

# THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## McBrayer/Brier/Makbrar



# IN DEFIANCE



Volume 1, No. 4

September, 1990

## FROM THE CHIEF

Greetings to all!

I am sure you have already noted the new masthead for this issue. After Terrell McBrayer resigned as Editor effective the June issue, Charles and Philelle McBrayer of Tulsa, Oklahoma agreed to take over as Editors. They have the computer equipment and the skill to produce "In Defiance" for us. I am pleased to present them to you.

The editors' column will tell us how each can help. This is your newsletter and we will all endeavor to tailor it to your satisfaction, but you must let our editors know your desires.

Please note there is an explanation of dues (including the subscription) on page 4. I hope this will clarify the method and dates.

1991 coming up is a big year. We plan a National Reunion in an easily accessible and central location. We will give ample notice of place, agenda and date.

Looking forward to seeing all of you soon,

Ben McBrayer

## MACBRAIR TOUR PARTICIPANTS

It is interesting to note the family lines represented by those on the 1990 Tour of Scotland.

From the line of James and Elizabeth: Ken and Harriet Sears of Tavares, Florida, their daughter Aura Grimes of Eustis, Florida, and their son Richard with his wife Linda from Petersburg, Virginia.

From the line of William and Rebecca: Ethel Brier Koller of Berkeley, California; Ben and Helene McBrayer of Dunnellon, Florida, and their son Robert and his wife Elizabeth from Lincoln Park, Michigan; Colonel James and Helen McBrayer from Isle of Palms, South Carolina; Jean A. Roath from Socorro, New Mexico.

Also on the tour were friends, Esther Plumbo and her daughter Donna Sutherland, from Linwood, New Jersey.

## 1990 TOUR OF SCOTLAND

To fully describe our tour would more than fill this newsletter so this will be a thumbnail sketch. On July 7 sixteen of us flew from JFK in New York to London where we began our travels with an excellent tour of the city. After a night's rest we journeyed by coach to York, the walled city, for a tour and a night's stay. The highlight was a visit to York Minster, a magnificent cathedral dating back to 1291.

On to Dumfries for a three-day stay with visits to places of McBrayer, McBair, etc. history. We enjoyed a visit with A. E. Truckell, archeologist and archivist, who was generous in his talk about our family and the area history. On to Edinburgh with a tour which included a visit to the famed castle which overlooks the city.

Another highlight was reached as we journeyed into Lothian and the Border Country to visit Nigel Tranter, famous historical novelist, who was very gracious in meeting with us, complete with refreshments. Then visited Melrose Abbey and Abbotsford, Sir Walter Scott's magnificent home.

On to Perth and a visit to Scone Palace, the location of the coronation of Scottish kings until the union of England and Scotland, and then through beautiful Highlands to Inverness. Sorry, no Loch Ness monster! After a day there we drove to Loch Lomond, a boat ride on the Loch, and a trip to Oban where we took a ferry to the Isle of Mull for a tour and then back to our hotel.

The next day took us to Ayr, and a trip around Bobbie Burns country, his birthplace and memorial. Then back to Glasgow, 1990 City of Culture, for an excellent guide's presentation of the highlights of the city. July 22 we left Glasgow for Manchester, England, and our return flight to JFK where we went our various ways home.

We all thought it was an excellent tour, with a minimum of problems and many lasting memories. A similar tour is planned for 1992 if there is sufficient interest and assistance in setting up the program. Think about it. It's fun, educational and historical.

Ben and Helene McBrayer

## NEW EDITORS

Following the resignation of Terrell McBrayer as Editor of the family newsletter, the Chief, representing the Family Council, asked us to serve in that capacity.

I am Charles William McBrayer from the line of William. I was born in Okmulgee, OK, and except during military service in World War II and the Korean War and 14 years in Houston, I have resided in Oklahoma. I retired as an administrator of a United Way agency. Phillele teaches piano and is active in the Music Teachers National Association.

We shall endeavor to produce a newsletter that will represent you and the family in a positive way.

Examine this issue. If you have suggestions, please send them to us. We will rely on you and the Regional Representatives to provide information which is interesting and timely. Please note the following deadlines:

December 7 for January 1991 issue  
March 8 for April 1991 issue

Please check your address label. If there is any misspelling, or if there is a better way to address you, let us know. Thank you for your cooperation.

Charles & Phillele McBrayer

## MEMBER'S QUERIES

Each month this portion of the newsletter will be devoted to questions concerning the family--ancient (in Scotland and Ireland) and modern.

Your questions may be attempts to locate family members or requests for historical information. With your inquiry we shall publish your name and address (telephone number, if desired). Respondents should reply directly to the person making the inquiry.

This can become an important part of "In Defiance", if we use it.

Anyone know more about this?

Extract from Encyclopedia Britannica:  
"In 1846 there was constructed in Ireland a hand-press known as the Macbrair press. It was a great improvement on the English machine (made in 1825), and did good work at what was considered in those days great speed. One of these machines was brought to America and a good-sized family was supported with it for several years."

Anyone know who invented the press?  
What family used it in America? Please contact: Charles McBrayer  
5512 South 67th East Ave.  
Tulsa, OK 74145  
(918) 492-6890

PLAN TO ATTEND THE 1991  
NATIONAL REUNION

## EDITORIAL COMMITTEE

The purpose of the Editorial Committee is "To establish policies governing the publications of the MacBrair Family Association, Inc. including the newsletter, books, genealogical studies and reports, historical events, etc."

The contents of "In Defiance" are the responsibility of the editors. However, the Editorial Committee should be consulted frequently.

The following have been appointed to serve on this committee:

Chairperson: Ethel Brier Koller  
3100 College Ave #4  
Berkeley, CA 94705

Members: B J Bartels, Lake Worth, FL  
Marian McBrayer Davis, Port  
Charlotte, FL  
Martha L Humphries, Carrollton,  
TX  
John T McBrayer, Silver Springs,  
MD  
Leonne McBrayer, Arroyo  
Grande, CA  
C Robert McBrier, Kiawah Island,  
SC

This committee welcomes suggestions sent to them addressed to the chairperson. Under the leadership of the chairperson the committee will develop its own procedures.

## REGIONAL REPRESENTATIVES

The representatives are essential links in communication, family news gathering and recruiting within their regions. It would help if each representative would choose a person from each state to assist him.

The five Regional Representatives are members of the Family Council which is listed with addresses on page 4 of this issue. Check the following list to see which region your state is in and become acquainted with your representative.

Region 1: Alabama, Florida, Georgia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee  
Representative: Judy McBrayer Sparks

Region 2: Connecticut, Delaware, Indiana, Illinois, Kentucky, Maine, Maryland, Massachusetts, Michigan, New Hampshire, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Rhode Island, Vermont, Virginia, West Virginia  
Representative: Dorothy Anthony

Region 3: Arkansas, Louisiana, Oklahoma, Mississippi, New Mexico, Texas  
Representative: Louellen Pledger

Region 4: Colorado, Iowa, Kansas, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska, North Dakota, South Dakota, Wisconsin, Wyoming  
Representative: C D McBrayer

Region 5: Arizona, California, Idaho, Montana, Nevada, Oregon, Utah, Washington  
Representative: Lois Brier Girvan

## RECENT FAMILY CHANGES

### MARRIAGES

### BIRTHS

### DEATHS

Thomas Harvey McBrayer, 81, Lorena, Texas, died January 30, 1990 - mayor, postmaster, Civil Air Patrol pilot.

Claude Clemmer McBrayer, 84, Maryville, Tennessee, died August 2, 1990

## SCOTLAND AND IRELAND

In May Chuck and Phillee McBrayer were in Killyleagh, Ireland, where it is thought the MacBrairs landed after leaving Scotland. Nearby is the village of Killinchy where Chuck visited a short time with Herbert McBrair at his Toyota agency and garage.

In Scotland they stayed at Comlongen Castle, a few miles from Dumfries. The castle was built in the late 1400's by the Murrays of Cockpool. Robert McBrair, Provost and Sheriff of Dumfriesshire circa 1599 to 1637, married Margaret Murray of Cockpool who resided at Comlongen.

Attached to the castle is a manor house built as a vacation home and hunting lodge by the Earl of Mansfield, owner of Scone Palace. Tony Ptolemy, an armour maker, owns Comlongen and guests may stay in the lovely rooms in the manor house. His wife is the chef who concocts delicious meals. A delightful place to stay!

Each evening before dinner Tony conducts a candlelight tour of the castle with its Great Hall, chapel, dungeon, etc. It is regarded as one of the finest Border Strongholds of its type and is protected for Scotland as a "Grade A Ancient Monument".

Comlongen is a few miles from Caerlaverock Castle which was the seat of the Earls of Maxwell and the scene of many Border conflicts. The MacBrairs also married into the Maxwell family. Both Comlongen and Caerlaverock are only a few miles from the MacBrair family seats of Netherwood and Almagill.

## REUNIONS

EVERYONE INVITED TO OKLAHOMA!

October 6, 1990, 9:00 to ?  
Redland Community Center, east of  
Idabel, Oklahoma  
Pot Luck luncheon  
Contact person: Edith Overby  
HC Box 52  
Haworth, OK 74740  
(405) 245-1866

This is the only reunion about which we have any information. As soon as reunion dates and places are decided, please let the editors know.

## HISTORICAL MOMENTS

Ethel Brier Koller of Berkeley, California is our expert on the ancient family. In her privately published "Brier Heritage Journal Newsletter" she has written many facts about the family in Scotland. She has graciously agreed to allow some of this information to be shared with us.

Extract from February 1985 Newsletter:

THE PROVOST, AN IMPORTANT MAN IN THE BURGH - McBrair was an ancient and honored Scottish house, with lands and considerable position. Edgar, in his "History of Dumfries 1746", p 197, wrote: "Of all the families springing from Dumfries the MacBrairs have the longest and most honorable connection, having been virtually hereditary provosts of the burgh for nigh 150 years." In fact, 'na craftisman' could be provost. Only merchants or land owners with holdings within the Burgh could be provost.

McDowall in his "History of Dumfries", 2nd ed 1873, p 207, points out "the earliest provosts of the Burgh were in all likelihood cadets of the Douglasses, Maxwells, etc." However, A. E. Truckell, Curator of the Burgh Museum, says "this assumption is incorrect as far as the MacBrair provosts are concerned" and he has written as follows: "The point about the MacBrair provosts is they flourished in the 1400's which was before the Maxwells rose to their full dominance, and even up to the end, the MacBrair provosts took a very independent line. They were clearly in the saddle during this century."

We find them settled in Dalton in mid-Annandale, and it is as the MacBrairs of Almagill that they first appear in the records of the Burgh. A "retour" dated 19 December 1573 warrants the supposition that the MacBrairs occupied Almagill at least a hundred years before that date.

In the early half of the 16th century, when the Burgh was becoming increasingly independent, some of its sons--merchants as well as lairds--took a leading part in the management of its affairs. Among the leaders were the MacBrairs.

The estates of Almagill are now owned by the Carruthers, who were cousins of McBrairs.

## SCONE PALACE

As mentioned in the resume of the Scotland tour, the group toured Scone Palace, a fascinating place steeped in Scottish history. Of interest to us is the fact that David MacBrair, as a member of Parliament, was present at the Coronation of Charles II at Scone, which took place on January 1, 1651. This appears to have been the last coronation of a king at Scone.

SEND US YOUR NEWS!

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: DECEMBER 7, 1990

# MEMBERSHIPS DUE JAN. 1

Memberships expire the last day of December and are due prior to January 1. Mail \$10.00 to the association Treasurer:

Ethel Brier Koller  
3100 College Ave. #4  
Berkeley, CA 94705

Memberships for the calendar year are \$10.00; new memberships sent in after July 1 expire December 31 and are \$5.00.

This publication is provided as a part of your membership in the MacBrair Family Association. When you join the Association you will receive it automatically. The newsletter will be published quarterly: January, April, June, and September.

## FAMILY COUNCIL

The following family members are on the Family Council until the 1991 election:

- CHIEF: BEN MCBRAYER, M. D.  
23488 SW Pony Ridge Dr  
Dunnellon, FL 32630
- VICE CHIEF: TERRELL MCBRAYER  
418 Altoona Way  
Woodstock, GA 30188
- TREASURER: ETHEL BRIER KOLLER  
3100 College Ave.  
Berkeley, CA 94705

SEC.-EDITOR: CHARLES & PHILELLE MCBRAYER  
5512 S 67th East Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74145

REGION 1: JUDY MCBRAYER SPARKS  
2721 Morganton Rd  
Maryville, TN 37801

REGION 2: DOROTHY ANTHONY  
114 Main St  
West Farmington, OH 44491

REGION 3: LOUELLEN PLEDGER  
Route 5, Box 396  
Brenham, TX 77833

REGION 4: JOYCE SPENCER  
1620 East Richmond  
Springfield, MO 65804

REGION 5: LOIS BRIER GIRVAN  
156 Horstman  
Templeton, CA 93465

The Family Council shall have control of all property acquired by the association; manage and direct its affairs; and set the policies of the association. The Council shall meet at least once each year. Announcement of these meetings shall be mailed so as to arrive no less than 30 days prior to the meeting.

The Executive Council, comprised of the four officers, shall have the power of decision making between Family Council meetings.

RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP BY JANUARY 1

Charles & Phillele McBrayer  
5512 South 67th East Ave  
Tulsa, OK 74145



Robert & Elizabeth McBrayer  
952 Old Goddard  
Lincoln Park, MI 48146

