

# THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION McBrayer/Brier/Makbrar



## IN DEFIANCE



Volume 2. No.1

January, 1991

### FROM THE CHIEF

Helene and I both hope that you had a pleasant and merry holiday season. We hope that 1991 will be a good year for all of us and that a peaceful solution to our world's problems be in the near future.

Association matters have been active. I attended a McBrayer reunion in early October in Idabel, OK. Needless to say, the meeting of old acquaintances and new ones was very rewarding to me.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will read about the 1991 National Reunion, the nominating committee, and a proposed reprint of Carl McBrayer's book "MacBair Family, Volume One", copyrighted 1987.

A meeting of the Family Council was held in November by mail. Other activities plus the expense of travel made it more expedient to use this method. This meeting was necessary to be sure we are going in the right direction and to clarify some procedures. A full accounting will be given at the National Reunion.

One final thought, this Association is for all of us and each of us is a member of the Membership Committee, so work on it. Get others involved so we can move ahead. I welcome your letters, your comments, your criticisms. So if you have them, send them on now. Don't hold any punches.

Hope to see you in Indiana!

### NATIONAL REUNION JULY 27 AND 28, 1991

The National Reunion is to be held in northwest Indiana, in the Gary and Hammond area. Jim McBrayer, his wife Bonnie and other members of the family are making arrangements.

As soon as details are completed all active members will be notified by a special letter detailing plans, accommodations, etc. **PLAN NOW!** If you have questions, write or call:

Jim McBrayer  
5005 Chase Street  
Gary, Indiana 46408  
(219) 980-0528

### ALMAGILL CASTLE - A FORTIFIED TOWER HOUSE

By Ethel Brier Koller of Berkeley, CA

The medieval fortress is a ruin, of course. It has been for centuries. But there are stones still there among the grassy mounds and the moss-grown stones that nestle high on Almagill Hill in Mid-Annandale. Stone was quarried here for centuries for building and repair of the fortress which looked across the River Annan to the vicinity of Carlisle in England. The ridge provided a spectacular viewpoint, a natural site for a fortress (castle). Almagill was not far from the route the English followed when moving thousands of men to attack Scotland. The location of water to the fortress was as prime a consideration as the importance of the far flung view. Neither man nor beast could survive long without water. It was rough going demanding a zigzag ascent to the crest of the hill where the fortress was situated. The terrain was clothed in clumps of long tussocky grass.

In 1427 Herbert MacBair received a grant of this land of Almagill in the Parish of Dalton. As you walk over the land you see a Roman Ruin and the Range Station, which is marked as "A remain from the native Iron Age."

In 1978 Lois Brier Gervan and I were shown an old planting map which is tacked on the wall of the house of the present owner of Almagill. Three items caught our attention: the Roman Ruin, the Iron Age remains and a statue on the ridge of a nearby hill.

May Roberts of Lochmaben and I investigated the site in 1981 and found what appeared to be a quarry and numerous quarried stones a hundred feet or so higher on the hill ridge, which indicated that something quite substantial had been built there. Mr. Truckell, curator of the Burgh Museum, and May Roberts walked the location and Mr. Truckell verified the fortress stone came from this site.

How many times did our ancestors gaze southwest across the Borderline into England? How often they looked, dreading what would sooner or later bear down on them from there, the great enemy hosts, intent on the annihilation of Scotland.

## DUMFRIES CONNECTIONS

### ST. MICHAEL'S CHURCH

Terrell McBrayer sent for publication the bank statement of the McBrayer Family Association funds. This fund was started by Terrell and others and dedicated for recognition of the McBrayer family and their prominent position as members of St. Michael's Church in Dumfries during the 15th and 16th centuries.

There is \$1,487.03 in this account as of 9/30/90. As of this date no decision has been made for the use of these funds and no plan has been made to conduct a campaign for their increase. More about this will be contained in future newsletters.

### SCHOLARSHIP ENDOWMENT

At the conclusion of a trip to Scotland Lois Brier Girvan found she had several pounds sterling remaining in her vacation funds. She decided rather than converting it she would ask Mr. Alfred Truckell, noted Dumfries historian and curator of the museum, to oversee the use of it to help children in Dumfries. It was decided that the money would be used to purchase books in the name of the family for the library of the elementary school located near the housing addition that contains seven streets with the MakBrar name. Mr. Truckell reports the fund has a present balance of \$300.

To date no books have been purchased since it has been suggested that a McBrair Scholarship Endowment be established and the income from the principal be dedicated to the library in the family name. In order to have sufficient revenue we need to greatly increase the principal. If this plan interests you, you are encouraged to send a contribution to the McBrair Scholarship Endowment Fund to:

Ethel Brier Koller  
3100 College Avenue #4  
Berkeley, CA 94705

## MCBRAYER FAMILY BOOK

There have been many requests for a re-issue of "McBrair Family, Volume One" by Carl McBrayer. The original price of \$75 will hold if at least 250 copies are ordered by October 1, 1991. Future publication changes will be keyed to the numbers contained in Volume One. Send your order to:

Carl B. McBrayer  
412 Char Lane  
Midwest City, OK 73110

Funds will be kept in escrow. If orders for 250 books are not received, money will be returned.

Future volumes will contain updates and additional information as received, so, if you want the full story, you will need Volume One. Carl will keep all information sent him for further publications. But, remember, the family record is only as accurate as the information he receives.

## RECENT FAMILY CHANGES

### MARRIAGES

### BIRTHS

### DEATHS

Everett Jay "Jack" McBrayer died May 9, 1990 in Paris, Texas; burial in Evergreen Cemetery, Paris.

James McBrayer Sellers of Lexington, Missouri, a top official at Wentworth Military Academy for 70 years and a highly decorated Marine Officer of World War I, died September 5, 1990 at age 95.

### Just heard about:

Helen "Pat" Williams McBrayer, wife of Carl Theron McBrayer, died October 25, 1989 in Seattle, Washington.

Verona May "Uera" McBrayer Sanderson, daughter of Carl Henry and Verona L. McBrayer, died October 21, 1988 in Wenatchee, Washington.

### OTHER

Evelyn McBrayer Dull, daughter of Carl and Pat McBrayer, Midwest City, OK, received her Masters Degree in Education and is teaching in Harrah, OK.

## MEMBER'S QUERIES

Dorothy Anthony, Representative of Region I, received from a family member in her region, Richard B. Shull, a McBrayer Quadrangle Map. This map of a portion of Anderson County in central Kentucky showing the name "McBrayer" is from the Department of the Interior Geological Survey.

Neither Dorothy Anthony nor Ethel Koller knows what the McBrayer Quadrangle is but speculate that it could be somehow connected with James, the youngest immigrant brother. James settled near Harrodsburg and was a large landholder in Lincoln County. Following the Revolutionary War he was granted 2,000 acres near Frankfort. The McBrayer designation on the map is approximately 16 miles north of Harrodsburg and 16 miles south of Frankfort.

Does anyone have more details concerning this? If so, notify the editors so it can be included in future newsletters.

## EARLY IRISH RECORDS

Ethel Brier Koller wrote that the Registry of Deeds from County Down, Ireland, reveals that transfers of property by and to the members of the McBrier families were recorded throughout the 18th and 19th centuries. The family name on this registry is spelled McBrair, McBrier, McBriar, and McBryer.

From the Public Record Office, wills of McBryar, McBrayer, McBraire and McBriar are noted. These names were taken from indexes. The report says the wills were destroyed by fire in 1922.

## NOMINATING COMMITTEE

The Nominating Committee was appointed by Chief Ben McBrayer to submit for election a slate of officers to be installed at the National Reunion and to serve for three years.

Article VII Section 1 of the Constitution states: "The Executive Committee shall consist of the elected officers: Chief, Vice-Chief, Secretary-Treasurer and a Director."

The Nominating Committee will nominate a minimum of two members for each office. Written consent of the nominee must be obtained prior to submission of the name.

If you have a person from your region you would like to nominate, obtain written consent and submit the name directly to the Chairpersons of the Nominating Committee. Also, please send a copy of your nomination(s) to your Regional Representative. Nominations are due to the committee no later than March 1, 1991.

After March 1 the slate will be announced. Ballots will be mailed to active members of the association to be returned to the Chairpersons of the Nominating Committee.

Co-Chairpersons: Ken and Harriet Sears  
305 New Hampshire  
Tavares, Florida 32778

### Members:

Region I: Col. James McBrayer  
4 Fairway Oaks Lane  
Isle of Palms, SC 29451

Region II: J. Earl McBrayer  
Route 5, Box 306  
Morehead, KY 40351

Region III: Louellen Pledger  
Route 5, Box 396  
Brenham, TX 77833

Region IV: C. D. McBrayer  
121 N. 7th  
Kiowa, KS 67070

Region V: Lois Brier Girvan  
155 Horstman  
Templeton, CA 93465

Please send your nominations as soon as possible.

## REGIONAL REPS

Regional Representatives are the heart of the organization. The editors are indebted to those who have reported on activities within their region or notification of changes within the family since the last newsletter.

The present Representatives will serve until the 1991 National Reunion. Article VII Section 2 A of the Constitution states: "Each Region shall select its representative to the Family Council in any manner approved by members in that region." Each Regional Representative will send to the Chief the name of the Representative chosen for the next three-year term. New Representatives will

## HISTORICAL MOMENTS

The following was submitted by Ethel Brier Koller concerning the burial of McBrairs in the cemetery at St. Michael's Church, Dumfries.

Quoted from "Memorial of St. Michael's" by William McDowall, Edinburgh, Adam and Charles Black, 1876: "We have sought with indifferent success throughout the Cemetery for some monumental record of the McBrairs, a family that were for many generations still more influential and opulent in the district than the Romes, who indeed occupied a vanguard place among the patrician fathers of the Burgh. Between 1469 and 1551 at least six of them bore the rule as provosts.

Of tenements in the town, and broad acres on the banks of Nith and Urr, they, down till about 200 years ago, owned an extraordinary share; 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 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 who bore it and moulder away together. On an altar stone a few yards east of Bailie Key's conspicuous monument, we read of Janet McBrair as the wife of Thomas Dickson, Hightown of Craigs; she lived to be 85, her death occurring 11 November 1845, her husband having predeceased her so far back as 8 March 1802, when he was 56; their son John Dickson, of Hightown of Craigs, died at Jennyhill 30 June 1870, aged 84, also named in the inscription."

## MCBRAYER SHIRTS

At the October reunion in Idable, OK several people were wearing "T" shirts or sweat shirts bearing the McBrayer crest. What fun! They were made by Haworth Imprints, Haworth, OK, and the owner said he would be happy to make them available to the rest of us.

White or black shirts, sizes Youth 10-12 through Adult 3XL. "T" shirts are \$6 and sweat shirts \$12 (XL add \$2 per shirt; 2XL and 3XL add \$3) plus \$2 postage and handling on each order.

For those prices the owner did not want to fill individual orders, so requested that the editors receive the orders and forward the total to him. Please state color and size of each shirt and make your check payable to Haworth Imprints. Be sure to add \$2 postage. Send your order and check before February 15 to:

Charles McBrayer  
5512 South 67th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74145

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be installed along with the elected officers at the National Reunion in July, 1991.

## MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Don't let your membership to the family association expire! All 1990 members are being sent this issue of "In Defiance". However, memberships are for the calendar year and only those who have renewed for 1991 will receive succeeding newsletters and be eligible to vote for officers of the association. We hope that family pride and interest in further knowledge of our ancient family connection will encourage enlarged membership.

Memberships for the calendar year are \$10. This publication is sent as a part of your membership. Send your check for \$10 to the association treasurer:

Ethel Brier Koller  
3100 College Avenue #4  
Berkeley, CA 94705

We would appreciate if those renewing as well as new members would include your mailing address and telephone number.

If you do not receive a newsletter in January, April, June or September, or if you have a change of address, please notify the editors:

Charles and Philelle McBrayer  
5512 South 67th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74145

We need the correct mailing address for Mrs. Brad Walters of Hendersonville, NC and Ella McBrayer of Raleigh, NC since their September newsletters were returned to us as undeliverable.

## KUDOS TO REGION 3

Congratulations to Martha Brooks Humphries, correspondent from Region 3! To families in this region, whether members of the MacBrair Family Association or not, she sent a newsletter telling about the reunion in Idabel, OK which she had attended, and touting the Family Association. She enclosed a copy of the Constitution, the September "In Defiance" and a membership application hoping to encourage more participation in the Association.

Communication is vital. Martha's enthusiasm is reflected in her newsletter to Region 3, but she needs news to make the newsletter worthwhile as do the editors of "In Defiance".

Be sure to send to the editors any information concerning reunions, changes within families, news or queries. It all depends on you! Deadline for April "In Defiance": March 8

## NATIONAL

## REUNION

## JULY 27 & 28, 1991

PLAN NOW TO ATTEND!

The MacBrair Family Association  
Charles & Philelle McBrayer  
5512 South 67th East Avenue  
Tulsa, OK 74145



Carl McBrayer  
412 Char Lane  
Midwest City, OK 73110

