



# IN DEFIANCE !

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Number 4  
Fall 2005



## FROM THE CHIEF ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

The MacBray Family Association, Inc.

Researching the variations of the surnames MacBray, McBrayer and Brier searching for our Scottish roots

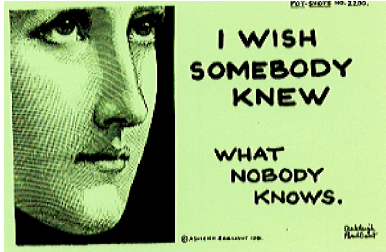
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Last issue reported the illness of our family friend in Scotland, Tom Henderson, which resulted in the loss of his left leg. I am happy to report that Tom is doing well in recovery and is learning to walk with his recently (May 2006) fitted artificial leg. The photo at right is Tom in his home. He says he has also gotten back to his church duties taking up the collection while in his wheel chair. He said he had to promise not to do “wheelies” in church. Our best wishes have been sent to him in the name of the family.



With this issue I am caught up with the promised four issues for 2005 and will soon start on 2006 issues. This also means that it is now reasonable to ask for your continued support through payment of dues. Of course, many thanks to those who have made payments for 2006 already. The dues are currently the sole support of this newsletter. As you are well aware, everything costs more each year. The cost for the last newsletter including printing, envelopes, labels and postage was \$ 2.43 a copy so you can see that the basic dues of \$10 per year barely covers the cost. There are no payments made for supplies used in preparation of the master copy nor for any labor, these are donated to the family. We hope to get a discount on printing, but it will only provide a small reserve. Unfortunately, it will become necessary to drop from our mailing list those who have not paid dues; a number already have been in spite of repeated contact. It certainly is understood that in the current economic situation there may be loyal members who are temporarily unable to make payment. If this is the case, please let me know and you will be kept on the list. Dues notices are being sent with this newsletter *only* to those who owe for 2006. You can tell your dues status by the mailing label. Between your first and last name is a number in parentheses, such as “John (05A) Doe.” The “05” means that the last dues paid were for 2005 and the member level was “Active,” so dues are owed for 2006. The only exception to the number/letter code is Life Members who just have a “L” between names. Please make your dues payment as soon as possible so there will not be the need for the cost of the dues notice - 5 cents additional.



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**“A child’s life is like  
a piece of paper on  
which every passerby  
leaves a mark.”**

Ancient Chinese proverb

This appeal has the support of our director at large, **Terrell McBrayer**, who also urges your continued support. He again urges you to provide any information which may lead us to finding the link between Scotland and America. Who knows what small clue may be the key. It should also be noted that Terrell has contributed further for several years in covering the registration fee from the State of Georgia where our family association was officially incorporated.

## THE FAMILY "CREST"

Last issue's article with the same heading created a fair amount of comment, and it was favorable. Some of the past commercial references to the family (including the very questionable Halbert's organization) mention "Burke's Landed Gentry." Over the years attempts have been made to find this book without success until now. Recently the book has been made available on a CD by Archive CD Books Ltd. in the UK. This company scans old books which are not normally available to the public. It turns out that the reference is in Volume 4 of a set written by John Burke in 1838, that is prior to "The General Armory" by Sir Bernard Burke referenced last issue. It is not known if the two Burkes are related. The full title of volume 4 is:

**A Genealogical and Heraldic History of The Landed Gentry; or, Commoners of Great Britain and Ireland, Enjoying Territorial Possessions or High Official Rank, But Uninvested with Heritable Honours. By John Burke, Esq. Author of "The History of the Peerage and Baronetage," "Of the Extinct and Dormant Peerage," &c.**

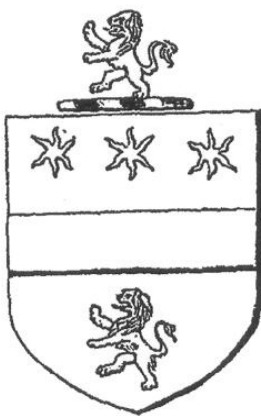
The book was published by Henry Colburn, Publisher, 13, Great Marlborough Street, London. As long as the title is it takes a volume of more than 700 pages to give the information. The other three volumes are of similar length and the titles are similar leaving out "The Landed Gentry."

As it turns out, much of the information has been previously known and is contained in Carl McBrayer's books. The reference still has great value in confirming the information available and so is given below with no editing of the text although the layout is changed for clarity..

### MAC BRAIRE, OF TWEEDHILL AND BROADMEADOWS

**MAC BRAIRE, JOHN-JOSEPH**, esq. of Tweedhill and Broadmeadows, in the county of Berwick, a magistrate and a deputy lieutenant for that shire, b. 3rd June, 1801, m. 4th August, 1831, Caroline-Abigail, daughter of Benjamin Gott, esq. of Armley House, Yorkshire, and has issue, an only son, James. b. 12th May, 1832. He succeeded his father in 1832.

#### LINEAGE



The name of Mac Braire, or Mac Briar, is one of some antiquity in Dumfriesshire, and the adjoining counties on the south-west border of Scotland.

Since the middle of the last century, the present family has represented the Mac Brairs of Netherwood frequently alluded to in old local histories, and described in books of heraldry, as "an ancient family in Dumfriesshire,"<sup>1</sup> who were supposed, originally, to have emigrated to the South of Scotland from the county of Aberdeen, a highland origin, which the name itself indicates.<sup>2</sup>

The Netherwood family settled and possessed considerable landed property in Dumfriesshire, prior to the year 1400, which appears by family deeds and papers, as well as by the earlier records of that country; and besides their original estate on the river Neth, in the immediate vicinity of the town of Dumfries, different branches of the family were land owners in other parts of the country, and in Galloway, and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright. They appear to have intermarried, with the Maxwells, Johnstons, and other families of distinction in the district, and to have long had great influence in the burgh of Dumfries, of which the head of the family was provost from time to time.<sup>3</sup>

The estate of Netherwood descended in regular succession for many generations, down to the year 1740, when it was in the possession of Archibald Mac Braire, the last proprietor of the name, whose affairs becoming embarrassed, he was compelled to alienate the entire of the landed property which had been so long in his family, and shortly after that period, the direct line of the Netherwood family became extinct.

The present family are the immediate descendants of Robert, son of Thomas Mac Braire, of Newark, who was a younger brother of the Laird of Netherwood, in the early part of the 16th century.

**ROBERT MAC BRAIRE**, settled in Edinburgh as a merchant, about the year 1560, and he and his successors for four generations continued to reside there.

**ROBERT MAC BRAIRE**, (great-grandson of the above Robert,) eldest son of John MacBraire, merchant and burgess in Edinburgh, settled in Glasgow, and married (26th November, 1715) Margaret, eldest daughter of the Rev. John Pettigrew, minister of the parish of Meikle Govan, Renfrewshire, a well known personage, as an author and wit of the day, and left issue,

- I. John, who died in infancy.
- II. James.
- III. Robert.
- IV. Thomas.
- V. John, of whom presently.

VI. Charles.

I. Robina.

II. Marion.

III. Grizell.

**JOHN MAC BRAIRE**, esq. the eldest surviving son, was a captain in the 91st foot, and was killed (28th May, 1798) at Enniscorthy, during the Irish rebellion. He left issue, with two daughters, four sons,

I. James.

II. Robert.

III. Frederick.

IV. Arthur.

The eldest son,

**JAMES MAC BRAIRE** settled as a merchant in the Island of Newfoundland. In 1794-5, at the breaking out of the French revolutionary war, he quitted business, and having raised, at his own expense, above one hundred men for a fencible regiment, then forming for the defence of the North American colonies, joined it as captain, and served for several years. On his regiment being disbanded, at the peace of Amiens, he returned to Newfoundland<sup>4</sup>, and afterwards was called upon to fill several important public situations in the town of St. John's. He finally in 1817, retired to his native country, and soon afterwards purchased the estates of Tweedhill and Broadmeadows, both in Berwickshire, and was thus the means of restoring his family and name to the place which they had held for centuries amongst the landed proprietors in the South of Scotland. He married (10th May, 1793) Elizabeth, only daughter of Joseph Bower, esq. a merchant and broker in Bristol, son of James Bower, esq. barrister-at-law, of the same city, and had an only surviving son, the present **JOHN JOSEPH MAC BRAIRE**, esq. of Tweedhill and Broadmeadows.

Arms — Arg. a fesse gu. between three stars in chief, and a lion rampant in base of the last.

Crest — lion rampant gu.

Motto — In defiance.

Estates — In Berwickshire

Seats — Tweedhill and Broadmeadows, Berwickshire.

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1. See Nesbitt B. 808; Ogilvies' Manuscript, &c.
  2. The spelling of the name is various, Mac Brairs, Mac Briar, Macbryere, Mack Brie, Mackbray, &c.
  3. The following incidents in the life of one of the family who seems to have taken a part in public affairs at the time of the Reformation, are alluded to by several writers.

John Mac Braire, or Mac Bray a gentleman of Galloway, in consequence of publically expressing sentiments favourable to the Reformation, then in progress, was obliged to take refuge in England, about the year 1588. At the death of Edward VI. he retired from that country to Frankforth, where he preached to the English congregation. He is called an eminent exile in Styrpe's Annals, i. 130. On the accession of Elizabeth, he returned to England, and on the 18th November, 1568, was inducted to the vicarage of St. Nicholas, in Newcastle, and was buried there November 16th, 1584. Ball mentions several of Mac Braire's works, and says, "he wrote elegantly in Latin." (Vide Ball, Spotteswoods, &c.; also notes to M'Cries' Life of Knox).

4. In 1809-10, at the recommendation of his friend, the late Admiral Sir Richard Keats, then governor of Newfoundland, he was appointed by the Prince Regent, major-commandant of a local volunteer corps, 500 strong, which continued embodied to the end of the war.
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The following comments can be made regarding this book entry:

1. While we do not yet know the specific time and place our surname originated, the statement “emigrated to the South of Scotland from the county of Aberdeen, a highland origin, which the name itself indicates.” gives us something else to look for. Of course, if we were of highland origin, that would add credence to a placard placed at one time next to a small piece of our tartan in Edinburgh Castle which said it was ancient. If we were of lowland origin where the tartan was not common until after Jacobean times, our tartan would not be ancient. Still, we do not yet know of any clan relationships. More will have to be done to understand the meaning of the statement.
2. The statement that “different branches of the family were land owners in other parts of the country, and in Galloway, and the stewartry of Kirkcudbright.” may explain why we find some records of our surname in various places without any particular reference to Dumfries. Maybe it was not the immediate family of the Dumfries area from which our ancestors came (still related but connected to a common ancestor in earlier times). Mr. Alfred Truckell made a statement during one family trip in the 1980s that our family sailed from Scotland from those old docks seen at Kirkcudbright. This of course does not eliminate the possibility of someone going from Dumfries to Kirkcudbright, but it again gives us possibilities for finding other connections.
3. We have known about intermarriages with other prominent families supporting the statement “appear to have intermarried, with the Maxwells, Johnstons, and other families of distinction.” The current *Gazetteer for Scotland* mentions in the entry for Lockerbie that in medieval times the town was the focus of much feuding between the Johnstone and Maxwell families. The Johnstones founded the village in the early 18<sup>th</sup> century. Lockerbie is only 14 miles east of Dumfries.
4. The late Ethel Brier Koller was able to locate in Scotland the court records for the trial of Archibald Mac Braire. What ever he did to “embarrass” his affairs, it was serious. Ethel said the sentence given at court for Archibald was “to have his head smote from his body.” Now there is punishment! It may be that the sentence was never carried out, but from that time the Mac Braire influence in Dumfries was greatly diminished.
5. From other records it is known that “Newark” referred to a building long since demolished located in Dumfries which was associated with Mac Brairs. There is another Newark which may have some connection with the family since it is also known that McBrairs also lived in Glasgow. The *Gazetteer for Scotland* notes a settlement of Newark which through time became known as Port Glasgow. Located there is Newark Castle which had its beginnings as a 15<sup>th</sup> century tower house built by George Maxwell. Is this Maxwell related to the Maxwell that we know of through a McBrair marriage?
6. Meikle Govan means “large Govan,” a town on the southside of the Clyde River about 6 kilometers west of Glasgow. So here again we have a Glasgow connection. It is interesting to see the way the children of Robert Mac Braire are listed on page 3. Note also the reuse of the name John. The first son John named in the Scottish manner after his grandfather, died in infancy, so the name was given to the fifth son. Note too, that the children, sons and daughters, are not listed in order as would be surmised since the numbers are given separately for sons and daughters.
7. Enniscorthy, where John Mac Braire was killed, is in County Wexford on the east coast of Ireland. The famous battle there was at Vinegar Hill where today there is a visitor center/museum commemorating the battle.
8. The peace of Amiens mentioned in the James Mac Braire sketch on page 3 was a treaty of peace signed between France and England on March 25, 1802. The interesting thing here is that the signer for France was Joseph Bonaparte. This is the same man who built a house in upper state New York which was so attractive to the young Frank W. Woolworth and gave him his life long interest in the Napoleonic style.
9. What is most interesting is the coat of arms shown for John-Joseph. It is essentially the same as that which was shown for Dr. Louis Burgin McBrayer in the last issue of *In Defiance*. The difference is in the depiction of the stars, or mullets. This has stars with wavy rays while the one in last issue has sharp pointed and uniform rays, both with six rays. Was this just the views of the two authors based on the description? In his book, Dr. McBrayer shows the coat of arms with full embellishments as shown on the masthead of this newsletter with

five pointed uniform ray stars. The distinction between branches of the family earlier was made on the basis of the crest, that is, the rampant ion or the unicorn. Now this is certainly blurred.

Perhaps now we need to pay more attention to those with our surname in Canada. Maybe we will find additional clues to our origin.

## THE MCBRIERS OF PITTSBURGH

The January, April and July, 2004, issues of *In Defiance* contain articles on a family prominent in the lumber and shipping business in Allegheny City (now Pittsburgh) and Erie, Pennsylvania. While quite a bit of information was made available in these articles, there is always "room for more." The following biographical sketches may be found in *History of Erie County Pennsylvania, Volume One* by John Elmer Reed, published in 1925 by the Historical Publishing Company of Topeka and Indianapolis. These sketches confirm, perhaps clarify and add to the information contained in the earlier articles.

**David Nye McBrier**, president of the Erie Steam Shovel Company, is a member of a family that has long been identified with the industrial interests of northwestern Pennsylvania. He was born at Allegheny City, now Pittsburgh, Sept. 22, 1856, and is the son of James and Mary Elizabeth (White) McBrier.

James McBrier, deceased, ranked among the leading manufacturers of Erie County. As president of the Ball Engine Works, vice president of the Lake Carriers Association, a member of the board of directors of both the Erie Trust Company and the First National Bank, and prominent in municipal affairs, he was widely known. Mr. McBrier was born in Allegheny City, Pa., the son of William and Mary (McMasters) McBrier. The father was a native of the north of Ireland, but coming to the United States when a young man he was for many years engaged in the lumber business in Allegheny City and other points in Pennsylvania. The son, James, received his educational training and his start in business life in his native city. He became associated in business with his father when a young man, and after the latter's death, he successfully carried on large interests. In 1872, while still in business in Allegheny City, he with several other gentlemen, established a wholesale lumber business in Erie, and in 1878 he located permanently in this city. In 1887 he became interested in the Ball Engine Works, being made president of the company in the same year, and he continued at the head of that large and important industry until the time of his death, Jan. 4, 1912. He was for many years largely interested in the lake trade, at one time owning three large freight steamers, and was heavily interested as a stockholder in steamship companies, and as above stated was for a time the vice president of the Lake Carriers Association.

Mr. McBrier was married to Miss Mary E. White, who traced her ancestry in America to the Mayflower, the Hon. D. N. White, her father, at one time being proprietor of the Pittsburgh Commercial Gazette. She died May 18, 1922, and with her husband is buried in Erie cemetery. To Mr. and Mrs. McBrier the following children were born: David Nye, the subject of this sketch; Annie Mary, born March 9, 1858, now deceased; William Schoyer, born March 5, 1860, now deceased; Harvey Lewis, born July 28, 1861, lives in New York City; Helen Thatcher, born Jan. 25, 1863, now deceased; Mary Louisa, born Sept. 7, 1864, lives at 351 West 6th Street, Erie; James Hubert, born Nov. 14, 1865, now deceased; Lucy Swift, now Mrs. Alex Jarecki, born Jan. 31, 1869, lives at 305 West 6th Street, Erie; and Frederick Bell, born May 7, 1873, lives at 241 West 7th Street, Erie, a sketch of whom appears in this history.

David Nye McBrier was educated in the public and private schools of Pittsburgh, and in 1877 attended Lehigh University at Bethlehem, Pa., for two years. He began his business career in the lumber business with his father in 1876 and in 1880 came to Erie, where he was interested in the same line of business. From 1887 until 1888 Mr. McBrier took charge of his father's saw mill and timber lands in Alabama and the following year was elected vice president of the Ball Engine Company. Upon the death of his father in 1912, he was elected president of the company, now the Erie Steam Shovel Company.

On April 11, 1879, Mr. McBrier was united in marriage with Miss Cynthia Gilmore Alston, a native of Allegheny City and the daughter of Archibald and Cynthia (Gilmore) Alston, natives of Pennsylvania. Mr. Alston died in 1908 and his wife died in 1877. To Mr. and Mrs. David Nye McBrier were born four children: Lloyd Alston, who died in 1919; William Schoyer, died in infancy; Lynette Fullerton, now Mrs. T. B. Ely, lives at 404 16th Street, Franklin, Pa.; and Helen Thatcher, died in 1919. Lloyd Alston McBrier, deceased, served as a private in the Spanish-American War in 1898. Mr. and Mrs. McBrier have 11

grandchildren. Mrs. McBrier died June 23, 1925.

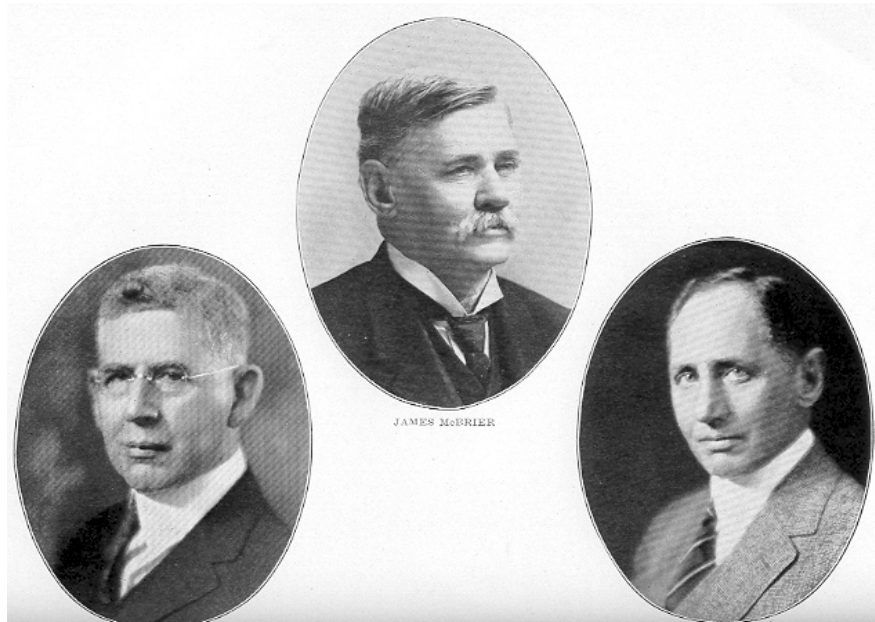
Mr. McBrier is a member of the Park Presbyterian Church, of which he has served as Elder since 1890, and he is a member of the University Club, Kahkwa Club, Lehigh Alumni Association and the Chamber of Commerce. He is a Republican and served as a member of the Perry Memorial State Commission.

**Frederick Bell McBrier**, vice president and general manager of the Erie Steam Shovel Company, ranks among the prominent and influential business men of Erie. He was born at Allegheny, Pa., May 7, 1873, and is the son of James and Mary Elizabeth (White) McBrier. A complete sketch of the life and business career of the late James McBrier appears in the sketch of David Nye McBrier.

Frederick Bell McBrier received his education in the public schools of Erie and after his graduation from Cornell University engaged in the manufacturing business with his father, who was the founder of the Ball Engine Company. He has since been connected with this concern and its successor, the Erie Steam Shovel Company, and is now serving as vice president and general manager. He is a director of the Erie Trust Company.

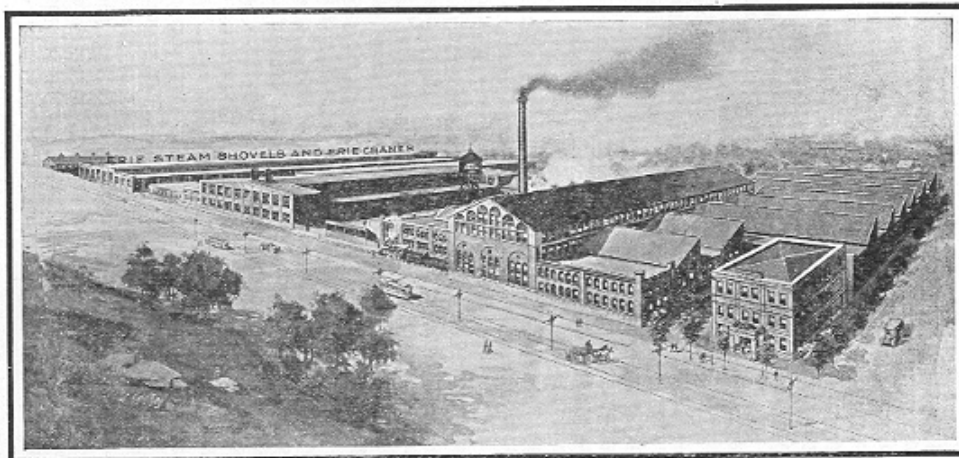
On May 30, 1913, Mr. McBrier was united in marriage with Miss Grace Parker Richardson, a native of Winchester, Mass., and the daughter of J. H. and Lydia (Thompson) Parker, natives of Massachusetts, who now reside at 337 West 6th Street, Erie. To Mr. and Mrs. McBrier were born two children: Lydia Mary and James Richardson McBrier, both students.

Mr. McBrier is a Republican, a member of the Park Presbyterian Church, and belongs to the Erie Club, the Kahkwa Club, Lake Placid Club and the Zeta Psi fraternity. He is a representative citizen of the community and the McBrier family is one of the well established and well known families of this section.



Left to right: DAVID NYE McBRIER, JAMES McBRIER, FREDERICK B. McBRIER

As noted in the above sketch for David, the Ball Engine Company was renamed after the death of his father James. This renaming was probably in 1913. From city directories in 1889, 1891 and 1893, the Ball Engine Company was a manufacturer of automatic cutoff engines. Sometime after that time the main product apparently became steam shovels as the new name was the Erie Steam Shovel Company. The picture on the following page is from the book containing the biographical sketches. On the top of the building to the left is a sign "Erie Steam Shovels and Erie Cranes" while the water tower in the center of the picture has painted on it "Ball Engine Company."



In any case, the company became recognized as the country's leading manufacturer of small excavators. In 1927, Erie Steam Shovel Company merged with the Bucyrus Company which had its beginning in 1880 and was by 1882 a manufacturer of steam shovels. The merged company became known as the Bucyrus-Erie Company. In intervening years, numerous other companies came into the firm. In 1996, Bucyrus-Erie changed its name to Bucyrus International, Inc. Still, if you see an old steam shovel you may see the Erie name still there and you may be looking at something we may eventually show to be a company founded by a relative. (Information on the Bucyrus connection was taken from *The Bucyrus Legacy*, [www.bucyrus.com/pdf/History%20Brochure%200105.pdf](http://www.bucyrus.com/pdf/History%20Brochure%200105.pdf))

With what has been gained so far about this particular group of McBriers, most relationships have been cleared up. One of the questions asked earlier remains unanswered. That is: Who was A. J. McBrier for whom the schooner was named? (See page 4, last paragraph, April 2004 *In Defiance*.)

## **PITTSBURGH, PENNSYLVANIA, USA**

Pittsburgh has emerged as an American city that is particularly rich in Scottish place names, rivaling many Canadian and Australian cities in this regard. The city and its suburbs appear to have the highest proportion of uniquely Scottish names in any major metropolitan area in the USA. Of the names of the 732 districts, neighbourhoods and suburbs in Greater Pittsburgh that have been identified to date, 192 (26.2%) are based, in whole or in part, on place names that can be found in Scotland, on Scottish family names, or on Scottish words. They include Carnegie (named as a compliment to the steel magnate and philanthropist Andrew Carnegie), Forbes and Greenock. And Rosslyn Farms in Pittsburgh may recall Rosslyn Chapel (now of Da Vinci Code fame). For all the other Scottish names to be found in Pittsburgh, see: [http://www.rampantscotland.com/placenames/placename\\_pittsburgh.htm](http://www.rampantscotland.com/placenames/placename_pittsburgh.htm)

(**Scottish Snippets**, 20 May 2006)

The web site lists the 192 places associated with Scottish Names. It probably should not be a surprise since many Scots - Irish settled in western Pennsylvania during the early period of our nation's history.

## **CITY DIRECTORIES**

Old city directories can often give us information about our ancestors. The occupation and address of the individual is usually given. If a wife's name is given, it may be shown in parenthesis with the husband's name. Children are sometimes listed separately. Some directories list by alphabetical order by last name, some list by street address. The entries below have recently become available in Ancestry.com's database.

### **Asheville, NC, 1906**

\* McBrayer Calvin (Emma), driver Webb & Son, h 26 Hildebrand (the \* indicates colored, the term used in those less politically correct days. The "h" means home address.)

McBrayer Lewis B (Cordie), phys 2 n Pack Square, h 33 Montford  
McBrayer Reuben A, student, h 33 Montford av  
McBrayer Sadie L Miss, student, h 33 Montford av

The last group, of course, are of the family members mentioned in the last issue of *ID*. Again there is an inconsistency in the spelling of Dr. McBrayer's first name. I believe we need to respect the spelling Louis as he used it in his book. His wife's name at marriage was Lillian Cordelia Deaver. Afterwards she used the name Cordie Deaver McBrayer; no explanation is given as to why. Son Reuben Adolphus was 18 at the time of the directory and was probably attending Wake Forest College from which he received his A.B. Degree in 1911. Daughter Sarah Louise was known as Sadie Lou and was attending the Asheville High School where she graduated with First Honors in 1910. There was also a younger son, Louis Burgin 2<sup>nd</sup>, who was 9 the year of the directory so high school age must have been the cut-off for listing children.

While on this family, we know that Dr. McBrayer was very active in the Independent Order of Odd Fellows. In 1906 He was a Grand Representative to the Sovereign Grand Lodge. A memento of that service is shown at the right. The pin is detachable from the backing card and could be worn as a lapel pin.

While some may know why North Carolina is known as the "Tar Heel" State, others may not. The following is an explanation given on the web site of the Outer Banks Chamber of Commerce, Kill Devil Hills, NC ([www.outerbankschamber.com/relocation/history.tarheels.cfm](http://www.outerbankschamber.com/relocation/history.tarheels.cfm)):

In Colonial days, North Carolina was a big producer of tar, pitch and turpentine.

During one of the fiercest conflicts of the Civil War, North Carolina troops felt they had been let down by a regiment carrying the colors of another state, and thus carried chips on their shoulders when they pulled back from the front after the battle.

"Any more tar down in the Old North State, boys?" members of the other regiments taunted the battle-weary North Carolinians.

"Not a bit. Jeff Davis bought it all up," retorted the Carolinians.

"How's that, what's he going to do with it?"

"He's gonna put it on your heels to make you stick better in the next fight," answered the soldiers from the land of tar, pitch and turpentine.

General Lee, hearing of the incident, remarked: "God Bless the Tar Heel Boys."

The nickname stuck.

Source ... *Creecy's "Grandfather Tales of North Carolina"*

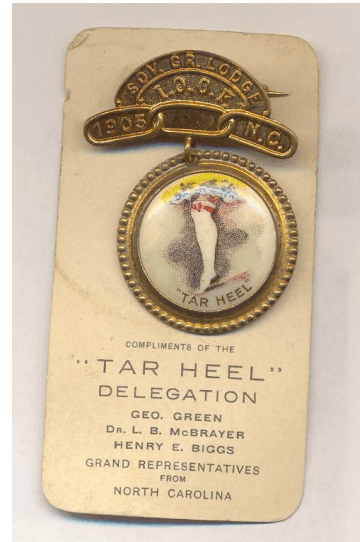
### 1915 New York City

McBrier E M buyer F W Woolworth Co h Montclair N J (this is Edwin Merton McBrier)

The "W" listings were not available on the web site so the Woolworth entries could not be searched.

### 1916 New York City

Woolworth Frank W pres F W Woolworth Co h 990, 5<sup>th</sup> av



Woolworth F W Co (NY) Frank W Woolworth pres C C Griswold v-p Hubert F Parsons sec-treas 5 & 10c stores 233 Bway 24<sup>th</sup> fl.2042 Amadm av, 830 Col av, 22 E14th,587 & 741, 8<sup>th</sup> av, 1415 St Nicholas av, 260, 6<sup>th</sup> av, 946 1536, 2226 & 2932 3d av, 206 w 125<sup>th</sup>, 1328 Boston rd, 443 E Tremont av, 962Westchester av, 209 Willis av, 783 E177th, 21Maiden Ln 7 126 Lennox av  
Edwin Merton McBrier was not listed in this directory.

### 1917 New York City

McBrier Robt C police h 1521 Odell ( Thus far no further record has been found for this man.)

McBrier Edwin M treas Eastern Assn School Inc h Montclair NJ

Again, the “W” listings were not available on the web site.

## REST IN PEACE



Obituaries continue to be a valuable source of information about the family. Sometimes they just reveal small details, other time there are significant additions to our knowledge of specific branches. Still, there are numerous obituaries found that are for persons with some variant of our surname for whom we presently know nothing about. The obituaries are used to continue to build our database, again, we never know how or when a connection will be made. If you can help with identification, please pass the news along. Carl and I share information frequently.

**McBRAYER, JOHN F**, consort of Ellen McBrayer (whose maiden name was Smith) 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 was the son of Ransom M. and Melissa Murray McBrayer and was born in Daviess County, MO. a 5<sup>th</sup> generation descendant of William. The obituary above is shown as it appeared in the November 1869 issue of **St. Louis Christian Advocate** and transcribed in **Missouri Miscellany, Volume 5**, compiled by Audrey L. Woodruff and published by Boyd Publishing Co. The Advocate was the official organ of the Methodist Episcopal Church, South, and the records are now archived at the Central United Methodist College, Fayette, Missouri. The text is typical of the style used by the Advocate, that is, with a minimum of words and punctuation.*

DEATH – Mr. **D.O. McBRAYER**, a prominent farmer of Cleveland county and postmaster at Stubbs, died very suddenly at his late residence on Wednesday morning (24 October 1888) at 2 o'clock from apoplexy. Mr. McBrayer had been working hard in his fields all day Tuesday and had retired at his usual hour apparently in good health. About ten o'clock, his wife was awakened by his heavy breathing and found him unconscious. Medical attendance was summoned, but the attack was fatal and Mr. McBrayer breathed his last about 2 o'clock. He was about 45 years of age and leaves a wife and eleven children. During the war he served under Col. W.H.H. Cowles, the present congressman from this district. Mr. R. McBrayer and Dr. E. McBrayer, of Shelby, were brothers of the deceased. (The **NEW ERA**, Shelby, NC, Friday, 26 October 1888)

*David Onslow, 5<sup>th</sup> gen (90, Elisha 104, David 79, William 421, William 1) was the oldest son of Elisha and Juliet Stroud McBrayer. He was born 1 March 1845 in Cleveland County, NC. He was married Elizabeth I. Beam. In Carl McBrayer's book, eleven children are listed, but there seems to be discrepancies since the names do not match those listed in the 1880 census. Also, one child listed, Marshall, died before his father. So David and Elizabeth probably had more than eleven children born to their marriage. David's military service is not mentioned in Carl's book. David's brothers were Dr. Thomas Evans McBrayer and Reuben McBrayer. He also had a sister, Olive, who died in ca 1849, probably at birth or shortly after.*

**McBRAYER, HENRY GROVER JR.**

Born: Fannin County, Tx. SS# 459-26-7874-A  
Father: Henry Grover McBrayer, Sr.  
Mother: Leetha Jamama McLomore  
Source: Adams Funeral Home

Funeral services for Henry Grover (Buster) McBrayer Jr. of Crosbyton were held at 2 p.m. Wednesday in the First Baptist Church chapel. The Rev. Bobby Rine, pastor, officiated. Burial was made in Crosbyton Cemetery, under direction of King Funeral Home. Mr. McBrayer was 54. He died about 11 p.m. Sunday night in Crosbyton Clinic Hospital after a brief illness.

Born November 13, 1921, in Fannin County, McBrayer was raised in the Crosbyton community. He returned here about five years ago from Fort Worth. A veteran of World War II, Buster was engaged in construction work. He is survived by two sisters; Mrs. Virginia Hickman of Crosbyton and Mrs. Juanita Thomas of Stanton.

(**Crosbyton Review**, December 11, 1975 - Record provided by Crosby County Pioneer Memorial Museum)

*Nothing is known about the parents of Henry Sr., and this obituary provides the name of Henry Jr's mother and his birth date. Previously available information gives his death as December 7, 1975.*

**ROBERT W. McBRIER**, 60, of 15 Hammel Court, Portsmouth, died peacefully at home on Thursday, July 28 (2005). He was the husband of Marlene (Thome) McBrier. Born in Newport on Feb. 3, 1945, he was a son of Rheta (McCann) McBrier and the late Col. Robert W. McBrier. Mr. McBrier retired after 38 years as vice president of field operations for Bristol-Myers Squibb Medical Imaging — a career that brought him to Lawrenceville, N.J. for 15 years before he returned to Aquidneck Island in 2002. He was an active member of the Lions Club, former president of the YMCA board of directors and held membership at golf clubs in Rhode Island and New Jersey. Besides his wife and mother, he leaves a son, Robert A. McBrier of North Kingstown; a daughter, Stephanie Hannett of Tampa, Fla.; a sister, Connie McBrier of Bristol; and five grandchildren, Morgan McBrier, Jake McBrier and Colin McBrier, all of North Kingstown, and Sarah Hannett and Ryan Hannett both of Tampa, Fla. Funeral services were held on Monday, Aug. 1, 2005, from the Memorial Funeral Home in Newport with a Mass of Christian Burial at St. Joseph's Church. Burial was in Trinity Cemetery in Portsmouth. In lieu of flowers donations can be made in Mr. McBrier's memory to the Dana Farber Cancer Institute, 44 Binney St., Boston, MA 02115.

*Robert's connection to the family is at present unknown. His obituary was found on the web: <http://www2.eastbayri.com/Obituaries/index.cfm> Phoenix-Times Publishing, Inc., Bristol, RI.*

**PERRY SCOTT SMITH**, "Scott", 46 of Apopka, FL., formerly of Cumming, GA., died Wednesday, August 3, 2005. Mr. Smith was born in Atlanta, Georgia, July 6, 1959 and graduated from North Clayton High School in Clayton County then attended University of Georgia in Athens. Mr. Smith was employed by AT&T, 25 years, currently as a Manager in Global Real Estate and was a member of Riverdale First Baptist Church. He is survived by his mother, Comell "Candy" Smith Moore and step father, Joseph Moore of Cumming, GA; father, Harvey Jackson "Jack" Smith of Apopka, FL; paternal grandmother, Mattie Lou Smith of Roswell; and many extended family members. Funeral services will be held Tuesday, August 9, at 11:00 a.m. at Johns Creek Baptist Church. Interment will follow in Arlington Memorial Park in Sandy Springs. The family will receive friends Monday from 2:00 until 4:00 p.m. and from 6:00 until 9:00 p.m. at McDonald and Son Funeral Home. In lieu of flowers, memorial contributions may be made to the American Heart Association. You may express condolences on line at [www.mcdonaldandson.com](http://www.mcdonaldandson.com). Arrangements by McDonald and Son Funeral Home and Crematory, Cumming, 770-886-9899. (**The Atlanta Journal Constitution** 7 August 2005)



*Scott was 9<sup>th</sup> generation descending through John Columbus McBrayer (6<sup>th</sup> generation 226-5). His father Jack and*

*grandmother Mattie Lou are members of the Family Association.*

**MILDRED STEVENS (ALMOND) MacBRAIR**, 83, died. Oct. 18, 2005, after a long illness at Four Winds Nursing Home in Jackson. She was born July 24, 1922, in Roanoke, Va., she later moved to St. Petersburg, Fla., and then to Portsmouth, where she graduated from Portsmouth High School in 1940. In the late 1970s she moved to Chillicothe, where she retired as a secretary for the Ohio Department of Transportation in 1985. She has been a member of St. Mary's Catholic Church in Portsmouth and St. Paul's Episcopal church in Chillicothe. She was preceded in death by her husband, Thomas L. Macbrair. She is survived by daughter, Sandra Leigh Borden, of Jackson; son-in-law, Richard Scott Borden; grandson, Ryan Sean Borden; daughter, Pamela Heid Harkless, of Delaware; a granddaughter, Sherry Pressley Harkless; and son, B.J. Almond, of Houston, Texas. Visitation will be at Melcher's Funeral Home, 1417 Offnere St., in Portsmouth from 9:45 to 10:45 am. Saturday, Oct. 22, followed by a funeral Mass at 11 a.m. at St. Mary's. Interment will follow at Grandview Cemetery in Chillicothe. (Portsmouth (OH) **Daily Times**, October 20, 2005)

*No further information is presently available for Mildred.*

**SHELBY – ELISHA FREDERICK 'FRED' McBRAYER**, 85, died January 11, 2006. Funeral 11 AM Saturday, First Baptist Church. Burial, Cleveland Memorial Park. Visitation 6-7:30 PM Friday, Cecil M. Burton Funeral Home. (Charlotte **Observer** , 12 January 2006)

*Elisha, 8<sup>th</sup> generation (104-23, Elisha 103-5, Oscar 320, David 90, Eliaha 104, David 79, William 421, William 1) was the son of Elisha and Nannie Leslie Hord McBrayer. He was born 30 March 1920 in Shelby, NC. He married Mallie Louise Davis (see October 2003 IN **DEFIANCE**, for her obituary). They had two children. They owned McBrayer Motors in Shelby for many years.*

**GERALDINE D. "GERRY" CROWDER**, 75, of Hendersonville entered the presence of our Lord and Savior on Monday, Jan. 30, 2006, at the Elizabeth House. She was born in Chattanooga, Tenn., raised in Western North Carolina and lived in the Virginia tidewater area with her family for several years before moving to Hendersonville in the mid 1960s. She was the wife of the late Tom Crowder. Survivors include two sons, Jack Crowder and his wife, Deborah, of Hendersonville and David Crowder and his wife, Teresa, of Catawba, Va.; a brother, Boyd **McBrayer** of Gastonia; a sister, Eileen Gantt of Panama City, Fla.; and several very special cousins, nieces and nephews. The family wishes to extend a genuine appreciation to the staff at Elizabeth House for their extreme kindness, gentleness and compassion shown during the past two weeks while caring for Gerry. A memorial service will be held at 2 p.m. Thursday in the chapel of Hendersonville First Baptist Church. Dr. Gordon Elliott will officiate. Burial will follow at Refuge Baptist Church cemetery. In lieu of flowers, memorials can be made to the Four Seasons Hospice Elizabeth House, 581 S. Allen Road, Flat Rock, NC 28731. Jackson Funeral Home is in charge of the arrangements. (**Henderson Times-News**, Hendersonville, NC, 1 February 2006)

*Nothing more is known at present regarding Geraldine or her brother and sister.*

**DARREL GENE McBRAYER**, 45, of Portsmouth, Ohio, formerly of Flatwoods, Ky., died Tuesday, Feb. 14, 2006, in Southern Ohio Medical Center in Portsmouth. Mr. McBrayer was born April 24, 1960, in Waukegan, Ill., a son of Bessie Carter McBrayer, of Greenup, Ky., and the late Gene Matt McBrayer. He was a former brakeman and conductor for C&O Railroad. In 1993, Darrel was injured in a diving accident in which he became a quadriplegic. He attended Oak Street Chapel in Flatwoods, Ky. In addition to his mother, he is survived by his girlfriend, Debra Mershon, of Wheelers-burg; one son, Matthew McBrayer, of Troy, Ohio; one daughter, Angela (Tim) Harrington, of Troy; two sisters, Sherry (Lester) Archey, of Greenup, and Vonda Adgate, of Fort Myers, Fla.; one nephew, Philip Force; one niece, Brittny Adgate; and two grandchildren, Morgan and Claudia. Funeral services will be conducted at 1 p.m. Saturday, Feb. 18, 2006, at Reed Funeral Home in Greenup with Pastor Johnsey Collins officiating. Burial will be in the McBrayer Cemetery, Alcorn Road, Greenup. Visitation will be 6 to 9 p.m. Friday and one hour before the funeral Saturday at the funeral home. In lieu of flowers, contributions may be made to assist with funeral expenses. (Portsmouth (OH) **Daily Times**, February 17, 2006)

*Darrel was 9<sup>th</sup> generation ( Gene Matt 70-95/5, Clyde 70-95, John 217, William 456, James 193, Ichabod 156,*

*Samuel 360, William 1).*

**KATIE IRENE McBRAYER BEDINGFIELD**, age 97, of Gainesville passed away Monday, Feb. 20, 2006, at Bell Minor Nursing Home following an extended illness. Funeral services are scheduled for 2 p.m. Thursday, Feb. 23, 2006, in the chapel of Memorial Park Funeral Home, with burial to follow in Memorial Park Cemetery. The Rev. Dan Bremmer, the Rev. Lee Almy and the Rev. Tim Strickland will officiate. The family will receive friends from 3 to 9 p.m. Wednesday at the funeral home.

Mrs. Bedingfield was born in Hall County to the late John Raymond McBrayer and Estee Henderson McBrayer. She was retired from J.D. Jewells, and was a member of Riverbend Baptist Church. Mrs. Bedingfield was preceded in death by her daughters, Valeria Jones and Marguerite J. Reed; sister and brother-in-law, Melrose and Raymond Martin; and her children's father, Oscar W. Jones. Survivors include her daughters and sons-in-law, Sarah Nell Jones Presley, Janet J. and Ronald Haynes, all of Gainesville, and Shirley Gillespie Hicks and Jimmy, Morganton; grandsons and wives, Ricky and Teresa Presley, Scott and Shelby Presley, all of Gainesville, and Darren Gillespie, Atlanta; granddaughters and husbands, Renee and the Rev. Tim Strickland, Karen and Ken Dooley, Kathy Presley, all of Gainesville, and Cheryl and Douglas Matthews, Clermont; 12 great-grandchildren; five great-great-grandchildren; brother and sister-in-law, John B. and Edith McBrayer, Oakwood; nephew and wife, Robert L. and Pattie Martin, Raleigh, N.C.; son-in-law and wife, William J. Reed and Glenda, Gainesville; sister-in-law, Elise Jones, Forsyth County; and Thelma Jones, Hall County.

*Memorial Park Funeral Home, Gainesville (The Times, Gainesville, Ga., Feb. 23, 2006 )*

*Katie Irene McBrayer was not listed in the last book published by Carl B. McBrayer nor was her brother John B. McBrayer. Her sister Melrose was. Her father, John Raymond was 6<sup>th</sup> generation ( 244, John 224, Jason 205, William 418, Samuel 360, William 1).*

Mrs. **BERTHA McBRAYER HICKS**, 96, of Calhoun died Wednesday, March 1, 2006 at Wood Dale Health Care Center in Dalton. She was born in Gordon County on March 19, 1909, daughter of the late J.W. and Ollie Miller McBrayer. After graduating from the University of Chattanooga, she was employed by the Catoosa County School System as a teacher until her retirement. She was a member of Calhoun First United Methodist Church, United Methodist Women, Hillhouse Garden Club, and Retired Teachers Association. She was preceded in death by her husband, Frank Hicks, in March 2000. Survivors include a daughter and son-in-law, Nancy and Richard Jordon of Calhoun; brothers, General Madison McBrayer of Chattanooga and George McBrayer of Ringgold; sisters, Elizabeth Clark of Dalton and Rachel Newman of Ringgold; a special niece, Sarah Parker of Lawrenceville; five grandchildren, eight great-grandchildren, two great-great grandchildren, and several other nieces and nephews. Funeral was Saturday, March 4 at 3 p.m. from Calhoun First United Methodist Church, with Dr. Brian Clark officiating. Burial followed in Fain Cemetery. Music was arranged by Teresa McBrayer and Bob Williams. Pallbearers were Perry Moore, Tim Haney, Nicholas Norris, George McBrayer Jr., and Joey, David, and Eric Jordon. Thomas Funeral Home of Calhoun was in charge of arrangements.

**(Calhoun Times, 7 March 2006)**

*Bertha Lee McBrayer, 7<sup>th</sup> generation, was the daughter of James William (203, William 455, Martin, William 5418, Samuel 360, William 1) and Ollie Miller McBrayer. She was the second of nine children.*

**ADA ANN JONES McBRYAR**, 95, of Oak Ridge, died Tuesday, March 14, 2006, at Briarcliff Health Care Center. She was born Nov. 20, 1910, in Rockford, Tenn., the daughter of William and Maude Best Jones. Mrs. McBryar was an avid crafter and a member of the Foothills Craft Guild, Creative Crochet. She was also a member of Royce Baptist Church. She enjoyed fishing and flower gardening. In addition to her parents, she was preceded in death by husband, Jesse McBryar Sr., on July 5, 1963; and daughters, June LaScala, Delores Barnett and Joan Mahler. She is survived by son, Jesse McBryar and wife Nancy, and daughter, Nancy Grant and husband Glenn, all of Oak Ridge; and 19 grandchildren, numerous great grandchildren and extended family. In keeping with Mrs. McBryar's wishes, her body will be cremated and no services are planned. Weatherford Mortuary is in charge of the arrangements. An on-line guest book can be



signed at [www.weatherfordmortuary.com](http://www.weatherfordmortuary.com). (The **Oak Ridger**, 16 March 2006, Oak Ridge, TN)

*No other information is available for Mrs. McBrayer at this time.*

Sometimes it takes more than one obituary to make connections clear. Note in the following three obituaries that the first two lead to confusion as to the middle name for Mrs. McBrayer. Finally, it is taken by inference that it is Dean.

Harrison County, Texas – **McBRAYER, GLADYS DAVIS**, 93, of Rowlett, Texas, died Saturday; services pending; arrangements by Sullivan-Heaster Funeral Home, Marshall, Texas. (The **Times**, Shreveport, LA , 3 April 2006)

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Harrison County, Texas – **McBRAYER, GLADYS DEAN**, 93, of Marshall, Texas, died Saturday; services at 10 a.m. Thursday at Sullivan-Heaster Funeral Home, Marshall; burial in Colonial Gardens Cemetery, Marshall. (The **Times**, Shreveport, LA , 4 April 2006)

&

Funeral services for **GLADYS DEAN McBRAYER**, 93, of Marshall will be 10 a.m. Thursday, April 6, 2006, at the Colonial Chapel of Sullivan-Heaster Funeral Home with the Rev. Bob McCarty officiating. Burial will follow in Colonial Gardens Cemetery under the direction of Sullivan-Heaster Funeral Home. Mrs. McBrayer died Saturday, April 1, 2006, in Rowlett. She was born Jan. 7, 1913, in Harrison County to James and Katherine Davis, and married Eustace Carol McBrayer in Marshall on June 30, 1943. Survivors include two granddaughters, Angie Surber of Rowlett and Marcie Sasina of Dallas; two great-grandchildren; one sister, Annie Mae Carroll; other relatives and friends. Flowers are appreciated or donations may be made to the charity of donor's choice. ([www.MarshallNewsMessenger.com](http://www.MarshallNewsMessenger.com) 4 April 2006)

*Gladys, as noted, was the wife of Eustice Carol McBrayer (109/5, 8<sup>th</sup> generation, the son of Eustice Martin (109, James Henry 182, James H 181-3, William Strutton 459, James 162, Samuel 360, William 1) and Catherine Ross McBrayer. Carl McBrayer helped to clear up the relationships. In Carl's last book, Eustice Carol was listed as "Carl." The 1920 U.S. Census gave his name as "Carroll."*

**JOHN N. McBRAYER, Sr.**, 85, of Tempe, Arizona, passed away on April 21, 2006. He proudly served in the United States Army. A Graveside Service will be held on Wednesday, April, 26, 2006 at Resthaven Park Cemetery, 4310 E. Southern Ave., Phx, AZ at 9:30 a.m. Arrangements entrusted to Resthaven Park Mortuary. (**Arizona Republic**, 25 April 2006)

*John, 7<sup>th</sup> generation ( 239, John Young 257, John Newton 241, Thomas Justice 382, David 82, Samuel 360, William 1) was the second of three sons born to John Young and Minnie Womble McBrayer. He was born 24 September 1920 in Mesa, AZ. He married Florence Louise Uhlig and they had two sons. His second son, Family Association member William Frank McBrayer, added in an e-mail that his father's death occurred following a month-long battle with pneumonia in addition to cancer which had been diagnosed a year earlier.*

**JOAN F. McBRIER** Feb. 16, 1923 - April 28, 2006

GOSHEN - Joan F. McBrier, 83, died at 8:40 a.m. Friday in Elkhart General Hospital. Survivors include two daughters, Judy Witmer of Kazanlak, Bulgaria, and Karen Stickel of Goshen; a son, Dennis of Auburn, Ind.; a sister, Patricia Hooley of Ligonier, Ind.; and a brother, J.R. Rohrer of Goshen. Services will be at 10 a.m. Wednesday in Wakarusa Missionary Church. Friends may call from 2 to 4 and 6 to 8 p.m. Tuesday in Rieth-Rohrer-Ehret-Lienhart Funeral Home, Wakarusa, and one hour before services in the church.

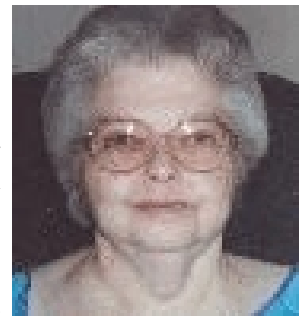
*Joan's connection to the family is at present unknown. Her obituary was published April 29, 2006, in the **South Bend Tribune**, South Bend, Indiana. From other available information, there are, or have been, a number of McBriers in this area of Indiana. Nothing is known of the connections at this time.*

**TONEY, TONI**, 85, of Rockwall, Texas died at 6:20 A.M., Tuesday, May 2, 2006 at St. Paul's Hospital in Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Toney was born March 31, 1921 in Rector, Arkansas, the daughter of Marshston "Squint"

and Naomi Grogan. In 1935 she married Tony Cardonia Hill, now deceased. In March of 1964 she married John Burton Toney of Dallas, Texas. Mrs. Toney was a member of the United Methodist Church where funeral services will be held at 2:00 P.M. Friday with Rev. Larry Ravert officiating. Burial will follow at Restland Memorial Park in Dallas. Friends of the family may call Eastgate Funeral Home, visitation will be from 6 - 8 P.M. Thursday at the funeral home. Mrs. Toney was survived by her husband, John Burton Toney of Rockwall, Texas; two sons and daughters-in-law, Sohnie C. and Robly Hill of Ponder, Texas, Dennis L. and Katherine Hill of Idaho Springs, Colorado; three granddaughters; two grandsons; five great granddaughters; one step-great granddaughter; two step-grandsons; one sister, Nadine Schneider and one brother, Bill Grogan, both of Waukegan, Illinois. Mrs. Toney was preceded in death by her parents, one daughter and two brothers. (The **Dallas Morning News**, Thursday, May 4, 2006 )

*Toni was the paternal grandmother of former Family Association member Sohnie F. Hill. The McBrayer connection is through Sohnie's mother, Melinda Gayle Berry 275/2B, 10<sup>th</sup> gen (Verna Jearldine McB 275/2, Larkin 275, Robert 346, Eli 103, Tilman 389, Samuel 362, William 418, Samuel 360, William 1)*

GASTONIA — **VIOLA McBRYAR BRYANT**, 82, of 829 Churchill Drive, died May 20, 2006, at Gaston Memorial Hospital. She was a native of DeKalb County, Ga., daughter of the late Clarence McBryar and Lillie Crocker McBryar. FUNERAL: 8 p.m. tonight, Founders Chapel, McLean Funeral Directors of Gastonia. VISITATION: 7-8 tonight at the funeral home She was a homemaker and member of Zion Baptist Church. SURVIVORS: Son and daughter-in-law, Michael Ray and Patricia Hill Bryant, Gastonia; daughters and son-in-law, Barbara G. Bryant, Charlene B. Bittner, Wanda Jeannette and Johnny A. Mayes, Sr. all of Gastonia. PRECEDED IN DEATH BY: Parents; husband, Charles Wesley Bryant, Jr.; sister, Emma Lou McBryar Letterman. OFFICIATING CLERGY: Rev. Leo Kuykendall. Condolences may be sent online at <http://www.mcleanfuneral.com/> ARRANGEMENTS: McLean Funeral Directors. (The **Gaston** (NC) **Gazette**, 23 May 2006)



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GASTONIA -- **VIOLA McBRYAR BRYANT**, 82, died May 20, 2006. Funeral is 8 PM Tuesday at the Founders Chapel of McLean Funeral Directors of Gastonia, with visitation from 7-8 PM. (The **Charlotte Observer** (NC), 23 May 2006)

*The family connection is unknown at this time.*

## FRAUDULENT ITEMS

Recently there have been items offered for auction on Ebay which clearly are there to find ways of getting money for items which are not what you think they are. You have to read the descriptions clearly and search further. Among these have been offerings for reproductions of old time signs for "McBrayer's Coffee House" and a "McBrayer Beer" clock. Just looking at the items gives a clue that they are false because the type face is not consistent. In the recent offerings, the seller has been **Show Your Style Signs & Clocks** of Stow, Ohio, who will make the sign and clock with any name you want. If you still want one, you can order direct, just know you are not getting anything authentic. There probably has been a McBrayer's Coffee House someplace, but this sign is not for it.

## NEW FAMILY ADDITION

**BRAEDEN McBRAYER ASBURY**, the son of Steven and Erin Ashbury was born 9 March 2006 in Oklahoma City, OK. Steven is the owner of Asbury Medical Supply and is the son of Eddie Michael Asbury ( Gladys McBrayer 139-2, Harvard - 139, Henry 144, Samuel 364, David 82, Samuel 360, William 1). Family Historian Carl McBrayer is Eddie's uncle.

## VERY REMARKABLE

So read the heading of a short article which appeared in the Tuesday, December 21, 1830, issue of the *National Gazette and Literary Register* published in Philadelphia. The article was scanned from an original of the newspaper, still in very good condition one-hundred thirty-five + years later. The paper was published three days a week and it cost Five Dollars for a one year subscription to be paid in advance.

The Greensburg, (Pa.) Gazette of Friday last says: “ We are informed that Mr. James M’Brier, of Washington township, in this county, was out on his farm on Friday and was overtaken with the storm, which appears to have been very severe in some places, By the falling of a tree his horse was killed under him, and he himself very seriously injured, having several of his ribs broken, and his shoulder either broke or very much bruised; yet he was able to walk home, although it was thought doubtful when our informant last heard from him whether he would recover. What makes the circumstance more extraordinary is, that the tree was forked a considerable distance up, and one prong fell before and the other behind him across the horse, which killed him on the spot and injured Mr. M’ Brier as above stated.”

Certainly Mr. M’Brair had good fortune on his side. Now to try to determine who he was. The 1830 U.S. Census for Washington Township, located in Westmoreland County, Pennsylvania was checked looking for any variant of the surname. Two James McBriers were found in the records of the census conducted for the Western District of Pennsylvania, no date could be found for the enumeration. The handwriting was clearly that of a well-schooled man, James B. Oliver, as it is easy to read. One James is found listed immediately after two other McBriers and it may be surmised that they were relatives. Since there were no streets or house numbers for this agricultural area, names were just listed as being in Washington Township.

It may be that the James McBrier of the incident may be the son of Nathaniel McBrier, the possible nephew of the original three brothers McBrayer. According to a biographical sketch in *American Revolutionary Soldiers of Franklin County Pennsylvania*, Nathaniel was in Hamilton Township in 1783, the same county where William and his brothers lived. It is thought that he came to America about 1775. He did serve during the Revolutionary War and received a land grant for his services. By 1783 he was in Westmoreland County and is found in the 1790 US Census living in Washington Township. His name was spelled “McBrire” by the census enumerator. Interestingly in the 1790 US Census, William and his son David were listed with the last name spelled “Brier,” as was David in 1800. Nathaniel is also listed in the 1800, 1810, 1820 and 1830 US Census records, all listing him in Washington Township, Westmoreland County, with the name spelling McBrier. Since the census during these years listed only the head of the household by name it is difficult to track family members. It is only in the 1830 Census that the two James were listed. It is known, however, from Nathaniel’s will that he had a son James. So we still have the possibility that the James of the story was Nathaniel’s son. In 1830, his age was between 20 and 30. The other James listed in the 1830 Census was between 40 and 50.

## WHILE ON THE SUBJECT

While on the subject of Nathaniel, another reference has been found for him in the *History of Westmoreland County*, Volume 1, Chapter 13 written in 1906 by John N. Boucher. The book is being transcribed as a project of The Westmoreland County History Project and may be found at [www.pa-roots.com](http://www.pa-roots.com) and the excerpt here is a product of that project and is used non-commercially. The title of the chapter is *The Removal of County Seat to Greensburg*.

In the same paper (Pittsburgh Gazette) on February 10, 1787, the following letter appeared, written by one who signed himself "A Friend of Westmoreland":

"We find by Mr. Brackenridge's late publication that the seat of justice in this county yet remains an object of envy in our Legislature. as 'a bill is published superceding the powers of the Trustees for building a Court House and jail in Greensburg: I wonder, when we shall see an end of the cavilings on this subject and the succession of ridiculous laws occasioned thereby. By the first law we find a number of Trustees appointed for erecting a Court House and prison. etc. By the second law we find their proceedings rejected, though

perfectly legal, and the former repealed, and another set of Trustees appointed, with more extensive and conclusive power. A third law approves and confirms their proceedings, and a fourth law supercedes their powers in the midst of the duty assigned them: and to carry the farce a little farther. I think the fifth law ought to amount to the total annihilation of the county."

The reader will discover that in the justices' letter or certificate given above, and dated August 10, 1786, they say that they have adjourned the courts to the new court house in Newtown. They had probably done this, but even then troubles were brewing, engendered largely by Hanna and his friends, who were loathe to see the courthouse leave Hannastown. So, to in some degree appease the wrath of these adherents of Hanna. it was determined to hold the October term of court in Hannastown, and this was accordingly done. The first court held in Greensburg was the January term Of 1787, beginning on January 7th, with judge John Moore on the bench. The following is a list of the jurors who served at this first court in the new county seat: Grand jurors-- David Duncan, James Carnahan. John Carnahan, John Sloan, Abrahm Fulton, Charles Baird, William Best, **Nathaniel McBrier**, Joseph Mann, James Fulton, William Mann, Charles Johnston, Jacob Huffman, Samuel Sinclair, and John Craig. Traverse Jurors: Alexander Craig, John McCreadv. Peter Cherry, John Giffen. John Buch, Philip Carns, Patrick Campbell, George Swan, Isaac McKendry, Robert McKee, John Anderson, James Watterson and Lawrence Irwin.

The term only lasted for about three days, and the minutes do not show any proceedings of momentous interest. The grand jury, however, reported that the new jail was insufficient, and not strong enough to hold the prisoners. The trustees submitted their account as required by the suspending act. The total expenditures so far had been less than a thousand dollars. The accounts were finally laid before the grand jury on July 17, 1787.

The judicial system seemed to grind slowly in those days, but the reference would indicate that Nathaniel was well established in Westmoreland County at that time.

In Carl B. McBrayer's sketch for Nathaniel, it is stated that he was a founder of the Poke Run Presbyterian Church. The excerpt below supports his involvement. The original congregation seems to have been organized in 1784, shortly after Nathaniel is known to have been in Westmoreland County. It met first in the home of Robert Hays, then in a log building close-by. It was about two miles southwest of the site mentioned below.

Though services were held at the present site early in 1787, it is not mentioned in deeds until 17 June 1815, when **Nathaniel McBRIER** sold five acres and fifty-one perches to the Trustees of Poke Run Congregation (William CHRISTY, Samuel PAUL, Jacob HILL, John GORDON, and Oliver QUINN). This is in Westmoreland County Deed Book 11-288. None of the earlier land records establish the site as a church. (See New Purchase Application #2799 dated 04 April 1769 to John FLEMING, Survey Book C-135-261 dated 25 Jun 1772 to John FLEMING, Westmoreland Warrant #M-662 dated 09 December 1814 to Nathaniel McBRIER, and Patent Book H-9-694 dated 29 Dec 1814 to Nathaniel McBRIER. No deeds to McBRIER from FLEMING are recorded in Westmoreland County.)

(History of Poke Run Presbyterian Church -

<http://freepages.genealogy.rootsweb.com/~treasures/pa/westmoreland/washington/pokerun.html> )

Only the names of two of Nathaniel's sons are known: James and David. Census records would suggest he had one more son and two daughters. Additional evidence for David is given below.

McBrier, David, s/o Nathaniel, of Washington Twp., died Friday the 7<sup>th</sup> inst. of convulsive fits, in the 45<sup>th</sup> year of his age. Left a wife and five children.

(Greensburg Gazette, 28 May 1824 - [www.pa-roots.org/data/read?841,378403,378403](http://www.pa-roots.org/data/read?841,378403,378403) )

Now if we could only find the firm evidence of the exact relationship between William, James and David and Nathaniel. Perhaps if we can determine their relationship we will find the key to the place from which our forefathers left to come to America and the direct connections to Scotland. If anybody has additional information, please pass it along.



## HAPPY 100<sup>TH</sup>

September 3, 2006, marks the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of **MATTIE LOU McBRAYER SMITH** who was born in Buchanan, GA ! She is the last surviving child of 6<sup>th</sup> generation John Columbus McBrayer. According to her daughter, Joyce Cunningham, Mattie Lou is doing well and still lives alone in her home. She has thoughtful neighbors who check up on her frequently.

If you wish to send her birthday greetings, her address is 1030 Grimes Bridge Road, Roswell, GA, 30075-3903. I'm sure she would appreciate hearing from you.

Mattie Lou, daughter Joyce and son Jack Smith are members of the Family Association .

## ANOTHER FAMILY MEMBER FOUND

A number of issues back, I asked if anybody knew something about the Christian Music singer **Jody McBrayer**. An answer was received very soon thereafter from Glen and Carolyn Zook clearly linking Jody to the family. Since then, additional research has been done to add to the knowledge about Jody and his immediate family. Others in the family have sent additional comments about Jody so a fairly good picture can now be drawn.

Based on the information Glen sent by e-mail, Jody is the first cousin once removed of Carolyn. Their common ancestor is Robert Candler McBrayer. Robert's son Clark Candler is Carolyn's father and Robert's son Clyde Albert is Jody's grandfather. Additional information was provided starting with Robert; this new information is italicized using the sketch in Carl's book as the basis:

**347. ROBERT CANDLER McBRAYER**, 6<sup>th</sup> gen (William 433, Andrew 15, John 223, Samuel 360, William 1), was the son of William Candler and A. Ardelia Brown McBrayer. He was born *10 June 1877*<sup>1,2</sup> in GA, and was married first to MATTIE LOU *GRIFFITHS*<sup>2</sup>. They had issue at least the following children (7<sup>th</sup> gen):

1. **CLARK CANDLER McBRAYER**, *born ca 1904 in Alabama*<sup>3,4</sup>
2. **ROSE McBRAYER**, *born ca 1907 in Alabama*<sup>3,4</sup>
3. **PAUL F. McBRAYER**, *born ca 1908 in Alabama*<sup>3,4,5</sup>
3. **NOBLE D. McBRAYER**, *born 1912 in Alabama*<sup>3,4,5</sup>
4. **CLYDE ALBERT**<sup>2</sup> McB. (#39-4)

*Based on U.S. Census records, Mattie apparently died between 1920 and 1927. Robert married (2) Lillie M. --- about 1928, She was born ca 1890 in Georgia.*<sup>4,5</sup>

Robert was a *pattern maker for an iron company at the time of the 1910 U.S. Census and lived in Birmingham City, Alabama*<sup>3</sup>, then he was a farmer near Carrolton, GA *at the time of the 1920 U.S. Census*<sup>4</sup> and was a carpenter, *apparently unemployed, at the time of the 1930 U.S. Census*<sup>5</sup>. At one time the Tax Assessor of Draketown, GA. *On September 12, 1918, he registered in Buchanan, GA, for World War I military service while a resident of Draketown. His employment was given as a government carpenter. He was shown as of medium height and build with grey eyes.*<sup>6</sup> *He died 10 June 1955 in Douglas County, GA*<sup>1,2</sup>

- Notes:
1. Georgia Deaths, 1919-98 Record, Ancestry.com
  2. E-mail dtd June 7, 2004 from Glen E. Zook to Robert McBrayer
  3. 1910 U.S. Census, Birmingham City, Jefferson Cty, AL, Enumeration District 85, Sheet 3
  4. 1920 U.S. Census, Temple District 649, Carrol Cty, GA, Enumeration District 4, Sheet 3
  5. 1930 U.S. Census, Atlanta Borough, 7<sup>th</sup> Ward, Block 182, Fulton Cty, GA, Enumeration District 61-105, Sheet 6-B
  6. WW I Draft Registration Card - Ancestry.com

**39-4. CLYDE ALBERT McBRAYER**, 7<sup>th</sup> gen (Robert 347. William 433, Andrew 15, John 223, Samuel 360, William 1) was the son of Robert Candler *and* Mattie Lou Griffiths<sup>1</sup> McBrayer. *He was born 20 October 1913<sup>1</sup>,<sup>2</sup> in Alabama., died 27 April 1982 in Tampa, Hillsboro Cty, Florida<sup>2</sup>. He was married to (1) unknown<sup>1</sup>, and (2) Ruth B. — . They had issue (8<sup>th</sup> gen):*

1. **CLYDE A.**<sup>3</sup> **“SONNY”<sup>1</sup> McBRAYER**, born 6 May 1944<sup>3</sup>, died 12 (13) September 2000<sup>3</sup> from an undetected growth that affected his brain<sup>6</sup>. He married ----- and they had issue (9<sup>th</sup> gen):

1A. **RICHARD McBRAYER**<sup>4</sup>

1B. **JIM McBRAYER**<sup>4</sup>

1C. **JODY MICHAEL McBRAYER**, born 25 June 1970<sup>1,4</sup>, in Tampa, Florida. He married in March 1999 Stephanie Harrison<sup>5</sup>. They had issue (10<sup>th</sup> gen):

1C1. Sarah Clayton McBrayer, born May 2005<sup>5</sup>.

*Clyde Albert was living in Brandon, FL, in 1957, where he was employed with the U.S. Postal Service. He enlisted in the U.S. Army on 25 March 1944 at Fort McPherson, Atlanta, GA. He entered as a Private with no specific branch of the Army. He had completed high school and his civilian occupations were listed as: Installer-Repairman, Telephone and Telegraph; Chief, Clerk or Railway Shop Dispatcher or Manager; or Production or Entertainment Director. He was married at the time of enlistment. His height was given as 60 inches and weight as 144 pounds.<sup>7</sup>*

- Notes: 1. E-mail dtd June 7, 2004 from Glen E. Zook to Robert McBrayer  
2. Social Security Death Index, Clyde McBrayer SSN: 253-01-3256  
3. Social Security Death Index, Clyde A. McBrayer, SSN: 265-70-2177  
4. AVALON by Merrill, Farnsworth, Harvest House Publishers, Eugene, OR, 1999, ISBN-0-7369-0275-9  
5. [www.avalon.com](http://www.avalon.com)  
6. [www.jamesline.com](http://www.jamesline.com)  
7. U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946 Record - [www.ancestry.com](http://www.ancestry.com)

### More about Jody:

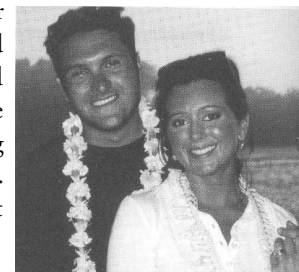
Jody is currently a member of the contemporary Christian musical group Avalon and as we take a look at his life, we can see that he seemed destined to have a career in Christian music.

When he was young, Jody's dad was the minister at the Broadway Baptist Church in Tampa and Jody developed his faith. Naturally a trip to Disney World gave him one of his earliest childhood memories and had an influence later in life. He joined a vocal ensemble group while attending East Bay High School in Gibsonton , Florida. He remembered high school as a place to have fun.



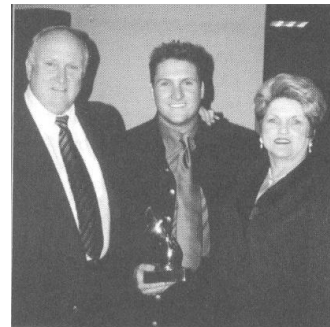
Jody left home to attend college at Liberty University in Lynchburg, Virginia. Liberty is a Christian college. He majored in business with a minor in music. Jody also joined a Christian music group which helped to pay his tuition. The references disagree whether or not Jody graduated from Liberty, but at least he finished 3 years.

When he left Liberty, he joined the vocal group Truth. After traveling the country for two years with the group, he left to move to California. There his faith was tested and he was not certain what direction to take. He took a job with Disney Studios and traveled for them as a featured soloist. He realized he did not want to leave the Christian music field and decided to return to Truth. Then he got a call suggesting that he audition for Avalon since one of their singers had decided to leave the group. He made it and joined the group and there met his future wife Stephanie, shown at right on their honeymoon in Hawaii.



Avalon (named after a place associated with King Arthur; a place of healing and where the King returned after his death. Some think that this was in Scotland) rather quickly gained success and in 1998 they won their first Dove Award from the Gospel Music Association as the New Artist of the Year. Over six years the group sold

nearly two million albums, had seventeen #1 singles, earned two gold records and earned five more Dove Awards as well as having a Grammy Award nomination. Jody and his parents are shown at right at the first Dove Award.



When Jody's father died, he was deeply affected and felt that as close as Avalon was, he needed to express his feelings as an individual. Working with a elite group of producers, they created his first solo album "This Is Who I Am." Jody co-wrote almost every song. His mother's Spanish heritage influenced a Latin-salsa offering. His mother's name has not yet been found in the references located.

Avalon continues to have success and has an active tour schedule which can be found at [www.avalon.com](http://www.avalon.com) and you can always find albums available on eBay.

References: 1) AVALON by Merrill, Farnsworth, 2) [www.avalon.com](http://www.avalon.com) , 3) [www.jamesline.com](http://www.jamesline.com) , 4) [www.liberty.com](http://www.liberty.com) , 5) [www.doveawards.com](http://www.doveawards.com) , 6) [www.jodymcbrayer.com](http://www.jodymcbrayer.com) , 7) [www.familychristian.com](http://www.familychristian.com)



## FAMILY BIBLES

Family bibles can be a great source of information, but you have to be careful about accepting all the information given. If the entries are made concurrent with the occasion, the data may be quite accurate, however, if information is recorded later or is recopied from another source, it may not be correct. Still, it may set one on the right track to look at alternate sources of information. Here is an example.

The following McBrayer Bible Record appeared in the June 1999 *The Dallas Journal*, the annual publication of the Dallas Genealogical Society. It is given with the spelling in the Journal which was transcribed from a hand written copy. There may have been errors made in transcription.

### *This is to Certify that*

Asa Andrew McBrayer and Maggie A. Berry were united in Holy Matrimony at Mt. Joy, Texas on the 8<sup>th</sup> day of November 1898 in the presence of a large assembly Signed W. H. Rose, M. G.

### *Family Record*

Name	Place of Birth	Date of Birth	Date of Marriage	Date of Death
A. A. McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex	December 13, 1874	November 8, 1898	January 23, 1911
M. A. McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex	February 2, 1870	November 8, 1898	Dec. 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1951
The Children's Birth				
Eddie May McBrayer	Raff, Okla	December 4, 1899		
James Lee McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex	September 10, 1902		July 19, 1903
Algie Glen McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex	December 29, 1904		
Willie Leanarius McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex	April 26, 1906		February 13, 1909
Johnie Elmo McBrayer	Mt. Joy, Tex.	June 1, 1909		
<i>(Handwriting changes)</i>				
Robbie Gene Massey	Antlers, Okla.	June 3 <sup>rd</sup> , 1925		June 4 <sup>th</sup> , 1925
Raymond Granvel Massey	Antlers, OkIa.	June 30 <sup>th</sup> , 1926	June 23, 1950	
Asa Elmo Massey	Antlers, OkIa.	May 1 <sup>st</sup> , 1928		
Margaret Geraldine Massey	Bakersfield, Calif.	May 14 <sup>th</sup> , 1930	Apr. 17, 1947	
Lesly Kenneth Massey	Bakersfield, Calif.	Sept. 15 <sup>th</sup> , 1932		
Adolphus J. Allen		Jan. 6, 1894	Sep. 30, 1950	
Aubrey Dean Massey	Bakersfield, Calif	Sept. 19, 1941		
Michael Ford Massey	Waseo, Calif.	Nov. 21 <sup>st</sup> , 1944		

Rexie Lee Allen	Antlers Okla.	Oct. 8, 1935	
James Earl Allen	Finley, Okla.	May 9, 1927	
Elven Leroy Allen	Antlers, Okla.	Sept. 23, 1922	
Margrete Elizabeth Allen	Corinne, Okla.	Aug. 14, 1916	November 5 <sup>th</sup> , 1932
Chester Edward Maynard, Jr.	Oakland, Calif.	Jan. 16 <sup>th</sup> , 1948	
Sheila Ann Maynard	Bakersfield, Calif	Feb. 12 <sup>th</sup> , 1950	

## *Memorandum*

Aldulphus Allen Age 21 and Eddie May McBrayer were married Sept. 30, 1915, age 15 \_\_\_\_ house.

Johnie McBrayer Feb. 13, 1937

Albert Lesley married age 27 & Glynn McBrayer age 19 were married June 9<sup>th</sup>, 1924

Virgil Wise and Elizabeth Allen were married Nov. 5, 1932. Virgil age 19, Elizabeth age 16.

James Clarence Borne May 18, 1933.

Margaret Geraldine Massey & Chester Edward Maynard were married April 17<sup>th</sup>, 1947

~~~~~  
 In addition to the above, the official marriage record of Mr. A. A. McBrayer and Miss Maggie Berry in Delta County, Texas on 8 November 1899 was also submitted to *The Dallas Journal*.

In light of the conflicting information of the wedding date for Asa and Maggie, additional sources available in Ancestry.com databases were checked, primarily census records.

1880 - Asa was living with his mother and three sisters at his grandfather's home in Pontotoc County, MS. His age agreed with the bible record.

1900 - Asa is living with his mother Mary on her farm in Delta County, Texas. His birth month and year agree with the bible record. Maggie is living on a near-by farm with her father Wilburn, step-mother Dortha, brother William and six step-siblings. Her birth year is given as 1875, not 1870 as shown in the bible record. Even though she is shown as married with one child, her surname is still given as Berry and the child was not enumerated. The years of marriage is listed as 0, therefore, the official record is probably correct and the bible record is a back-date.

1910 - Asa, Maggie, two daughters and a son are living on their own farm in Delta County, Texas. Again her calculated birth year corresponds to 1875. The son is enumerated as Baby and is no doubt Johnie Elmo listed in the bible record.

1920 - Maggie with her children, Glenie (Algie Glen and Johnie Elmo) and daughter Eddie, her husband Adolph (Adolphus James Allen) and daughter Elisabeth (Margarete Elizabeth) are living with Maggie's brother Auston Berry on his farm in Antlers Township, Pushmataha County, Oklahoma. Maggie's age is given as 39 which does not agree with the previous census nor the Bible record while her children's ages do agree.

1930 - Adolphus is now enumerated as James A. He, Eddie Mae and children Elizabeth M. (Margarete Elizabeth), Elvin Leroy and James Earl are living as tenant farmers in Antlers Township, Pushmataha County Oklahoma. Ages correspond to the Bible records.

Death Records - The California Death Index states Adolphus James Allen died 29 August 1980 in Kern. His birth date is given as 6 January 1894. SSN 548-22-6572. The Social Security Death Index gave August 1980 as his death, but 6 January 1895 as his birth. His last residence was 93263 Shafter, Kern, California.

WW I Draft Registration - Adolphus James Allen born 6 January 1895 in Mena, Arkansas lived in Corrine, Oklahoma, in June 1917. He was of medium height and build and had brown hair and eyes.

CA Death Record - Raymond Granvel Massey died 12 June 1991 in Fresno, California, SSN 572-38-2200.

**That's it for now, 'till next issue!**