



McBrayer

MCBRAIR/BRIER

FAMILY NEWSLETTER

March 1, 1989

MESSAGE FROM TERRELL MCBRAYER, TEMPORARY VICE-CHIEF

Dear Relatives: The deadline for material is here and I haven't received much from those who usually provide much of the content. We have had so much sickness that I hope that all are well. I pretty much have to do the NL the week-end before the first in order to get it in the mail on time. If material comes in today's mail, I will include it elsewhere in this issue.

WE MUST KEEP UP THE POSITIVE MOMENTUM: This means promoting membership; participating in organizing the FAMILY COUNCIL so that permanent officers can be selected--in a word we need to wake up! Me too!! I just looked over the membership list received from Ethel, and Lo, my name is not on it. Believe me, I stopped typing this and wrote two checks; one for her fine publication, THE MACBRAIR HERITAGE, and one for MEMBERSHIP and this NEWSLETTER. The \$10.00 check is for BOTH membership in our NEW FAMILY ORGANIZATION AND A 12-MONTH SUBSCRIPTION TO THE FNL. The second check for \$14.00 was made to THE MACBRAIR HERITAGE--BOTH CHECKS ARE BEING MAILED TO: ETHEL MACBRIAR KOLLER, 3100 College Ave, Berkeley, Ca. 94705. WILL YOU DO IT NOW IF YOU HAVEN'T ALREADY DONE SO? WE ONLY HAVE 49 paid subscribers.

LISTEN. It is so easy to let others do it--but listen KIN, others are NOT doing it. What are YOU doing about helping Ben start the FAMILY COUNCIL? The FC consists of the Chief, Vice-chief, Secretary-Treasurer, immediate past Chief, and regional representatives from all areas in which are are family members."Each region shall select its representative to the Family Council in any manner approved by members in that region" In order to get the first FC in operation so that permanent officers may be selected, the Temporary Officers have asked ^{some} outstanding, active persons from each region to serve--this has been a combination of asking for volunteers, and trying to "VOLUNTEER" some of you. AS CARL SAID IN LAST FNL:... PULL TOGETHER TO MAKE OUR FAMILY ASSOCIATION WORK...A DREAM FOR SO MANY YEARS. we need more to come forward for FAMILY COUNCIL!

tmc

Dr. Terrell McBrayer,
MCBRAIR FAMILY NEWSLETTER
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WOODSTOCK, GA. 30188

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SOME MORE UNFINISHED BUSINESS: We have to get accustomed to living with an unfinished agenda. It is always fun to decide what are our priorities. Here is a matter of EXTENDED FAMILY AFFAIRS THAT NEEDS OUR CAREFUL STUDY. The DUMFRIES MEMORIAL FUND NOW HAS A BAL \$1,362.

THE FAMILY MEMORIAL IN DUMFRIES: Ethel's interest in this goes back as long ago as 1954; she pursued the matter in 1959 while in Dumfries; again in 1969, and again in 1971, and at other times. Through Ethel's efforts I learned of the need. My late brother, David, and I talked with Rev. Pagan, Minister at St. Michael's, and received an invitation from him to present a written proposal. At the time in 1986, since we did not have a national organization, I presented the proposal through our regional reunion, where I was the chair. I have received no response. Since I was not aware of Ethel's efforts at the time, and perhaps others, I have subsequently pulled back in favor of our presenting a united effort through the new family organization. I am sure that Ben will be pursuing this soon. For your further information I include some of Ethel's comments.

I would like to see a brass plate within the church or hall, bearing the Family name. I was told years ago by the Dumfries historian, a Mr. Urquhardt, that MacBair was probably the oldest known family name of a worshiper in the Church of St. Michael's. We know that we had a very strong religious heritage. We were told that it would not be possible to have anything designating our name within the church. May Roberts pursued this for the Family at that time.

My personal interest over many years has been toward getting some sort of marker within the graveyard which would indicate that MacBair's were interred therein. If you will read "Memorials of St. Michael's Churchyard, Dumfries, by William McDowall, 1876, pages 308-9, "We have sought with indifferent success throughout the Cemetery for some monumental record of the M'Bairs...but of their dwellings in this city of the dead scarcely a trace is visible, though we know with certainty that many of them lie a fathom deep or more below its turf. The patronymic appears once, and, so far as we have seen, once only in the records of the Cemetery, that are above the surface, but other stones, we may be sure, are inscribed with the name that have been buried beside the bones of those who bore it and moulder away together."

My interest in the above subject commenced as long ago as 1954 when the editor of our Family History was doing research and found no recognition of the family within the graveyard. In 1959 when I was in Dumfries, I made a visit to someone connected with the church, whose name I don't recall, to inquire about lack of graveyard name and was told "bones were probably all thrown out when the underpinnings of the Church were being replaced. I really don't know anything about it." The next inquiry was made in 1969, followed by an inquiry in 1971, followed by information that everything had been deposited in a box at the rear of the graveyard. On subsequent trips we pursued the subject and tried to locate the box...An X Ray detecting device...would reveal contents.

REUNIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

West Virginia ... Contact Roy McBrayer at Rt. 1, Box 186, Summersville, W.Va., 26651.

Kentucky ... Contact James Earl McBrayer, RR5, Box 306, Morehead, Ky., 40351, or phone 1-606-784-7914.

Draketown, Ga.... The annual McBrayer-Leathers Family Reunion scheduled for third Sunday in July each year held at the Draketown Baptist Church will begin with a morning service at the picturesque church. A covered-dish meal is served at noon. This reunion is the descendents of John McBrayer, who went to Ga. in 1820. Contact BILL McBRAYER, 12445 King Rd., Roswell, Ga. phone 404-642-1840.

Villa Rica, GA... The reunion secretary is Mildred Howell at 1212 Morningside Dr., NE, Gainesville, Ga. 30501.

Eastern Okla.... Contact is Bill McBrayer, 1306 Meadow Lane, Bartlesville, Ok.

Tennessee.... Contact Judy McBrayer Sparks, Rt 11 Morganton Rd.,

Maryville, Tn, 37801 - usually last Sat. in July. *****

Cost of 12/1/88 Newsletter

EXPENDITURES: 12/1/88 Issue (200 letters)

Duplicating Costs (paper, toner, etc.)	\$60.00
Postage	33.40
Clerical Costs	50.00
Total Expenditures	\$143.40

Please not: The costs of this mailout will be shown in the next newsletter.

Monies for subscriptions are now mailed to Ethel Koller, 3100 College Ave., Berkeley, Ca. 94706. Ethel is our Sec. Treas. She has opened an account for the newsletter. The amt. on hand 11/15/88 was \$531.00. Make checks to MacBrair Family Assoc. Send \$10 for membership & subscription to her.

MEMBERSHIP AND SUBSCRIPTION FORM FOR NEWSLETTER

Please enter my subscription and membership. Enclosed is _____ (\$10 per year/ 4 issues).

NAME: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY: _____ STATE: _____ ZIP: _____

TELEPHONE () _____

Return to Ethel MacBrair Koller, 3100 College Ave. Berkeley, Ca 94705

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BOOKS OF SPECIAL INTEREST TO OUR FAMILY

WHITHER THOU GOEST by Carolyn Schorr Hind (James M., David, William, Palo Alto, Ca. Carolyn is a granddaughter of William Wallace Brier and Elizabeth Naylor who came to California in 1850. This delightful and interesting book was put together by Carolyn who is now 93 years of age, from recollections of conversations, observations, and letters. William Wallace Brier was perhaps the founder of the oldest Presbyterian Church in Alameda County(a lovely and picturesque church in Centerville, Ca that is being threatened by demolition). This charming and informative book is not available in the marketplace but should be considered for re-publication. The original copies were instantly sold out. You might find a copy in a rare book collection dealing with California .

THE MCBRIER FAMILY by Edwin Merton McBrier, 1941. We had the good fortune to be directed by one of our Family members to a copy at Goodspeeds Books in Boston. After having carefully read through the book, it seems to me as though there is a very strong tie between the Woolworth families, McBrier and our own C. Robert McBrier family who settled in New York.

THE WEST REGISTER by Letta Brock Stone, 1928. Through the generosity of Evelyn Brier, widow of our Gleason Brier of Pittsburgh, Pa., I have a copy of this much sought book. Every descendant of Isaac or John Brier will be interested in this book. Isaac and John , married sisters, Mary and Damarius West. The West families came into America in 1608. They played a prominent role in the development of our country. Thomas West, 3rd Lord De La Warr was the first governor of the Virginia Colony. Not only will the descendants of Isaac and John Brier be interested in the West Register, I know of numbers of McBrayers who have ties into this line of West; Stockett, Warring, Duval-Wells, Hilleary, etc.

THE WESTWARD TREK TO CALIFORNIA, researched, edited and annotated by Leroy and Jean Johnson, contains the classic tale of Escape from Death Valley by the family of James Welch Brier, his wife Juliet Wells Brier and their three sons, Columbus, John Wells, and Kirk (ages 9, 6 and 4) who walked the 900 miles through the mountains and the deserts to the Pueblo of Los Angeles. The line for James W. is (James, M., David, William). The publisher is the University of Nevada Press, Reno, NV 1987.

DEATH VALLEY in 1849 - The Luck of the Gold Rush Emigrants by John Southworth, Pegleg Books, Burbank, Ca. If you can find this book in your library it is worth reading. An especially interesting book when read with the Westward Trek, in which he disputes some of the trails taken by the Briers and others. Hard to find. Published in 1980.

SAILING ON HORSEBACK, Innes Mcleod, Scotland, 1987. The sailing distance from Port Patrick in Scotland straight across to Ireland was only 18 miles, a trip that was usually accomplished in quick time because sailing was timed to the wind. The was the route that many of the early Scots used when crossing back and forth to Ireland.

Yours Aye

E. B. Koller

E. B. Koller, F.S.A. Scot

Editor

Dr. Terrell McBrayer has several copies of McBrayer Geneology by Dr. L.B. Mcbrayer published in 1926 available for \$10.00 each for those who are interested.

83.-Of all the families sprung from Dumfries, the McBrairs have the longest and most honourable connection, having been virtually hereditary Provosts of the Burgh for nigh 150 years. Their forbear was Andrew McBriar, bailie of Dumfries in 1384 (Ex.R. iii. 125). In 1427, Herbert McBair, perhaps a son of the bailie, received a grant of Almagill, in the parish of Dalton (Barjarg MSS). Another early reference to the name occurs in 1438, when Cuthbert McBair was Rector of Hutton (Hist. of the Corries, 44). In 1444 Robert McBrayr, son and heir of the late Herbert McBrayr, burgess, granted a charter of a tenement in Dumfries (See Appendix A, No. 11)¹ In 1453 the same Robert McBrayr, now provost, obtained a feu of the lands of Netherwood (ibid No. 13).² It is not definitely established who the sons of Provost Robert were, but there is reason to suppose that one was Herbert McBair, bailie from 1471-5 (Ex.R. viii. 102).....

This material was reproduced from Book # 134 of 350 printed. I am deeply indebted to Ethel Brier Koller for the use of this rare book.

Ben McBrayer

GOOD NEWS FOR SOME - JUNE, 1989

In response to requests for another Family trip to Scotland with headquarters in Dumfries, the gathering is now being planned. We have folks who teach and would like to go to Scotland with the Family. We have moved the date into June.

An invitation issued by Dr. Ben McBrayer, our new Family Chief, to Nigel Tranter, the famous author of marvelous books on Scotland, has been accepted and Mr. Tranter will join with the Family. Details have yet to be worked out. Let Dr. Ben know at once of your interest. Time is very short. (Contact Dr. Ben McBrayer, 23488 SW Pony Ridge, Durrellon, FL 32630)

MACBRAIR RESPONSIBILITY FOR HOUSING UNFORTUNATES

We know from early Dumfries records, dated mid 1550s that those who were above a certain degree were responsible for providing housing for those who were indigent. We have many records in Dumfriesshire of MacBrai providing shelter.

THE TRAGEDY OF PAN AMERICAN AND THE VILLAGE OF LOCKERBIE IN SCOTLAND

The television films of the destruction in Lockerbie struck me especially hard because the scenes of the petrol stations and stores and streets were all so familiar to me. I have been to Lockerbie many, many times over the years.

For hours on end I tried to get through to Scotland, to no avail. I finally telephoned Lynda Roberts Glenn in Texas and she told me that she had just talked to her mother, May, 15 minutes earlier. May was away in Nottingham, England, at the time and went straight home. By the time she got to Lochmaben, people were already looking for her. The tragedy occurred at a time of day when May was in the habit of doing her shopping in Lockerbie.

From a telephone conversation with an old friend, Walter Carlyle, who lives a few blocks from the carnage, I learned that John Knott, the fellow who drove the bus for our family during our first Family tour is dead. The telephone connection became faint and whether his decease was a result of the fire or other reasons, I really don't know.

Some funds have been sent to Walter Carlyle to be used at his discretion, in the name of the MacBrairs in America.

Yours Aye

Ethel

E. B. Koller, F.S.A. Scot
Editor

From THE FAMILY REUNION

I feel quite happy, as if happiness
Did not consist in getting what one wanted
Or in getting rid of what can't be got rid of
But in a different vision.

T. S. ELIOT

The only way on earth to multiply happiness
is to divide it.

PAUL SCHERER

A SMILE

A smile costs nothing but gives much. It enriches those who receive, without making poorer those who give. It takes but a moment, but the memory of it sometimes lasts forever. No one is so rich or mighty that he can get along without it, and no one is so poor but that he can be made rich by it. A smile creates happiness in the home, fosters good will in business, and is the countersign of friendship. It brings rest to the weary, cheer to the discouraged, sunshine to the sad, and is nature's best antidote for trouble. Yet it cannot be bought, begged, borrowed, or stolen, for it is something that is of no value to anyone until it is given away. Some people are too tired to give a smile. Give them one of yours, as no one needs a smile so much as he who has none to give.

THESE TIMES

One of the sanest, surest, and most generous joys of life comes from being happy over the good fortune of others.

ARCHIBALD RUTLEDGE

There is an idea abroad among moral people that they should make their neighbors good. One person I have to make good: myself. But my duty to my neighbor is much more nearly expressed by saying that I must make him happy—if I may.

ROBERT LOUIS STEVENSON

The year's at the spring
And day's at the morn;
Morning's at seven:
The hillside's dew-pearled;
The lark's on the wing;
The snail's on the thorn;
God's in his heaven—
All's right with the world!

ROBERT BROWNING

NEW WORLD

No person probably ever made so ardent a personal appeal as Jesus. He discovered a whole new world of emotional life, a new expansion of joy. It is his distinction that he has for us permanently expanded the bounds of individuality. So that now when I open and turn over with reverent joy the leaves of the Gospels, I feel that here is enshrined the highest achievement of man the artist, a creation to which nothing can be added, from which nothing can be taken away.

HAVELOCK ELLIS

That state of life is most happy where superfluities are not required and necessities are not wanting.

PLUTARCH

Happiness is the full use of your powers along lines of excellence in a life affording scope.

JOHN F. KENNEDY

INFORMATION WANTED ON BIRTHPLACE AND PARENTS OF OSCAR MCBRAYER; probably married in Monroe County, Ga. to Amy Means in 1907; contact Alfred Foster, 110 Dale Rd., Norris, Tn 37828-0416, 615-494-0951

LOOK!!UP ABOVE--YE MIGHT CAN HELP!

