success, it was not without its detractors, some corruption and complaints about unfair competition by business and unions. The Reorganization Act of 1939 effectively stopped WPA projects. It was renamed the Work Projects Administration as part of the Federal Works Agency and was no longer separately funded. Construction again became its emphasis.

With the onset of World War II, WPA began to focus on war issues and in 1941 the entire effort was devoted to war preparation. A recent book features war posters created by the WPA. As jobs increased in the private sector, WPA projects were reduced and all the agencies were eliminated in July 1943.

(Note: Most of the information on the WPA was abstracted from a paper "A Brief Overview of the WPA" by Margaret Bing, Cataloger/Curator, Bienes Center for the Literary Arts, Broward County Library, FL)

PENSION DENIED

Hugh McBrayer, son of first generation James, was captured by Indians in 1791. This has been reported previously in Carl McBrayer's book "**IN DEFIANCE - The MacBraire Heritage 1735 - 1998**," page 21. In the book is a partial transcript of Hugh's petition for a pension as a prisoner of war during the Revolutionary War. Another version of this pension petition, which varies only slightly, has been found in a booklet prepared under the auspices of the WPA. The booklet was entitled "**Abstracts of Pensions, Soldiers of the Revolution, 1812 and Indian Wars Who Settled The Bluegrass Region of Kentucky**"; Volume 2C; Contains the county of Anderson, Lawrenceburg, Kentucky. It was compiled by Annie Walker Burns and Mrs. Lucy Kate McGhee in Washington, DC. It was reedited in September 1998 by Jana Sloan Broglin and further revised in October 2000. According to the notes in the revision, obvious typographical errors were indicated by interpretation in brackets (and italicized by your editor). In some cases, repeated phrases were omitted.

REJECTED PENSION NUMBER

State of Kentucky, Anderson County, October 12, 1835 personally appeared Hugh McBrayer, as age 67, says that his father moved to Kentucky in the fall of 1779 in company with McAfee's and settled at their station about seven miles below Harrodsburg, the spring of 1781. He and his brother Chad crossed the river for the purpose of hobbling [*hobbling*] horses so that they could be found the next morning. It was in the dusk of the eventime. Sixteen Indians suddenly came upon them, seized him. His brother made his escape, across the river into the fort. The Indians carried him forth with. Without stopping, to Detroit and delivered him into the hands of the British who paid the Indians for the service out of the English Fort. They had been employed by the British to make war on us. There was a stone [*stone*] called the King's fort at Detroit kep [*kept*] by the Indian agent called Piero Banbee, Capt. Bird commanded at Detroit. He had about 100 prisoners captured principally at the Blue Licks defeat and at Bryant's and Riddells Stations. He states he remained a prisoner with others at Detroit until the summer of 1783. They were then shipped to the falls of Magara [*Niagara?*], thence to Montreal in lower Canada. Thence they were sent across to Ticondaroga [*Ticonderoga*] and at the mouth of Wood Creek, delivered and received by the Regular officers of the Revolutionary Army then in command. They were thus delivered up as prisoners of War upon peace being made. They were then marched near the place where Burgoyne had surrendered [*surrendered*] and were then discharged and he states he then returned home to

Kentucky by the way of Botetourt Cuntly [*County*], Virginia where his father had moved from and from there went in company with Robert McMillan - his family and his father's family who were moving to Kentucky. His neighbors were Robert D. Bowman, Ephraim Lillard and Jordan H. Walker.

Staae [*State*] of Kentucky, Mercer County. The deposition of Jane Lyen [*?*] Taken September 2, 1835. This deponenet [*deponent*] being about age 80 years of age says that she was acquainted with Hugh McBrayer in 1799. May 1779- that they came in company from Virginia to Kentucky, the fall before the hard winter, to James McAfee's station on Salt River and lived in the said station until the spring of 1781 and at that time and the said Hugh McBrayer was taken prisoner by the Indians near the said station and was again over two years before he returned to Kentucky again.

Deposition of Elizabeth MacCoun taken in Mercer County, Kentucky. September 25, 1835. Deposition of this deponent says she is age 79, and that she was acquainted with Hugh McBrayer, in 1779. That they came in company from Virginia to Kentucky, the fall before the hard Winter yo [*to*] James McFee's station on Salt river and lived in said station until the spring of 1781, and in that spring the said Hugh McBrayer was taken prisoner by the Indians near the station.

In the above account, Hugh refers to his brother "Chad." In the previous account, the brother is referred to as "James." There are at least two possibilities: first, there was a previously unknown brother named Chad; and two, his brother James was nicknamed Chad since the father's name also was James - we may never know. In any case, Hugh did not get his pension because he was underage, about 13, and he was not in the militia at the time of his capture.

THE MCBRAYER LIVERY BARN

Some WPA interviews were found on the web site of Kings Cross Farm, Caldwell County, Missouri. The first of these was narrated by W. J. McBrayer in March 1934. It is clear that the interviewer did not simply record what was said, but put it into a third person narrative based on what was said. It is clear from the records available in Carl McBrayer's book that W. J. McBrayer can be identified as **William J. McBrayer** (M450-8, 6th gen, Samuel - 363, Carlton - 45, Samuel - 361, Samuel - 360, William -1). We do not know much about William's family and no descendants are listed. Carl's sketch contains an article which describes the operation of "McBrayer Brothers," a dealer of horses, mares and mules. Somewhat strangely, in the following, nothing is said that refers to William's brother David Solomon "Sol," who was his partner in "McBrayer Brothers." The narration does reveal that William had more than one son, so there is some room for further research. "Billy's" story follows:

Excelsior Livery Barn

Large Credit System with Banks

The McBrayer Excelsior livery barn was built 1875 by Samuel McBrayer on Main Street, two blocks south of the depot. Mr. McBrayer was born in Daviess County, his ancestors having come from North Carolina. The barn was increased in size from time to time, the pictures of it in 1885 showing a bigger building than the picture of 1875. Later on, Mr. McBrayer built a big sale barn farther south on Main. The livery stable itself had about 30 horses for hire. In the sale barn, often there would be from 150 to 300 horses kept.

The livery barn kept a corps of drivers hired to accommodate customers. Some of these men were Sam and Jake Buster, Fred and Austin (Ott) Farr, and Mr. Eggleston.

The livery stable of the 70's and 80's and 90's had two uses - 1) to supply horses and buggies for pleasure drives. You could get for a Sunday afternoon drive a double rig, (two horses and double covered carriages) for two dollars. However, on some very important occasions like picnics or campaign speeches, the cost was higher and you had to engage a rig several days ahead. The other use was for commercial purposes. It gave transportation for drummers or traveling men to inland towns. Drummers would get off here at Hamilton with their four or five trunks, go to the livery man and he would fix up the trip. First the trunks would be put into a lumber wagon with a driver while the drummer with another driver drove behind. They made Kingston, Polo, Knoxville, Taitsville, Dawn, Russellville, and some towns which no longer exist, to sell goods to the country store keeper. They might be gone a week or ten days, and if the drummer's trip went east, they would go to Chillicothe where he and his trunks got a train and the two drivers brought the vehicles back to Hamilton. On such trips, the drummer paid all the expenses of drivers and horses. This sort of thing went on in these parts till the Milwaukee railroad, 1886, came to some of the above towns. The grocery drummer never kept out a team as long as a dry goods drummer, but he came more often.

When asked if goats were a necessary part of a livery stable to keep away disease, Mr. McBrayer said, "Nothing to it" but they often had a goat as a pet for Claude, the youngest son.

Samuel McBrayer (usually called Sam) had a son, Wm. J. (usually called Billy) the narrator of this story. He and his father bought the old "Excelsior" livery stable from each other several times. Wm. J. is a born horseman and still loves to talk about his horse buying days. At one time, he employed ten to fifteen men in the local barn and had about the same number of men in Kansas and Missouri buying up horses and mules. Over eighty people were dependent on his payroll. About thirty-five years ago, mules cost \$300.00, and at one deal one of his buyers bought one hundred mules, sending in a check of \$30,000.00 on W.J. Other buyers sent in enough checks to make his out going checks \$60,000.00 which he borrowed from three banks, showing the strength of his credit. These things are of interest, because business is not done that way now.

He told how he happened to trade with the old Savings Bank. He had had his money in the Houston Spratt and Menefee Bank an old private bank of fine reputation here, but small. He offered checks on this bank while buying horses in Kansas. They would deliberate and then accept them saying "Why don't you do business with a bank on the National list? This list does not contain your bank but does have Hamilton Savings Bank." He came home and took his money over to Dan Booth, cashier of the Savings Bank.

He recalled when he bought the old red bandwagon a high long wagon with a canopy top and seats running lengthwise. It held twenty-two people and was the popular way to go to the Hamilton Fairgrounds. He took it full of men to Gallatin to see the murderer, Jump, hanged. They used to have public hangings in the eighties. On that occasion, people traveled all night over the Gallatin road to witness the death. Sometimes people would bring home pieces of the rope as a keepsake from hangings.

On the occasion of W. J. Bryan's first race for the presidency, in the 16 to 1 days, he recalled that fifty to seventy-five white horses were collected from here and elsewhere to accommodate girls who were riding in Bryan's silver procession.
(Source: http://members.tripod.com/kingscrossfarm/intwerviews/mcbrayer_livery_barn.htm)

More is said about the W. J. race for the presidency in the following narration by Mrs. Mabel Gwynn McBrayer. We don't know exactly who she is. Carl's data states William's was Maude C. - ? - . Was his wife's name really Mabel, was she a son's wife? A William H. Gwynn and his family lived in Hamilton for many years and he had at least one daughter Mary who married Eugene Keefe. She was 78 in 1934. It seems possible that Mabel could be her older sister. Census records may give us a clue and so will be searched now that we have some clues. Mr. Gwynn was a blacksmith who had his own shop east of the McBrayer livery barn on Mill Street. From an

interview with C. A. Martin, the businesses must have been at the south edge of the town.

No matter what, the story by Mabel Gwynn is interesting:

Electing a President in the Late Seventies and Early Eighties

The business of electing a President was a more exciting matter in former times than now. First the Civil War was near enough to color all politics. The Republicans were Black Republicans to the Democrats and the Democrats were rebels to the Republicans; and even the children felt the hatred at Election times and yelled ugly words at one another.

Again preparing for election day was quite a show in itself here at Hamilton. There were numerous torch light parades in "rallies"; each party gave a rally at night and on that occasion there would be a long procession of torches, horse back riders, floats and four sided transparencies showing slogans. Always there was a fair young lady as goddess of liberty with forty-eight girls as States and Territories. Bands played and people yelled. Along the line of march, the homes of the opposing partisans were black as night but the homes of the party giving the rally would be bright with candles and Chinese lanterns. Every curtain in the house had to be taken down and the windows filled with boards on which rested candles. The yards were strung with clothes line, trunk ropes and Chinese lanterns. Some of the family went on Main street but some always stayed at home to watch the candles. Of course it cost money but it was worth it, and the Chinese lanterns were used year after year for church lawn socials.

Then if your party won in the election you had a still bigger time at the ratification which was held just as soon as the returns had clearly shown what side really won. That was sometimes not known for days, for they did not have the quick counting then to get returns.

On Election day, there was a rough crowd in town and the men did not like for their women folks to go by the polls; it just did not look nice. Men drank and became noisy.

At one Rally at Hamilton - the Cleveland-Thurman - everyone in the parade wore red bandanas on their head, around their necks etc., because old Allen Thurman, the Vice President candidate was supposed to use one. When Ben Harrison ran for President, the Republicans had an old log cabin in the procession (echoing his grandfather's slogan) while the Democrats ridiculed him by having a small man wear a hat much too big, "Trying to wear Grandpa's hat." When Cleveland was defeated for re-election the Republicans had a float with E.H. Daley, who resembled Cleveland rowing a boat "going up Salt River."

BITS AND PIECES

Bits and pieces of information can be found many places which mention McBrayers/Briers. Often these folks cannot be positively identified, but they are being reported since somewhere, sometime a correlation may be drawn. At minimum, these tidbits help to give us a sense of history, how our ancestors lived and where we might look for more information. "Conclusions" reached below are the current opinion of your Editor and are not necessarily facts.

From "Northeast Alabama Settlers," Vol XXXIII, No. 3, January 1955:

In the St. Clair County Deed Book "B," Page 677, is recorded a deed for Jesse Owens written August 6, 1840. One of the witnesses to the deed was **SAMUEL McBRAYER**. There are two possibilities for this Samuel. The first is 4th generation **SAMUEL** (M 364, David - 82, Samuel - 360, William - 1), the son of David and Mary Young McBrayer who lived in DeKalb Co. at that time, but his first wife Rebecca from St. Clair County, his

brother John Young McBrayer lived there prior to 1830 and he eventually bought property there. A better possibility is his cousin **SAMUEL BUNCOMBE** (M 365, Andrew - 12, Samuel - 360, William - 1), the son of Andrew and Sarah Johnson McBrayer. This Samuel married his first wife in St. Clair County in 1938. He also was for some time a Justice of the Peace in St. Clair County. That there is some uncertainty, we might take heart in the fact that at the time the locals also had problems distinguishing between them. They had nicknames given to them. Sam B. was called "Honest Sam" (since he was an upholder of the law) or "Bunc." His cousin was called "Dog Sam" since he was known for the dogs he raised, kept and hunted with.

From the "Bulletin of The Genealogical Society of Old Tryon County," Vol XXV, No. 1, February 1997, there are a number of entries.

From Cleveland County, NC, Estates:

A. J. McBrayer, 1854

8 December 1854: Petition of T. W. Hardin, administrator of A. J. McBrayer who died seized of 130 acres and leaving children under aged.

Undated: Arima McBrayer asks for her year's allowance.

21 December 1854: Widow's allowance described.

This is probably 5th generation **ANDREW JACKSON** (M 19, Samuel - 362, William - 418, Samuel - 360, William - 1) who has been reported as living in Cleveland County in 1850. His wife given in the sketch is "Arianna" or "Aranna." but he did have three minor children at the time of the report above. Now we have a better idea of his date of death - between 1850 and late 1854 - with a good possibility it was in 1854.

D. D. McBrayer, 1867

2 March 1868: Sale bill of property of David McBrayer deceased left in his will to his wife Delila, sold 28 September 1867.

Notice of Permelia McBrayer, administrator of D. D. McBrayer deceased.

It appears quite clearly that this is 3rd generation **DAVID** (M 79, William - 421, William - 1) since it is known that his wife was Delila Webb, that he died in 1843 and willed property to his wife. Delila died 10 July 1867, so it seems likely that the property could be then sold. David and Delilia's son David had a daughter Permelia, however she was reported to have died in 1856. Another Permelia, the daughter of Humphrey P. and Elizabeth Sitz McBrayer was only 10 at the time of this entry and lived in Alabama, so can be ruled out as the administrator. A possibility is Permelia Jane McBrayer, the daughter of Samuel and Rhoda McIntire McBrayer, a cousin who was 34 at the time of the report and lived in Cleveland County. One problem is that she was married in 1856 to A. B. Champion. Since she was only 10 when David died, she no doubt would have to be a successor administrator for David. Perhaps the Estate book would provide additional information.

James McBrayer, 1856

10 May 1843: Deed from Moses Dickey and Mary Dickey to David Hamrick, all our own right in tract whereon Elizabeth McBrayer now resides on First Broad River joining Samuel McBrayer and others.

Spring 1855: Petition of Samuel McBrier heir of Wm. McBrier and purchaser of the interest of Rebecca Beaty and Jason McBrier in the land herinafter described, also of Amaretta, Misoura, Rush, and Virissa Hamrick heirs at law of David Hamrick by their next friend and guardian A. R. Homesly; also Wm. Wesson and wife Mariah, Wm. McEntire, Wm. Roberts and wife Eliza, William Hamrick and wife Jane, and Elizabeth McEntire, children and heirs of Jemima McEntire deceased; against the heirs and children of Elmira McAfee who are beyond the limits of this state and in parts unknown, the heirs of Martin McBrier and of James McBrier who reside beyond the limits of this state, probably in Missouri and Georgia. They are the heirs of William McBrayer who owned a tract on Hickory Creek being the dower of Elisabeth McBrier now deceased; Samuel is entitled to 3/8; heirs of Jemima McEntire to 1/8; children of David Hamrick to 1/8; and the defendants are entitled to the other 3/8.

Spring 1857 in Equity: R.L. Doggett lists the heirs of Wm. McBrayer deceased: daughter Rebecca wife of Frs. Beatte; son Samuel McBrayer; daughter Mary wife of Moses Dickey; son James McBrayer; son Martin McBrayer; son Jason McBrayer; daughter Almira wife of O.A. McAfee; daughter Jemima wife of Jo. McEntire; Jemima's heirs Wm. McEntire, Maria Wesson and others; James McBrayer's children

are Adelia wife of Geo. Baker, Geo. Lafayette McBrayer, America Missouri McBrayer, and Almeda who married Wm. Wheeler and left one child.

When you first look at these records, you first wonder how you can sort them all out. Fortunately there are previous records given in Carl McBrayer's book which help out. It is clear that the family involved is that of 3rd generation **WILLIAM** (M 418, Samuel - 360, William - 1) and his wife **ELIZABETH**. Why the group of citations is headed with the name of James is less clear, however, James was their 4th child. It is also interesting to note in these records the changes in name spelling: Elizabeth - Elisabeth and McBrayer - McBrier when referring to the same people.

Starting from the beginning of the list of names in relationship to William and Elizabeth's children:

Moses Dickey was the husband of their daughter Polly Mary, given here as just Mary.

David Hamrick is not clearly identified, however it is noted that their granddaughter Jane married William Hamrick. At least it could be speculated that Hamrick's were neighbors. He also might have been married to an unnamed daughter of Jemima who had four unnamed daughters, only three of which are accounted for below.

Rebecca Beaty was their oldest child who had married Francis Beaty. The Spring 1857 entry has Francis' name abbreviated as "Frs." and the last name spelled as Beatle just to make things harder.

Jason McBrier was their 7th child; also given as Jason McBrayer in the Spring 1857 entry

Amaretta, Misoura, Rush, and Virissa Hamrick are unknown other than being the heirs of David Hamrick.

Wm. Wesson and his wife Mariah, the daughter of daughter Jemima. Her name was not previously known.

Her name is given as Maria in a later entry.

Wm. McEntire may be their grandson, the son of daughter Jemima.

Wm. Roberts and his wife Eliza, the daughter of daughter Jemima. Her name was not previously known.

William Hamrick and wife Jane, the daughter of daughter Jemima. Her name was not previously known.

Jemima was their 8th child who married Josiah McEntire, some descendant changed the name to McIntire. His name is abbreviated as "Jo." in a later entry.

Elmira was probably their 11th child who married Oliver Cromwell McAfee. This entry clarifies earlier thought that Elmira was their daughter. Her name is given as Almira in the last entry.

Martin McBrier was their 4th child.

James McBrier was their 5th child.

R. L. Doggett is not known, but James married Fannie Doggett whose father's name may have been George Doggett.

James' children listed were previously unknown.

Certainly there is some speculation in the above relationships, but they give something for other researchers to check into.

William McBrayer, 1844

May 1844: Petition of Amelia Frances McBrayer, widow of William McBrayer who died 17 February last, intestate, for her year's allowance.

14 May 1844: Widow's allowance described.

Does anyone know who these McBrayers are?

From the Rutherford County, NC Deed Book 13:

page 267, 19 February 1799, Samuel McBrayer Senr. of Buncomb Co., North Carolina to John Haden of Spauldingburgh Co., South Carolina, 300 silver dollars, 100 acres on Green River below the mouth of Walnut Creek; also 50 acres on the south side of Green River joining Miller and including the shoal. Wit.

Jechonius Waldrop, Robert Waldrop. #1074 11 August 1800

This entry confirms information reported in Carl McBrayer's book.

From the Cleveland County, NC Estates records is an entry under the name of George W. M. McSwain. It might be noted that at least two McSwains have married into the McBrayer family and are also found in with the Hamrick family mentioned above.

Fall 1879: Complaint of Jesse J Bridges and wife M. E. Bridges, W. P. McSwain, Delila McSwain (infant by her next friend J. J. Bridges) vs. Drury Lovelace and Dr. J. H. McBrayer. They are the son-in-law, son and daughter of G. W. McSwain who died intestate possesd of a tract on Broad River joining Asa Hamrick, Patsy Bryers, B. H. Bridges and others, 221 acres. Of this, 151 acres has been heretofore allotted to the wife. In 1867 Wm. McSwain, administrator of G. W. McSwain, fraudulently attempted to sell the remaining 70 acres. Defendants Drury Lovelace and John H. McBrayer claim title to the 70 acres.

Dr. J. H. McBrayer *may be* John Harrill McBrayer (M 233, 5th gen, James - 201, David - 79, William - 421, William - 1) who was a doctor and lived in Cleveland County. See also updates for more on this branch of the family.

"Missouri Miscellany, Volume 17" compiled by Audrey L. Woodruff contains a variety of records from various sources. Among these are obituaries abstracted from the St. Louis Christian Advocate, the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church. The paper was started in September 1851 and ran until 1861 when it was discontinued. Following the Civil war it started up again in September 1865 and it had wide circulation throughout the state. The obituaries often were not traditional and often just extolled the Christian virtues of the deceased. The following appeared in the November 1869 issue:

McBrayer, John F., consort of Ellen McBrayer (whose maiden name was Smith) was born 25 Sept 1844, died 18 Sept 1869. When he had been sick for one week his father-in-law, Bro. E. H. Smith, asked him what his future prospects were....and about a week before his death he realized the pardoning grace of Christ Jesus. He leaves a wife and one child. - J. Y. Blakey, Spring Hill.

John F. McBrayer was the 5th generation in America (M 229, Ransom - 336, Samuel - 361, Samuel - 360, William - 1). He and Ellen were married in Daviess County, MO. The Marriage records for Daviess Co. Give her name as Eleanor (www.34hotrod.com/genealogy/daviess-co/groom-m.htm). Both Ellen and Eleanor are given in Carl McBrayer's book. It is not known where they lived at the time of his death. If we assume that the reporter of the obituary lived in the same town as the McBrayers, it takes some searching to find Spring Hill. There is no Spring Hill listed in Missouri now. In the 1895 map records, there was a Spring Hill in Livingston Co., the county just to the east of Daviess Co. At that time, it had a population of 82, had a post office, no railroad, but did have an express office (www.livgenmi.com/atmosm.htm). No cemetery records have been found yet for these folks in either county.

The book "*The Georgia Black Book, Volume II*" by Robert Scott, Jr., is subtitled "*More Morbid, Macabre, & Sometimes Disgusting Records of Genealogical Value - just when you thought it was safe to get back into genealogy*" is filled with records that many may not want to see the light of day. Still, there is a story behind each record and if one of our Georgia members would pay a visit to the Georgia Department of Archives and History perhaps we could get the details on the following. Chapter XIII, Pardon and Parole Files, 1858 - 1942 (Applications for Clemency, RGI-4-42, Georgia Department of Archives and History), gives a name list for various types of documents including applications for executive clemency, transcripts of trials, legal brief, affidavits, newspaper clippings, arrest warrants and the like. Unfortunately, the name list does not indicate what type of records are associated with any individual. Therefore, by citing these individuals, there should be no implication that they did any wrong. The names and counties of residence listed for our surname are:

McBrayer, Joe L. - N/A

McBrayer, Julias (Julius) - Haralson

McBrayer, Paul - Fulton

Is anyone willing to follow up on these? There must be an interesting story!

Help: I'm stuck in my family tree and I can't get down!

LEON, KENTUCKY

The following story is taken from the Carter County, Kentucky page on the Kentucky GenWeb Project site. It comes from the *Bert Kitchen Journal* which tells a longer story about the Chas. Kitchen and Son General Store in Leon. You can find the entire journal at www.rootsweb.com/~kycarter/journals/bkitchen/index/html. The portion of the journal of interest to us specifically concerns the family of "Sim" McBrayer. This was the nickname for **Seneca McBrayer** (M370-1, 6th gen, William - 456, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1).

Sim McBrayer's family lived on a hillside farm on Wolf Creek. They had several children and the McBrayers were a good, honest, hard working pair. Their farm was very poor, but by hard work they managed to live very well, and when I look at the farm today I wonder how they did it. They produced almost everything they used on the farm and what little they had to buy they purchased by selling produce. They would come to the store with a split basket of eggs and would purchase sugar, coffee and spices which were about all they would buy. In early fall they would make a trip to the store with a wagon load of produce at which time they would buy clothing, shoes and everything they would need during the winter. When Dad would see the McBrayers approaching he would send me home to tell mother he would not be home for dinner.



LEON STORE IN 1999, now burned down.

I well remember one of the trips. Well, Dad sent me home to tell mother he would not be home for the McBrayers drove up with a wagon load of produce. I was playing around the store and watching Dad. The wagon had quite a load. The first off the rear end, was two coops, one of chickens and one of geese. They had to be weighed and turned out in the pen. Next came several large sacks of wool which had to be weighed and placed in the ware room. The next items to come off of the wagon were sacks of feathers. They were large sacks but very light. They were goose feathers and were very valuable even in that day. Next came several cow hides in bundles and salted down. These also had to be weighed and placed in the ware room, and there were two or three baskets of eggs that had to be counted. When everything was unloaded, weighed and tabulated, I well remember the sum was a little over \$100.

Then the fun began. The old man would sit by the stove in a flat bottom chair and his wife would start to buy. First came a pair of shoes for every member of the family. Shoes were only used in the winter time. Then would come the flannel, muslin, calico, gingham shirting, work pants and sometimes a coat or two. The dry goods side would take a lot of time to pick the different color and debate the amount of each kind to buy. After this was finished they moved over to the grocery side and they would try to buy all of the necessities they would need to carry them throughout the winter. First would be coffee and a small amount of tea, brown sugar, a barrel of flour, nutmeg, cinnamon bark, black pepper, baking powder, a barrel or salt, several plugs of chewing tobacco, prunes and a large bag of rice. These were about all of the things they would purchase from the grocery side. Next the old man was allowed to buy a couple of plow parts, a back band, a belly band, a rope for check lines, two or three hoes and sometimes a horse or mule collar or two or a pair of trace chains. This would get them ready for farming next spring.

By this time it would be well up in the afternoon and since I had been home for dinner and played for quite

some time, I just happened to come back into the store as the McBrayers were finishing up and had covered their list of purchases to be made. Dad was adding up their bill, and after deducting it from their credit he found they still had a small credit. Mrs. McBrayer, being the boss, had spent practically all of the money allowing the old man to buy tools and harness to work with and a small amount of tobacco. They started to look around the store to see what they could buy with the remainder of their credit. Now for the incident that makes me remember it so well. Mr. McBrayer wanted a yellow lead pencil. Now they sold two kinds of pencils, one was a little cedar pencil with no eraser for one cent and the yellow pencil with the eraser for five cents. The old man wanted one of the yellow pencils but after the old woman had spent most of the money, she set her foot down and insisted that one of the penny pencils was good enough for him and that is all he got. I was a small boy only eight or ten years old when this all happened, but I have never forgotten, for I stood there and listened to Mr. and Mrs. McBrayer argue about the pencil, and thought of the old man working on the hillside all summer in the hot sun and setting in the chair while his wife spent most of the money never saying a word, but when he wanted a five cent pencil well that was something else. I can still see them now loading their wagon and driving away, the old man still muttering to himself and the old lady sitting up real straight in the wagon not looking to the right or left. I can also see my Dad slipping out the back door and heading to the house to get him a bite to eat for it was always three o'clock when the ordeal was over.

(Thanks to Dorothy Jane McBrayer Adams, Seneca's grand-daughter, and to Gail Alexander McBrayer, Seneca's grand-daughter-in-law, for passing this story along. Jane visited the area last summer and brought back home (Jackson, MS) a piece of wood and a stone from the store site.)

In reviewing the web site for the story above, another story was found, that of containing the journal of James Matthew Klaiber, son of John Andrew and Mary Ann McBrayer (M193/4, 4th gen, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1) Klaiber. James and Seneca were first cousins. The story was compiled by Theresa Martin Klaiber and the complete document can be found at:

www.deliverancefarm.com/james_matthew_klaiber.htm.

There are some differences given in names and places in this document that vary from that in Carl's book. These are easily understood and do not really conflict, but compliment each other.

James's father, given as John Andrew Klaiber, was an immigrant from Germany whose name has been anglicized from Johann Andreas. Carl's book gives James's birthplace as Boyd Co., KY. It may be that if you were to look for records there you might not find anything. Theresa gives his birthplace as Catlettsburg, Geenup Co., KY. she further explains that the portion of the country where he was born was partitioned as Boyd County when he was three years old. This change in county designation is something we have to look for in our research of many of our early ancestors. It is a good idea to look up the history of the state or county when beginning a search to guide you where records may be.

John was a bootmaker by trade and he developed a business in Catlettsburg. Following the Civil War, the town began to grow due to the logging industry and John and Mary Ann packed up and moved to the country. John continued as a bootmaker, but also participated in the logging trade. Theresa's story (only lightly edited) follows:

James Matthew helped with all aspects of farm life, including logging, and most importantly the repair of equipment. When he was 21, he married **Martha Kathryn Stewart**, 11 September 1878. Kathryn was the daughter of Landon Stewart and Eliza Banfield. They were married by Lindsey Fannin at her parents home on Jack's Fork. He was active in the newly organized Sabbath school at Green-hill and was able to file an indenture for 61 acres from William and Mary Ross in 1888 and by 1892 had purchased 57 acres on the left-hand fork Jack's Fork. But farm life was hard. They had six small children and there had been disputes with members of the Stewart family over a horse that ended in a court case in James Matthew's favor. James Matthew tried his hand at coal mining just over the hill, in Rush, but equipment on the farm and at the mines were always in need of repair. He had

learned blacksmithing at a very early age and was proud of his skills. He was a farmer, not a coal miner and quickly returned to tend his acres and concentrate on his blacksmiths' skills. In May 1897 the courts granted James Matthew Klaiber a divorce and a year later the land on Jack's Fork was sold because of liens.

Devoting his energy to farming, he found that more and more neighbors came for blacksmith repairs and help. At the age of 40 he married 1 June 1898 to **Amanda McGlothlin**, the widow of Anson Pope, in Boyd Co., KY, daughter of Robert McGlothlin and Rebecca Correl. Sadly she lived only a short time after their marriage and he married (3)2 April 1905 to **Julina Leoto Sexton**, daughter of Henry Sexton and Julina McCormac[k].

James now owned property in Boyd, Carter and Lawrence County. Besides farming, he operated the blacksmith shop, on his farm, for the area. He also kept up with the tools of his trade and new techniques through a subscription to the AMERICAN BLACKSMITH during the early 1900's. His blacksmith equipment was well maintained.

James Matthew made his desk from an old crate with drawers designed from cigar boxes. The drawers held everything from nails to shoe the oxen and horses, to slips of receipts for eggs and blacksmith services. The shop was made from board sawed on the farm and nestled near a branch that eventually flows from Long Branch to the East Fork of the Sandy River.

His anvil was a well cared for, typically described in pattern as a London anvil, having a horn and one hardie hole. It was mounted on a sufficient log stump. His tool array included straight lipped and round nosed tongs, a handle punch, hoof clipper, shoeing hammer, and rasps. And with the convenience of modern equipment, he was able to have a rotary blower.

He was an extremely active man working the farm, cutting timber, hauling coal over Rush Hill from the small mines with oxen, and in later years watching the rock crusher on his property above the barns where his shop had been. Besides his six children from his first marriage and four step children in his household for a time by his 2nd marriage, James Matthew had two more children, Martha and John Henry Powell Sexton Klaiber with his 3rd wife Julina Leota Sexton Horton Klaiber.

Interested in local affairs and politics, in 1948, at 91 years of age, he appeared in RIPLEY'S BELIEVE IT OR NOT. He had voted in the same precinct for 70 years. His portrait, taken from a small submitted photo was one of the last drawings Ripley did prior to Ripley's death. Mail arrived from all across the country to congratulate James Matthew Klaiber. And many with the Klaiber surname wrote seeking to find out if they were related.

James had a blacksmith ledger which was diligently kept, if only for a short time, at the desk that he designed. It is a reflection and sampling of life, neighbors and work in Garner, Boyd County, Kentucky. Just a sampling of the entries is given below.

BLACKSMITH LEDGER

WILLIAM LAMBERT April through November 1902. Amounts for sharpening, shoes, a new plow, work on wagons.

WILLIAM H. BANDFTELD April through September 1902 with a balance carried forward from the old book of \$14.25. Debits for a hoe, shoes, plow, bolts, shovel, strap on buggy.

WILLIAM TAYLOR April through November 1903, Debits for a swingle tree, hoe, cutter, plow, sharps and corn.

GEORGE CARELL April through February 1902. Balance from old book \$1.35. Debits for sharps, hoes, a swingle tree, shoes, corn, wheels and work on buggy.

LON ROSS April through March 1902 with forward from old book balance of \$21.40. Debits for shoes, bolts, mattock and a set of swingle tree irons.

HARVEY KENNER April 1902 through September Forward from old book balance \$1.15. Debits for sharps, shoes, 5 gal. Sorgum, links, work on harrow, tire sets, spokes and 2 rims.

HARVE BREEDING May 1903 through June. Debits for clippers, sharps, work on plow.

THOMAS BROWN May 1903 through June 1904. Forward of balance of 95 cents. Debits for sharps, wheel, wheel bolts, shoes, shaft.

DAVID RICE May 1903-June 1904. Debits for 1 set of teeth, plow beard, shoes, sharps, one fire ??uval (shovel?)work on plow.

WATE WARMEN May 1903 December. Forward balance of \$6.50. Debits for work on wagon bed, shoes, more work on wagon bed, 4 loads of coal, work on cart, 1 doubletree, 3 open rings, 2 yoke oxen shod.

MILLARD ALLEY June 1902 with forward of \$1.85 through June 1903. Debits for shoes, work on wagon, 12 dozen oats, 2 tires new, work on wheel and 1 tire rim, 1 rod on brake, 1 wheel.

WARNING!

Genealogy Today, an on-line newsletter has an article by Bob Brooke in the **Family History** column entitled "*Charlatans and Thieves Steal the Fun from Genealogy.*" He points out several schemes which are designed to take money from you in the name of family history and genealogy. One paragraph reads:

"And then there's the perennial fake herald scheme. A letter saying that a company can produce the herald of the addressee for a certain price. Worded in such a way as to make anyone think it's authentic, some unsuspecting addressees are taken in and order it. Only families directly related to noble families in the Middle Ages are eligible to claim heraldry."

While Mr. Brooks is not correct about every thing he states regarding heraldry - also read "Coat of Arms," the warning is still there. Don't fall for anybody that will promise you a "historically-accurate full-color family Coat of Arms." Please be aware that Scottish Coats of Arms are granted to individuals, NOT families. The only family member that I know of who currently has a *personal* coat of arms granted by the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland is Dr. Duffy McBrayer. He went through a detailed process in order to obtain this.

There is an e-mail advertisement going around now that is making an offer for coats of arms, the best thing you can do is immediately delete it!



REST IN PEACE

Most sincere condolences are extended to the immediate families of those who have departed this life.

Wilma Jean (Stevens) McBrayer, 68, was born in Glasgow, KY 10-24-34. She went peacefully to be with the Lord on Thanksgiving 11-28-02 with her daughter holding her hand. She had retired from Motorola after 25 years. She was an amazing woman, or as her many doctors would say A tough cookie even up to the end. With her many years of chronic health problems, she worked with a smile even when in pain. She was a fantastic mom, grandmother & great grandmother. She had the best sense of humor and a forgiving heart bigger than Texas, where she met and married her husband of 49 yrs. She is survived by her husband Arthur, her son Anthony "Steve" McBrayer, daughter Sherrie Lisa Anderson, son-in-law Robert. Two beautiful granddaughters Lisa Marie & Heidi Rae Knight, their partners Jason McGrath & James Chad Berryhill, and the best gift of the year her beautiful Great Grandson, Jason D. McGrath Jr, 8 months. Her two dogs Fat Albert & Kup Kake & two cats Baby & Skinny, and many loving family and friends who will miss this most fantastic lady. Services to be held Friday Dec. 6, 2002, 11 a.m. Paradise Chapel 3934 E. Indian School. Memorial Services followed by reception. No graveside service.

(Obituary from the *Arizona Republic*, Phoenix, AZ, On 4Dec 2002. Her husband, Arthur Madison McBrayer, M29-6, 8th gen, Bert 36-5, Charles - 52, Lewis - 282, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William 1, is a long time Family Association member.)

June Slonecker McBrayer, 46, beloved wife of Patrick J. Slonecker of Harrison, Ohio, passed away Monday, December 9 (2002) at University Hospital in Cincinnati, Ohio. She was born on February 11, in 1956 and was the daughter of Earl A. McBrayer and June E. McBrayer. June graduated from Oak Hills High School in 1974, Miami University 1977 with a B.S. in Education and German, and from Mt. St Joseph College with a M.A. in Education in 1989. She taught primary, secondary, and college education in German, Science, and Gifted Education She was a teacher, for 21 years and recently retired from the Oak Hills School System. June was one of the first Nationally Board Certified Teachers in the state of Ohio. She was an amateur geologist, botanist, artist, potter, and musician who frequently attended the Cincinnati Art Academy and the Arrowmont School of Arts and Crafts in Gatlinburg, Tennessee. She had traveled extensively in Europe. June touched the lives of hundreds of students and spread her infectious zeal for life and learning to all. She will be missed. Her survivors include her husband of 25 years, her parents, brother Jeffery McBrayer sister-in-law Brenda McBrayer, nephew, Scott McBrayer, niece, Grace McBrayer, and aunt Carol Adams of Cincinnati, Ohio, her father-in-law Elton Slonecker and mother-in-law Donna June Slonecker of Sidney, Ohio, her brother-in-law Michael Slonecker and sister-in-law Vande Slonecker of Owensboro, Kentucky, her nephew, Travis Slonecker of Louisville, Kentucky, and her nephew Tim Slonecker, grand nephew Michael Travis Slonecker of Owensboro, Kentucky, brother-in-law Russell Slonecker, sister-in-law Lisa Slonecker, and nieces Jana Slonecker, Emily Slonecker, and Holly Slonecker of Wapakoneta Ohio. There will be no visitation or funeral services. However, there will be a celebration of a happy life and how we touch other lives planned for the near future. The family suggests that memorial donations may be directed to: Breast Cancer Research, UC Cancer Programs, Development Office ML0544, Acct. No. 3737, University of Cincinnati Medical Center, P.O. Box 193713, Cincinnati, Ohio 45219-9902.

(This obituary from the *Cincinnati Enquirer* was provided by her father Earl, a long-time Family Association member. Earl Allen McBrayer is M 98, 7th gen, Wesley - 413, John - 243, Hugh - 153, Preston - 332, James - 163, James - 2. Earl reported that June had been suffering from cancer for several years. She was born June Ann McBrayer and after her marriage took her husband's name as her middle name.)

Grant John Bartels, 77, died Dec. 11, 2002. He was born in Jamaica, N.Y., and was a resident of Fort Pierce

since 1993, coming from West Palm Beach. Prior to retirement. Mr. Bartels worked for the Nassau County, N.Y., Police Department as a lieutenant after 24 years of service. He also served for 14 years as chief of police at Palm Beach Community College, Lake Worth, and as a real estate fraud Investigator for the State of Florida for four years. He was a member of the International Police Association and was an avid golfer who was a member of the Fairwinds Golf Club and the Aquarina Golf Club. Mr. Bartels was a U.S. Marine Corps veteran of World War II and participated in action at Kwajalein Atoll. Survivors include his wife of 29 years, Barbara June McBrayer Bartels of Fort Pierce; son David Charles Proffitt of Delray Beach; daughters Linda Pietrowski of Nesconset, N.Y., Deborah Corbett of Sebastian, Laurie Proffitt and Lisa Lynn Fox, both of Indianapolis, and Linda Leigh of Bangkok, Thailand; sister Barbara Barnett of Melbourne; and four grandchildren. SERVICES: Private services were held. Arrangements were by Yates Funeral Home, Fort Pierce.

(Obituary from the *Palm Beach Post*, Palm Beach, FL. A short death notice also appeared in the *Fort Pierce Tribune*. Grant was the second husband of Barbara June McBrayer, daughter of Charles Nelson (M 54, 6th gen, Henry - 141, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1) and Lanora McBrayer.)



Viola "Ola" Pettit McBrayer, 91, of Morehead, died Saturday, Dec. 14 at Life Care Center in Morehead. She was born March 3, 1911 in Rowan County to the late Jesse and Emma Clark Pettit. She and her late husband Joe owned and operated McBrayer's Grocery at Waggoner's Corner for many years. She was a member of Clearfield Tabernacle Eastern Star and Homemakers. Survivors include five daughters, Martha Louise (Russell) Meyer of Wabash, Ind., Christine Tent (Earl) Kiser of Morehead, Pearl (J.T.) Green of Richmond, Ind., Lillie (Benny) Catron of Olive Hill and Ruth (Clester) Anderson of Anderson, Ind., a son, Donald (Vicki) McBrayer of Morehead; one sister, Ica Smith of Warsaw, Ind., 12 grandchildren; 18 great-grandchildren; and one great-great-grandchild. She was preceded in death by her husband, Joseph "Joe" McBrayer on Aug. 15, 1973; a son Edward Clayton McBrayer; three brothers, Harrison Pettit, Truby Pettit and Sandford Pettit; and six sisters, Nellie

Baldrige, Vesta Hall, Martha McBrayer, Stella Skaggs, Lila Caldwell and Geneva Bays. Funeral services will be conducted Tuesday, Dec. 17 at 11 a.m. at Northcutt and Son Home for Funerals in Morehead with the Rev. David Starcher and Rev. Brad Bennington officiating. Burial at McBrayer Family Cemetery. Grandsons will serve as pallbearers.

(Obituary from *The Morehead News*, Morehead, KY, 17 Dec 2002. An obituary also appeared in *The Wabash Plain Dealer*, Wabash, IN, 16 December 2002. Her husband Joseph Parker McBrayer was M 268-5, 7th gen, William - 439, Lewis - 282, James - 193, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1.)

Aileen W. Beck, 89, of Hendersonville went home to be with the Lord on Tuesday, Dec. 24, 2002, in her home. She was a native of Shelby and lived in Hendersonville since 1938. She was the daughter of the late George P. Webb and Carrie Belle McBrayer Webb, and the wife of Albert L. Beck Jr., who died in 1977. She attended the Asheville Normal Teachers College and the Shelby Hospital School of Nursing. She retired from the former Patton Memorial Hospital, where she was a registered nurse. She was a member of the Hendersonville First Baptist Church. She loved music and enjoyed playing the piano at home and at church on special occasions. Survivors include her son, Albert L. Beck III of the home; a daughter, Elizabeth A. Beck of the home; a sister, Margaret W. McGraw of Shelby; several nieces and nephews; and two cousins. A funeral will be held at 4 p.m. Thursday at the Hendersonville First Baptist Church. The Rev. Wally Shamburger will officiate. Burial will follow at Oakdale Cemetery. The family will receive friends from 7 to 8:30 p.m. Wednesday at the home. Memorials may be made to Four Seasons Hospice, P.O. Box 2395, Hendersonville, N.C. 28793. Thos. Shepherd & Son Funeral Directors is in charge of the arrangements.

(Obituary from *Hendersonville Times-News* (online edition), Hendersonville, NC, 28 December 2002. An obituary also appeared in the *Asheville Citizen-Times*, Asheville, NC, 28 December 2002. Her grandfather was John E. McBrayer, M 228-5, 5th gen, Robert - 343, David - 79, William - 421, William - 1.)

McBRAYER, Marjorie Ruth (Scrafield), Age 73, of Dayton formerly of Proud Clarion Rd., Harrison, OH, passed away August 10, 2001 at Good Samaritan Hospital in Dayton. She was born Dec. 21, 1927, in Dayton, the daughter of the late Elizabeth (HIMES) Kieninger and Jesse Scrafield. She was preceded in death by her second husband Ova McBrayer and sisters Janet Bruning and Jackie Smith Mouat. Survivors include her daughters & sons-in-law Kathy (Ganger) & Dorsey Price of West Milton, Sandra (Ganger) & Larry Eastridge of Potsdam, grandchildren Nicole & Anthony Downing of Greentown, IN, Ryan & Brianna Eastridge of Richmond, IN, great grandson Alec "Pee-Wee" Downing, step grand sons Shane & Aaron Price of Salt Lake City, UT., step great grandchildren Sierra & Elijah Price, brothers and sisters-in-law, Carl & Norma Ross of Kettering, Charles & Alice Kieninger of Xenia, sisters & brothers-in-law Peggy & Earl Hinkle of Laura, Shirley & Bud Edgel of Dayton, Mary Beth Hewitt of Fairborn, half brother Leroy Scrafield of Stockton, CA and half sister Loretta Craft of New Carlisle. There will be a private family graveside service at the families convenience. The Hale Sarver Funeral Home in West Milton is handling arrangements. Memorial contributions may be made to the Union Twp. Life Squad, P.O. Box 66 West Milton, Ohio 445383.

(Obituary from the *Dayton Daily News*, Dayton, OH, 11 Aug 2001. Her second husband Ova is believed to be 8th gen, M 324-5, Jasper - 206-5, Edward - 101, James 181-5, William - 445, Ichabod - 156, Samuel - 360, William - 1)

Charlotte Martha McBrayer Hamilton, 69, Shoshoni, Wyo., formerly of Ethan. died on Monday April 10, 2000 at Wind River Healthcare, Riverton, Wyo. Funeral services will be at 3 p.m. Thursday at Davis Funeral Home, Riverton, Wyo. Burial will be in Lake View Cemetery, Shoshoni, Wyo. She was born on July 12, 1930, in Davison County to Charles P. and Martha M. (Meyer) McBrayer. She grew up and attended school in Ethan. She attended Dakota Wesleyan University, Mitchell, and earned a teaching certificate and taught at a country school. She moved to Shoshoni in 1964, where she owned and operated the Shoshoni Bar. She moved to Lander, Wyo., and worked for the Wyoming State Training School. In the late 1960s she was Riverton's first female mail carrier for the U.S. Post Office. She was a bartender and volunteered in the Senior Companion Program. She was a member of the VFW Auxiliary. She is survived by four daughters: Janet Roth Shasta Lake, Calif.; Melody Bircher, Banner Wyo.; Jane Varah, Sheridan, Wyo.; and Paula Roth, Dubois, Wyo.; five grandchildren; one great-grandson; two brothers: Melvin and Richard McBrayer, Ethan; and one sister Goldie, Mount Vernon. She was preceded in death by her parents; a brother and three infant children. Memorials may be sent to the Shoshoni Senior Center, Shoshoni, Wyo.

(Obituary from the *Daily Republic*, Davison City, SD, 12 Apr 2000. Her father was Charles Preston McBrayer, M 54-4, 7th gen, Willis - 462, Charles - 49, Carlton - 45, Samuel - 361, William - 1. Previously, nothing was known about Charlotte, her sister Goldie or a brother (unnamed) that died.)

Marion Leona McBriar, age 82, of Berlin. died Thursday November 21, 2002 at Berlin Memorial Hospital She was born September 28, 1920 in the Town of Marion in Waushara County, the daughter of Otto & Anna Schalk Simson On December 30, 1939, she was united in marriage to Neil McBriar in the Town of Aurora at the home of his parents. Marion worked as a cook at school, a cutter at Sand Knit in Berlin, and raised a family on their farm She was a member of St. John Lutheran Church, the Snowmobile Club, and loved to attend softball games at Riverside Park. She is survived by one son Neil (Donna Moore) of Oshkosh, three daughters, Lucille, (Lawrence) Verheyen and Linda (David) Parker, both of Berlin, and Marilyn (Gary) Olsen of Harlowton, MT; seven grandchildren, Jill, Keith Craig, Caren, Brian, Wendy and Jamie; eleven greatgrandchildren and her step-mother, Nettie Simson of Berlin. Marion was preceded in death by her husband of 59 years, Neil, on February 10, 1999. and by her parents; a brother, Elmer; sister, Verna; and twin grandchildren Kirk & Kelly Parker. Funeral services will be held on Monday November 25 at 7 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church in Berlin, the Rev. Bryan G. Lundquist officiating. Interment will be in Welsh Cemetery in the Town of Aurora. Friends and relatives may call on Monday from 4 to 7 p.m. at St. John Lutheran Church, 168 Mound St. in Berlin. Barbola Funeral Chapel, Serving the Family.

(Obituary from the *Oshkosh Northwestern*, Oshkosh, WI, November 23, 2003. He husband was a descendant of the

Velma Louveine McBrayer, 99, of Ducktown, formerly of Marietta, died Dec. 9, 2002. Services were held Dec. 12 at 11am at Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home in Marietta with the Rev. Dr. Charles Sineath officiating. Burial was in Georgia Memorial Park in Marietta. Born in Smyrna, GA, McBrayer attended Cobb County schools and retired from Rich's Department Store in Atlanta. She was a member of First United Methodist Church in Marietta. Survivors include daughter and son-in-law Joanne and Roy McKibben of McCaysville; daughter-in-law Michiko McBrayer of Savannah, GA; five grandchildren; eight great-grandchildren; and nieces and nephews. Mayes Ward-Dobbins Funeral Home was in charge of the arrangements. (Obituary appeared in the *The News Observer*, Blue Ridge, GA, on 12 Dec 2002. Her family connection is unknown at present.)

SCOTTISH LEGALITIES

It has been said that our legal system in America is more closely related to Scottish Law than to English. Still there are important differences that should be understood when looking at Scottish records.

Of the things we look at when searching for ancestors are wills and landownership. The system followed in Scotland has been quite different than in America.

Up until the middle of the 19th century, only movable goods such as money, jewelry, household items and personal possessions could be bequeathed.

Land-holding in Scotland was and still is feudal, i.e. there was an overlord or superior and his vassal. Each time land changed hands, permission had to be obtained from the superior in the form of a 'precept' (letter). The letter was then shown to the 'baillie' (official) of the particular lands who then gave title to the new owner. This took place on the actual property, where the new owner was given a handful of earth and stone or if in a burgh, took hold of the handle of the door and thereby became 'infert' or 'seised' in the property. An Instrument of Sasine was then recorded in the Register of the county in which the land was located.

Sasines Registers begin in 1617. There is a Particular Register for each county and a General Register for the whole country. Royal Burghs, such as Edinburgh and Stirling, and certain others, had the right to their own Registers of Sasines. Family Association member Terrell McBrayer copied many pages from the registers of sasine in Dumfries some years ago.

As stated above, land being immovable, could not be bequeathed until the middle of the 19th century. Prior to that it descended according to fixed rules. The elder son inherited, whom failing his eldest son and so on. If there were no male heirs, then a female could inherit.

Land belonged to a very small proportion of the population - the landowners. There are two little words which make it easy to tell whether someone owned land or not. They are 'of' and 'in'. A landowner was always recorded as 'of' a particular property. Someone who lived on that land, but did not own it, was always designed as 'in' that particular property.

While a landowner was alive, his heir was known as 'younger of' or 'fiar of' the land - 'fiar' meaning that he was due to inherit the property in 'fee' (forever). The widow would get the 'liferent' (use of the property for life). The widow was called the "relict." Children listed in a record of a deceased would be listed in birth order. If there were children from more than one wife, this would normally be made clear.

(Source: Abstracted and modified from a document on the web site www.AyrshireRoots.com, the copyright holder.)