



IN DEFIANCE!

Volume 20
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The MacBrair Family Association, Inc.
Researching the variations of the
surnames MacBrair, McBrayer and
Brier in searching for our Scottish roots

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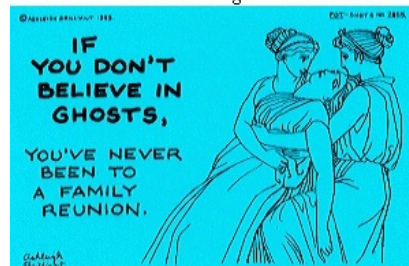
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Founded 1979

POT-SHOTS — Brilliant Thoughts in 17 words or less



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Mother Teresa said it best, "I can do
something you cannot do; you can do
something I cannot do. Together let us do
something beautiful for God."



From the President ♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦♦

Dear McBrayer Family

I write this in tribute to one of our family and MacBrair Family Association Board members who passed away last year on August 1, 2015. Roger Reehl was Vice President of the MacBrair Family Association. I did not get to know Roger for very long but I did learn to love and respect him. Roger and I first met in Morehead, Kentucky at a MacBrair Family Reunion in July of 2012. We instantly hit it off due to our mutual interest in family history. We shared information about our family with each other. At the reunion in Morehead, the MacBrair Family Association had an election of officers for the board. I was elected President and the other offices were filled except for that of Vice-President. The Board had not been able to find anyone to serve in that position. As the reunion went on, Roger and I visited it became clear to me that Roger was very interested in the MacBrair Family Association. I approached the board members and suggested that we talk with Roger about taking the Vice President position. Some board members asked me what I thought of Roger. I replied "I think he is the **Reehl** deal" (Pardon the pun but I could not resist. I can see Roger laughing at me now). I felt Roger would be great to have on the board since he was interested in the family history and genealogy. He also had leadership skills and personality. I approached Roger about accepting the position but he was not willing to commit. I felt he was not sure if he would have the time, which I understood. Later at the end of the reunion, I made an announcement to the family that we were looking for someone to fill the Vice President position. Roger then announced that he would be willing to fill that position. I and the rest of the MacBrair Family Association Board were elated. Through the years I have found that if you are in a leadership position, it is important to surround yourself with good people and not to be afraid that they will overshadow you, they can make you look good if you let them. Roger was one of these people. The MacBrair Family Association Board members, Robert L. McBrayer, Secretary-Treasurer, Dr. R. Terrell McBrayer, Director, and Dr. James D. McBrayer, Director, are excellent and I thank each of them for their help with our MacBrair Family Association.

Roger and I continued to see each other at the McBrayer-Leathers Family Reunion in Bremen, Georgia. We enjoyed each other's company and continued to share our family history stories and research with each other. Roger's McBrayer family settled in the north Alabama area of Cullman. My McBrayer family settled in the north Alabama counties of Franklin and Colbert, about an hour or so from Roger's family. Roger suggested that we have a MacBair Family reunion in the City of Cullman. I was all for it. Roger said he would head up the organization to get the reunion ready. With the help of his sister, Susan Mallet and other family members, they were able to have a reunion that was excellent. It was held on October 23-25 2014. We had various presentations on family history and discussions among those attending. Roger was able to lease a bus that enabled all of us to ride on to visit various sites. The reunion was held in the Cullman County Museum. Due to Roger and his other family member's hard work, the reunion was successful. I knew Roger wanted to do this reunion and it was important to him to make it successful. Roger achieved the results he wanted and all that attended owe him and his family a great deal of thanks!

I would like to encourage each of you to attend family reunions. You may be surprised what you might learn and who you might meet. If Roger or I had not attended the reunion in Morehead, Ky., then we probably would not have ever met each other. Even if you are not interested in family history I would encourage you to attend family reunions. If there is not one where you live but you know family members in the area then try to start one. I am willing to help you in that endeavor. I will try to attend a McBair Family reunion anywhere.

In closing, all of us that knew Roger will miss him, especially his immediate family. Go with God Roger, your search for family relatives has truly just begun.

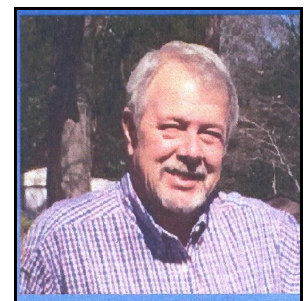
IN DEFIANCE!

Bill

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Unbeknownst to most of those who attended either the Morehead or Cullman reunions, Roger had a number of medical issues which might have discouraged others. He seemed to be a picture of health and was always upbeat, particularly when talking about family and a desire to hold a family reunion in Cullman. Sadly he went through a rapid decline in 2015 which ended with his passing. Here is his obituary:

**REEHL, JAMES ROGER**, 62, died peacefully at his daughter's Fairview, TN, home on Saturday, August 1st, after a brief battle with cancer and a five-year survival of a stroke that led him to move back to his familial home in Montgomery, AL, from his 30-year adult life in Nashville, TN. The last two months of his life were spent back in his cherished Nashville area with his only surviving child, his beloved daughter of whom he was so proud, Theresa Marie Reehl Johnson. Theresa and her devoted family lovingly cared for Roger: husband (Roger's dedicated son-in-law), Kyle Patrick Johnson; and sons (Roger's treasured grandsons): Tobias Scott Johnson; Julian Priest Johnson; James "Mason" Johnson; and Talon Patrick Johnson, all of Fairview, TN. Roger was born in Cullman, AL, on November 7, 1952, to his recently-deceased parents, James William and Betty Sue Waldrop Reehl (Ruehl). Great-great grandson of Nickolaus Andreas Ruehl and Katherine Stamm Ruehl, Roger was proud to be a descendant of two of the original German immigrant settlers in 1873 who helped found Cullman, AL. Roger grew up in Montgomery, AL, and graduated from Auburn University. His professional and personal lives were aligned and spent as an environmental and wildlife specialist, explorer and advocate. He retired from the



URS Corporation as an environmental engineer in 2010. Roger continued to pursue his love of genealogy, every subject, and travel to learn more about topics he prolifically read about in all literary genres. He was the Vice President of the national McBrayer Family Association, the family from whom he descended. He was a unique being who loved family and familial tradition; yearned for never-ending knowledge; enjoyed all types of music; and delighted in a hearty discussion about any and all topics of life. He was a stranger to no one, as his inquisitive and intelligent mind, quick humor, and kind and accepting spirit immediately endeared him to those he met in his travels and life.

Roger was predeceased by his parents in March and April of this year, as well as by his grandparents, William Emil Ruehl and Stella Elizabeth Neely Ruehl, and Thomas Oscar Waldrop and R Leavie Patterson Waldrop, all of Cullman, AL, and his brother-in-law, James Timothy Broderick, of Montgomery. He is survived by his sisters, Susan Reehl Broderick Mallett (Jim) and Starr Reehl Wilson, of Montgomery; his brother, William Rance Reehl (Dwaylah), of Fairhope, AL; many nieces, nephews, and great-nieces and nephews; his sole surviving uncle, Charles Wert Waldrop (Frances), from Cullman, AL; his sole cousin from his Reehl family, James David Keith (Kaye), of Woodbridge, VA; many Waldrop family cousins (descending from Cullman, AL); his daughter's mother and father-in-law, Donnie and Lori Fruin Healey, of Fairview, TN; and family/friends from all across the country.

A celebration of the life of Roger will be held on Sunday, August 16, 2015, on the TN River, at 1600 AL-20, Decatur, AL 35601. Leading the celebration with word, prayer and song will be cousin, Rev Guy Waldrop, Lexington, KY; cousin, Jerry Weathersby, Cullman, AL; and steadfast friend, Greg Dawdy, Chattanooga, TN. Guests are requested to dress for the outdoors; come for family visitation, if desired, at 2 p.m.; and attend the celebration at 3 p.m. A dinner for all guests will be hosted by Theresa and Kyle Johnson following the event. A grave-side service at Roger's parents' cemetery site in Montgomery will be held at a later date. As per Roger's request, any desired donations may be made to Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, AL 36109, the Reehl family church for over 55 years.

(The Advertiser.com – Montgomery Alabama – 6 August 2015 – [http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montgomery\\_and\\_advertiser/obituary.aspx?n=james-reehl&pid=175442626&fhid=11619&eid=sp\\_ommatch#sthash.YQLmM2zg.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/montgomery_and_advertiser/obituary.aspx?n=james-reehl&pid=175442626&fhid=11619&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.YQLmM2zg.dpuf) – accessed 6 August 2015)

A donation was made to the Dalraida United Methodist Church by the MacBrair Family Association in memory of Roger.

As noted in Roger's obituary, his parents passed away only a short time before he did. Those who attended the Cullman reunion were privileged to have met his mother, Betty Sue, who was with us for one of the days. She was a picture of health until she was diagnosed with terminal cancer on 1 January 2015. His father James was unable to attend the reunion due to a lung condition caused by a cardiac medication. Their obituaries:

**BETTY SUE WALDROP REEHL**, 84, peacefully passed away on Friday, March 13, 2015, at home in Montgomery, Alabama.

Sue was born on December 21, 1930, in Cullman, Alabama to Thomas Oscar Waldrop and R Leavie Patterson Waldrop, both predeceasing her. Surviving Sue is her beloved husband, James William Reehl, to whom she was happily married for 64 years. Sue's brother, Charles Wert (Frances) Waldrop, from Cullman, Alabama, also survives her. James and Sue's children survive her and are: James Roger Reehl; Susan (Jim) Reehl Broderick Mallett; Starr Reehl Wilson; and Deborah Jo Burton, all from Montgomery, and William Rance (Dwaylah) Reehl of Fairhope, Alabama. Cherished surviving grandchildren are: Theresa (Kyle) Johnson; Bryan (Jackie) Broderick; Jordan (Whitney) Broderick; Lesley Wilson Traver; Caroline (Will) Boykin; and Cameron Reehl. Nine precious grandchildren also survive Sue. Predeceasing Sue are her Waldrop brothers: William Cranford; Thomas Garland; Paul Kenneth; Edson Duvall and James

Gordon, and her sisters, Julia Cecile Waldrop Harris; Gaynell Waldrop; and Robbie Lou Waldrop Shelton Cook.

Visitation for Sue will be held from 5pm-7pm Sunday, March 15, 2015, at Leak Memory Chapel. A celebration of Sue's life will be held on Monday, March 16, 2015, at Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Hwy, Montgomery, Alabama, the Reehl family church for over 55 years.

Visitation will begin at 12:00 p.m.; the service at 1 p.m.; and the graveside service at Greenwood Serenity Memorial Gardens immediately following. Guests are then invited to Dalraida Church for fellowship with the family.

Pallbearers will be Matthew, Blake and Nathan Weathersby; Kenny Cook; Mike and Greg Waldrop; and Jimbo and Tommy Waldrop. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dalraida United Methodist Church Altar Guild.

(**The Times** – Cullman, Alabama – 14 March 2015 + [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com); also appeared in **The Advertiser** – Montgomery, Alabama – 14-16 March 2015 + [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) )

**JAMES WILLIAM REEHL**, 86, followed his devoted wife of 64 years to their heavenly home Thursday, April 9, 2015. After a lengthy illness, James smiled his final smile at home in Montgomery, Alabama, only 26 days following his lovely Sue's passing. James and Sue's family is saddened at their earthly departure, but rejoicing at their loving reunion, while already missing their strong faith, family fellowship, unconditional love, and wise counsel.

Born in Cullman, Alabama, July 19, 1928, James was predeceased by his parents, William Emil Ruehl and Stella Elizabeth Neely Ruehl, as well as his sister, Edith Ruehl (Ollie) Keith. Great-grandson of Nickolaus Andreas Ruehl and Katherine Stamm Ruehl, James was proud to be a descendant of two of the original German immigrant settlers in 1873 who helped found Cullman. Enjoying the culture of his ancestry, James and Sue were regular dancers of the Polka and Waltz. James was a proud U.S. Army Air Forces veteran of World War II, and is survived by his one Reehl nephew who is also a veteran, James David (Kaye) Keith, of Woodbridge, Virginia.

James and Sue's children survive them and are James Roger Reehl, Susan (Jim) Reehl Broderick Mallett, Starr Reehl Wilson and Deborah Jo Burton, all from Montgomery, and William Rance (Dwaylah) Reehl of Fairhope, Alabama. Cherished surviving grandchildren are Theresa (Kyle) Johnson, Bryan (Jackie) Broderick, Jordan (Whitney) Broderick, Lesley Wilson Traver, Caroline (Will) Boykin, and Cameron Reehl. Nine precious surviving great-grandchildren are Bowyn and Bridger Broderick, Ryan and Logan Broderick, Toby, Julian, Mason and Talon Johnson, and Leavie Boykin.

Visitation for James will be held from 5 to 7 p.m. Saturday, April 11, at Leak Memory Chapel.

A celebration of the life of James will be held Sunday, April 12, at Dalraida United Methodist Church, 3817 Atlanta Highway, Montgomery, Alabama, the Reehl family church for over 55 years. Sunday's visitation will begin at 2 p.m., the service at 3 p.m., and the graveside service with military honors at Greenwood Serenity Memorial Gardens immediately following. All guests are then invited back to Dalraida Church for fellowship and food with the family.

Pallbearers will be Matthew, Blake and Nathan Weathersby, Kenny Cook, Mike and Greg Waldrop, Butch Waldrop, David Burnham, and Jimbo and Tommy Waldrop. Honorary pallbearers are members of the Good Fellowship Sunday School Class, and James's tennis, hunting and fishing partners. In lieu of flowers, donations may be made to Dalraida United Methodist Church Choir, where James shared his love of music for many years.

(**The Times** – Cullman, Alabama – 10 April 2015 + [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com); also appeared in **The Advertiser** – Montgomery, Alabama – 10-12 April 2015 + [www.legacy.com](http://www.legacy.com) )

*[Note: in both of the obituaries above, Deborah Jo Burton is listed as a surviving child. This is incorrect. She was a very close family friend who had no other family and the Reehl Family thought of her as part of theirs.]*



## Musings of the Editor

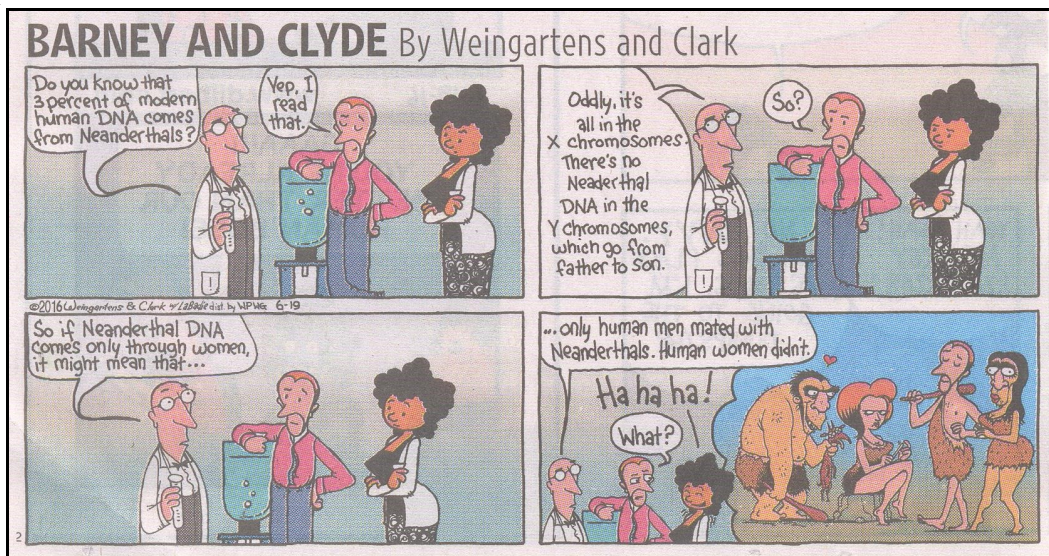


Once again I have to apologize to the members of the Family Association for taking so long to get out this issue. The past year has not been a good one with illness, a death in the family and by a disastrous computer crash in which copy for the newsletter was lost at least temporarily and parts are still being found or recovered from hard copy files. New software had to be purchased, installed and learned. But now except for some adjustments needed for mailing lists, I believe I am back on track, except for the problem of losing my e-mail list. so If you get a hard copy of this newsletter and prefer to get it by e-mail, please let me know.

Some progress is being made in a DNA Project based on the capabilities of Family Tree DNA. We now have 19 family members entered and the more we get the better it will be. In the next issue of this newsletter some of the findings will be published. We can show, with the addition of documented family tree information, the connection between the McBrayers and Briers, show the Y-DNA results for three consecutive generations of a line, a male with a different surname who had a McBrayer father along with information from mtDNA results from both females and males. Contacts are being made with “Matches” from different DNA testing companies and all these may prove useful in finding gaps in family information. If you are interested in participating, go to [www.FamilyTreeDNA.com](http://www.FamilyTreeDNA.com) and join the McBrayer surname Group. You will get a discount on testing by being a group member.

I don't know how many in our family may be from adoptions, but there are probably some that confuse us when we see DNA results, that is when no matches show up with presumed relatives. An interesting book shows this from the other side of the story. Richard Hill was 18 years old when he learned he was adopted. He has written a book **“Finding Family - My Search for Roots and Secrets in My DNA”** which is available on Amazon.com. It did not take him long to learn the identity of his mother, who the adoptive parents knew, but it took him many years to discover his father. The problem was that there were five brothers, any one who could have been his father. Early DNA studies pointed to the wrong one! As the testing has improved and more data are derived, he was able to find his father. It must be emphasized though that you need the paper trail as well. This is an interesting book and well worth reading.

Some of the DNA testing companies report that you have a small percentage of Neanderthal ancestry, Neanderthals being the humanoids we might call “cave men.” This concept has even influenced some cartoonists:



While the fact that the Neanderthal Y chromosome is absent in modern humans, the reason is probably not what the cartoon implies. An article in the July/August 2016 of *ARCHAEOLOGY* magazine ([www.archaeology.org](http://www.archaeology.org)) reports on the latest studies.

- In 1896, bones were found in the Neander Valley of Germany which appeared to be strange and not like “us.” They were called Neanderthals, Thal being the German word for valley. since then Neanderthal remains have been found across Eurasia.
- In 2010, scientists confirmed the existence of another extinct humanoid, closely related to the Neanderthals, in Siberia who they called Denisovian for the cave in which they were found.
- The same year the news broke that our species, *Homo sapiens*, had interbred with both Neanderthals and Denisovians tens of thousands of years ago. Around 1 to 4 percent of the genome of modern humans (except for sub-Saharan Africans who never interacted with Neanderthals) comes from Neanderthals or Denisovians.
- The evidence of the interbreeding appears in our genome - but not in that of Neanderthals, suggesting that hybrid offspring became part of the *Homo sapiens* population.
- Gene mutations occurred in all populations, not all of them beneficial. Some research shows Neanderthal-inherited genes that make modern people more prone to depression, nicotine abdication, allergies and clotting disorders. The why they are is not yet known.
- In another study, the Neanderthal Y chromosome, the one carried only by males, shows that the Neanderthal genes may have caused an immune reaction in *Homo sapiens* women during gestation causing high rates of miscarriage and stillbirth. Any Y chromosome remaining carried though has been lost through natural selection.
- Additional studies may reveal more about our deepest ancestry.

## **An Accident**

Here is a newspaper article reporting an incident in 1951 which involved a family member. In this case, the person is known.

### **Motorist Gets Wild Ride After Crash**

Albert P. McBrayer, 74, of 1317 H Street went for a wild, unscheduled ride last night and as a result Claude B Davis of Oakland is in the county jail, charged with drunk driving and hit and run driving.

McBrayer told California Highway Patrolmen his car and one driven by Davis were involved in an accident just north of the Sixteenth Street bridge.

He stated he approached the Davis car and when he put his foot on the running board Davis drove away.

McBrayer said he clung to the side of the car and was thrown off about a half mile away at North Seventh Street and Richard Boulevard. The patrolmen found the Davis vehicle nearly on North Seventh Street railroad tracks.

McBrayer suffered minor injuries.

Davis was sentenced 70 days in the county jail when he appeared in the American Township Justice Court today.

Judge J. Louis Missali had set an alternate fine of \$350, which Davis was unable to pay.

(*Bee* – Sacramento, California – 26 September 1951 – page 23 – [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com) – accessed 28 April 2016)

**Albert Pearl McBrayer** was 6<sup>th</sup> generation in America (William Martin, Carlton, Samuel Jr., Samuel, William). He appeared in earlier family records with data from the 1920 Census with his wife Inez and daughter Ella and in the 1930 Census with his daughter Ella noting that Inez had died in 1922. Also in the record was his WWI Draft Registration Card information. These records helped to identify him as the subject of the newspaper article. Additional records have been found for Albert and his family which either expand on previous knowledge or give additional information.

**1910 U.S. Census** for Brighton Township, Precinct #5, Sacramento County, California; Roll T624\_192; ED 0089, page 4A; FHL microfilm 137410105 - Ancestry.com [database on-line] finds the **McBrayer** family living on a home farm on Mill Avenue which they owned:

**Albert P.**, head, age 33, born in Missouri, both parents born in the United States, married 6 years, a commercial traveler for men's clothing who was working and had not been out of work.

**Inez**, wife, age 32, born in Canada, both parents born in France, immigrated into the United States in 1883, had one child, working as a poultry woman on the home farm.

**Ella M.**, daughter, age 10 months at time of enumeration, 20 April 1910, born in California.

**1920 U.S. Census** for Sacramento Assembly District 14, Precinct #53, Sacramento County, California; Roll T625\_126; ED 112, page 13A; NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls - Ancestry.com [database on-line] finds the **McBrayer** family living in a home at 3714 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue which they owned with a mortgage:

**Albert P.**, head, age 43, born in Missouri, both parents born in the United States, a commercial salesman.

**Inez**, wife, age 43, born in Indiana, father born in Indiana, mother born in Ohio.

**Ella M.**, daughter, age 9, went to school, born in California.

There is a great discrepancy between Inez's and her parents' birthplaces recorded in the two census records. It was previously given that her maiden name was Clark, but her parents' names are yet unknown. Albert and Inez were married 21 November 1904 in Sacramento County, California, as found in Ancestry.com [database on-line] **California Marriages 1850-1952**. A search was made on FamilySearch.org and FindMyPast.com to see if more data were available. The FindMyPast.com record was obtained from FamilySearch.org. No parents were mentioned in the transcriptions on either site. The actual images of the marriage record may provide that information but they are not viewable online but would be in a Family History Library using the information from the citation following. (**California, County Marriages**, 1850-1952, database with images, FamilySearch [<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K86G-KWK> : accessed 3 May 2016], Albert P Mc Brayer and Inez Clark, 21 Nov 1904, citing Sacrament, California, United States , county courthouses, California; microfilm 2,200,299, digital folder 005686500, image number 00440)

**1930 U.S. Census** for Sacramento City, Assembly District 14, Sacramento County, California; Roll T625\_186; ED 0070, page 13A; NARA microfilm publication T625, 2076 rolls; FHL microfilm 2339921, image 532.0 - Ancestry.com {database on-line} finds the



**McBrayer** family living in a home at 3740 9<sup>th</sup> Avenue which they owned with a value of \$6000. They had a radio set.

**Albert P.**, head, age 53, occupation given as farmer although they did not live on a farm. He was not working and was on the unemployment schedule.

**Ella M.**, daughter, age 20, born in California, father in Missouri and mother in United States.

**Marjory MacDermott**, servant-housekeeper, age 55, a widow, born in Nova Scotia.

**Inez** had died in 1922 explaining her absence in the 1930 Census. The only online record found to date for her death is a [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial. Her grave is in the Odd Fellows Lawn Cemetery and Mausoleum, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California, Plot: Section F Lot 149 Grave 1. Her memorial is Number 55924230.

No 1940 U.S. Census for **Albert** and **Ella** as a family has been found in the online indexed records of Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org, or FindMyPast.com. We do know that Albert died 6 March 1964 and that he is buried in the same cemetery as Inez in Plot Section F Lot 151 Grave 6. They are the only McBrayers interred in this cemetery. His [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial is Number 55924229 where his birth date is given as 13 October 1876. The photo on the web site of his gravestone is not clear, however it can be seen to have the name “Albert P. McBrayer” and “1876 – 1964.”



**Ella** seemed to have remained unmarried until late in life when she married in 1976 as reported in the **California, Marriage Index, 1960-1985** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 28 April 2016:

Name: **Ella M. McBrayer** Gender: Female Birth Year: about 1910 Age: 66  
Marriage Date: 11 June 1976 Marriage Place: Alameda, California  
Spouse Name: **Paul S. Wilson** Spouse Age: 63

Using Paul's age at marriage, his middle initial and the location of California as search criteria, it is probable that he was **Paul Shirley Wilson**, son of Howard and Netty Shirley Wilson. From Ancestry.com in the **U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007** – accessed 28 April 2016:

Name: **Paul Shirley Wilson** SSAN: 565-05-6651 Gender: Male  
Race: White Birth Date: 2 February 1913 Birth Place: San Diego, CA  
Death Date: 8 February 2002 Father: Howard Wilson Mother: Netty Shirley  
Notes: 18 August 2000: Name listed as PAUL SHIRLEY WILSON; 09 December 1975: Name listed as PAUL S. WILSON

The **U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 10 May 2016 adds his last residence as Foresthill, Placer County, California,



95631, which is a small town in the Metropolitan Sacramento Statistical area. These two records are most recent found for Paul; no obituary or other death record has yet been found which may prove him to be the husband of Ella M. McBrayer.

The **1940 United States Federal Census**, Oakland, Alameda County, California; NARA Roll: T627\_433; Page 4A; Enumeration District: 61-249; Ancestry.com [database on-line] does show a family headed by **Paul S. Wilson** living in a home rented for \$25 per month at 4007 Van Mowick Avenue in Oakland, Alameda County, California. He had lived in Sacramento in 1935.

**Paul S.**, head, age 27, born in California, a warehouse laborer whose income in 1939 was \$1070 for 48 weeks work.

**Gladys E.**, wife, age 25, born in California

**Duane P.**, son, age 3, born in California.

Nothing more has been found about Gladys or Duane. Her maiden name is not known.

**U.S. Public Records Index, 1950-1991, Volume 1** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 10 May 2016 shows **Paul S. Wilson**, born 2 February 1913, living at 1915 Juliesse Ave., Sacramento, California in 1993. His phone number was 922-7694. Only the indexing information is given, the original data are not visible.

Going back to the **California, Marriage Index, 1960-1985** [database on-line] Ancestry.com again on 10 May 2016, The images of the original data were checked and this shows something strange. These records show **Paul S. Wilson** being married to **Ella M. McBrayer** and **Ella M. Gerlinger** on the same day! All other data are the same:

Age of Groom: 63 Age of Bride: 66 Marriage in County: 01

Date of Marriage: Month: 06, Day: 11, Year: 76

Registrar: County: 48, Number: 503 State File #: 64844

It appears the only way to resolve this issue would be to obtain a copy of the marriage certificate. From both the California State and Sacramento County offices web sites it appears this could be a time consuming process.

BUT WAIT! This may provide a clue as to why Ella was not found in the 1940 Census. A further search lead to a marriage certificate in the **Carson City, Nevada, Marriage Index, 1855-1985** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 11 May 2016:

Name: **George A. Gerlinger** Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 8 July 1931 Marriage Place: Carson City, Nevada

Spouse: **Ella M. McBrayer** Marriage Record Number: 39755027

The **1940 United States Federal Census**, Sacramento, Sacramento County, California; NARA Roll: T627\_286; <http://search.findmypast.com/record?id=usc%2f1940%2f1483769295> – accessed 11 May 2016 has the **Gerlinger** family living in their owned home valued at \$5000 at 1835 Castro Road. They had lived in the same place in 1935. (note: Ancestry.com had this family indexed as “Garlinger” while the handwritten entry could easily be read “Gerlinger.”)

**George A.** , head, age 34, born in Oregon, a mechanic in a retail garage (lined out was “Gerlinger Motor Parts”) who made \$1200 for 52 weeks work in 1939, worked 42 hours the week of 24-30 March 1940, just before the census enumeration.

**Ella**, wife, age 29, born in California, a secretary for husband who did not work in 1939 but worked 42 hours the week of 24-30 March 1940.

**Beverly**, daughter, age 5, born in California.

**Edith Rogers**, age 18, maid, born in Kansas.

**U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995** - Ancestry.com for the **1945 Sacramento, California City Directory** – accessed 13 May 2016 had two entries of interest:

Gerlinger Geo A (Ella M) (Gerlinger Motor Parts) h1835 Castro way

Gerlinger Motor Parts (G A Gerlinger ) 1324 J (street name)

The **1963 Sacramento City Directory** also had two entries of interest:

Gerlinger Geo A (Ella M) pres Gerlinger Motor Parts Inc r57 Starlit cir

Gerlinger Motor Parts Inc Geo A Gerlinger pres John A Biggers genl mgr auto accessories 2020 K (street name)

This photo reportedly was taken in 2007, however, it appears that the company went out of business in recent years as no current record of it now has been found.

(<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tspauld/322707536> –

accessed 13 May 2016.



A photo of John A. Biggers on the web site of the Center for Sacramento History identifies him in 1980 as President of Gerlinger Motor Parts, Inc. (General Manager in 1963).

(<http://sacramento.pastperfectonline.com/byperson?keyword=Biggers%2C+John+A>. – accessed 13 May 2016)

The only other census record that has been found for George Gerlinger is the **1920 U.S. Census**. (<http://search.findmypast.com/record?id=usc%2f1930%2f004950177%2f00010%2f009> – accessed 13 May 2016.) He was living as a roomer in the home of Earl A. Trimmer at 624 35<sup>th</sup> Street, Sacramento, Assembly District 14, Sacramento County, California.

**George Gerlinger**, age 24, roomer, born in Oregon as were both his parents, a machinist for a railroad

Oregon Census records for 1910 and 1920 and birth records were searched without success.

Two death records have been found for George Gerlinger:

**California, Death Index, 1940-1997** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 11 May 2016:

Name: **George A. Gerlinger** SSN: 700-07-5079

Gender: Male

Birth Date: 8 March 1906 Birth Place: Oregon

Death Date: 20 August 1973 Death Place: Sonoma

**U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 10 May 2016:

Name: **George Gerlinger** SSN: 700-07-5079

Last Residence: Sacramento, Sacramento, California, USA 95831

Born: 8 March 1906 Died: August 1973

State (Year) SSN issued: Railroad Board (Issued Through) (before 1951)

The second record showing George was a railroad worker helps to show the George Gerlinger in the 1930 Census is the same as the one in the 1940 Census.

The **U.S., Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 10 May 2016 also has a record for Ella:

Name: **Ella M. Gerlinger** SSN: 553-78-6029

Last Residence: Sacramento, Sacramento, California, USA 95841

Born: 1 July 1909 Died: 4 September 2002

State (Year) SSN issued: California (1965)

No record has been found for Ella with the last name was Wilson in the Social Security Death Index. Was there a reason she did not change her surname after George had died and she married Paul? Does this help explain why she appears in the California Marriage Index as both McBrayer and Gerlinger?

Some information has been found for the only known daughter of George and Ella Gerlinger, **Beverly** (see 1940 Census above).

The **California, Marriage Index, 1949-1959** [database on-line] Ancestry.com – accessed 14 May 2016 gives her marriage:

Name: **Beverly A. Gerlinger** Gender: Female Estimated Birth Year: 1935

Age: 20 Marriage Date/Place: 20 November 1955/ Sacramento, California

Spouse: **Alan J. Hill** Spouse Age: 25

Local File Number 34-1731 State File Number: 71567

The **California, Divorce Index, 1966-1994** reports their divorce:

Name: **Alan J. Hill** Birth Year: 1930

Spouse: **Beverly A. Gerlinger** Birth Year: 1934 Marriage Year: 1955

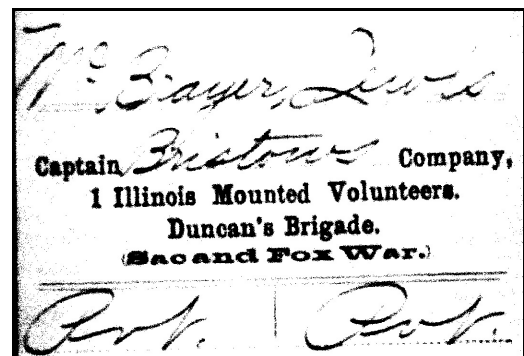
Preliminary Divorce Date: October 1975 County: Sacramento

Case Number: 711168 State File Number: 133937

No information has yet been found regarding any children of this marriage. The 1950 U.S. Census may be the next good chance to find out whether or not this branch of the family tree ends here.

## He Served in the Black Hawk War

McBrayer kin have no doubt served in every conflict in which Colonial America and the United States have been engaged both foreign and internal. The web site [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) provides access to many records, some quite sparse, including the one shown to the right which was obtained from the National Archives. It lists the name of **LEWIS**





**McBRAYER** who served in Captain Bristows Company 1 Illinois Mounted Volunteers, Duncan's Brigade. There is no date on the record and there are no follow up pages on the Fold3 site. So there are two questions:

1. Who is Lewis McBrayer?
2. What was the Black Hawk War?

The first is hard to answer but the second is easy. It was a short war between the United States and two Indian tribes. It has been known both as the Black Hawk War and the Sac and Fox War. The following is a brief summary:

Black Hawk War, (*was a*) conflict between the Sac and Fox and the United States in 1832. After the War of 1812, whites settling the Illinois country exerted pressure on the Native Americans. A treaty of 1804, which had no real claim to validity, provided for removal of the Sac and Fox west of the Mississippi. A Native American leader, Black Hawk (1767-1838), who was born in the Sac village near the site of present Rock Island, Ill., and who had fought for the British in the War of 1812, denounced the treaty and resisted removal. Years of intermittent skirmishing followed. In 1831 the whites used force to impose a new treaty that compelled the Native Americans to retire from their lands.

In Apr., 1832, Black Hawk, with some 400 braves and their families, returned to Illinois. Not receiving the support he expected, he admitted defeat, but when one of the peaceful emissaries he sent was shot down in cold blood, the outraged Black Hawk successfully attacked a larger white force, then retired into what is now Wisconsin. A large force of volunteers was gathered under Gen. Henry Atkinson. The last battle of the war took place on the Bad Axe River, where Black Hawk was attacked by these troops and a Sioux war party. Trapped, he displayed a white flag, but this was ignored and almost all of his band, including women and children, were wiped out. Black Hawk himself escaped, surrendered to the Winnebago, was turned over for imprisonment, and was released in 1833 to return to the pitiful remnant of his tribe and his family in Iowa.

(<http://encyclopedia2.thefreedictionary.com/Sac+and+Fox+War> – Accessed 11 March 2016)

The image is the top portion of a General Index Card. The reference is <https://www.fold3.com/image/311652343>. The original source National Archives Catalog ID 654513; Title: *Indexes to the Carded Records of Soldiers Who Served During Indian Wars, compiled 1899 — 1927, documenting the period 1817 - 1858*. It is possible that by going directly to the National Archives additional cards could be found for Lewis which would help us to identify him.

The U. S. Army Center of Military History has developed Lineage and Honors Information on various Army units. Among those is one for the 130<sup>th</sup> Infantry Regiment (Fourth Illinois). A portion of this document provides information on the unit in which Lewis McBrayer reportedly served.

Constituted 1 March 1809 as the Volunteer Militia of Illinois Territory and organized thereafter as independent companies

Mustered into Federal service 18 February 1813 as the Regiment of Illinois Territory Militia; mustered out of Federal service 16 June 1813 and elements reverted to independent status in the Illinois Territory Militia

(Illinois Territory Militia redesignated 26 August 1818 as the Illinois Militia)

Reorganized and mustered into Federal service 19 June 1831 as [Duncan's Brigade](#), to include the following units from central and southern Illinois:

1st and 2d Regiments of Illinois Mounted Volunteers

Major Bailey's Odd Battalion

Major Buckmaster's Battalion of Spies

Mustered out of Federal service 2 July 1831 at Rock Island and elements reverted to independent status in the Illinois Militia

Mustered out of Federal service 28 May 1832 at the mouth of the Fox River; veterans concurrently reorganized and mustered into Federal service as Colonel Jacob Fry's Regiment of Illinois Volunteer Militia; mustered out of Federal service 15 June 1832 at Ottawa

Major Bailey's Odd Battalion and Major Buckmaster's Battalion of Spies mustered into Federal service 20 June 1832; mustered out of Federal service 13 August 1832 at Fort Walker, Illinois  
(<http://history.army.mil/html/forcestruc/lineages/branches/inf/0130in.htm> -accessed 11 March 2016)

While the document above does show that there was a Duncan's Brigade involved in the Black Hawk War, it did not list any of the participants. For this the following document was found: "RECORD OF THE SERVICES OF ILLINOIS SOLDIERS IN THE BLACK HAWK WAR, 1831-32, AND IN THE MEXICAN WAR, 1846-8, CONTAINING A COMPLETE ROSTER OF COMMISSIONED OFFICERS AND ENLISTED MEN OF BOTH WARS, TAKEN FROM THE OFFICIAL ROLLS ON FILE IN THE WAR DEPARTMENT, WASHINGTON, D. C. WITH AN APPENDIX, GIVING A RECORD OF THE SERVICES OF THE ILLINOIS MILITIA, RANGERS AND RIFLEMEN, IN PROTECTING THE FRONTIER FROM THE RAVAGES OF THE INDIANS FROM 1810 TO 1813"

by Illinois Adjutant General's Office; Isaac Hughes Elliott, Published 1882, Springfield, Illinois, H. W. Rokker, State Printer and Binder. (<https://archive.org/details/recordofservices00inilli> - accessed 11 March 2016).

A search of the book (in electronic PDF format) located Duncan's Brigade, commanded by Joseph Duncan who at the time of his appointment was a member of Congress and who later became Governor of Illinois. Two Bristows, George F. and John, were found as company commanders, however, nothing could be found of Lewis McBrayer. Did he actually serve? If so, what happened to him? Does any family member have a story about Lewis serving in the Black Hawk War?

You probably have heard of another person who served during this time. His name was Abraham Lincoln. Did he ever meet Lewis?

## Happy News

I'm sure that many readers of this newsletter think that your editor is only looking for those in our family who have departed this life. It's not really so, it is just because it is easier sometimes to find them. But here is some happy news, a 61<sup>st</sup> wedding anniversary! The following article appeared in the March 13, 2016, edition of the Bowling Green (Kentucky) Daily News.



### McBrayer anniversary

Mar. 13, 2016

Raymond and Geraldine (Bryant) McBrayer celebrated 61 years of marriage March 11, 2016.

They were married in 1955. They are originally from Daviess County but moved to Bowling Green in 1996 to be near their son Kent McBrayer and his wife Tracy.

They have two granddaughters, Anne Claire McBrayer Sharber and Ashton McBrayer, and one great-granddaughter, Adleigh Catherine Sharber.

Please help them celebrate by sending a card or note to 228 Grand Teton Way, Bowling Green, KY 42104

([http://www.bgdailynews.com/community/announcements/anniversaries/mcbrayer-anniversary/article\\_1eda30de-850e-5ef5-87fa-2bf80068b197.html](http://www.bgdailynews.com/community/announcements/anniversaries/mcbrayer-anniversary/article_1eda30de-850e-5ef5-87fa-2bf80068b197.html) - accessed 14 March 2016)

As with other announcements, this gives an opportunity to update family records and add documentation.

**Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Birth Index, 1911-1999** [database on-line] – reports **Raymond**'s date of birth as 1 September 1934 in Hancock County, Kentucky, and whose mother's name was **Garnie Oller**. It appeared in the Kentucky Records Volume year 1934, Volume Number 82, Certificate Number 40853.

**1940 U.S. Census** for Hancock, Kentucky; Roll T627\_1311; ED 46-9, page 3A - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **McBrayer** family living in a house rented for \$ 4 per month on Baker Street where they had lived in 1935. All family members were born in Kentucky.

**Willis**, head, age 33, a pumper in an oil field who had made \$1600 in 52 weeks in 1939.

**Garney**, wife, age 29 – *this is Garnie*

**James**, son, age 10

**Raymond**, son, age 5

**Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Birth Index, 1911-1999** [database on-line] – reports Geraldine's date of birth as 15 February 1934 in Daviess County, Kentucky, and whose mother's name was **Mattie Morris**. It appeared in the Kentucky Records Volume year 1934, Volume Number 21, Certificate Number 10025.

**1940 U.S. Census** for Henderson, Kentucky; Roll T627\_1316; ED 51-1, page 5B - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **Bryant** family living on a farm rented for \$ 5 per month. All family members were born in Kentucky.

**Chas**, head, age 39, a farmer – *this is Charles H.*

**Mattie**, wife, age 28

**Charles**, son, age 12 – *this is Charles J.*

**Geraldina**, daughter, age 6 – *this is Geraldine*

**Emma**, daughter, age 4

**Brown Morris**, lodger, age 53, a farmer – *this is Mattie's father*

Relationships can be proven by the following documentation.

**1930 U.S. Census** for District 3, Daviess, Kentucky; Roll 741; ED 0032, page 9B - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **Morris** family living on a farm rented for \$ 6 per month at 175 Booneville Road. All family members were born in Kentucky.

**Brown**, head, age 43, a farmer, widowed, married at age 22

**Margaret**, daughter, age 15

**J. W.**, son, age 12

**Elizabeth**, daughter, age 8

**Charles Bryant**, son-in-law, age 29, a farmer – *this is Charles H.*

**Mattie Bryant**, daughter, age 18

**Charles Bryant**, grandson, age 2 – *this is Charles J.*

(Note: No 1920 U.S. Census has yet been found for the families. The 1910 Census gives Brown's wife's name as Hesper, age 17. She died sometime after 1922 when her daughter Elizabeth was born.)



Also this obituary for Geraldine's brother helps:

**CHARLES J. BRYANT**, 82, of Philpot died Wednesday, June 23, 2010, at his home. He was born Aug. 15, 1927, in Newman to the late **CHARLES H.** and **MATTIE BRYANT**. He retired from Fleischman Distillery and was an Air Force veteran of World War II. He was a member of the American Legion and was of the Baptist faith. He was preceded in death by his wife, Mary Rosalee Bryant, in March 1992.

He is survived by his son, Charles R. Bryant (Carolyn Sue) of Owensboro; his daughters, Linda Blandford (David) of Owensboro and Brenda Hagan (Steve) of Owensboro; seven grandchildren; nine great-grandchildren; two sisters, Emogene Crowe of Owensboro and **GERALDINE McBRAYER** of Bowling Green; several nieces and nephews; a special friend, Winnie Bruce; and his special companion, his dog Lady Bug.

Visitation is from 4 to 8 p.m. today at James H. Davis Funeral Home & Crematory in Owensboro. Private graveside services will be at Resurrection Cemetery in Owensboro.

Expressions of sympathy may take the form of donations to Hospice of Western Kentucky, 3419 Wathens Crossing, Owensboro, KY 42301. Online messages of condolence may be made at [www.davisfuneralhome.com](http://www.davisfuneralhome.com).

(**MESSANGER-INQUIRER** –Owensboro, Kentucky – Thursday, 24 June 2010 and [www.GenealogyBank.com](http://www.GenealogyBank.com) – <http://www.genealogybank.com/doc/obituaries/obit/1308F1E187FA01E8-1308F1E187FA01E8> : accessed 16 March 2016)

More information and documentation is available for their son Kent, whose full name is **BYRON KENT McBRAYER**. His wife Tracy is his second wife.

**Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Birth Index, 1911-1999** [database on-line] – reports **Byron's** date of birth as 16 March 1960 in Daviess County, Kentucky, and whose mother's name was **Geraldine Bryant**. It appeared in the Kentucky Records Volume year 1960, Volume Number 031, Certificate Number 15265.

Byron Kent was married twice. **Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Marriage Index, 1973-1993** [database on-line] contains the following information:

|                  | First Marriage    | Second Marriage                |
|------------------|-------------------|--------------------------------|
| Name             | Byron K. McBrayer | Byron K. McBrayer              |
| Age              | 25                | 31                             |
| Marriage Date    | 10 August 1985    | 31 May 1991                    |
| Marital Status   | Never Married     | Last marriage ended by divorce |
| Residence County | Daviess           | Warren                         |
| After Married    | Daviess           | Warren                         |
| State            | Kentucky          | Kentucky                       |
| Spouse           | Terri L. Aldridge | Tracy L. Firkins               |
| Spouse Age       | 20                | 24                             |
| Spouse County    | Daviess           | Warren                         |

|                         |         |        |
|-------------------------|---------|--------|
| Volume Number           | 049     | 039    |
| Certificate Number      | 24272   | 19472  |
| Marriage License County | Daviess | Warren |
| Volume Year             | 1985    | 1991   |

While additional proof is needed, it is believed that **Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Birth Index, 1911-1999** [database on-line] – has data for two women who appear to be those in the marriages above.

1. **Terri Lynn Aldridge's** date of birth was 26 April 1965 in Daviess County, Kentucky, and whose mother's name was **Peggy L. Kinser**. This appeared in the Kentucky Records Volume year 1965, Volume Number 037, Certificate Number 18328.
2. **Tracy Leanne Firkins'** date of birth was 15 September 1966 in Barren County, Kentucky, and whose mother's name was **Jerry K. Scott**. This appeared in the Kentucky Records Volume year 1966, Volume Number 083, Certificate Number 41054.

Birth information has been found for the older daughter of Kent and Tracy in **Ancestry.com. Kentucky, Birth Index, 1911-1999** [database on-line] – **Anne Claire McBrayer** was born 23 September 1996 in Warren county, Kentucky. Her mother's name was **Tracy Firkins**. The birth was registered 25 September 1996 in Volume 070 and the certificate number is 34983.

## Never Underestimate the Guile of a Scotsman

A English lawyer and a Scotsman are sitting next to each other on a train. The lawyer is thinking that the Scots are so dumb that he could put one over on him easily...So the lawyer asks if he would like to play a fun game. The Scot is tired and just wants to take a nap, so he politely declines and tries to catch a few winks. The lawyer persists, and says that the game is a lot of fun. "I ask you a question, and if you don't know the answer, you pay me only £5; you ask me one, and if I don't know the answer, I will pay you £500".



This catches the Scots attention and to keep the lawyer quiet, he agrees to play the game. The lawyer asks the first question. "What's the distance from The Earth to the Moon?" The Scot doesn't say a word, reaches in his pocket pulls out a five pound note and hands it to the lawyer.

Now, it's his turn. He asks the lawyer, "What goes up a hill with three legs, and comes down with four?" The lawyer uses his laptop and searches all references he could find on the Net. He sends e-mails to all the smart friends he knows, all to no avail. After one hour of searching he finally gives up. He wakes up the Scot and hands him £500. He happily pockets the £500 and goes right back to sleep.

The lawyer is going nuts not knowing the answer. He wakes the Scot up and asks, "Well, so what goes up a hill with three legs and comes down with four?" The Scot reaches in his pocket, hands the lawyer £5 and goes back to sleep.

And the moral of this little tale? Never underestimate the guile of a Scotsman!  
(Scottish humor from <http://rampantscotland.com/>)

## NEWS FROM SCOTLAND

**First the old** – From the Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter, March 2016 – Lynda Mackie reported on information from the Ewart Library in Dumfries whose holdings include records of the Dumfries Academy. The Academy is one of four secondary schools in Dumfries and has existed in its present form, although in different buildings, since 1804. Its history dates back to the 14<sup>th</sup> century making it the earliest school in the Dumfries area. Early records show that John of Greyfriars, a monk, was appointed rector of the new school in 1330 in Dumfries. (Perhaps some of our ancestors studied there!) To most of us, the most famous student of the school was Sir J. M. Barrie, the writer of *Peter Pan*, who attended from 1873. He wrote his first play *Bandelero the Bandit* there and starred in its first performance in 1877. It was soon forgotten but was revived and performed at Moat Brae in January 2015 using the handwritten script of Barrie. Moat Brae is a mansion in Dumfries which Barrie acknowledged was the inspiration for *Peter Pan*. The Academy record of family interest follows:

In 1573 we find record of a complaint from **Alexander McBair**, Provost of Dumfries, to the Lord Commissioners in Edinburgh that the rents of Greyfriars in Dumfries were still going to Friar Charles Hume and demanding that the town and not the church should take the rent to be given to the poor and for the maintenance of the bridge over the River Nith.

Note a conflict between a McBair and a church official which shows up later in a family tale giving such an event a reason for the family making its way to America.

**And now the New** – For a number of years now the Family Association has made a contribution to the “Light up a Life” charity campaign of St. Michael’s & South Parish in Dumfries, the church we believe our ancestors attended. The following is a report on the campaign which appeared in *The Kirk-Gate News*, April 2016 Issue.

### "Light up a Life" - 18th year

"The best laid schemes o’ mice and men gang aft agley" Now who said that!? It could well have been Tom Henderson on Dec.5th.2015 when the schemes which had been meticulously laid were disrupted by the stormy weather. But Tom with the Fellowship





Committee, still managed to organise a very enjoyable evening - INDOORS!"

Approximately 150 people turned up. We were delighted to welcome our Guests, the Queen of the South with her attendants, the Cornet and his Lass, Provost Ted Thomson and Mrs. Thomson and Mr. Michael Pattie and wife Patsy. The Town Band led a short Carol Service and did a first class job. Michael and Patsy, who were to have switched on our tree Lights, made use of the Hall Lights instead with a 10 to zero count down. Speeches, vote of thanks, cutting the special Christmas cake (baked by Janet) and refreshments followed. It was a most successful Evening of Fellowship. The sum raised for "Light up a Life" this year was £5,039. It has been shared among 14 local Charities and our Church. Thanks to every one of you and God Bless.

*P.S. After the Storm subsided the Lights that we had newly bought were examined and found to be completely wrecked, some lines were torn apart in three or four places. I parcelled the lights up and covered with an explanatory letter and sent them back to our suppliers, via City Electrical to Festive Lights and after nearly two months a parcel arrived with ten strings ( 1,000 lights) returned free of charge to make up for our disappointment. The cost of these lights are approx. £390.00. There was not even a cover note in the box. A big thank you to Festive Lights. Pray for good weather this year Saturday, 3rd December, 2016.*

Tom and Janet Henderson

Tom and Janet are now long time friends of our family. Tom was instrumental in the placement of our Family Association Memorial Plaque on the inner churchyard wall of St. Michael's. He is the gentleman on the right of the photo. In a note from Janet when she sent ***The Kirk-Gate News***, two interesting points she made:

1. She was a baker's daughter and has always enjoyed baking, hence the reason she made the special Christmas cake mentioned in the article above.
2. Portions of St. Michael's Church date back to the 11 hundreds and there always is something to repair. Recently plaster from the ceiling in the vestibule fell blocking the front door. The entry to the church was then at a side door. This no doubt has been taken care of by the time this newsletter is being written.

## Mary, Mary, Quite Contrary

*Mary, Mary, quite contrary,  
How does your garden grow?  
With silver bells,  
And cockle shells,  
And pretty maids all in a row*

Depending upon which legend you believe, this nursery rhyme is the legacy of two different Queens, Mary I of England also known as Mary Tudor or "Bloody Mary" and Mary I of Scotland better known as Mary, Queen of Scots.

Mary I of England was the daughter of Henry VII of England and his first wife Catherine of Aragon, born 18 February 1516, died 17 November 1558. Her half-brother Edward VI became king upon the death of their father, Henry VII, in 1547. When he became mortally ill



in 1553 he attempted to remove Mary from the line of succession because of religious reasons; she wanted to return the country to Roman Catholicism. Eventually she did become Queen and it is said she persecuted and murdered many Protestants. Her reign of terror became widely known over the course of history, thus giving her that well deserved title of "Bloody Mary". There are several interpretations of what people think the meaning of the poem was. Some say that the silver bells stood for Catholic Cathedral bells, the cockle shells stood for the pilgrimage to Spain and the pretty maids in a row stood for a row of nuns. Others claim the meaning was about torturing her victims. Silver bells stood for thumb screws that were torture devices, cockle shells that was a genital torture device and the pretty maids in a row stood for the people lining up to be executed by the Halifax Gibbet, which is the same as the guillotine.

(adapted from <http://whatdoeshistorysay.blogspot.com/2012/07/dark-history-behind-nursery-rhyme-mary.html> and [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary\\_I\\_of\\_England](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Mary_I_of_England) –accessed 15 February 2016)

Mary, Queen of Scots was the daughter of King James V of Scotland and his second wife, Mary of Guise; born 8 December 1542, died 8 February 1587. Her father died when she was only 6 days old making her the Queen. Her mother acted as her regent even though Henry VIII of England made a bid for control. He was Mary's great uncle. Mary was betrothed to Henry VIII's son Prince Edward of England, but Scottish Catholics objected to this and the match was annulled. England retaliated with raids that became known as the "Rough Wooing."

There is a much longer story to be told, but for this discussion we can say that Mary went to France, married the French King, and after his early death returned to Scotland and managed to again become the Queen of Scotland. After more religious problems and marriage scandals, Mary was compelled to abdicate the throne in favor of her infant son who became King James VI of Scotland and later King James I of England precipitating the union of Scotland and England. Mary eventually fled to England to seek help from her cousin, Elizabeth I of England, the half sister of Prince Edward to whom she had been betrothed. Elizabeth "helped" by putting her into prison. There she tried to plot the assassination of Elizabeth, but the plot was discovered. Mary was tried for treason and executed by beheading.

So how is Mary, Queen of Scots associated with the nursery rhyme? According to an e-mail from The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA, Mary left a legacy including not only the nursery rhyme, but also her beloved Falkland Palace. Here was one of her favorite retreats where she enjoyed the outdoors, hunted and even donned breeches to play tennis. The tennis court still exists and is the oldest Royal tennis court in Britain having been built for Mary's father, King James V. While there were no doubt gardens around the castle during Mary's time, extensive gardens designed by the late Percy Stanley Cane were created in the early 1900's. The NTS Foundation USA has made a grant to the National Trust for Scotland to restore these gardens; if you are interested in being part of this effort, you may make a contribution by going to: <https://www.ntsusa.org/get-involved/annual-appeals/>.

(Adapted from [www.nts.org.uk/Property/Falkland-Palace-and-Garden/](http://www.nts.org.uk/Property/Falkland-Palace-and-Garden/), [www.biography.com/people/mary-queen-of-scots-9401343](http://www.biography.com/people/mary-queen-of-scots-9401343) and an e-mail from The National Trust for Scotland Foundation USA dated 8 February 2016, Subject: Garden Restoration Appeal a Success)

We, being of Scots descent, no doubt prefer the story of Mary, Queen of Scots. In any case, the stories kept it in the family. And sometimes we think our family trees are complicated!

There is another thing that we can attribute to Mary, Queen of Scots. The royal surname was originally "Stewart." During her time in France she changed the spelling to "Stuart" because the letter "w" made the pronunciation quite difficult for French speakers. They followed the German pronunciation of "w" as "v" so that became the standard spelling. (from a correspondent, Marion Matthews, in the March 2016 **Dumfries and Galloway Family History Society Newsletter**, Issue 85, page 20.)

## Wife's Brave Act

The newspaper article at right appeared in The Evening Times, Grand Fork, North Dakota on 2 November 1906. Does anyone of our reader's know anything about this family? Your editor has been unable to locate any further information about them. Are they related?

(<http://chroniclingamerica.loc.gov/lccn/sn85042373/1906-11-02/ed-1/seq-1/#date1=1836&index=2&rows=20&words=Brair+Mc+McBrair&searchType=basic&sequence=0&state=&date2=1922&proxtext=McBrair&y=0&x=0&dateFilterType=yearRange&page=1> – accessed 14 February 2016)



### A Stutsman County Woman Rushes in Burning Barn and Rescues Husband.

Valley City, N. D., Nov. 2.—M. McBair, who lives about two miles from the Barnes county line in Stutsman county had a narrow escape from death in a fire which destroyed the barn on his place Saturday. Only the heroic act of his wife saved him from being burned to death. The fire, which is supposed to have been set by careless threshers, was burning fiercely when McBair entered the barn in an endeavor to rescue some of his live stock. In attempting to get the animals out a horse kicked him and he fell unconscious to the floor. His wife, who was standing outside the doorway, witnessed her husband's peril and rushed into the burning structure and dragged the injured man out to safety. Mrs. McBair was herself injured in the head, but will recover. The barn and its contents were entirely destroyed, causing a loss estimated at nearly \$4,000.

## INDENTURE

There has been some question in the past about whether any of our ancestors made their way to America as indentured servants. A number of searches in books and on-line so far have not found any persons with variations of our surname to have made their passage in this way.

What is indenture? The following definition is abstracted from the on-line encyclopedia Wikipedia:

An indenture is a legal contract between two parties, particularly for indentured labour or a term of apprenticeship but also for certain land transactions. The term comes from the medieval English "indenture of retainer"[1] — a legal contract written in duplicate on the same sheet, with the copies separated by cutting along a jagged (toothed, hence the term "indenture") line so that the teeth of the two parts could later be refitted to confirm authenticity. Each party to the deed would then retain a part. When the agreement was made before a court of law a tripartite indenture was made, with the third piece kept at the court. The term is used for any kind of deed executed by more than one party, in contrast to a deed poll which is made by one individual. In the case of bonds, the indenture shows the pledge, promises, representations and covenants of the issuing party.

In England the earliest surviving examples are from the thirteenth century. These are agreements for military service, proving that a paid, contract army was then in existence, although other evidence indicates that the method had already been in use for at least two hundred years.

An indenture was commonly used as a form of sealed contract or agreement for land and buildings.



In the early history of the United States, many European immigrants served a period of indentured labour in order to pay the cost of their transportation. This practice was common during the 17th and 18th centuries, where over half of immigrants worked off an average of three years servitude.

Records of apprenticeship have not been found at Ancestry.com, FamilySearch.org or MyHeritage.com, but some are found at FindMyPast.com, but only one McBrayer or variant has been found thus far. First an explanation of such records on FindMyPast.com:

An apprenticeship was a system where an artisan or craftsman took on a young apprentice to teach him/her skills of their profession. In Great Britain, the Statute of Apprentices of 1563 (sometimes called the Statute of Artificers) stated that no one could set up a trade without completing an apprenticeship. An apprentice was placed with or bound to a master for at least seven years. This was the law until 1814.

The 1563 Act also determined that apprentices were bound until they were 24, but this was later reduced to 21 in 1768. The Justice of the Peace was the only person who could break the bond. Not all apprentices completed their term. Some apprentices ran away because of mistreatment or in other cases the master could have become ill, bankrupt or even died. For others, early departure was agreed to in advance. Apprenticeships did not run 'by the book.' In 1601, the Overseers of the Poor were given the ability to bind pauper children to a master; anyone under the age of 21 refusing to be an apprentice was to be imprisoned until they found a master. By the 18th century, apprenticeships were a part of every level of society from the children of the poor to young gentry.

The life of an apprentice was completely dependent on the master. Apprentices relied on their masters for food, shelter and clothing. During their years of training, they were not allowed to marry, gamble or visit public houses. However, what they were to be taught was not specified. Some masters spent very little time with their young apprentices and only gave them menial tasks to complete, instead of developing their skills. In 1802, the law attempted to improve the lives of apprentices through the Health and Morals of Apprentices Act. The Act included 12-hour workdays and the requirement that apprentices were taught arithmetic, writing and reading.

The indenture was an agreement between a master and the guardian of the apprentice. In most cases, it was a written contract. Depending on the trade, some apprentices (or rather their family) had to pay the master to take on the apprentice and this was known as a premium. The amount paid to the master varied enormously, and it is far from clear what criteria applied.

And our apprentice of interest's information:

Name: **Robert McBrayer**    Role: Apprentice    Indenture Year: 1710  
Premium (paid to Master): £9 . 10s . 0d  
Place: Edinburgh    County: Midlothian  
Apprentice's Parent's First Name: John    Occupation: Merchant  
Master's Name: James LeBlanc    Occupation: Merchant    Status: Burgess  
Master's Place: Edinburgh    County: Midlothian  
Society of Genealogists: Volume 19, page 3718, number 132148

(<http://search.findmypast.com/record?id=gbor%2apprentices%2f132147%2f1> –  
accessed 28 April 2016)

Now to see if we can find a link between this family McBrayer with our ancestors in Dumfries! At least we have a known record as a starting point.



## Books/CDs Reviewed

The following reference books and CDs have been reviewed for any mention of variations of our surname.

1. **SCOTTISH-AMERICAN HEIRS 1683-1883**: David Dobson: Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; 2010; ISBN 978-0-8063-1278-1 – no mention found.
2. **THE IRISH SCOTS AND THE “SCOTCH-IRISH”**; John C. Linehan: originally printed 1888 and with additions in 1902; reprinted 2002 by Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; ISBN 0-8063-5139-X – no mention found
3. **THE SCOTTISH SURNAMES OF COLONIAL AMERICA**: David Dobson: Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; 2003; ISBN 0-8063-5209-4 – no mention found.
4. **EMIGRANTS TO PENNSYLVANIA 1641-1819** - A consolidation of Ship Passenger Lists from the Pennsylvania Magazine of History and Biography; Michael Tepper: Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; 1975; ISBN 978-0-8063-0682-7 – no mention found.
5. **SCOTCH IRISH PIONEERS IN ULSTER AND AMERICA**; Charles Knowles Bolton; originally published in Boston, 1910: reprinted several times up to 2001, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; ISBN 0-8068-0046-9 – no mention found. The time period covered for ship arrivals in America from Ireland is 1714 - 1720 (54 ships).
6. **THE DEEP SOUTH: GENEALOGICAL RECORDS OF ALABAMA, ARKANSAS, AND MISSISSIPPI, 1700s - 1800s**; CD compilation of 11 source documents; Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; CD #527; ISBN 978-0-8063-9770-2. Two (2) entries noted in the **INDEX TO ALABAMA WILLS 1843-1883**:
  - a) **James F. McBrayer**, St. Clair County, Record of Estates Book D, page 606. No further record yet found.
  - b) **William H. McBrayer**, Coosa County, Wills and Orphan Court Records Volume 2, page 105. The actual handwritten record which is difficult to read can be found on Ancestry.com;  
[http://interactive.ancestry.com/8799/007737336\\_00330/7989189?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgst%3d-6&ssrc=&acklabel=ReturnSearchResults#?imageId=007737336\\_00329](http://interactive.ancestry.com/8799/007737336_00330/7989189?backurl=http%3a%2f%2fsearch.ancestry.com%2fcgi-bin%2fsse.dll%3fgst%3d-6&ssrc=&acklabel=ReturnSearchResults#?imageId=007737336_00329). William Henry McBrayer was 5<sup>th</sup> generation in America (William Strutton, James, Samuel, William). His brother John Henry McBrayer was executor and his wife Mary A. R. McBrayer was executrix of his estate.
7. **EARLY GEORGIA SETTLERS, 1700s - 1800s**; CD compilation of 5 source documents; Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland; CD #516; ISBN 978-0-8063-9765-8. The books **SKETCHES OF SOME OF THE FIRST SETTLERS OF UPPER GEORGIA, OF THE CHEROKEES, AND THE AUTHOR BY** George R. Gilmer, 1926 Revised Edition; **LIST OF THE EARLY SETTLERS OF GEORGIA** edited by E. Marton Coulter and Albert B. Saye, 1949; **INDEX TO THE 1820 CENSUS OF GEORGIA**; and **THE RECONSTRUCTED 1790 CENSUS OF GEORGIA, EFFINGHAM COUNTY**, had no mention of family name variations. The **INDEX TO THE 1830 CENSUS OF GEORGIA** does mention two individuals:

- a) **Joseph McBrayer** of **Carroll County** - The image of the original census record at Ancestry.com (1830 U.S. Census, Carroll, Georgia; Series M19; Roll 16; Page 218; FHL Film 0007036. Ancestry.com [database on-line]) clearly shows the family consisting of 3 males 23 to 30 years old and 1 female 15 to 20 years old, a total of 4 individual white persons, no slaves. The index on Ancestry.com also lists 1 male 40 to 49 years old for a total of 5 individuals. The Ancestry.com index is incorrect showing that whenever possible original images should be searched for the most accurate information. Also found at Ancestry.com **Georgia, Property Tax Digests, 1793-1892** [database on-line] is an entry for Joseph McBrayer in 1832 in the Captain Mullins District, Carroll County, Georgia, a poll tax for one person. This may be the same person as shown in the census.
- b) **John McBreer** of Hall County - The image of the original census record on Ancestry.com shows the family consisting of 2 males 20 to 30 years old, 1 male 50 to 60 years old, 1 female 10 to 15 years old, and 1 female 50 to 60 years old, a total 5 individuals. John was indexed by Ancestry.com as "McBrur." The handwriting is such that either McBreer or McBrur might be read by and indexer. McBreer seems more likely since we have many such instances of this variation in records.
8. **EARLY KENTUCKY HOUSEHOLDERS, 1787-1811**; Compiled by James A. Sutherland, Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland, 1986, ISBN 0-0863-1159-2. This small book is a summary of tax records from Lincoln County, Kentucky. It was searched since 46 of the 54 counties in Kentucky at that time were included in the records for inhabitants of Lincoln County. No mention found.
9. **ROLL OF HONOR: CIVIL WAR UNION SOLDIERS**; Genealogical Publishing Co., Baltimore, Maryland 2000, ISBN 978-0-8063-9701-6. This CD contains images of the twenty-seven volumes of the *Roll of Honor* compiled by the U.S. Quartermaster's Department following the Civil War and published volume by volume from 1866 bto 1871 as the battlefield sites were surveyed, graves exhumed, and bodies reburied in national cemeteries, soldiers lots and garrison cemeteries. It is the only official memorial to Union dead ever published. No mention of any variation of the surname was found in these 27 volumes, however it was noted that some names were not complete, for instance, there were a number of instances where the name was given as Mc----. In addition, there is on the CD an unpublished Roll of Honor compiled by Mark Hughes in 1996 from other records. This recorded the name: "**Solomon McBryer**, PVT, 89<sup>th</sup> KY INF" under the heading of CATTLESBURY, KY. The following notation preceded a list of 30 names:
- According to an 1866 report these bodies were "buried indiscriminately. Only a few headboards have been erected . . . .marked in pencil." These bodies were later moved to the New Albany National Cemetery.
- The town name of "Cattlesbury" even though it appears in references in some Google searches, should be "Catlettsburg" in Boyd County, Kentucky. A search of records on the National Cemetery Administration site (<http://www.cem.va.gov/>) did not find Solomon in any cemetery under their jurisdiction. Perhaps there are some unmarked graves in the New Albany Cemetery or the remains were not actually removed. His death date has been recorded as both 13 and 14 April 1864.

Checking family records, Solomon was identified as 5<sup>th</sup> generation in America ( James R., Ichabod, Samuel, William). His middle initial was given as "L." or possibly "S." In

the style of handwriting in the day, S could easily been transcribed as L. Military records show the middle initial as "S."

The **1860 United States Census** for Catlettsburg, Boyd County, Kentucky; Roll M653\_356,; Page 800; Image 318; Family History Library Film 803356 – Ancestry.com [database on-line] was the last census before Solomon died in 1864. The family consisted of:

**Solomon**, age 34, a drayman, born in Kentucky (*a drayman is the driver of a flat cart pulled by horses*)

**Mary**, age 33, born in Virginia

**Ann**, age 12, born in Ohio (*Cecilia in the 1850 Census - Celia Ann in family records*)

**Eliza**, age 10, born in Ohio (*Eliza Alice in family records*)

**Frances**, age 6, born in Kentucky (*Fannie in family records*)

**Margaret**, age 4, born in Kentucky

**Leander**, age 2, born in Kentucky

Family records also show **Mariam Frances**, born 20 February 1858 in Johnson County, Kentucky and **Solomon** born about 1862. Questions: why did not Mariam appear in the 1860 Census? If she was born in 1858 was she a twin to Leander?

Many records of Solomon's service and his wife Mary's applications for a widow's pension may be found on [www.fold3.com](http://www.fold3.com) and portions are abstracted below.

1. Solomon enrolled 17 October 1862 at Boyd County, Kentucky, in Company D, 39<sup>th</sup> Regiment on Kentucky Volunteers for a period of three years. He was mustered in as a Private on 18 November 1862 at Peach Orchard, Kentucky.
2. A muster card for Solomon S. McBrayer, Private, Co. D, 39 Reg't Kentucky Inf. lists:

Mch. 1863. At Post Hosp. Ashland, Ky., as nurse.

Apl. 1863. Absent at Post Hosp. Ashland, Ky. Nurse.

Oct. 1863 to Feb. 1864. Regtl. Forage Master. (*A family story had Solomon serving in the Quartermaster Corps as a Supply Sgt. It seems reasonable that a forage master would serve in such a position, but no records shows him as a Sgt.*)

Apl. 1864. Loss Apl. 13/64 Louisa, Ky. Died of disease. (*The family story is that he sat down on a nail sticking out of a box and got blood poisoning and died. See point 5 below.*)

Also McBreyer and McBreyer (*apparently spellings in some other records.*)

3. His wife Mary applied for a widow's pension and a number of documents, including affidavits from Mary and his parents were filed as a result. Mary's affidavits were signed with an "x" suggesting that she could neither read or write. This would account for some discrepancies in dates and names found in the filing. The filing was made soon after his death, 29 July 1864, for a pension amounting to \$8.00 per month commencing 13 April 1864.
4. Previous family records had shown that Solomon and Mary Margaret Harris were married in Lawrence County, Kentucky. The marriage record filed with her application shows that the marriage took place in Lawrence County, Ohio, on 13 May 1847 before Justice of the Peace John Dillon.. The marriage licence was issued by the Clerk of the Court of Common Pleas.

(<https://www.fold3.com/image/264288593>)

5. A report from the Surgeon General's Office said that Solomon died of inflammation of the lungs. His surname was spelled in this report as McBrear and was considered in the pension filing as a clerical error.
6. For a soldier's pension. only children under the age of 16 were considered eligible. The widow's declaration made May 2, 1864, listed the children as :

**Liley A. McBrayer**, born April 16<sup>th</sup> 1848 - this is Cecilia/Celia Ann in the 1860 Census.

**Eliza A. McBrayer**, born December 15<sup>th</sup> 1850 - family records showed the birth year as 1849 as did another affidavit.

**Miram F. McBrayer** born February 9<sup>th</sup> 1858 - this is Miriam from the family records that had the birth day as 20. (Note different spellings.)

This information indicates **Fannie, Margaret, Leander** and **Solomon Jr.** from the family records had died or were mis-identified.

7. Mary's first petition and affidavit referred to the Civil War as "War of 1861" and "The War for the Suppression of the Southern Rebellion."
8. Mary filed another petition for an increase in pension of \$2.00 per month for a child under the age of 16. This was for Mariam. The certificate granting the increase was dated 30 September 1868 effective 25 July 1866. Yes the dates are as given, the government wheels often turned slowly then too.

There is some question as to the spelling of the youngest daughter's given name. The 1870 U.S. Census shows it as "Miram." she and her mother were at that time living in the household of Solomon's parents James R. and Ann McBrayer in Boyd County, Kentucky. The 1880 U.S. Census shows she had married and her name was shown as Miriam F. and she was married to John M. Bays. The surname is shown in family records as Bayes and some later census records have this spelling. Her widowed mother was living with them and her name was indexed on Ancestry.com as "McBier;" the handwritten original is hard to read.

All the books and CDs listed are in the Editor's library. Should anyone want another surname searched, please ask.

## The Other Scottish Game

Even though stick and ball games were played many centuries ago, it is generally accepted that the modern game of golf (gowf in Scots) originated in Scotland. The first documented record was in a 1457 Act of the Scottish Parliament in which King James II prohibited it as being a distraction from archery practice for military purposes. This probably had little effect as there were also later acts proclaimed by royalty while they continued to play the game. In an entry in the Town Council Minutes of Edinburgh of

19 April 1592, golf was included in a list of pursuits to be avoided on the Sabbath. The Old Links, Musselburgh, is considered the oldest playing golf course in the world and there is written documentation of a game played on 2 March 1672. There is a story that Mary, Queen of Scots, played the course in 1567. Prince Henry Frederick, son of King James VI of Scotland began the spread of the game to England when James succeeded





to the throne in 1603. Now, of course, one can find the game played, or at least a ball hit, almost any place on Earth and even on the Moon.

But what is the other “Scottish Game”? From time to time in obituaries from Canada, mention is made of the Brier Cup as a result of my search criteria being the surname Brier. Officially it is now known as the “Tim Hortons Brier Cup” awarded to the national championship of curling. The idea of a national championship was proposed in 1924 by the MacDonald Tobacco Company and the first Cup awarded in 1927. “Brier” was the trade name of one of the MacDonald products, the name being derived from a small shrub whose roots can be used to make tobacco pipes. MacDonald dropped the sponsorship in 1977 and it is now held by Tim Hortons, a donut and coffee chain in Canada and parts of the U.S. (Now owned by Burger King) Tim Horton was an outstanding ice hockey player and it is not known if he every played the sport of curling.

Curling is a sport in which players slide large polished granite stones on a sheet of ice to a target area with scoring based on closeness to the center of the target. One player slides the stone while two teammates sweep the ice surface to influence the path. the sport is firmly established in Canada having been taken there by Scottish immigrants. It has now spread around the world and became an official Olympic sport in 1998.



The first written reference to stones on ice appeared in the records of Paisley Abbey, Renfrewshire, in February 1541. There is evidence showing the game is older from curling stones inscribed with the dates 1511 and 1551 recovered when a pond was drained in Dunblane, Scotland. The word curling first appeared in print in Perth, Scotland, in 1620. The Kilsyth Curling Club claims to be the first club in the world having been established in 1716. Perhaps the first stones were warp weights from weaving looms fitted with a detachable brass handle. Some early Canadian players used “irons” rather than stones and were the only ones known to have done so.

So we have two documented sports, known world wide, that we can claim as part of our Scottish Heritage. (With help from various Wikipedia articles.)

## UNTANGLING THE BRANCH

As family records are developed the information first available may not be complete. As time goes by more and more documentation becomes available and revisions can be made. Here is an example which was triggered by the obituary of **Hazel Irene McBrayer** who died on 4 February 2016. She was one of five children born to 7<sup>th</sup> generation in America Oscar Lewis McBrayer (John Alford McBrayer, Nancy L. Logan, Margaret Hill, Margaret McBrayer, William, William) and Cora Lee Redd.

Before going to documentation for the children of Oscar and Cora, it is interesting to see variations in Oscar’s name through the years.

**1900 U.S. Census** for Hightower, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll 197; ED 0035, page 5B; FHL microfilm 1240197 - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **McBrayer** family living on a farm (note: the microfilm image is extremely difficult to read.):

**James A.**, head, age 37 ---- *from later records this is John*

**Mary M.**, wife, age 37

**Louis O.**, son, age 16 ---- *this is Oscar*

**William A.**, son, age 16

**John L.**, son, age 14

**Truman L.**, son, age 12

**Ethel E.**, daughter, age 10

**Sherman**, son, age 8

**Anonymus**, son, age 3

**Carter**, son, age 7/12

**1910 U.S. Census** for Hightower, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll T624\_188; ED 0037, page 15B; FHL microfilm 134201 - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **McBrayer** family living on a home farm:

**John A.**, head, age 49, farmer

**Mary M.**, wife, age 47 ---- *note age difference change*

**Oscar L.**, son, age 26, farm labor

**William A.**, son, age 26, farm labor

**Sarah E. E.**, daughter, age 20 — *this is Ethel E. in 1900*

**Anonymus**, son, age 13

**Ottis C.**, son, age 10 ---- *this is Carter in 1900 and first name is Otis*

**Buman R.**, son, age 3

**“U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918”** – Ancestry.com on-line database includes a card for Oscar with the following information:

Name: **Oscar Louis McBrayer**

Permanent Home Address: 8 Cumming, Forsyth, Georgia

Age: 34 Date of Birth Oct. 13, 1984

Present Occupation: Farmer Employer's Name: Self

Nearest Relative: Cora McBrayer

Description: Height: Medium Build: Medium Eyes: Brown Hair: Brown

Date of Registration: Sept. 12, 1918

Signed as Oscar Louis McBrayer; it is not clear if this is in his handwriting or the registrar's.

**1920 U.S. Census** for Hightower, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll T6245\_257; ED 50, page 2A; Image 599 - Ancestry.com on-line database finds Oscar's family living on a rented farm next to his father's. Both families were indexed with the surname spelled **“Mcbreyes,”** the handwriting on the census record is unclear. His father's given name is shown as Alfred J, reversing the first and middle names. The middle name is given in various records as A., Alfred and Alford. His gravestone photo shown in [www.Findagrave.com](http://www.Findagrave.com) memorial 5310855 shows clearly engraved “John Alfred” and his wife's name is “Mary Malinda.”

**Oscar**, head, age 36, farmer

**Cora L.**, wife, age 29  
**Hoyt T.**, son, age 4  
**Bertie**, daughter, age 3

**1930 U.S. Census** for Hightower, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll 357; ED 0002, page 4B; FHL microfilm 2340092; Image 43.0 - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the family indexed with the surname spelled "**Mcboyer**" living on their owned farm at 81 Road off Mat Road West. His uncle William A. McBrayer and aunt Sarah E. McBrayer lived at the next farm.

**Oscar L.**, head, age 46, farmer, married at 30  
**Cora L.**, wife, age 40, married at age 24  
**Hoyt S.**, son, age 14, farm labor ---- *this is Hoyt T.*  
**Bertie L.**, daughter, age 12  
**Willie M.**, daughter, age 10  
**Edna G.**, daughter, age 6  
**Hozil I.**, daughter, age 3 ---- *this is Hazel I.*

**1940 U.S. Census** for Hightower, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll T627\_673; ED 58-2, page 7A and 7B - Ancestry.com on-line database finds the **McBrayer** family living on their own farm worth \$500 on Mat Frogtown Road. His uncle William A. McBrayer and aunt Sarah E. McBrayer still lived at a neighboring farm.

**Oscar L.**, head, age 56, farmer  
**Cora L.**, wife, age 50  
**Hayt T.**, son, age 24, farm laborer ---- *this is Hoyt T.*  
**Willie M.**, daughter, age 20, farm laborer  
**Edna G.**, daughter, age 16, farm laborer  
**Hazel I.**, daughter, age 13

Note that daughter Bertie L. is no longer living with the family.

One last point about Oscar can be found on [www.findagrave.org](http://www.findagrave.org) Memorial 5310869. Even though his memorial is indexed as Oscar Lewis McBrayer, his headstone (dual with his wife Cora) is engraved:

Oscar L.  
Oct. 13, 1883  
May 9, 1952  
BELOVED ONE, FAREWELL.

Burial was in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia. Many family members were buried in this cemetery and have Find-A-Grave memorials. Cora's Memorial is 5310839.

Because of contradictory information, we cannot be certain how Oscar's middle name is spelled. Perhaps additional records will be found that will resolve the issue.

Now to the children of Oscar and Cora in order of their birth. All now have passed away but there are many more of their descendants to add leaves to our tree as even more information becomes available.

Mr. **HOYT TILDEN McBRAYER**, age 90, of Forsyth County passed away Wednesday, Nov. 2, 2005.

He was preceded in death by his wife, Flois Cain McBrayer, and his parents, Oscar and Cora McBrayer. He was an avid reader and gardener. Mr. McBrayer retired from Lockheed after 26 years.

Survivors include his son and daughter-in-law, David and Tina McBrayer, Cumming; daughters and sons-in-law, Renee and Jerry Hogan, Cumming, and Brenda and Dave Karlson, Dahlonga; grandchildren, Anna and Sara Karlson, and Jonathan, Jessica and Jameson McBrayer; sisters, Bertie Bottoms, Willie Mae McBrayer, Edna Wheeler and Hazel McBrayer; and several nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive.

Funeral services will be held at 11 a.m. Friday, Nov. 4, 2005, at Ingram Funeral Home Chapel. The Rev. Robert Martin, the Rev. Gary Coffey and the Rev. Harold Bottoms will officiate. Interment will be in Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family will receive friends from 6 to 9 p.m. Wednesday and noon to 2 p.m. and 6 to 9 p.m. Thursday.

(**The Times** – Gainesville, Georgia – 3 November 2005 – <http://gainesvillelegals.com/news/stories/20051103/obituaries/33881.shtml> – accessed 6 February 2016)

Ancestry.com **"U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007"** (database on-line, 2015 provides the following information confirming prior information.

|                                                                    |                                   |
|--------------------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------|
| Name: Hoyt Tilden McBrayer                                         | SSN: 254-28-2161                  |
| Gender: Male                                                       | Race: White                       |
| Birth Date: 6 Jul 1915                                             | Birth Place: Cumming, Forsyth, GA |
| Father Name: Oscar L McBrayer                                      | Mother Name: Cora L Redd          |
| Death Date: 2 Nov 2005                                             |                                   |
| Notes: Apr 1940: Name listed as HOYT TILDEN MCBRAYER; 17 Nov 2005: |                                   |
| Name listed as HOYT T MCBRAYER                                     |                                   |

From National Archives and Records Administration," **U.S. World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1936"** [database on-line], Ancestry.com:

|                                                                |                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name Hoyt T. McBrayer                                          | Birth Year: 1915                    |
| Race: White, citizen                                           | Nativity State: Georgia             |
| State of Residence: Georgia                                    | County or City: Forsyth             |
| Enlistment City: Fort McPherson Atlanta                        |                                     |
| Grade: Private                                                 | Component: Selectees (Enlisted Men) |
| Source: Civil Life                                             | Education: 3 years of high school   |
| Civil Occupation: Semiskilled construction occupations, n.e.c. |                                     |
| Marital Status: Single, without dependents                     |                                     |
| Height: 73                                                     | Weight: 130                         |

Ancestry.com **"U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007"** [database on-line] provides the following information regarding Hoyt's wife whose name appeared in his obituary as Flois Cain McBrayer.

|                         |                                        |
|-------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Name: Daisy Floris Cain | SSN: 257-28-4910                       |
| Gender: Female          | Race: White                            |
| Birth Date: 26 Apr 1918 | Birth Place: Cumming, Forsyth, Georgia |



Father Name: William A. Cain

Mother Name: Martha A. Townsend

Death Date: 10 Jun 1994

Notes: Aug 1941: Name listed as DAISY FLOIS CAIN; Jun 1948: Name listed as DAISY FLOIS MCBRAYER; 14 Jul 1994: Name Listed as DAISY F MCBRAYER

Both Hoyt and Flois were buried in the Zion Hill Cemetery. His [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial is 5310852 and her's is 5310848. Their gravestone has their names as Hoyt and Flois Cain.

**BERTIE LEE BOTTOMS**, age 95 of Cumming, GA, passed away Sunday, November 4, 2012. Bertie loved her family and especially her grandchildren. She enjoyed her garden also. Bertie is preceded in death by her husband, Rev. Broughton Bottoms; son, Grady Bottoms; great grandson, Matthew Nolan; son-in-law, Hugh Hammond; parents, Oscar and Cora McBrayer; brother, Hoyt McBrayer and sister, Willie McBrayer.



Survivors include her children, Tommy (Joan) Bottoms, Harold (Rose Mary) Bottoms, Martha Hammond, Mary (D.C.) Nolan; sisters, Edna Wheeler, Hazel McBrayer; 9 grandchildren and 22 great grandchildren.

Funeral services will be held Wednesday, November 7th at 11:00 a.m. at Zion Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Dennis Bottoms, Rev. Robert Martin, Rev. Alan Dixon and Rev. Tommy Estes officiating. Interment will follow at Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Monday from 6:00 to 9:00 p.m., on Tuesday from 9 to 9 and on Wednesday from 9 a.m. until the hour of service.

In lieu of flowers donations may be made to Megan and Pete Fowler in the care of Gina Deal.

Ingram Funeral Home & Crematory, Cumming, Georgia is in charge of arrangements.

(<http://www.ingramfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/1398582/Bottoms-Bertie/index.php> – accessed 6 February 2016

Bertie's birth date is given as 16 July 1917 and death date as 4 November 2012 – "United States Social Security Death Index" database:

<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8BL-6VF>; accessed 8 February 2016.

Bertie Lee's grave stone is a joint grave stone with her husband with his name engraved as W. Broughton. Over his portion is engraved "Daddy", over her's "Mama" and between "In Loving Memory." [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorials are Bertie 100250525 (indexed as Bertie Lee McBrayer Bottoms) and Broughton 5305151 (indexed as Rev. Walter Broughton Bottoms).

**WALTER BROUGHTON BOTTOMS** was the son of James F. Bottoms and Sallie A. Bannister as shown in Ancestry.com, "U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007" [database online].

SSN: 259-48-6735

Birth Date: 30 January 1910

Birth Place: Cumming, Georgia

Death Date: 15 October 1999

Notes: 22 May 1985: Name listed as WALTER BROUGHTON BOTTOMS; 07  
October 1974: Name listed as WALTER B BOTTOMS

**1930 U.S. Census** for Barker, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll 357; ED 0004, page 4A; FHL microfilm 2340092 - Ancestry.com on-line database shows the J. F. **Bottoms** family living on their own farm on Zion Hill Road.

**J. F. Bottoms**; head; age 31, born in Georgia, married at 22 a farmer

**Sallie Bottoms**; wife, age 47, born in Georgia

**Broughton Bottoms**; age 20; farm laborer

**William Bottoms**; age 16; farm laborer

From [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) more is found about Broughton's parents. They have a combined grave stone in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia.

**James F.**; Feb. 21, 1878; Jul. 8, 1963 – indexed as James Franklin “Jim” Bottoms; Memorial 5286903

**Sallie B.**; Jun 8, 1882; Apr. 27, 1967 – indexed as Sallie Amazon Bannister Bottoms; Memorial 5305147. The site also listed a child, Jay Bottoms (1913-1969). This would appear to correspond to the William listed in the 1930 U.S. Census. A [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 121691149 was found indexed for Rev. Jay Bottoms born to James Franklin and Sallie Amazon Bannister Bottoms and further identified as Rev. Willie Jay Bottoms who married Ella Forine Hurt Oct. 30, 1935. So this does show William in the 1930 Census to be Willie Jay Bottoms. the [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 5286892 indexes his wife as Florine Hurt Bottoms. Using this information, a search was made on Ancestry.com, but they could not be found indexed in the 1940 U.S. Census, however they were found in the FamilySearch.org data base (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K7LB-WYH>; ED 58-2, Sheet 7A, NARA T627\_673; accessed 15 April 2016) living in Militia District 835, Forsyth County, Georgia on a rented farm.

**Willie J. Bottoms**, head, age 26, a farmer

**Florene**, wife, age 22

**James E.**, son, age 2

**Edwin L.**, son, age 0

**They lived on a farm next door to Oscar L. and Cora McBrayer!** And they could be found on Ancestry.com by going to the record for Oscar and clicking on the Neighbors tab. There was no reference link between the 1920 and 1940 Census Records for Willie on Ancestry.com.

**1940 U.S. Census** for Militia District 878, Forsyth, Georgia; <https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K7LB-MGL>; ED 58-4, Sheet 6B, NARA T627\_673; accessed 8 February 2016 shows the Broughton **Bottoms** family living on a farm rented for \$1 a month. His parents lived on the next farm which they owned and was worth \$200.

**Broughton Bottoms**; head; age 30; born in Georgia; a farmer

**Bettie** ; wife; age 22, born in Georgia – *this is Bertie Lee*

**Grady Lewis**; son; age 2; born in Georgia

**Martha Jane**; daughter; age 0, born in Georgia

No obituary has yet been found for Walter Broughton Bottoms. however, one has been found for his and Bertie's first born son.

**GRADY LEWIS BOTTOMS**, age 73, a native and lifelong resident of Forsyth County, passed away Wednesday, December 1, 2010. He is preceded in death by his father, Rev. Broughton Bottoms; brother-in-law Hugh Hammond; great nephew Matthew Nolan. Survivors include his mother, Bertie Bottoms of Cumming; brothers and sisters-in-law, Rev. Harold and Rose Mary Bottoms, Tommy and Joan Bottoms all of Cumming; sisters and brother-in-law Martha Hammond and Mary and D.C. Nolan all of Cumming; aunts, Hazel McBrayer and Edna Wheeler both of Cumming; and a number of nieces, nephews and other relatives also survive. Funeral Services will be held Friday, December 3rd at 11:00 am at Zion Hill Baptist Church with Rev. Gary Coffey, Rev. Dennis Bottoms and Rev. Robert Martin officiating. Interment will follow in Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery. The family will receive friends at Ingram Funeral Home on from Thursday from 11:00 am until 9:00 pm and Friday from 9:00 am until hour of service. Ingram Funeral Home & Crematory, Cumming, Georgia is in charge of arrangements.

(<http://www.ingramfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/1081870/Bottoms-Grady/obituary.php> – accessed 6 February 2016)

**WILLIE MAE McBRAYER**, born 24 February 1920, died 9 August 2009 (Ancestry.com “U.S. Social Security Death Index, 1935-2014” [database on-line]). Her obituary appeared in *In Defiance* Vol. 18, No. 4, page 32. At that time her relationship was unknown.

Willie Mae's [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial in the Zion Hill Cemetery, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia, is 64639992. Her grave stone shares a base with her sister Hazel Irene's grave stone. Hazel's Memorial is 157886091.

**EDNA GRACE McBRAYER WHEELER**, age 91, of Cumming, passed away January 7, 2015. She was a lifelong resident of Forsyth County where she was a homemaker and loved gardening. Edna was a member at Coal Mountain Baptist Church. She will always be remembered as a loving wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother, aunt, and friend. She is preceded in death by her husband, Ben Wheeler; son, Robert Wheeler; parents, Oscar and Cora Redd McBrayer; brother, Hoyt McBrayer; sisters, Bertie Bottoms, Willie Mae McBrayer.



Survivors include her children, Linda and Lamar Westbrook of Cumming; sister, Hazel McBrayer; grandchildren, Cody and Jennifer Westbrook, Shelby and Mark Cochran, Slade and Elisabeth Westbrook, Kerri and Steve Aune, Candice Wheeler; 14 great grandchildren; a number of nieces, nephews, and other relatives.

Funeral services will be held Sunday, January 11, 2015 at 2:00 p.m. at Coal Mountain Baptist Church with Rev. Harold Bottoms, Rev. Dexter Gravitt, and Rev. Scott Bailey officiating with the interment to follow at Sawnee View Memorial Gardens. The family will receive friends at the funeral home on Friday and Saturday from 11:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and again from 6:00 p.m. until 9:00 p.m. The family will also receive friends on Sunday from 11:00 a.m. until the hour of service.

Ingram Funeral Home & Crematory, Cumming, Georgia is in charge of arrangements.  
(<http://www.ingramfuneralhome.com/book-of-memories/2020707/Wheeler-Edna-Obituary.php> + Forsyth County News – Georgia – 10 January 2015+ abbreviated obituary in the Times – Gainesville, Georgia – 9 January 2015)

Edna's husband was **BENJAMIN WARREN WHEELER**, the son of Early Minor Wheeler and Nancy Elizabeth Harrison. Several records are needed to identify him and some will show how it can be difficult to do so. As can be seen from Edna's obituary, he was known as Ben Wheeler From Ancestry.com; "U.S. Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007" [database on-line]– accessed 6 February 2016:

|                                                                                                   |                                     |
|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| Name: Benjamin Warren Wheeler                                                                     | SSN: 253-24-9662                    |
| Birth Date: 26 June 1920                                                                          | Birth Place: Wilcox County, Georgia |
| Father Name: Early M. Wheeler                                                                     | Mother Name: Nancy E. Harrison      |
| Death Date: 11 July 1997                                                                          |                                     |
| Note: July 1940: Name listed as BENJAMIN WARREN WHEELER; 22 July 1997: Name listed as BEN WHEELER |                                     |

**1920 U.S. Census** for Pleasant Grove, Wilcox, Georgia; Roll T625-286; ED 153, page 4A; Image: 861- Ancestry.com [on-line database] - accessed 8 February 2016 shows the **Early M. Wheeler** family living on a rented farm. All family members were born in Georgia.

**Early M.**, head, age 34, a farmer

**Nannie**, wife, age 33 – *her full name Nancy Elizabeth Harrison Wheeler, Early's first wife who died in 1923*

**Thomas W. H.**; son; age 13; farm help

**Blanche**, daughter; age 10

**Howard**; son; age 9

**Effie M.**; daughter; age 7

**Jamie N. L.**; daughter; age 2-3/12

**1930 U.S. Census** for Cumming, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll 357; ED 0006, page 7A; FHL microfilm2340092; Image: 106.0 - Ancestry.com [on-line database] – accessed 8 February 2016 shows the **Wheeler** family living on their owned farm.

**E. M.**: head, age 44, a farmer – *this is Early M. in the 1920 Census*

**Addie**: wife, age 42 – *this is second wife, Addie Anoma Samples Hansard*

**Hubert**: son, age 23, farm labor – *this is Thomas W. H. in the 1920 Census*

**Annell**: daughter, age 12

**Benjamin**: son, age 9 – *transcription error, this is Benjamin, son of Nannie*

**Dorothy**: daughter, age 4 – *daughter of Addie*

**Myrtle**: daughter, age 2 – *daughter of Addie*

Looking at the two census records above one might question if they are the same family. This can be proven by the following records.

1. Ancestry.com "**Georgia, Marriage Records from Select Counties, 1828-1978**" [database on-line] – accessed 8 February 2016

Name: **Early M. Wheeler** Gender: Male

Marriage Date: 9 Oct 1904 Marriage Place: Forsyth, Georgia

Spouse: **Nannie Harrison** Spouse Gender: Female



2. **Benjamin's** Social Security Record above gives his mother's name as **Nancy E. Harrison**
3. Ancestry.com "U.S. World War I Draft Registration Cards, 1917-1918" – accessed 8 February 2016:  
 Name: **Early Minor Wheeler**                      Date of Birth: May 25, 1885  
 Occupation: Farmer                                      Nearest Relative: Nancy Elizabeth Wheeler  
 Permanent Home Address: RFD 1, Osinfield, Irwin County, Georgia  
 Height: Medium Build: Medium                      Eye Color: Blue                      Hair Color: Brown  
 Date of Registration: Sep 12, 1918                      Place Irwin County, Ocilla, Georgia
4. [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 20664346 shows a grave stone inscribed "**Nancy E. Wheeler – 18856 – 1923**" in the Coal Mountain Cemetery, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia. Additional information is Birth: Mar. 22, 1886, Forsyth County, Georgia; Death : May 25, 1923, Forsyth County, Georgia; Daughter of Thomas Willingham Harrison and Martha Jane "Matt" Blanton Wheeler (married 10/9/1904 in Forsyth County, Georgia); Children: Benjamin Warren Wheeler
5. [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 155498642 for **Addie Anoma Samples Wheeler** shows a joint Wheeler grave stone inscribed with the names "**Early M. – 1885 – 1966**" and "**Addie A. 1886 – 1964**" in the Sawanee View Gardens and Mausoleum, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia. Additional information is Birth: Jun. 6, 1886; Death: Apr. 7, 1964; **Addie Anoma Samples** was born June 13, 1886 (*note differences in date*), in Georgia, the child of William Alonzo and Louisa Chestie (*Samples*). She married **Early Minor Wheeler** and they had two children together. She also married **Henry Welton Hansard**.
6. **1920 U.S. Census** for Cumming, Forsyth, Georgia; Roll T625-257; ED 52; Page: 14A; Image: 673 – accessed 1 March 2016 shows the **Hansard** family living on a farm on Pirkliis Ferry Road.  
     **H. W.**, head, age 33, a farmer  
     **Addie**, wife, age 33
7. Ancestry.com "**Georgia, Death Index, 1919-1998** [database on-line]"– accessed 1 March 2016 :  
 Name: **Welt Hansard**    Death Date 27 Jan 1923                      County of Death: Forsyth  
 Certificate 1444-E  
 The image of the certificate is on Ancestry.com. It shows the wife as **Addie Hansard** and his birth date as 28 April 1886. He died from complications of influenza.
8. Ancestry.com, "**U.S. WWII Draft Cards Young Men, 1940-1947**"– accessed 1 March 2016:  
 Name: **Thomas William Hubert Wheeler**    Date of Birth: 20 November 1906  
 Place of Birth: Forsyth County, Georgia  
 This shows that Hubert in 1930 was Thomas W H in the 1920 Census.
9. [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 155498492 for **Early Minor Wheeler** shows the same grave stone as for Addie above. The added comment to the memorial is "Early Minor Wheeler was born on May 25,1885, in Coal Mountain, Georgia. He married Nancy Elizabeth "Nannie" Harrison and they had eight children together. He then had two daughters with Addie. He died on September 10, 1966, in cumming, Georgia, at the age of 81, and was buried there."

10. **The 1920 Census** shows a daughter “Jaime N L” while the daughter of the appropriate age in 1930 is “Annell.” This can be explained as a misunderstanding on the part of the census taker in 1920; he heard the name Annell as initials N L.

- a. Ancestry.com **“U.S., Social Security Applications and Claims Index, 1936-2007”** [database on-line]– accessed 2 March 2016 gives part of the answer.

Name: **Annell Wheeler Hansard** SSN: 252-24-9854  
Birth Date: 6 September 1917 Birth Place: Gainesville, Georgia  
Father Name: **Early M. Wheeler** Mother Name: **Nancy E. Harrison**

Death Date: 27 October 2004

Notes: Nov 1939: Name listed as ANNELL WHEELER HANSARD; May 1960: Name listed as ANNELL WHEELER PAYNE; 09 Nov 2004: name listed as ANNELL W PAYNE

- b. Adding some confusion to the story, the [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 23240692 is indexed as Jamie Annell Wheeler Payne. The grave stone is inscribed:

**HANSARD**  
**JAIME ANNELL** **H. D. JR.**  
Sept. 6, 1917 July 9, 1916  
Oct. 27, 2004 Jan. 2, 1944

Burial: Roanoke Baptist Church Cemetery, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia.

Notes on memorial page: “Married first to H. D. Hansard on May 22, 1937, in Hall County, GA. He died January 2, 1944, in Forsyth County. After his death, she married George Garnet Payne in 1957. she was survived by four daughters. she was known for her prize winning homemade quilts. She was buried October 29, 2004, with the Rev. J. B. Reese, Jr., officiating.”

- c. Ancestry.com **“1940 U.S. Census for Gainesville, Hall Georgia”**; Roll:T627-682,; Page: 5B; ED 69-11 – accessed 2 March 2016 has a **Hansard** family living in a home rented for \$6 a month at 1123 Pine Street.

**Herd D. Hansard**, head, age 23, painter in a chair factory made \$624 in 1939

**Janile**, wife, age 22 – *name difficult to read, thought to be Jamie*

**Mary Hellen**, daughter age 1 – *middle name probably Helen*

**Garal**, daughter, born April 15, 1940 – *mis-transcribed due line-out - probably should be Carol*

Not yet determined if Herd Hansard was related to Henry Welton Hansard who was the first husband of Jamie’s step-mother Addie.

- d. Ancestry.com **“U.S. City Directories, 1822-1995”** [database on-line] Publication Title: Gainesville, Georgia, City Directory, 1957– accessed 2 March 2016:

Name: **George G. Payne** Street Address: Williams  
Occupation: Bricklayer Spouse: **Annell H. Payne**

Nothing further has been found yet about George Payne, nor is there an explanation why Jamie Annell was buried as a Hansard.

“United States World War II Army Enlistment Records, 1938-1946” database, *Family Search* (<https://familysearch.org/ark:/61903/1:1:K8TT-PVR>) : accessed 6 February 2016 - Shows **Ben**’s enlistment.

|                                         |                                         |
|-----------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------|
| Event Date: 15 August 1942              | Place: Fort McPherson, Atlanta, Georgia |
| Birth Year: 1920                        | Birth Place: Georgia                    |
| Educational Level: Grammar School       | Civilian Occupation: General farmer     |
| Marital Status: Single, with dependents | Military Rank: Private                  |
| Serial Number: 34357493                 | Source Reference: Civil Life            |

Ancestry.com **National Cemetery Administration “U.S. Veterans Gravesites, ca. 1775-2006”** [database on-line] – accessed 6 February 2016 confirms Ben’s Army service.

|                                                                              |                                        |
|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Name: <b>Benjamin W. Wheeler</b>                                             | Service Info: CPL US ARMY WORLD WAR II |
| Birth Date: 26 June 1920                                                     | Death Date: 11 July 1997               |
| Cemetery: Sawnee View Gardens, 1390 Dahlonega Hwy, Patty Bennett Cumming, GA |                                        |

[www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) Memorial 74091941 for Ben has the same birth and death information as previously shown in the records above. Added is the following comment: “Husband of Edna Grace McBrayer (married on January 20, 1946, with the Rev. Henry Warren officiating.)” Burial was in Sawnee View Gardens and Mausoleum, Cumming, Forsyth County, Georgia. Edna’s Memorial is 154777872.

**HAZEL IRENE McBRAYER**, age 89, of Cumming (*Georgia*) passed away peacefully Thursday, Feb. 4, 2016.

Hazel was a lifetime member of Zion Hill Baptist Church.

She is preceded in death by her parents, Oscar Lewis and Cora Redd McBrayer; brother, Hoyt McBrayer; sisters, Willie Mae McBrayer, Bertie Bottoms, Edna Wheeler; nephews, Robert Wheeler, Grady Bottoms.

Survivors include her nieces, Linda (Lamar) Westbrook, Renee (Jerry) Hogan, Brenda (Dave) Karlson, Mary (D.C.) Nolan, Martha Hammond; nephews, Harold (Rosemary) Bottoms, Tommy (Joan) Bottoms, David (Tina) McBrayer; several great-nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Services were held Saturday, Feb. 6, at 2 p.m., in Zion Hill Baptist Church with the Revs. Harold Bottoms, Robert Martin and Allen Dixon officiating. Interment followed at Zion Hill Baptist Church Cemetery.

The family would like to thank Chestnut Ridge Nursing Home staff and Agape Hospice for their excellent love and concern during her extended illness.

Ingram Funeral Home and Crematory is in charge of arrangements. Condolences may be made at [www.ingramfuneralhome.com](http://www.ingramfuneralhome.com).

([http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/forsythnews/obituary.aspx?n=hazel-irene-mcbrayer&pid=177615295&fhid=4996&eid=sp\\_ommatch#sthash.FUNx0dp6.dpuf](http://www.legacy.com/obituaries/forsythnews/obituary.aspx?n=hazel-irene-mcbrayer&pid=177615295&fhid=4996&eid=sp_ommatch#sthash.FUNx0dp6.dpuf) – accessed 6 February 2016)

Additional data from the Funeral Home website:

Date of Birth Saturday, November 13th, 1926

Date of Death Thursday, February 4th, 2016



And so we now know more about this branch of our tree and there are still twigs to be seen further of in the future, most certainly in the 1950 U.S. Census when it is released in 2022.

## News From Family Association Members

Following are some updates from Family Association members with some added comments by the editor to provide additional genealogical information.

**M. Alicia Crawford** (7<sup>th</sup> generation in America: Janet Brier, Fernando, Benjamin Franklin, Isaac, David, William) reported on the dates of passing of her mother, father and younger sister:

Father **Thomas H Cooley** died September 1978 in Monon, Indiana

Mother **Janet Brier Cooley** died 3 January 1998 in Indianapolis, Indiana

Sister **Virginia Cooley Mitchell** died 8 September 2006 in Indianapolis, Indiana

*(Note: in family records, Janet Brier was listed as "Mary Jane Brier." She is shown in the 1920, 1930 and 1940 U.S. Census as Janet being born about 1910 which is the year given in the family record for "Mary Jane." Janet is the given name for her in the records cited below.)*

Additional information:

1. Obituary for **Thomas**:

**THOMAS H. COOLEY**, 75, a retired farmer, died at 7:12 AM Wednesday, Aug. 8, 1978, in Lafayette Home Hospital; he had been hospitalized two weeks. Born, May 12, 1903, in Pulaski County, he was a lifelong resident of the area and resided at 517 Holly St., Monon. In 1942, he was married at Lafayette to **Janet Brier**, who survives.

Mr. Cooley was an Army veteran of World War II. He was a member of the Presbyterian Church and American Legion Eugene Hughes Post 319.

Surviving with his widow are three daughters, Juanita Hasselbring of Wolcott, Mary Alicia Crawford of Los Alamitos, CA, and Virginia Mitchell of Indianapolis; two sisters, Blanche Holtz of Lafayette and Gladys McCarty of Kentland; three brothers, Paul Cooley, John Cooley, and Clifford Cooley, all of Monon; and eight grandchildren. Two brothers and three sisters preceded him in death. Service Aug. 11, Stewart Funeral Home Chapel, Monon, the Rev. Howard Crees officiating; internment Bedford Cemetery, Monon.

**(Obituary as posted on Find A Grave Memorial: Lafayette (Indiana) Journal & Courier - Thu 8/10/1978 – accessed 20 August 2016)**

2. Find A Grave Memorial for **Thomas**:

Find a Grave Memorial 103032514

Birth: 12 May 1903, Pulaski County, Indiana

Death: 9 August 1978, Monon, White County, Indiana

Burial: Bedford Cemetery, Monon, White County, Indiana





3. Indiana State Board of Health Medical Certificate of Death for **Thomas:**

Certificate 78-030298 for **Thomas H. Cooley**, a retired farmer who died 9 August 1978 at the age of 75 while an in-patient at Home Hospital in Lafayette, Tippecanoe County, Indiana at 7:12 AM. His home address was 517 Holly Street, Monon, Indiana. He was the son of Lewis Cooley and Lillie Graves and was born 12 May 1903. His wife who survived him was Janet Brier. The immediate cause of death was a myocardial infarction (suspected). (Ancestry.com **Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011**)

4. Find A Grave Memorial for **Janet:**

Find a Grave Memorial 110950257

Birth: 19 July 1910

Death: 3 January 1998

Burial: Bedford Cemetery, Monon, White County, Indiana, next to her husband Thomas; shared the headstone shown in his memorial above.

5. Indiana State Department of Health Certificate of Death for **Janet:**

Certificate 000948 for **Janet B. Cooley** who had worked as a secretary in an accounting firm who died 3 January 1998 at the age of 87 at Carmel Care Center, 118 Medical Drive, Carmel, Hamilton County, Indiana at 8:25 AM. She was a widow. She was the daughter of Fernando Brier and Philenna Clearwater and was born in Lafayette, Indiana, on 29 July 1910. The immediate cause of death was presumed carcinoma of the lung. The informant of the background information was Virginia L. Mitchell, her daughter, who lived at 8176 Engelwood Road, Indianapolis, Indiana.

(Ancestry.com – **Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011**)

6. Obituary for **Virginia:**

**Virginia L. Mitchell**, 56, of Indianapolis, died peacefully surrounded by her loving family in her home on September 8, 2006. She was born February 20, 1950 in Lafayette, IN to the late Thomas and Janet Brier Cooley. On February 13, 1971 Virginia married Donald E. Mitchell, he survives. Together, on their 25th anniversary, Virginia and Don renewed their vows in the summer of 1996. Their loving union produced six beautiful children, Dawn Klinkey, Matthew, Nicholas, Natalie, Christopher and Lucas Mitchell, they all survive; grandchildren, Casey, Austin, Cameron and Brier and her sisters Juanita and Alicia. Virginia loved and cared for her family as a homemaker. Friends may call from 4-8 PM Wednesday, September 13, 2006 with a funeral service at 7PM in the Leppert Mortuary, Nora Chapel, 740 E 86th Street, Indianapolis. You may visit the website [www.leppertmortuary.com](http://www.leppertmortuary.com) where you may sign her register book, leave a personal message or make a memorial contribution to St. Vincent Hospice, 2001 W 86th Street, PO BOX 40970, Indianapolis, IN 46209-4676.

(<http://www.leppertmortuary.com/obituary/150613/Virginia-Mitchell/> – accessed 22 August 2016)

7. Indiana State Department of Health Certificate of Death for **Virginia:**

Certificate 106493 for **Virginia L. Mitchell**, a homemaker who died 8 September 2006 at the age of 87 at her home at 8176 Engelwood Road, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana at 4:55 PM. She was survived by her husband Donald E. Mitchell. She was the daughter of Thomas Cooley and Janet Brier and was born in Lafayette, Indiana, on 20 February 1950. The immediate cause of death was a brain tumor.

The informant of the background information was Donald E. Mitchell, her husband. (Ancestry.com – **Indiana, Death Certificates, 1899-2011**)

8. The married name of Virginia and Donald's daughter **Dawn** was incorrect in Virginia's obituary; it is Kalinke, not Klinkey. Details are from the Record of Marriage, Porter County, Indiana State Board of Health Number 93-035961, recorded in the Vital Records Section, Division of Public Health Statistics on 29 September 1993, Book 147, Page 515.

Groom: **Kevin Vincent Kalinke** of 239 S. 150 E, , Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana, age 20, born in Indiana. He is the son of James Kalinke and Melodee Bassett, both born in Indiana. He was employed in maintenance engineering.

Bride: **Dawn L. Mitchell** of 8176 Engelwood Road, Indianapolis, Marion County, Indiana, age 22, born in Indiana. She is the daughter of Donald Edwin Mitchell, born in Pennsylvania, and Virginia Louise Cooley, born in Indiana. she was a cashier.

Married: 28 September 1993 in Courthouse Room 203, Valparaiso, Porter County, Indiana, Cynthia Beach, Deputy Clerk officiating.  
(Ancestry.com – **Indiana, Marriage Certificates, 1958-2005**)

**Rebecca Lynne Lugar Bradfield** (10<sup>th</sup> generation in America: Debra Jean McBrayer, James Ralph, Ralph, Seneca, William Parks, James R., Ichabod, Samuel, William) and her husband Kevin announced the birth of their son, **Sean Richard Bradfield** on 3 February 2014 in Lafayette, Indiana. The family lives in Brookston, White County, Indiana, a small town north of Lafayette.

**Naomi McBrayer Thomson** (8<sup>th</sup> generation in America, Bert William, Charles Henry, Lewis Parker, James R., Ichabod, Samuel, William) sent news of her wedding on 24 June 2015 to Allan Thomson. They were married at the Chia Aig Falls near the Spean Bridge near the western coast of the Scottish Highlands. After the wedding they spent three weeks touring Scotland and England before returning to their home in Gordonsville, Virginia.

Allan grew up in the UK where his father was a veterinarian; both his parents served in the military during WW II. He recently retired from the Chesapeake Bay Foundation as an environmental educator. Naomi retired in January 2015 from Shenandoah University where she was the distance Education Coordinator for the school of Pharmacy.



*Editor's Note: Thank you to all those who have sent in update information. I will include more in the next issues.*

## **Obituary, Death Notice, or Mortuary Notice ?**

Depending on which dictionary you look at, you will find various definitions for these terms and you might come to the conclusion that they all mean the same thing. Basically they all report on the death of an individual. In newspaper practice today, particularly in big cities, an obituary is a news article written by a staff member of the publisher reporting the death along with an account of the person's life and information about the impending funeral services. In the large papers such obituaries are written only for those considered to be important in society. In smaller papers they may be written for local residents as well.

In some localities, legally required public notices of death may be found as paid advertisements. These are usually very brief omitting most biographical details.

Another type of paid advertisements may be found in obituary, in memoriam or memorial sections of the paper. These are the bulk of notices of death today and most often are written by the funeral homes with varying degrees of input from family members of the deceased. The notice may be found on the funeral home's web site in the same form as appears in the paper or it may be a more detailed version. It is useful to look at each and pictures of the deceased may be more readily found in the funeral home web page than in the newspaper.

What must be kept in mind is that none of these notices should be considered a primary source of documentation, they are not legal documents. None the less, they provide us a way to further develop the stories of our kin.

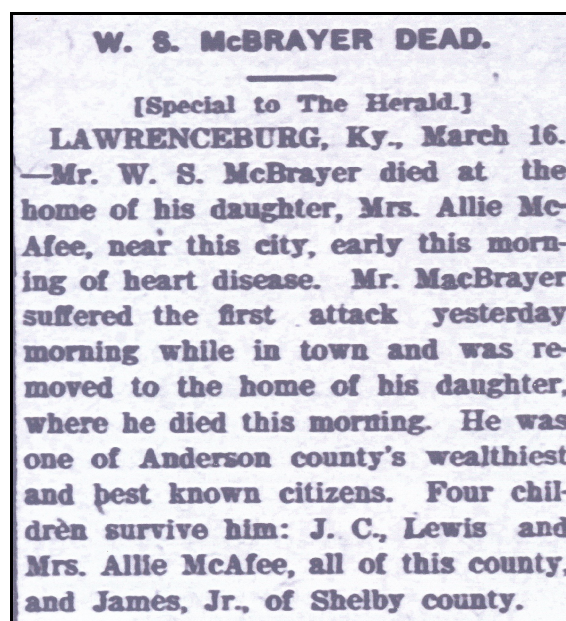
Old newspaper accounts are interesting because of the more straight-forward way of reporting and they show some of the customs of the time. The article on the right was downloaded from [www.genealogybank.com](http://www.genealogybank.com) on 29 January 2016. It appeared in the **Morning Herald**, Lexington, Kentucky; Thursday, 17 March 1904, Vol. 34, Issue 77, page 1. Using family records, "W. S." was identified as William Stewart McBrayer (4<sup>th</sup> generation in America: James Alexander, William (Captain), James). While you might think his daughter's given name was "Allie," it was actually Elizabeth T. "Bettie." Allie was her husband's given name and having her listed this way most likely meant that Allie was still living. This was proven to be the case by [www.findagrave.com](http://www.findagrave.com) memorials for both Allie and Bettie who were buried in the Lawrenceburg Cemetery, Lawrenceburg, Anderson, Kentucky:

Allie B. McAfee - born 12 Oct 1870, died 12 Jan 1948 - memorial 17857801

Bettie M. McAfee - born 17 Feb 1875, died 18 Nov 1961 - memorial 17857855

They had married about 1898 from the years married information in the 1900 and 1910 U.S. Census records.

Note also a son James , Jr. This might cause confusion because usually Junior would be added to the father's given name for the son. In this case, this son was named after his grandfather. Also note in the newspaper article our surname is given as both McBrayer and MacBrayer.



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