

THE MACBRAIR FAMILY ASSOCIATION
McBRAYER/BRIER/MAKBRAR



IN DEFIANCE

Volume 3, No. 1

January, 1992

FROM THE CHIEF

Hope you all had a wonderful "MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR" and wish you a happy and prosperous year to come and may God be with every one of you.

We begin 1992 with a joyous expectation of good days ahead for the Family Association and pledge to give you news of plans and programs as they develop. The Family Council, composed of the four principal officers and the regional representatives will be more cohesive and hope to work more closely together to expand our activities. The regional representatives may ask your help in planning membership drives and in submitting news to *In Defiance*. We hope that you will do your part in encouraging others to join and become active in the Association.

We had a successful reunion in Indiana (Region 2) in 1991 and we have started some preliminary planning for our next reunion in '94. We expect to hold that one in Region 3 so keep an eye out for news as we make progress. In the meantime please let the editors know if you are having a reunion or get-together of families in your area.

I know you will be reminded elsewhere that 1992 memberships are now payable, so send yours in now to the treasurer. PLEASE include your telephone number so it can be included in the Family Directory of ACTIVE members to be issued around March 1.

I would like to hear from any of you to know what you would like to have us do. It's hard to operate in a vacuum. So, for now I wish you all a pleasant year even though we are all faced with the same problems, but working together we have a chance to conquer.

Ben McBrayer

DUMFRIES CONNECTION

The editors recently wrote to Mr. Urquhart, author of *Dumfries and Galloway, Our Story in Pictures*, asking for authorization to reprint a segment from the article entitled "King James VI's Visit to Dumfries, 1587". We received a response from his son, J. R. Urquhart, stating that his father is deceased, but authorizing us to quote the following paragraph from the article.

"Just at the time of the King's visit in 1587 ex-Provost Archibald MacBair, whose family had held sway in Dumfries for over a century, got into serious trouble; he threw an unarmed burgess named Archibald Newall into the River Nith with fatal results. Nothing could save him from the vengeance of the widow who refused to compound her husband's death for any money payment. Tried at Edinburgh, MacBair was beheaded there January, 1588, and his estates were ordered to be 'escheated and in-brought to his Majesty's use.' MacBair's son Robert, however, was successful in an appeal to the royal clemency and the possessions, including the estates of Castledykes and Netherwood, were restored to him."

On the most eventful day in the history of Dumfries, February 10, 1306, Robert Bruce raised his standard at the Castle of Dumfries (Castledykes) and declared himself King of Scots.

Today Castledykes is a beautiful, pastoral park and flower garden which should be visited by family members who go to Dumfries.

RECOLLECTIONS OF LOCKERBIE

The pictures on the television screen on that day of December 21, 1988 were of houses burning all in flames. The announcer broke in with "There has

been a disaster. The Pan Am flight #103 from Heathrow in England to the United States has crashed and the village of Lockerbie in Scotland is in flames." This was a village that I was very familiar with. A village where I knew by sight every small store on the street, the center for all of our shopping needs whenever I vacationed in nearby Lochmaben over the years. My thoughts raced to a friend and his family. I watched in horror the scenes so familiar to me, and I couldn't hide my tears. Where in Lochmaben had this horror occurred? As there was no telephone connection left in the area, I couldn't find out. Later I found out my friend lived about four blocks from the inferno.

Our own Robert McBrayer of Lincoln, Michigan was on a flight home from Germany via Heathrow and his daughter Patty, a graduate student at UC Berkeley was terrified until she was able to verify his flight.

On our recent trip to Scotland we learned from the resident manager of our family's earliest known landed estate, Almagill, who told us "Pan Am flight #103 was plunging earthward directly over Almagill and crashed less than five miles beyond our ancestral lands." We paid our respects at the Memorial site at Lockerbie and thought and said our prayers for the families who had lost their loved ones.

Ethel B. Koller, Berkeley, CA

MILITARY MEMORIAL

Just outside the university town of Cambridge in England is the small village of Madingley. It is, however, far from being typically English, and contains a large area which is American soil, over which the Stars and Stripes forever waves. It is

the American Cemetery where hundreds of American servicemen who met their deaths defending Britain during World War II are buried.

It is a very peaceful place, with rows of crosses and Stars of David all gleaming white against the very green grass. There is also a long white marble wall inscribed with names (reminiscent of the black marble Viet Nam Memorial in Washington, D. C.) and we were surprised to find a family name inscribed there.

This was a Lt. James N. McBrayer of Tennessee who had been attached to the 392nd Bomber Group based at Wendling Station 118, the most northerly of the 8th Army heavy bomber fields. The Information Centre at the American Cemetery told us there is no grave for Lt. McBrayer for he is listed as "missing in action".

Stephen and Olive Butler, Berkeley, CA (Stephen's line is William, David, Samuel, Burgess Buell Brier)

WILLIAM WALLACE BRIER SCHOOL

The following information recently received by Robert Brier of Orangevale, CA is of special interest to the Brier family.

The William Wallace Brier Elementary School first opened its doors to children on September 7, 1965. The Revered William Wallace Brier came to the Washington, CA township area from Indiana in 1850. He went to Marysville to preach and founded the Presbyterian Church there. He returned to Mission San Jose to teach a session in 1852. In 1853 he founded the Centerville Presbyterian Church, a picturesque church still standing in downtown Centerville. He also was elected the first Alameda County superintendent of schools. Much of

his time was given to the local schools, for he was deeply interested in promoting educational opportunities for Township children. He owned a large amount of property on Decoto Road and was a member of the local Pioneer Society.

Ethel B. Koller, Berkeley, CA

RECENT FAMILY CHANGES MARRIAGES

BIRTHS

ok Ali Jane Carrington, daughter of Wade R. and Robin Watson Carrington, Dallas, TX, born May 28, 1991. *Austin Co.*

DEATHS

ok Dena McBrayer, age 24, of Mooresville, NC died at Michigan University Medical Center December 15, 1991 following lung transplant surgery. Buried in Grandview Cemetery near Maryville, TN, birthplace of her parents Ron and Wanda McBrayer.

Bessie Clara Sasseen, born January 1, 1898, died October 28, 1991. Buried in Riverside Cemetery, Mangum, OK. In 1914 she married H. O. McBrayer who preceded her in death in 1949. She later married Jack Sasseen. Survivors include son Carl McBrayer of Midwest City, OK, daughters Mildred Hart of Quanah, OK and Gladys Asbury of Pampa, TX.

MEMBER'S QUERIES

Ethel Koller would like to know:

"Which persons in the family have the Christian name of Columbus?"

If you do, or know of a family member with that name, please contact: Ethel B. Koller, 412 College #4, Berkeley, CA 94705.

CIVIL WAR MARKER JAMES MARTIN MCBRAYER

In the oak-studded hills of Young County, TX on Saturday, November 16, 1991 descendants of James Martin McBrayer (#190) gathered in the peaceful Tonk Valley Church and Community Center south of Graham. Over 55 people attended the gathering and dinner. Many old photos and other family artifacts were on display.

At 3:00 p. m. the group traveled a few miles south to the community of South Bend. In the old cemetery located on a part of the original McBrayer farm the family gave tribute to his service in the Civil War as five grandchildren together unveiled a monument to his honor. Sons of Confederate Veterans from Wichita Falls, TX presented the Confederate colors and a cannon shot tribute to their fallen comrade. Carl McBrayer, Midwest City, OK presented the McBrayer colors and played the bagpipes. The Civil War Memorial and Marker were the efforts of one of J. M.'s grandsons, Dr. O. A. McBrayer.

James Martin was born August 11, 1844 at the family farm in Cass County, Georgia (now Gordon County). His father was Martin McBrayer and his mother was Mary Nancy Quinn. The family moved to north Georgia in the late 1820's.

J. M. had five sisters and five brothers. One brother died in childhood and the other four were in the CSA. Their home and farm were in the path of Sherman's Army. Most livestock, crops and dwellings in Cass County were destroyed.

J. M. married Nancy Emily Akin (Aikin) in 1868. After the birth of Oscar Alonzo, 1869, the young family and his brother Oliver and family moved to

Texas in ox-drawn covered wagons. Oliver took his family to Comanche County but J. M. farmed in northern Parker or southern Wise County until they settled on pre-empt land at South Bend in 1873.

J. M. was a stockman, farmer, merchant, public official and an active leader in the Methodist Church. He died May 13, 1894 at the age of 49. His wife died 16 days later. They left five unmarried children ages 3 to 16. The oldest brother, Oscar, became parent and provider to them.

Carl B. McBrayer, Midwest City, OK

FAMILY MEMORIAL ACCOUNT

Terrell McBrayer, Woodstock, GA, reports a total of \$1,546.56 in the McBrayer Association Memorial account. You may remember this account was started in an effort to memorialize in some way the family name in the church attended by the family hundreds of years ago, St. Michael's in Dumfries, Scotland. The type of memorial has not yet been determined. Our chief Ben McBrayer and treasurer Ethel Koller have been in correspondence with the pastor, but have not received any suggestions from him. We will keep you apprised of any developments in this matter.

BRIER LINE BOOK AVAILABLE

Carl McBrayer has two copies left of *Volume II - The Brier Line*. Cost \$41.50. Contact him at 412 Char Lane, Midwest City, OK 73110 if interested.

OFFICERS

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