

# THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION

## McBrayer/Brier/Makbrar



# IN DEFIANCE



Volume 2. No. 3

July, 1991

## FROM THE CHIEF

I must say I'm getting excited about the National Reunion August 10 and 11 and hope that many of you will join us on this occasion. The results of the balloting for officers are in this issue, so come to Merrillville and let them know what you expect from them in making further progress with the Family Association.

Our tentative agenda will include:

Saturday, August 10 - 10:00 a. m.

Meeting of Family Council including all old and new officers and regional representatives. Those involved will be informed of the place of meeting, but any active member who desires to attend will be welcome.

Saturday, August 10 - 2:00 p. m.  
Bethel Baptist Church  
7601 Whitcomb Street  
Merrillville, Indiana

- Registration - Refreshments - Fellowship
- I. Reports of Chief, other officers and committee chairpersons
  - II. Open discussion of future planning
    - A. Newsletter - Charles McBrayer
    - B. Constitution and By-Laws (copies will be available) - Ben McBrayer
    - C. Regional Meetings  
How? - When? - Where?
    - D. 1994 National Reunion  
Early planning
    - E. Other concerns - wide open!

Saturday, August 10 - evening  
To be announced

Sunday, August 11 - 12:00 to 5:00 p. m.  
Hidden Lake Social Center  
6355 Broadway  
Merrillville, Indiana

1:00 - Covered Dish Dinner

3:00 - Fellowship - Fun - Discussions

Make your registration now with:

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

For your information I will be at the La Quinta Inn starting Friday, August 9. Hope to see you!

## ELECTION RESULTS

We owe a debt of gratitude to Ken and Harriet Sears of Tavares, Florida, for all their work and effort in obtaining nominations and handling the election.

Our officers and regional representatives for the next three years are:

Chief - Ben McBrayer, M. D.  
Dunellon, Florida

Vice Chief - Robert L. McBrayer  
Lincoln Park, Michigan

Secretary-Treasurer - Ethel Brier Koller  
Berkeley, California

### Representatives

Region 1 - Aura Grimes  
Eustis, Florida

Region 2 - Richard Sears  
Petersburg, Virginia

Region 3 - Martha Humphries  
Carrollton, Texas  
and  
Luellen McBrayer Pledger  
Brenham, Texas

(Each received the same number of votes so will be Co-Representatives.)

Region 4 - George McBair  
Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Region 5 - Lois Girvan  
Templeton, California

It is hoped all elected officers and regional representatives can attend the annual reunion in Merrillville and be present for the meeting of the Family Council at 10:00 a. m. August 10.

Orientation material will be forthcoming. Remember--let the editors know what is happening in your region!

## PERSIAN GULF

Karen Elaine Shahine (10th generation), 101 Airborne, Fort Campbell, Kentucky, served with distinction in the Persian Gulf during the recent crisis.

If you know of others, please notify the editors so we may recognize all members of the family who served.

## NATIONAL REUNION AUGUST 10 AND 11

Chief Ben's column gives the agenda. Just a reminder that there is a registration fee of \$5.00 to help defray expenses and to buy food for the covered dish dinner since those traveling long distances cannot bring food.

Merrillville is a few miles south and east of Chicago. Midway is the closest airport, but rent cars are available at both Midway and O'Hare with bus service from Midway to Azar's Restaurant in Merrillville. From the restaurant call Jim McBrayer for transportation.

Available motels are:

Knight's Inn -- 1-219-736-5100  
Dbl - \$38.95 Sgl - \$31.95 (plus tax)

Super 8 -- 1-219-736-8383  
Dbl/sgl \$34.54 (inc. tax)

## MCBRAYER BOOK

In 1987 "The McBrayr Family - Volume I", a compilation of history and lineage of the McBrayr Family in America was published providing 712 pages of information. Each primary male member is numbered which provides a method of tracing an individual lineage. This is the parent volume to which all other volumes are referenced.

This book will be reprinted if 250 are ordered by October 1, 1991. Cost \$75.00. Send your check to:

Carl McBrayer  
412 Char Lane  
Midwest City, OK 73110

The 1991 Supplement and Addendum to Volume I is completed. Cost and publication date will be announced shortly.

Carl has also completed "Volume II - The Brier Line". Cost \$41.50 providing 250 copies are ordered.

## IN AND ABOUT DUMFRIES

William I formally established the King's Burgh of Dumfries in 1186, the first chartered burgh in this region and the only one that has continuously maintained royal status.

Like Dumfries Robert the Bruce founded the Burgh of Annan (approximately 15 miles southeast of Dumfries) which grew by the side of the defended Annan River crossing but stood close to a main route from the south and was a front line target in the times of Anglo-Scottish conflict. From its first destruction by the English in 1298 until after 1660 Annan had little respite from warring armies to take full advantage of its chartered privileges.

The first recorded McBrayr of Almagill (east of Dumfries and north of Annan) and Netherwood was Andrew who was Bailie of Dumfries in 1384.

## CAERLAVEROCK CASTLE - HOME OF KING ARTHUR?

For centuries many have been fascinated by the tales of King Arthur and the Knights of the Round Table. But are these tales fact, fable or fantasy? Until recently no one has been quite sure. Scholars have searched in vain for tangible evidence of Arthur and his Knights. Legends have been so embroiled that it has become quite difficult to tell truth from fiction.

"It has become clear" writes Norma Goodrich in her book on King Arthur "that the earliest versions of the Arthurian story are not fiction. Too many precisions as to geography, history, events, politics, customs, usages, places, roads, fords and times are evident."

The story of King Arthur takes us back in time to the Dark Ages, to the 5th and 6th centuries, before the coming of the Vikings and to an era previously thought to have passed unrecorded. By a painstaking comparison of contemporary and medieval documents in Old French, Medieval Latin and Middle English, Dr. Goodrich has been able to show that some of the legends are based on recorded fact. She also discovered that there were written directions to the Castle of the Holy Grail!

King Arthur is thought to have been born at his mother's seaside castle of Caerlaverock, which is seven miles south of Dumfries, circa the year 475, following the end of the Roman rule in Britain. Evidence of this castle remains in that mound of earth behind the present Caerlaverock Castle and is plainly revealed by modern techniques of aerial infra-red photography.

Dr. Goodrich defines Arthur's Celtic kingdom as being bounded by Dumbarton in the northwest, Carlisle in the southwest, Stirling in the northeast and Berwick in the southeast. The Old City of Carlisle functioned as the capital city, and the Isle of Man became the religious center of the kingdom, being equated by Norma Goodrich "with Delphi in Greece, another of the world's oldest known oracular and holy sites."

In Dr. Goodrich's skillfully prepared study, factual answers are given to such vexing questions as: Where was Camelot, Avalon and the Round Table? What was the Holy Grail? Why has this King of Britain not been found? It is very interesting to read about King Arthur at Dumfries and other closeby areas that we as a Family are so familiar with. There have been accounts of Arthurian findings recorded in the Dumfries newspaper over the past 100 years or so.

Caerlaverock was the seat of the Maxwell family. John McBrayr, provost of Dumfries 1549-1560, married Margaret Maxwell; John McBrayr of Almagill married Jean Maxwell in 1634; and Robert McBrayr of Almagill and Netherwood, who died in 1655 while a minor, married Marion Maxwell. Thus ties our Family to Caerlaverock.

Ethel Brier Koller

## RECENT FAMILY CHANGES

### MARRIAGES

### BIRTHS

### DEATHS

Donald R. McBrayer, born circa 1930 in Dayton, Kentucky, died March 29, 1991, in Lexington, Kentucky. Survived by wife Connie and son Michael.

Gene Matt McBrayer, 56, Russell, Kentucky, died March 14, 1991, at a hospital in Bellefonte, Kentucky. Survived by wife Bessie, son Darrel, two daughters Sherry Force and Vonda Adgate.

Lloyd W. Mitchell, husband of Madge McBrayer, died May 10, 1991, in Gatesville, Texas. Madge is the daughter of William Harvey McBrayer of Lorena, Texas.

### MOVES

James D. McBrayer III, son of James McBrayer, Isle of Palms, has moved from Denver to Steamboat Springs, Colorado.

Evelyn D. Brier, mother of Bob Brier, Wexford, Pennsylvania, now resides at the Regency Hall Nursing Home, 3rd floor, 3399 Babcock Boulevard, Allison Park, PA 15101. Evelyn suffered a stroke on February 1, 1991.

## FAMILY UPDATE

Please send any family update information (births, marriages, deaths) to the editors for inclusion in In Defiance. So far as the editors know there hasn't been a single marriage in our family since September 1990! Can this be right???

Please also send a copy of this information to Carl McBrayer, 412 Char Lane, Midwest City, OK 73110, so he can keep the family records current. Carl maintains the family archives and any help you can provide will be appreciated.

## MCBRAYER SHIRTS

In the January issue of In Defiance a notice stated that "T" shirts and sweat shirts (NOT the reunion shirts) were available and could be ordered before February 15.

Since we are still receiving orders, there seems to be continued interest in this, so those of you who want shirts may order directly from:

Haworth Imprints  
HC73 Box 50  
Haworth, OK 74740-9507

White or black shirts are available in sizes Youth 10-12 through Adults 3XL. "T" shirts are \$6.00 and sweat shirts are \$12.00. (Add \$2.00 per shirt for 2XL and 3XL.) Please add \$2.00 for postage and handling on each order.

## DENA MCBRAYER

Dena McBrayer, 23-year old daughter of Ron and Wanda McBrayer of Mooresville, North Carolina, is waiting to have a lung transplant and heart repair surgery within the next few months. Inoperable congenital heart-lung conditions were diagnosed when Dena was three.

Surgery is scheduled at the Michigan Medical Center. Dena and her mother are residing at the "Transplant House" in Ann Arbor, Michigan. Your cards and prayers are welcome.

Good insurance and a good job have kept costs manageable but friends have expressed a desire to help. In response a trust fund has been set up to assist with expenses not covered by insurance. If excess funds should be donated, they will be used for financial aid for students at Trevecca Nazarene College. If you would like to contribute to this fund, make your check payable to:

Dena McBrayer Fund  
c/o Rondy Smith  
Trevecca Nazarene College  
333 Murfreesboro Road  
Nashville, Tennessee 37210

## DR. NORMA GOODRICH

In a recent seminar sponsored by the South Bay (San Francisco) Scottish Society Dr. Norma Goodrich, outstanding author and researcher, presented a preview of her newest book "Guinevere". Dr. Goodrich, a personal friend of mine, has been quoted in In Defiance several times. (See article on Caerlaverock.) This latest book, the third in a series on Arthurian history, follows "King Arthur" and "Merlin". It clears away many centuries of rumor and speculation and presents a portrait of dark complexity and endless fascination.

Ethel Brier Koller

## EARLY IRISH RECORDS

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

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

Ethel Brier Koller

## MOTELS ARE FILLING UP

MAKE YOUR RESERVATION NOW FOR  
THE NATIONAL REUNION

## LOCAL REUNIONS

EVERYONE INVITED TO OKLAHOMA!

October 5, 1991, 9:00 to ?  
Redland Community Center, east of  
Idabel, Oklahoma  
Pot Luck Luncheon

Contact person:  
Edith Oberby  
HC Box 52  
Haworth, OK 74740  
(405) 245-1868

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

## AS OTHERS SEE IT

There were the Scots who kept the Sabbath and everything else they could lay their hands on.

Then there were the Welsh who prayed on their knees and their neighbors.

Thirdly, there were the Irish who never knew what they wanted but were willing to fight for it anyway.

Lastly, there were the English who considered themselves a self-made nation thus relieving the Almighty of a dreadful responsibility.

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

## DEADLINE

Because of the election and the reunion the Chief asked the editors to delay publication of this newsletter from June 1 to July 1.

Next issue will be October 1. The editors must receive articles and information for the next issue by September 20.

Our family is a small one, but one of which we are proud. The more we communicate with each other, the closer we will become. In Defiance is one way of communicating, and in order for the newsletter to be interesting and meaningful to the Family, there must be input from many of you from across the country. Be an active member of the Family Association by contributing to the newsletter.

NEXT NEWS DEADLINE: SEPTEMBER 20

## GENEALOGY PROGRAM

There is a genealogy program that the editors have found to be economical, easy to use and efficient. Those of you who have computers and wish to keep personal family files (not necessarily to be shared with CLS) might want to contact:

The Genealogical Department  
Ancestral File Operations Unit  
50 East North Temple Street  
Salt Lake City, Utah 84150  
Phone (801) 531-2584