

**THE BAIRDS OF AUCHMEDDEN  
AND STRICHEN, ABERDEENSHIRE**

BY

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## THE BAIRDS OF AUCHMEDDEN AND STRICHEN.

Exactly four hundred years ago—to be precise, on November 10, 1534—a Fifeshire laird named Andrew Baird bought the estate of Auchmedden, in the parish of Aberdour, from the Earl of Buchan. His descendants held the estate for more than two centuries, down to 1750, when it was absorbed by the omnivorous and much more vital Gordons. A hundred years later, in 1854, it was purchased by Robert Baird (1806-56), passing to his brother James (1802-76)—the fourth of the eight famous brothers Baird of Gartsherrie, who had followed his brother Robert into Aberdeenshire by buying the neighbouring estate of Strichen in 1855. Auchmedden and Strichen then fell to James's only son, the notorious George Alexander Baird ("Mr Abington," 1861-93), the most racketsy laird Aberdeenshire ever saw, who never set foot on either of them after boyhood. His trustees held the estates till 1925, when they were broken up for several purchasers.

On these two sets of transactions hangs a very instructive story, which not only forms a useful subject for the consideration of the Buchan Club, but which illustrates the interesting, though by no means unique, process of two families, quite unconnected with each other, as far as is known, owning the same property. The Gartsherrie Bairds, turning millionaires within half a century, and purchasing estates in nine counties to the extent of £2,000,000, invaded Aberdeenshire, as the rare, privately printed history of the family frankly acknowledges, "less from considerations of a profitable investment than from the desire to bring back into the possession of a Baird an estate which had for so long a time been held by proprietors of that name."

While we are quite unable to prove a connection between the first and the second Bairds of Auchmedden, it is very difficult to find the exact origin of the earlier group, notwithstanding the fact that the family had the good luck to possess a genealogist in the person of William Baird (1701-1775), the last laird of his line, whose "Genealogical collections concerning the sirname of Baird and the families of

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Auchmedden, New Byth and Sauchton," have long been familiar to genealogists in the shape of two transcripts, neither well edited, issued in 1857 and 1870.

It seems as if Lanarkshire were the cradle of the Baird family, whose original name is spelt variously as Bard and Barde. William Baird tells us that the spelling "Baird" did not appear till the end of the sixteenth century, but the pronunciation "Bard" persisted until comparatively recent times. This is neither the time nor the place—nor have I the necessary knowledge—to attempt to connect the first Bairds of Auchmedden with a Lanarkshire origin. William Baird himself was very vague about it, and his genealogical successors have not been able to throw much light on the subject. The Gartsherrie group were equally at sea.

The Lanarkshire group is the first we hear of, for in 1240 a charter was granted in favour of Richard Baird of the lands of Little and Meikle Kyp in Lanarkshire. In 1306 Robert the Bruce granted a charter of the Barony of Cambusnethan, in what is now Wishaw, in favour of Robert de Barde; Cambusnethan was lost to the family in 1345 by the forfeiture of Sir Robert Barde, who was succeeded by the Somervilles.

William Baird's story was that the Cambusnethan group, besides losing their lands, petered out in one heiress who married a Stewart of Darnley. Migration of the Lanarkshire Bairds then set in. One group, we are told by William Baird, moved northwards to Ross-shire as lairds of Indety and Balmaduthy; and in the fifteenth century one Lanarkshire Baird, having quarrelled with a neighbour, is said to have been given sanctuary by the Earl of Huntly, who granted him land in the Forest of Boyne, five centuries ago, in 1430.

The Boyne group ultimately settled at Ordinhivas, or Ordinhuff, which is now merged with the Seafeld estates in the parish of Fordyce. One of them, George Baird of Ordinhivas (d. 1557), who was sheriff depute of Aberdeenshire from 1531 to 1535, and is dealt with in Littlejohn's "Aberdeenshire Sheriff Court" (i. 441-2), is vaguely described as "great-great-grandson of James Baird of the family of Cambusnethan." By his wife Janet Fraser, said to have belonged to the Philorth family, he had a son Walter, who married Catherine

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Grant, said to be a daughter of John Grant of Ballindalloch, and widow of Alexander Leslie of Kininvie. They had an only child, Lilius Baird, who on August 16, 1578, married Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden.

This Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden was an incomer into Aberdeenshire. He belonged to the Bairds of Posso in Peebleshire, a family which can be traced back at least to 1487, when a certain William Baird, "de Posso," witnessed a charter. Whether the Posso Bairds, who are briefly dealt with in Mr J. Walter Buchan's history of Peebleshire (iii. 559-562), came from Lanarkshire or the west of Scotland is not known, but the fact that Gilbert was a name in the family of the Bairds of Kilkennie and Kilkerran in the Earldom of Carrick, Ayrshire, at the beginning of the sixteenth century, suggests a possible connection between the Posso Bairds and the west. 7 ?

The Posso line became shaky through debt, and fell, apparently in the senior line, to two daughters of the house, who married respectively Thomas Nasmyth and William Geddes of the Rauchane family, and in the middle of the sixteenth century the estate was halved between the Nasmyth and the Hay of Smeithfield families. These ladies had a brother, Gilbert Baird of Posso, whose younger son, Andrew Baird (1475-1543), apparently on the loss of Posso, trekked northwards into Fife—which may have been the inspiration for William Baird, the eldest of the eight Gartsherrie brothers, to buy the estate of Elie, as he did in 1853.

We first find Andrew as laird of Scotsraig, which had belonged to the Scots of Balwearie. In 1531 Andrew bought the superiority of Laverocklaw, in the parish of Balmerino, from John Kinnaird of Kinnaird. In 1537 he sold Laverocklaw and Inverduvat, which he also held, to David Balfour of Balledmant. Meantime, Andrew, who married a Fifeshire woman, Bessy Learmont of the Balcomie family, had trekked still further north, for on November 10, 1534, he bought from John Earl of Buchan, the lands of Glencuthill and Auchmedden in the barony of Glendouachy ("Great Seal"). The fact that one of the witnesses to this transaction was George Baird "deArdynhouff" ("Ant. Abdn. and Banff," ii. 380-1), suggests that the Laverocklaw Bairds were connected with the Ordinhuff family by blood, as they afterwards were by marriage, when Lilius Baird of Ordinhivas married

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Gilbert Baird of Auchmedden. Lord Buchan's charter following this transaction was confirmed on February 13, 1535. Andrew Baird, I of Auchmedden, who died on February 10, 1543, was succeeded by his son,

George Baird, II of Auchmedden. In 1544 he obtained a precept for infetting him in the lands of Glencuthil and Auchmedden, and in 1565 James, Earl of Moray and Lord Abernethy granted a charter to George of the lands of Glencuthil, which he had received from the Countess of Buchan, and of Auchmedden. On May 10, 1568 (Grant's "Records of the County of Banff," p. 4), the Regent Moray, who in 1562 married Lady Agnes Keith, the second cousin of Baird's wife, and who held the Earldom of Buchan in ward, conveyed Auchmedden absolutely to its wadsetter, George Baird, in consideration of many acts of utility and friendship, and sums of money. Baird was an ardent Roman Catholic, and notwithstanding his marriage associations with the Protestant Regent, he attended Huntly at the battle of Corrichie, 1562. When the Earl had a seizure, Auchmedden, according to the family historian, endeavoured to get him conveyed safely to Aberdeen, "having, after the engagement, caused set him on a cadger's horse with croils, being a fat and unwieldy man, but through weakness he (the Earl) died on the way." In 1589 Baird was also present at "the insurrection at Aberdeen" on the Roman Catholic side. This refers to the attempt of Huntly, Erroll, and others to challenge the royal army at the Bridge of Dee. Baird, however, got a pardon from the king, "who is forced to suppose that the allegation of his being present was a mistake." From this and from other facts it is clear that Baird had got into the governing swim more or less, doing so perhaps through his marriage in 1550 with Elizabeth Keith, daughter of Gilbert Keith of Troup, who was the son of the 3rd Earl Marischal. Twelve years later Elizabeth's cousin, Lady Agnes Keith, married, as noted, the Regent Moray. George Baird had five sons. One of them, Andrew, became professor of philosophy and science at Lyons. Another son traded with Norway, and a third with Bordeaux. George Baird, who died in 1593, was succeeded by his eldest son,

Gilbert Baird, III of Auchmedden. The historians of the family describe him as a rigid papist, who was fined because he would not attend the kirk. As already noted, he linked up two lines of the family

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by marrying in 1587 Lillias Baird, the heiress of Ordinhivas. As if the linking of the two Baird breeds brought renewed strength to the race, Gilbert and his wife are said to have had the enormous family of thirty-two children. You might think that this would have involved a huge number of descendants. As a matter of fact, the male issue of all the sons—and there were at least twelve—seems to have become extinct, or at any rate, is untraceable, except in the case of those of the fourth son, who still flourish. Most of the sons left the north altogether. One went to Shetland, and three to Ireland; one became a friar in Burgundy; another soldiered in Friesland, and apparently settled there. It was the fourth son James who carried on the male line—junior lines often become far more virile than the main stock, which sticks to a landed patrimony. He became sole commissary of the Ecclesiastical Court of Scotland, in the reign of Charles I, and bought the lands of Byth in the parish of Gamrie. When he sold them he transferred the name to the lands of Foord and Whitekirk in Haddington, which he called Newbyth, and from that his descendants blossomed out into two baronetcies. He was, however, so thirled to the north that when he was offered a peerage he wanted to call himself Lord Deveron. Unfortunately, he died, in 1655, before the patent passed the seal. His eldest son, John Baird (d. 1698) became a Lord of Session as Lord Newbyth: married into the Tweeddale) peerage, and lived to see his son William made a baronet of Nova Scotia. James's second son, Robert, of Saughton Hall, Midlothian, was also created a baronet of Nova Scotia in 1696. Both these lines still flourish, the Newbyth group having gained great distinction in the person of the famous general, David Baird, who was created a baronet in 1809, with a remainder in favour of the issue of his elder brother Robert. The latter's great grandson Major Randolph Eustace Wemyss Baird (b. 1879) returned for a time to the land of his fathers by becoming Governor of H.M. Prison at Peterhead, 1923-27.

Meantime the Auchmedden line was carried on by George Baird, IV of Auchmedden, the eldest son of Gilbert III, who died in 1593. George became identified with Banff rather than Aberdeenshire, for he was made sheriff principal of Banff in 1634, in succession to the Earl of Buchan, while he was also provost of the town of Banff from 1628 to 1638. He took his part in the Civil war, as you will find from Spalding,

siding at first with Royalists for whom he fought at the Trot at Turriff in 1639, but in the following year he definitely abandoned the Roman Catholic tendencies of his house by joining the Covenanters. He married in 1616 Anna Fraser, daughter of the laird of Saltoun, and sister of the first Lord Saltoun of the Fraser line: her mother was a daughter of the George (Abernethy) 7th Lord Saltoun. George Baird, who died in 1642, was succeeded by the eldest of his three sons,

Sir James Baird, V of Auchmedden. He showed more ability than many of his predecessors, and is described by his great-grandson, William Baird, the historian of the house, as "a man of very good natural and acquired parts, who had an air and address that commanded respect." It used to be said of him that he "bore bulk wherever he was." An interesting inventory of his holdings is contained in a grant to him:

1653, July 14—The keepers of the Great Seal grant to James Baird of Auchmedden and his heirs male lawfully begotten of his body, whom failing to Sir John Baird of Coubardie, knight . . . the town and lands of Auchmedden and pendicle thereof called Lemnehous: the lands of Glencuthill, with the mill thereof: the lands of Glenouse and Kinbeen, Little Byth, Clawariefauldes, and Towie in Aberdour: the town and lands of Petgair, Awauldies, the mill of Petgair with the castle and castlehill of Petgair, comprehending the particular pendicles of the said lands called the Headeturne of Petgair in the parish of Gamrie, with the manor place, fishings as well in the sea and salt waters adjacent to the fresh waters belonging thereto, dove-cotes, commonties . . . which the Earl of Buchan resigned in favour of James Baird.

In 1658 James Baird became sheriff principal of Banffshire "because of his extraordinary loyalty and great qualities of mind," as the royal commission phrased it. He was connected with the proposal for a Union of the two countries, and was knighted in 1662, in London. Sir Alexander married in 1641 Christian, the only daughter of Walter Ogilvie of Boyne, and was succeeded on his death in 1691 at the age of seventy-two, by his grandson,

James Baird, VI of Auchmedden (1676-1720), son of James Baird (1648-1681), younger of Auchmedden, by his wife Katherine Hay, daughter of the 2nd Earl of Kinnoull. The valued rent of Auchmedden in 1696 was £666 13s 4d. The Poll Book (ii. 71-76) gives a full account of himself and his tenants. There were apparently twelve farms—Bankhead, Clenterie, Glenhowses, Glenquithell, Kinbeam,

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Lembess, Little Byth, Mains of Auchmedden, Mill of Auchmedden, Overton, Pennan, Seaton and Towie. Auchmedden was twice married, first in 1698 to Mary Gordon (d. 1710), daughter of Robert Gordon of Straloch, and great-granddaughter of Robert, the Great Straloch: and secondly to Elizabeth Abercrombie, of the Glassaugh family. He died in London in 1720, being succeeded by his son, the last of the original Bairds of Auchmedden,

William Baird (1701-75), VII of Auchmedden, the historian of the family. He had to part with the estates, in 1750, after their possession by the family since 1534: not only so, but his entire male issue became extinct by the end of the eighteenth century. It was ironic that William Baird should have gone under, for he married into a gear-getting family in the person of Anne Duff, one of the ten daughters of William Duff of Dipple (1653-1722) and sister of William Duff, first created Lord Braco and then Earl Fife—not, by the way, “of Fife”—the ancestor of the Duke of Fife. Baird married her in 1721 when he was only twenty. She seems to have had a sad trachle with William, who was feckless and therefore very unlike the Duffs, and her misfortunes were aggravated by his turning Jacobite and joining the '45. Baird and his wife had been applying to the Duffs for assistance at least ten years before this, and Braco had to shelter him at Echt House and at Balvenie when Baird made himself scarce after the '45. In an (undated) letter which she wrote to her brother, whom she calls “my lord,” the frugally reared Mistress Baird complains that Auchmedden did not take her advice. “I have for some years past exposulate with him in the strongest terms against his answering his eldest son’s demands, to the ruine of both, but so far in vain, that I have found out within some days that his son has in a manner bully’d him to answer some new demands. It is hard for me to have spent my time, my fortune and all in my power for the good of a family, and to see him and his sonne goe on spite of my teeth to ruine us all.” This eldest son was William Baird, whom his father sent, in the thoroughly wasteful manner favoured by many Scots lairds since that day, first to Westminster School, then to Trinity College, Cambridge, and then to the Bar. Any hopes they may have had of him vanished in his early death, which occurred in the Middle Temple, London, where he succumbed to an epidemic of fever in 1750, the year his father sold Auchmedden.



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You will find other letters of the same kind both from Baird and his wife in the Taylers' excellent history of the Duffs. On one occasion Baird's brother-in-law, Alexander Duff of Hatton, wrote to Lord Fife—as Braco became in 1759—"Auchmedden's conduct in his own affairs, publick and private, has been most inconsistent and ungratefull to your lordship, but friends must overlook and forgive." That forgiveness, as already noted, was exhibited by Fife, who gave him sanctuary at the house of Echt—from which Anne wrote in 1760, "I will live frugally while I live at all, but cannot live as a scoundrel," and where her daughter Anne had died in November, 1756—and at Balvenie. Baird also lived, sometimes at St. Andrews. But it was at Aberdeen that he died, on February 5, 1775.

It is possible that the mansion house of Auchmedden was dismantled in his day. Part of its material, according to Pratt, was used in a house at 9 Low Street, New Pitsligo, where panelled work, forming the front of a bed bore a shield with the Baird arms, the initials L.B.—perhaps Lilia Baird, the Ordinhivas heiress, who married the third laird of Auchmedden—and the date, 1607. A board bearing a shield, with the Baird arms and the initials G.B., but undated, formed a mantlepiece. This house and its equipment was bought in 1869 by the late Mr Blake, whose son took part of the wood to Aberdeen and gave some of it to Trinity Hall.

If William Baird was feckless, he seems to have been an artist in life, with a sense of humour and a literary quality, as his memoirs of his own family and of the Duffs serve to show. His sense of humour comes out in a pronouncement he made through the advertisement columns of the "Aberdeen Journal" (of July 17, 1759), dating from Echt and addressed to the Commissioners of Supply for Aberdeenshire:—

I had the honour to be named your Collector of Cess on the first of October, 1755, but received no part of the sallary, and on the first of May thereafter Sir James Reid of Barra was chosen. As I was not conscious that I had given any offence, or incurred any ill will, in that interval, I thought myself hardly used. However, as the gentlemen had fixt on Sir James, I was very unwilling to give them any new trouble on my account. But, as others have lately offered their service to the country, I hope I may be excused for intimating my pretensions and begging your favour at next election.

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I use the canal of the "Aberdeen Journal" because I know from experience that it circulates over all this and Banffshire, and that a great many letters directed to remote corners never come to hand for want of regular carriers. There will be yet abundance of time for more particular application.

As for his literary and historical enterprises, he probably inherited this gift through his mother, who was a great granddaughter of Robert Gordon of Straloch, the geographer, and the grandniece of Parson Gordon of Rothiemay. However that may be, William Baird seems to have been quite of a scholarly inclination, far beyond the ordinary laird. He could read Greek, Latin, French and German. He had translated Thucydides, although I do not think he published it, as the editor of his Genealogical Memoirs of the Duffs states. He possessed a fine library, which he placed at the disposal of James Ferguson, the astronomer. What is of most interest to us to-day is that he was very keen on genealogy. About 1770 he wrote an account of his own family in a manuscript entitled:—

Dominus fecit. Genealogical collections concerning the surname of Baird and the families of Auchmedden, New Byth and Saughton Hall, in particular, with copies of old letters and papers worth preserving, and accounts of several transactions in this country during the last two centuries.

This manuscript, of which one volume seems to have been lost, has been printed twice, first in 1857, when it was edited by Baird's great-grandson, William Nathaniel Fraser (1817-99) of Tornaveen, and then in 1870, edited by Captain F. B. M. Smith. Baird also wrote an account of his wife's family, the Duffs:—

Genealogical and historical memoirs of the surname of Duff and principally of the family of Moldavid, now represented by Lord Fife, from the earliest account to the present time.

The MS. was discovered by Major Lauchlan D. Gordon-Duff (1817-92) of Drummuir, who printed it privately through Wyllie in 1869 (8vo. pp. 144), prefaced by a portrait of Baird. The memoirs of the Duffs is a human and delightful piece of writing, with a keen sense of character in it. Take, for example, his description of his father-in-law, Duff of Dipple:—

Dipple was a middle-size, well made man, of a fair, ruddy complexion, and very good features, of solid sense, an active, lively spirit, and a most facetious, agreeable companion.

He was a conscientious, honest man in all his dealings, and indeed, I never heard that any unfair thing was ever laid to his charge. He was the

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easiest creditor in the world, and it was said in Murray that he never did diligence but against one person, who had attempted to impose upon him, and, if he saw an industrious honest man oppressed with difficulty and endeavouring to extricate himself by his diligence, he was alwise willing to give him time to pay, and even to advance him money. This acquired him a great deal of public love and had a very good effect among the commonalty where he merchandized, in so much that a man who had not paid his accompt, when it fell due, was disgraced, and lost all credit among his equals, and they used to tell one another in a bragging way after their term was over, "God be thanked I have paid the laird, and William Duff," so he was called before he got any land estate of his own.

But he had given over merchandizing many years before his death, when he had made large purchases in Murray, and he would often say that he likt very well to see a merchant turn a laird : but he did not like so well to see a laird turned a merchant.

He was extremely well fitted for business, and to this, one particular felicity of constitution contributed greatly, viz., that the longer he sat at his bottle, he became still more cautious and secure, so that, if at the beginning of a sederunt we might get a tolerable bargain of him, after he was a little in liquor, it was impossible to overreach him.

William Baird also wrote in 1724 a neat description of the parish of Aberdeen which is printed in the "Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff" (i. 446-447).

Auchmedden (d. 1775) and his wife (d. 1773), who were both buried in St. Nicholas Churchyard, Aberdeen, had six sons and four daughters. The sons got scattered, and none of them left issue. William, the eldest, a barrister, died as noted in London in 1750. Alexander, the second, was in the East India Company's service and died in India. James, a ship's doctor, was drowned at sea in 1749. Charles died in Antigua. John, a lieutenant in the Navy, died in 1796, while George, the youngest, died at Kingston, Jamaica. Of the four daughters, the youngest, Henrietta, married Francis Fraser of Findrack, and that estate has also passed out of the family. William Baird's brother, Capt. Alexander Baird, died at Inchdrewer, May 17, 1777.

Incidentally I may notice that almost the whole parish of Aberdour changed hands in 1750, for not only did Auchmedden, which was valued in 1696 at £666 pass to Lord Aberdeen, but the estate of Aberdour, which was valued in 1696 at £950, was sold by Forbes of Skellater to Aberdeen's factor, Alexander Gordon (1711-85), who belonged to the Gordons of Nethermuir. Auchmedden was held by the Haddo Gordons

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till about 1810, while Aberdour was sold in 1814 by William Gordon for £65,000 to the Dingwalls of Brucklay. I described the Aberdour Gordons in detail in "The Gordons of Aberdour" (Peterhead, 1913, pp. 25). The estate of Aberdour was sold in 1934 by Mr A. Dingwall Fordyce to Mr Thomas Place, Northallerton.

Although Auchmedden was sold in 1750 to the Earl of Aberdeen, the Bairds established a roundabout connection with the estate, for Aberdeen's heir, Lord Haddo, married in 1782 Sir David Baird's youngest sister, Charlotte, sometimes called Christian. The marriage was followed by a curious fact. Thomas the Rhymer had prophesied that there would be an eagle in the crags of Pennan while there was a Baird in Auchmedden. William Baird, the laird, in his account of Aberdour, written in 1724, had said: "It is pretty remarkable that there is an eagle's nest upon the high rocks at Pennan where Auchmedden's milnstone quarry is. The pair who breed there have continued in that place, time out of mind, and send away their young ones every year, so that there is never more stays but the old pair." According to Pratt's "Buchan" (1858, ed., p. 181), the Bairds were "not free from the thralldom of this legend." Believing that the fortunes of the family were in some inevitable way connected with the presence of these eagles, "they sedulously protected them, and had them regularly fed by causing a daily supply of food to be placed on the ledge of the rocks." The story then goes on to tell that when the estate was sold in 1750 to the 2nd Earl of Aberdeen, the birds disappeared. But they returned in 1782 when Lord Haddo took his Baird bride there. Haddo was killed by a fall from his horse at Gight in 1791—thereby fulfilling another Thomas the Rhymer prophecy. Lady Haddo died in 1795. According to the new "Statistical Account" (1843)—it is not touched on in the old "Statistical" (1794)—the eagles remained in the rocks until the estate passed into the hands of the Hon. William Gordon, who was either Lord Haddo's brother, the laird of Ellon (d. 1845) or his brother, the laird of Fyvie (d. 1816). When William Gordon got Auchmedden the eagles again fled, and "have never (1843) since been seen in the country. These facts," continued the "Statistical Account," "marvellous as they may appear, are attested by a crowd of living witnesses." The same story is also told in the "Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff," which was also published in 1843.

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The eagles did not return to Pennan until Robert Baird of the Gartsherrie family bought Auchmedden in 1854, when, as the minister of Aberdour told Pratt in 1856, "one of the eagles returned to the rocks. But this, the men of the Coastguard, either ignorant of the singular history connected with the return of the birds, or indifferent to the romance of the story, pursued from crag to crag with their guns, till they either killed or dislodged it."

The Bairds bought Auchmedden from the trustees of Sir Charles Forbes of Newe. The Forbeses were attracted to the parish of Aberdour just as the Bairds were, for Sir Charles, who founded the Newe family on the fortune he made in Bombay, bought Auchmedden from the Gordons about 1810, perhaps because they had owned (1630-1750), the neighbouring estate of Aberdour. An advertisement in the "Aberdeen Journal" (November 7, 1810), when Auchmedden was offered by the Gordons, gives us a good idea of its size and situation:—

Aberdeenshire. To be sold by private contract, the estate of Auchmedden in the parish of Aberdour, containing upwards of 5,750 English acres, lying altogether in a fine climate on the sea-coast, between the commodious harbours and excellent markets of Banff and Fraserburgh; being ten miles from the former, and six from the latter.

Great part of the soil on this extensive estate is of a rich, fine quality, capable of bearing weighty crops of wheat, beans, and other grain, and of turnips and grass. It extends nearly four miles along the shore (on the South side of the Moray Firth) which produces abundance of valuable keep belonging to the estate. There is also a profitable white fishery, which has been long established upon it; and an inexhaustible millstone quarry, peculiarly fine, and in high repute. The present rents of the estate are very low, and many of the leases are near expiring.

The extent, qualities, and local advantages of this estate, which is situated in a district where improvements are only in their infancy, render it improveable in an unusual degree; and particularly deserving the attention of the agriculturist, or the capitalist. A considerable part of the purchase-money may remain on security of the estate, payable by instalments.

Printed particulars are preparing for delivery; and further information may be had by application to Messrs Cardale and Son, solicitors, Bedford-Row, London; Messrs Mackenzie and Monypenny, writers to the signet, Edinburgh; and Andrew Davidson, Esq., Advocate, Aberdeen. A correct modern map of the whole estate, and of each distinct farm, may be inspected at No. 2 Bedford-Row, during the current month of November. John Bruce at Nether Mill of Auchmedden, the ground officer, will show the estate.

I may say that Sir John Forbes of Newe possesses numerous water colours of the Pennan coast and of the Auchmedden estate done by W. Hay in 1815.

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### THE GARTSHERRIE BAIRDS AS OWNERS OF AUCHMEDDEN.

The estate of Auchmedden was purchased from the Forbes trustees in 1854—320 years after the first set of Bairds became owners—by Robert Baird of the famous millionaire Gartsherrie family. There seems little doubt that Robert Baird bought the estate with the view of identifying his family with that of the original Bairds of Auchmedden, although there is no proof of the descent of the Gartsherrie group from the older family of Baird, either in Lanarkshire or Auchmedden or elsewhere. The Gartsherrie Bairds, however, seem to have got it into their heads that they were connected with the original Auchmedden group, for they made use of their arms and the motto, “Dominus fecit,” although they did not actually matriculate them until the sixties, the first to do so being George Baird of Strichen and Stichill, who was followed by his kinsmen, the lairds of Elie, Ury, Auchmedden and Closeburn in the year 1867. Strangely enough, only one of these estates—that of Ury—is still held by the Baird family.

As long as they were simple farmers in Lanarkshire, the Gartsherrie Bairds probably did not trouble their heads about their pedigree, but as soon as they became owners of land, and that, too, on a scale undreamt of by all the earlier Bairds put together, they very naturally began to desire to establish contacts. Sir Bernard Burke, in his rather pompous book, “Vicissitudes of Great Families,” which was published in 1859, at the moment when the Bairds were buying up estates, remarked that the Gartsherrie brothers had been “too busy in transmuting iron into gold to have time, or probably inclination, to care for ancient blood.” He had far too many irons in the fire himself to attempt to establish their descent and consigned the task of linking them up to “some genealogist of a future generation.” But no such genealogist has so far been able, and probably never will be able, to do so. Andrew MacGeorge, the historian of Glasgow, who compiled the rare privately printed account of the Gartsherrie family, committed himself to a statement that there is a farm called Auchmedden in the parish of Lesmahagow, “and this name was carried to Aberdeenshire and appropriated to the land acquired there by the Bairds who founded the Auchmedden family.” The second statement is certainly incorrect, for we find that “Auchmedane” was so named at least as early as 1391 (“Ant. Abd. and Banff,” iii 167).

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MacGeorge again committed himself to the suggestion that "there seems no room to doubt the accuracy of the family tradition "that the Gartsherrie group are a branch of the Bairds of Cambusnethan." The earliest of the Gartsherrie Bairds MacGeorge could trace was Alexander, born about 1659, thus leaving a gap of three centuries between him and the Cambusnethan family. It certainly can be pleaded that the Gartsherrie Bairds had at any rate stayed in Lanarkshire, while the male ancestor of the original Auchmedden Bairds had come from the east coast, but a gap of three hundred years needs a lot of filling up.

The Alexander Baird born in 1659 farmed Kirkwood and High Cross in the parish of Old Monkland, Lanarkshire, and on account of his great physical strength he was known as "double-ribbed Sandy." Sandy was succeeded in turn by his son Alexander (1689-1766), who was followed by his son William, also a farmer. William's wife, Jean Baillie, was a strong Radical in days when that was a rare creed, and it is not without its irony that her grandsons, the eight Gartsherrie brothers, were all red hot Tories, while one of her descendants of to-day, Lord Stonehaven, has risen to be the organiser of the Conservative party.

William Baird and Jean Baillie's eldest son Alexander (1765-1833) was the first of his line to break away from farming and venture into industrialism. He began life in a small way as subtenant on the farm of Woodhead, where he was born in a but-and-ben farmhouse two hundred yards from the parish kirk of Old Monkland. Indeed, he started in such a primitive way that he had no wheeled cart on his little farm, his fields being manured from creels swung on a horse's back, while his crops were harvested on a sledge. He spent thirteen years at Woodhead, and ten years more at Kirkwood, which had been farmed by his great-grandfather, "double-ribbed Sandy." He moved to High Cross, which "double-ribbed Sandy" had also worked, and in 1820 he went to the farm of Newmains, near Langloan, where he died in 1833.

Alexander was immensely helped in his career by his able wife, Jean Moffat, who had been a servant lass at Airdrie, and whom he married in 1794. Jean Moffat, whose portrait, reproduced in the MacGeorge history of the family, shows her to have been a characterful looking woman, had any amount of smeddum, so that in addition to bearing her consort eight sons and two daughters in the course of

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twenty years, she also ran a dairy on the farms, beginning with seven small cows. She marketed her dairy produce in Glasgow, seven miles off, carrying it in a creel, and as there were no proper roads she would tramp there and back—the double journey being fourteen miles. Her son James, who became laird of Auchmedden, used to say that Jean, whose work in the dairy alone was equal to that of two women, brought up her children masterfully. She was “a kind mother, but a strict disciplinarian,” for “with her it was a word and a blow, the blow usually coming first.” She certainly taught them to work, and that, too, with all their might.

While Jean ran the dairy and brought up her sons and daughters, her husband Alexander, who had a head for figures, was always extending his energies. He reminds one of the Duff family into which William Baird, the last of the original Bairds of Auchmedden, married, though the latter's wife, Anne Duff, was not powerful enough to stop him from footling away his patrimony. Alexander Baird not only took farm after farm, and farmed them with brains, but he became a miller: he acted as a sort of factor for one of his landlords: and he played a leading part in the formation of the Volunteers. But by far his biggest achievement was to become a mine owner, which brought his eight sons millions. In 1809, at the age of forty-four, Alexander began to work the Woodfield coal works, in the neighbourhood of Dalsersf. In 1816, he leased the coal work of Rochsolloch, near Airdrie, and sent his eldest son William to manage it. From this point onwards the Baird fortune as mine owners was made. With all his ability it may be doubted whether Alexander could have made the huge Baird fortune without the help of his sons, headed by William, who had never taken to hard farm work like his brothers, though he was sent as a youth to learn farming in Berwickshire.

Alexander received a slight setback after he took the neglected coal field of Merryston, on the Newmains farm, which he did in 1822. Hardly had he, or rather his son William, made it a success, besides building new boats to take the coal by the Monkland Canal, than the landlord, breaking the lease, resumed possession. That only spurred Baird on, for six months before his lease on Merryston expired, he leased from Hamilton Colt, who had frequently asked him to offer for it, the large coal field of Gartsherrie, with which the name of Baird is



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best remembered. Once again, and in no time, Baird made a success of his new field, all the more as the means of transport had greatly improved. Garthill was added within half a dozen years, so that Baird had six pits working. In 1828 he made another advance to fortune when he took his first ironstone mine at Cairnhill, in the neighbourhood of Gartsherrie, about the same time that he leased four acres at Gartsherrie itself for the erection of blast furnaces.

In 1830, Alexander, who was then sixty-five, handed over all his coal and iron leases and feus to his five eldest sons, headed by the brainy William, the ever expanding business becoming known, as it is to-day, as William Baird and Company. At one time the Bairds were working mines in five counties, with forty to fifty furnaces, capable of turning out 300,000 tons of iron every year, and employing 10,000 men at a time, while the annual profits were said to exceed £1,000,000.

It is no part of my present business to treat the mining side of what popular writers would call the "romance" of the Baird family. MacGeorge's book, though necessarily written in a very friendly spirit, shows that Alexander and his sons were pretty hard, both on themselves and on their helpers and servers, as Ibsen would say.

While the millions made in the mines helped the family to become lairds, the Bairds were less a case of rich industrialists playing at country gentlemen, than agriculturists returning to their muttons—literally. From first to last the eight sons are believed to have spent £2,000,000 on buying agricultural estates: incidentally, I may say, they never owned the land of Gartsherrie, which laid the foundation of the fortune. The following table shows at a glance some of the chief facts about the eight sons, with the estates they bought and the issue, if any, they produced.

|           |             | Age. | Sons.      | Daus. | Estate.                                    |
|-----------|-------------|------|------------|-------|--|
| WILLIAM   | (1796-1864) | 68   | 6          | 5     | Elie (Fife).                               |
| JOHN      | (1798-1870) | 72   | 2          | 1     | Lochwood (Lanark).                         |
| ALEXANDER | (1799-1862) | 63   | unmarried. |       | Ury (Kincardine).                          |
| JAMES     | (1802-1876) | 74   | 0          | 0     | Cambusdoon (Ayr).<br>Knoydart (Inverness). |
| ROBERT    | (1806-1856) | 50   | unmarried. |       | Auchmedden (Aberdeen).                     |
| DOUGLAS   | (1808-1854) | 46   | 0          | 2     | Closeburn (Dumfries).                      |
| GEORGE    | (1810-1870) | 60   | 1          | 0     | Strichen (Aberdeen).                       |
| DAVID     | (1816-1860) | 54   | unmarried. |       | Stichill (Roxburgh).                       |

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### ROBERT BAIRD OF AUCHMEDDEN.

The first of the Gartsherrie Bairds to enter Aberdeenshire was Robert (1806-56), the fifth of the Gartsherrie brothers, who began his career, better educated than his brothers, for he was trained as a lawyer, in Glasgow. Then he leased a coal mine, that of Thankerton, in 1834, and was taken into the office of the family concern of William Baird and Company, to conduct the correspondence, in which his legal education proved of great value. In 1840, he and his youngest brother David were assumed as partners in the firm, their share, however, being only half that of their elder brothers, who took over the Thankerton Colliery which Robert had made a success.

It was in 1854 that Robert bought Auchmedden. His better education had probably made him aware of the history of the family. Robert never had a residence on the estate: he continued living at Cadder House, Lanark, where he was very popular alike with the laird, Sir William Stirling-Maxwell, and the tenants, but he frequently visited Auchmedden, and became greatly interested in his tenants. The privately printed history of the Gartsherrie group tells us that he "used to express the surprise and gratification which he felt at finding that almost every poor working man there was not only able to read, but to write a well expressed letter, education there being far in advance of what it was in some of the southern counties, thanks to the Dick and Milne bequests."

When Robert died unmarried, as he did at Cadder House on August 7, 1856, his estate of Auchmedden passed to his brother James (1802-1876), in many ways the most forceful of all the Baird brothers, and certainly the best remembered of them all, because of the £500,000 he left to the Church of Scotland—which one Scots judge is said to have described as a form of fire insurance.

James left school at twelve, and by the time he was fourteen he was doing a man's work on the farm. He very soon developed a knowledge of bricklaying, engineering and mine mechanism, to which he contributed several inventions, displaying an impatient get-on-or-get-out attitude to several of the workmen who considered themselves professionals at their jobs. Thus when he started in 1828, in building the dam at the first furnace at Gartsherrie, he did the brick work with

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his own hands, "astonishing the keepers, who considered themselves very skilled labourers, and were disposed to claim some mystic knowledge that no one else possessed." Besides that, he invented some of the necessary machinery. Frequently he worked twenty out of the twenty-four hours, but at last, to his intense pride, the first furnace was put into operation, illuminating the Scots sky like a new fiery cross, on May 4, 1830, "at ten o'clock in the forenoon," and in its first year it produced 3,100 tons. A second furnace—the first round one in Scotland—was put in blast on September 11, 1832, and the third was in course of erection on the death of their father, who had thus lived to see the foundations of the Gartsherrie fortunes well and truly laid. In 1839 eight furnaces were in full blast, while eight more on the west side of the canal, which was of immense use in transport, were planned, the sixteen being capable of producing upwards of 100,000 tons per annum.

James had started on the land, and he used much of his fortune to buy land, acquiring four estates in Ayrshire, and one in Inverness. His Ayrshire purchases were Cambusdoon in 1853, Auchendrane in 1862, Muirkirk in 1863: and Drumellan in 1866. Knoydart in Inverness-shire was purchased in 1857, and Auchmedden came to him in 1856 from his unmarried brother Robert.

## GEORGE BAIRD OF STRICHEN.

Far more important as an estate than Auchmedden was the estate of Strichen, which was bought by George Baird, the seventh of the eight brothers. George, who at the age of little over twenty became a partner in the firm, managed the Ayrshire mines. He probably was attracted to Aberdeenshire by his brother Robert's purchase of Auchmedden in 1854. At any rate, he bought Strichen from Lord Lovat in 1855, paying £145,000 for it, which was from £20,000 to £50,000 more than it had been valued a few years before, when it was offered in three lots. Lovat had started life as plain Thomas Alexander Fraser of Strichen, where he was born in 1802. In 1825 he petitioned the Crown for the restoration of the Scots barony of Lovat, attainted in 1747 in the person of the notorious Simon Lord Lovat, who was his fourth cousin four times removed. The laird of Strichen was created Baron Lovat in 1837, and in July, 1854, a bill to relieve him of the attainder

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of the forfeited Simon received the Royal assent, while in 1857, thirty-two years after the presentation of his petition, the House of Lords adjudged that he had proved his claim to the Scots barony. It was probably these actions which led Lord Lovat to part with his Strichen estates to George Baird.

George Baird also came in for the estate of Stichill, Roxburgh, on the death of his youngest brother, Douglas, in 1860. In all, he owned 17,000 acres. He built a mansion at Stichill at a cost of £34,000, with a tower 100 feet high surveying the Cheviots and the Tweed. It contained sixty rooms, including forty-three bedrooms, and took three years (1863-66) to build. After lying empty for years, it was sold in October, 1930, for £2,000, and is now used as the Leith Holiday Home. Baird used Strichen House mostly as a shooting box, and he was found dead in bed there on August 24, 1870, at the age of sixty, which was the average age at which the eight Gartsherrie brothers died, for one cannot "tear in" as they did and expect to become Methuselahs.

He had made a fashionable alliance by marrying at St. George's, Hanover Square, at the age of forty-eight, a thirty-five year old Irish gentlewoman, Cecilia (d. 1895) elder daughter of Vice Admiral Villiers Francis Hatton of Clonard, Wexford, M.P. for that county. She bore him only one child, George Alexander Baird: in whom the second line of Bairds to own Auchmedden came to an end.

George Baird may have felt that his span of years was coming to an end, for on January 15, 1870, eight months before he died, and exactly ten days before the death of his third brother James, who had established himself in Kincardineshire as laird of Ury, he drew up a trust settlement appointing as his trustees four of his nephews—William Baird of Elie (1848-1918): Alexander Baird of Ury (1849-1920): Alexander Whitelaw of Gartshore (1823-79): William Weir, Crookedholm, Ayr, and David Wallace, who had married the latter's sister. Baird left a fortune bringing in an income of £55,000 a year—£15,000 from his estates and £40,000 from other property. He left £2,000 a year to his wife, in addition to his marriage settlement of £1,500 a year. Strangely enough, he made no specific provision for his son. So his widow got the trustees to pay for the boy's education—£1,000 for the first year, £1,500 for the second, and £2,000 for the third year. In

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the course of the second year, she presented a petition to the Court of Session, asking for an annual allowance of £3,500 a year. The Court decided on February 24, 1872, to allow her £3,000 a year for the boy for each of these years. In delivering judgment Lord Inglis made a remarkable speech in favour of bringing up young George as a country gentleman with "a taste for field sports and other country pursuits":—

It appears to me to be more desirable, and indeed of paramount importance that this young man should be early associated with those whose influence and example will engender and cultivate manly and refined tastes and sentiments, which will enable him, when he enters into active life, to take such part in society as his wealth and position will justify, and perhaps also in aid in advancing the civilisation of his country and the age in which he lives.

Young George took the sports part of this vision of his future to heart, but, as we shall see, he did anything but "advance the civilisation" of his own, or any other, country, and the age in which he lived.

### THE LAST BAIRD OF AUCHMEDDEN (1861-93).

George Baird's son and successor, George Alexander Baird, better known by his racing name of Mr Abington, was the last of the Bairds of Auchmedden and Strichen, and by a curious irony, perhaps the best known to the general public, certainly the most notorious of all of them. George Alexander Baird was born at Barry's British Hotel, in Queen Street, Edinburgh, on September 30, 1861, and, having lived a thoroughly homeless and very ricketty life, he died in a hotel, the St. Charles, at New Orleans, on March 18, 1893. The story of the intervening thirty-two years suggests that this descendant of "double-ribbed Sandy" had, morally speaking, no ribs at all, or at any rate, ricketty ones, for his rapid career reads like an eighteenth century legend. He was, indeed, in many ways quite an anachronism, reminding one, in the realms of fancy, of Hogarth's "Rake's Progress," or of Holcroft's play, "The Road to Ruin," while in real life he had many analogies, such as Jack Mytton, who died exactly a hundred years ago. I have dealt in a pamphlet in detail with some of his ongoings—some of them cannot be set forth in cold print—and confine myself here only to an outline of his rapid career.

He spent his boyhood mostly at Stichill, with occasional spells at Brighton, where his mother had a house, and where she ultimately

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died. It is doubtful whether he remembered Strichen. Dr William Murison tells me he remembers Baird in long clothes being carried by a nurse at a scholars' picnic, and being cheered by the children as "the young laird." Certain it is, his mother early lost control of him, for she spoiled him, and in doing so became quite a warning, for I know of a neighbouring Aberdeenshire laird who used to warn his wife not to spoil his children "like Mrs Baird." But in guiding George, the strong-faced "captains of industry," who were his trustees, fared little better, although they held the purse strings till he was twenty-five. After being tutored at home, he was sent to Hawtrey's famous private school at Aldin House, Slough, from which he went to Eton at Michaelmas in 1874. Always a royt loon, he went off at Christmas, 1875, without leave, to see his mother in her London house in South Street, seven doors off from Florence Nightingale's house. The Eton authorities agreed at the request of the trustees, to take him back if he would take a thrashing. But young George, probably quite conscious of his fortune, refused pointblank, and so he never returned to Eton. I do not know how his education was continued, but he was admitted to Magdalene College, Cambridge, on July 15, 1879, and came down in June, 1881, without bothering to take a degree, for the turf had already become his tutor.

From his early years he had been mad about horses, and began racing in his teens, under the inspiration of a famous hunting man, C. J. Cunningham, Kelso. In fact, he threw the same fierce kind of energy into horses as his father and uncles had concentrated on mining. The first reference I have found to his appearance "in the pigskin," was curiously enough at Aberdeen, where he won a "match" at the meeting on the Links on August 27, 1879, winning on his horse Fonvoy (or Fenvoy). He rode in the following month at Perth, and at Edinburgh in October, in which month he made his first appearance as "Mr Abington" at Lincoln, where he was unplaced on his horse Syren. He is said to have adopted the name as a means of bamboozling his trustees. He ran a horse called Kinsman at the Aberdeen races in 1880, but it was ridden by a jockey named McEwen. In 1881 he became a subscriber to the Racing Calendar, and went to live at Whittington Hall, Lichfield—the first of several "places" he had in England—after which Scotland saw very little of him.



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On April 11, 1882, he was warned off the turf for foul riding at Four Oaks Park, Birmingham, where he threatened to throw Lord Harrington, who was also riding, over the rails. As he could not ride under Jockey Club rules, he betook himself to France for a time, and rode at "flapping" meetings in several places in this country, for he was simply mad on riding. During the ban, which lasted for two years, he rode in six races at the Aberdeen meeting of 1882, though the Aberdeen papers apparently did not recognize him as the laird of Strichen, and referred to him simple as "Abington," as if he had been a professional jockey. He won four races, was second in another, and fourth in another with Miss Baldwin—a mare named after the lessee of the Aberdeen Theatre, and owned by Campbell of the Lemon Tree Hotel. He also won the Ladies' Cup on the same mare, but he does not seem to have attended the Race Ball or the dinner.

When the ban was removed, he registered his assumed name of Mr Abington, and abandoned his cardinal jacket for green. From this point onwards almost till his death nine years later, he raced on almost every course, riding for preference himself, either on his own or other people's horses, or sending his horses, of which he had so many that he even forgot where some of them were, to all sorts of meetings. By all accounts he was an excellent rider—and he loved to look exactly like a professional jockey—beating the great Fred Archer himself—with whom he once gave a great ball at Newmarket—in 1884, in which year he won twelve races. In 1885 he bought Merry Hampton, the colt which won him the Derby in 1887. Between 1888 and 1892 his winnings totalled £40,116.

On coming into his fortune in 1886 at the age of twenty-five, Baird began to go the pace at a tremendous rate, so rapid, indeed, that it finished him off in seven years. Taking a house in the west end of London he became a man about town. Then he turned his enthusiasm from the race course to prize fighters, some of them of a very undesirable type. He took to backing prize fighters—of the bare knuckle type—making a beginning on March 5, 1889, with a fight in London between "Nunc" Wallace of Birmingham, who won, and Goode of Battersea, who was severely punished, the audience breaking the ropes. Baird himself learned to use the gloves, and one of his trainers, a hardy old prize fighter, tells us that "when it came to using the mufflers, the

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Squire was nobody's fool." But he did not give himself a chance to keep fit as he had had to do when riding, for he got through a great deal of liquor, and some of his excesses brought him sharply up against the law. This was particularly the case in 1890, as may be seen by his appearance at various courts:—

1890, February 27, Divorce Court—Mulcted of £500 as guilty co-respondent in divorce action brought by Francis Darbishire, actor, against his wife, Agnes Hewitt, actress.

1890, March 7, Chancery Court—Mr Justice Stirling decided against Baird, who had asked the Court to order the reversal of the Pelican Club's ejection of him for his part in a disgraceful fighting riot at Bruges.

1890, March 6-April 2, Marlborough Street Police Court—Baird gave evidence at a London Police Court about a brutal scene at his house in John Street, Berkeley Square, between some of his prizefighting guests. It is only fair to say that his friend Charley Mitchell, the prize fighter, who was charged with assaulting two unwelcome visitors, was discharged.

On February 9, 1893, Baird sailed from Liverpool on the *Majestic* for America with Charley Mitchell, the prize fighter, whom he had backed to the extent of £8,000, and £2,000 aside to fight Corbett. But before the fight could take place it was anticipated by a fight on March 8 at New Orleans, where Jem Hall, the Australian, fought Bob Fitzsimmons, the Cornishman, and was knocked out in the fourth round, before an audience of 12,000 people. Baird, who acted as one of Hall's seconds, caught a chill and died ten days later, on March 18. His body, embalmed and dressed in evening clothes, was brought home on the very ship he had sailed on, landing at Liverpool on March 29, less than seven weeks after he had started amid scenes of great enthusiasm. He was buried in Stichill churchyard beside his father, on April 1. His friend Mitchell would only "teet owre" the dyke at the burial, as the pall bearers, who included three of Mr Abington's Baird cousins, lowered the coffin. He is commemorated by a stone bearing the text from Hebrew—"He liveth to make intercession for them."

He made his will on November 14, 1891, adding a codicil on November 30, 1891, and a second one on February 7, 1893, two days before he sailed, leaving his money first in trust for his mother, and then to the children of his first cousins. The will was proved at £846,051 12s 11d, a figure which suggests that in his short life Mr Abington had run through something like £2,000,000.

After Baird's death the management of the estates was carried on



by his trustees, Walter Lumley, who was his solicitor, and Walter Temple, barrister, with the former's brother, Theodore Lumley, as commissioner, a position he had held in Baird's lifetime, in succession to Sir William Laird, Glasgow. This arrangement continued until the youngest child of Mr Abington's first cousins reached the age of twenty-one, when, after an attempt to sell the estates, the management was transferred to the Midland Bank Trustee Department.

In November, 1925, Auchmedden and Strichen were sold—after the Bairds had held them for seventy years—to a London speculator, E. C. Fairweather, who sold the farms separately, and who died in November, 1932, insolvent.

The estates held by all branches of the Baird family have shrunk in extent. The original Auchmedden Bairds, while they lost that estate, were carried on by the lines which held Newbyth in Haddington and Saughton Hall in Midlothian, both branches being still represented by baronets, each of whom has only a daughter. Newbyth, however, was passed on by family arrangement a few years ago by Sir David Baird to his brother, Major William Arthur Baird (1879-1933), who had already inherited Lennoxlove, Haddington, and Wedderlie, in Berwick, from his mother, the Hon. Ellen Stuart, second daughter and co-heiress of the 12th Lord Blantyre (1818-90). Major Baird, who left £315,444, was succeeded by his son, David Charles Baird (b. 1912), the heir presumptive to the baronetcy. The present baronet lives in London.

Saughton has been sold. For some years the mansion was used by Sir John Batty Tuke (1835-1913) as a private asylum, and at present it is unoccupied. The park was acquired by the Edinburgh Town Council in 1905 for £53,000. The present baronet has called his house at Cookham, Berks, Saughton Hall.

The Gartsherrie Bairds have also contracted their land owning, though they are represented in the north by Lord Stonehaven, whose granduncle, Alexander Baird (1799-1862), the third of the Gartsherrie brothers, bought Ury in 1854—the same year as his brother Robert bought Auchmedden. On his death it passed to his elder brother, John Baird of Lochwood, Lanark (1798-1870), the grandfather of Lord Stonehaven. Knoydart, which was bought by James Baird in 1857,

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went to the laird of Ury's second son, John (1852-1900), who also inherited Lochwood. Knoydart was sold in 1893 to Edward Salvin Bowlby of Gilston Park, Herts, a family of great antiquity in Yorkshire.

In 1890 one of the Elie Bairds, Henry Robert Baird (1861-1928), representing the eldest of the Gartsherrie brothers, moved north to keep his kinsman, Sir Alexander Baird of Ury, company, for he bought the beautiful estate of Durris (16,000 acres) in the parish of that name. On Henry Robert Baird's death, his personal estate was £21,940—most of the lands were sold to Alfred G. Johnson, a Tunstall tile manufacturer, and the woods have been cut down. Four thousand acres were sold to the Forestry Commission.

Gilbert Baird, of Posso, Peebles. Thomas Baird, of Ordinhivas, Banff.  
Of Lanark stock? In Posso, 1487. Lanark stock went north, 1430.

Andrew Baird (1475-1543) George Baird (d. 1557)  
of Laverocklaw, Fife: of Ordinhivas:  
I of Auchmedden, 1534. Aberdeen Sheriff, 1531-35.

George Baird (d. 1593) Walter Baird (d. 1599)  
II of Auchmedden: of Ordinhivas:  
at Corricchie. in Eliz. Keith.

Gilbert Baird = Lilius Baird  
III of Auchmedden: Ordinhivas heiress:  
m. 1758: d. 1620. bore 32 children.

George Baird (d. 1642), James Baird (d. 1655),  
IV of Auchmedden: I of Newbyth,  
m. a Philorth Fraser. Haddington.

Sir James Baird (d. 1691), Sir John Baird, Sir Robert Baird,  
V of Auchmedden: Lord Newbyth, 1st bart. (1695)  
Sheriff of Banff. 1620-98. of Saughton Hall.

James Baird, Sir William Baird, Sir James Baird, William Baird,  
d.v.p. 1681. 1st bart. (1680), 2nd bt. of Saughton: Edinburch:  
m. Lady K. Hay. of Newbyth. d. 1715. d. 1737.

William Baird, Sir John Baird, Sir Robert Baird, William Baird  
VI of Auchmedden: 2nd bt. of Newbyth: d.s.p. 1745. 3rd bt. of Saughton: got Newbyth  
1669-1766. estates.

Alexander Baird, farmer, Lanark: "Double-ribbed Sandy."

Alexander Baird, farmer, Lanark: 1669-1766.

m. Jean Baillie.

Estates sold, 1750.

Alexander Baird,  
farmer, mineowner,  
Gartscherrie (d. 1855).

six sons: four daughters;  
male line extinct.  
female extant.

Robert Baird (1806-56) bought Auchmedden, 1854.  
James Baird (1802-76) inherited Auchmedden, 1856.  
George Baird (1810-75) bought Strichen, 1855.

George Alexander Baird. "Mr Abington" (1861-1893):  
Inherited Strichen and Stichill, 1875; Auchmedden, 1876.  
Auchmedden and Strichen sold 1925 and broken up.

Sir James G. Baird,  
6th bart.:  
d. 1850.

William Baird,  
Captain, Army:  
d.v.p. 1923.

Sir James G. Baird,  
7th bart.:  
1813-96.

Sir W. J. G. Baird,  
8th bart. (d. 1921).

Sir J. H. G. Baird,  
9th bart. (b. 1883).  
Saughton sold.  
Has one daughter.

Sir David Baird,  
2nd bart. of  
Newbyth (d. 1852).

Sir David Baird.  
3rd bt., 1832-1911:  
m. Hon. Ellen Stuart

Sir David Baird, 4th bt.  
(handed Newbyth to  
brother, William).

One daughter. Joan:  
b. 1902.

## THE BAIRDS OF AUCHMEDDEN AND THEIR DESCENDANTS

The estate was held from 1534 to 1750 by descendants of the Bairds of Posso in Peebles and from 1854 to 1925 by the Gartscherrie Bairds, who were unrelated to the first group.