

The Last Clan Battle

Preparations of War: Our Chief Arises

By Isaac S. Baird

The following is a series of articles of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall and his role in the American War of Independence while serving in a Highlander regiment.

It is often said that the Clan system died 1745 at the battle of Culloden. This oft repeated phrase is not historically accurate. Clans limped by for several decades struggling to cope with a new political reality. In the late 1770's, the Clan system flourished one last time. Clan Chiefs led their clansmen to war as they had done in generations past for one final time. This is their story.

To understand what happened, we must understand the differences between Highlander and Lowlanders. Separated by not only language and customs, but their culture and society were separated by the mythical highland line. On one side, the Gaelic speaking Highlanders still clung to their traditions, clothing, language and customs. On the other, a prosperous urban environment quickly integrated within the British Empire.

In 1776, 13 of the numerous worldwide colonies of the Great Britain declared independence. What occurred is well documented on both sides but with differing viewpoints. Men gathered arms on all sides- British, Canadian, and American- in a struggle that would fundamentally change the world. What is less known, at least in pop culture and films, are the stories of the Scottish Highland regiments during this event. Even less well known are the contributions and actions taken by the Bairds, specifically, the Scottish Bairds, during this time. The American War of Independence was really the last war of the Clan Baird.

When the smoke of Culloden cleared, the ancient Gaelic nation of Scotland lay in tatters. Its leaders, banished, executed or impoverished, fled into hiding. Amongst the men strewn wounded on the battlefield, lay Simon Fraser of Lovat, the future 19th chief of Clan Fraser. Together with Charles Fraser of Inverallochy, he led hundreds of Fraser clansmen to battle on that field. Charles Fraser, leading the charge for the Fraser Clan in place of Simon's father, died. Simon escaped barely with his life.

Simon Fraser of Lovat was an interesting character. He was a highly educated man that spoke multiple languages including French, English, and Gaelic. He attended college but he was raised speaking Gaelic, the language of the Highlanders, and bore the patronymic¹ name of *MacShimidh (Mac-IM- ee)*. He identified himself as a Highlander and a Jacobite. His father was chief of the Frasers of Lovat, and the son, was heir to the chiefship. Simon's father, also named Simon and an ardent Jacobite as well, was the

¹ The Gaels have two methods of identifying people due to the fact that many areas maintain a concentration of surnames and common first names. A village may have several Iain Macleods and hence alternate ways were devised to identify them. The first is the patronymic name or a name that includes the male ancestors of that person. Hence, Alexander MacDonald, one of the greatest Gaelic poets and a staunch Jacobite, is known as Alasdair Mac Mhaighistir Alasdair or Alexander, Son of Reverend Alexander. This could continue up to six generations. The second way is to give a nickname such as Alasdair Dubh or Dark haired Alexander. These two naming conventions still exist today.

last man to be beheaded in Great Britain. When the father was tried and executed after the 45, his titles and estates were forfeited.ⁱ (Stewart)

A true Highland clan chief cannot be stopped by such obstacles such as the loss of estates and wealth. Unlike in the lowlands, where money and birth meant everything, a Highland clan chief's power rested in his ability to lead his tribe. While Gaelic society collapsed around him, Simon took his rightful place as a Highland chief. "When in poverty, and without the means to reward, his influence had experienced no diminution, for in a few weeks, he had found himself at the head of 1,250 men."ⁱⁱ By 1774, after raising various units for the Crown and marching them to war, his estate was returned to him. Then in 1775, as war with the Colonies in America began to brew, he was "farther countenanced by receiving letter of service for raising in the Highlands another regiment of two battalions."ⁱⁱⁱ

MacShimidh, as the chief of the Frasers of Lovat are known for in Gaelic there is no great tradition of using noble titles when addressing a Chief, did not raise ordinary troops. These troops were raised from the children and grandchildren of those who had fallen at Culloden. These were men of the Highlands and the last of the clans. These were not only Frasersmen, but Gaels from every clan. *Simidh MacShimidh* had called them to fight once more, garbed in the uniform of their ancestry, and they came. Like their fathers and grandfathers, these men marched into "immediate service, without any acquired knowledge of the use of arms."^{iv}

In this brief time, the clans breathed again. Cameron of Lochiel raised 120 men from the forfeited estates of the Clan Cameron to secure their chief a company of solidiers.^v John MacDonell, the son of the Jacobite chief that led the men of Glen Garry, raised troops from the Clan Donald.(Gibson)^{vi} Aeneas Macintosh raised a company of Clan Chattan. Clan chiefs, or the sons of chiefs, called upon their clans one final time.

The soldiers behavior, strange to lowlanders, was indicative of Gaelic Highland Culture. The people of Glasgow were amazed at their behavior, not only of "cordial habits" and that "many of them spoke no English", but "their attachment and respect to their officers, and the kindness and familiarity with which the officers talked to their men."^{vii}

The men from Lochiel showed this when Lochiel became ill and was unable to join them. "They were Lochiel's men; with him at their head they were ready to go to any part of the world, and they certain some misfortune had happened..."^{viii} *MacShimidh* stepped up and spoke to them in Gaelic regarding Locheil's illness, and "they consented with more cheerfulness, as Captain Cameron of Fassafearn, a friend and near relation of Lochiel, was appointed to command them."^{ix}

One older Gael, that was familiar with the father of *Macshimidh*, escorted his son to Glasgow and listened to that speech. When the speech by MacShimidh ended, " the old man walked up to him, and with that easy familiar intercourse which in those days subsisted between the Highlanders and their superiors, shook him by the hand, exclaiming, 'Simon, you are a good soldier, and speak like a man; so long as you live, Simon of Lovat will never die...;' " referring to *MacShimidh's* father that had participated in the previous Jacobite uprisings and was beheaded in 1747.^x

The list of Officers reads like a roll call of Highland Clan Chiefs with names like John Macdonnell of Lochgarry (*Iain Domhnallach*) Donald Chisholm of Chisholm (*Domhnall Siosal*), Norman Lamont of Lamont (*Tormod Mac Laomain*), Duncan Macpherson of Cluny (*Donnachadh Phearsanach*), and Norman Macleod of Macleod (*Tormod Macleoid*). Each one called upon their ancient tenants to join and fight. There, amongst the names of such honorable highland men, is listed Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, a lowlander from Edinburgh, as a Captain.

That is why what Sir James Baird of Saughton Hall, a descendant from the chiefly line of the Bairds of Auchmedden and male heir to that line, did next is even more marvelous. Rather than wrap himself in all the trappings of nobility, and waste away his life in a home, he started a military tradition rarely duplicated by any family. He did not spend his time scheming in politics and living the life of lowland nobility, but rather he became a Highland clan chief and led his men into the fray like the chiefs of old.

He became a Clan Chief not by right of birth, although he could make that argument. He did not become a Clan Chief by edict of governmental authorities or through heraldic legal proceedings, though because his right to demand such. He did not buy his way into Chiefship, create “Modern Traditions”, or develop new myths. Sycophantic distant relations did not nominate him because of a common name. He did not become Lowland “Clan Chief” to dress up in a kilt to play act with others, allowing them to heap honours upon him, while ignoring his own kind. He became a Highland clan chief through Highland traditions. He became a Clan Chief as a Highlander.

A surgeon’s mate of the 71st Highlanders, Dr. Robert Jackson, described it eloquently thus: “He was not a Highlander, but when he was appointed to this company, he studied the character of the people he commanded, he sung their warlike songs, was frank and familiar as a chief of old, at the same time preserving the full authority of a chief in his character of an officer. He so insinuated himself into their affections, that, though Highlanders have a predilection for Highland blood, no chieftain in his glen ever commanded the devotion of *Gillien[sic]* more unreservedly. They knew his *meaning by his whistle*, and they flew with eagerness to obey. He struck the key of the Highlanders’ mind in such a manner, as to produce an action of perfect accord.”^{xi}

In traditional Highland culture, surname did not necessarily indicate a person belonged to a Clan. This is seen in the acts of Scottish Parliament that identifies clan membership as being by either surname, living in the same approximate area, and “keeping society” with the clan. (Brown)^{xii} To be a part of clan, a person needed only swear loyalty to a chief and the chief must accept that person as his own. Hence, the MacDonalds had hereditary pipers with the surname Campbell.(Newton)^{xiii} The Menzies maintained MacIntyre pipers in Perthshire although a Clan MacIntyre existed in Argyllshire.(Mackay and Mackay)^{xiv} It was only later in 19th century that the concept of absolute kinship being a requirement to be in a clan entered and spawned the discussion of septs.

These Highlanders looked to Sir James Baird, not a captain or officer of the King, but as a Chief of the Clan. Their surnames were not Baird, Bard, or Beard, but as shown above, they need not have the same surname to owe allegiance to a Chief and be a member of his Clan. Sir James Baird, in the fire of

the American War of Independence would gain their allegiance by becoming one of them. Although he was lowland born, and being initially being a stranger ” to the character, customs, prejudices, and language of the Highlanders, had the address and talent to secure their affections, and to attempt and accomplish very daring and remarkable exploits.”^{xv}

Sir James Baird of Saughton Hall transformed himself into their chief. His “energy, ardour, and frankness” won his men’s loyalty. ^{xvi} In return, he received “absolute command over the fidelity of his Highlanders, (although he was himself a native of Mid-Lothian,) as was ever enjoyed by any chieftain or laird of more ancient times....”^{xvii}

The counter argument is that while Sir James was a great military officer, he was never a clan chief as understood today. It is true he was not declared a Clan Chief by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. He could never be accepted by them as this organization would not exist for another 50 years. By today’s standards, he would not be considered a Clan Chief. But even the most ardent supporters of the modern lowland system would agree that by Gaelic traditions, he acted as a clan chief to highlanders.

The Lord Lyon never had power to declare a chief in those times and would never had dared declare a Chief of the Clan then just as he would hesitate to do so now.(Velde)^{xviii} Sir James Baird predated the common trappings we see necessary to determine a chief. Sir James Baird of Saughton Hall met the requirements of anyone to be a clan chief however.

By 1806², he became the male heir to Bairds of Auchmedden, the chiefly line to the Clan Baird. He learned Gaelic, the culture of the Gaels, their songs, their ways, and their customs. He won the loyalty of the Scottish Gaels, and as evidenced above, was received as a chief. He led his followers into battle and they regarded him not as a military officer but as their own. They didn’t serve him just because of military protocol but because they “kept society” with him. His Clan was small, limited to his men only perhaps, but they were his and they gave him their loyalty. This is the essence of a Highland chief and the true measure of a clan chief.

History does not record the Gaelic name his followers bestowed upon him. However, it is well documented that he learned their language, customs, songs, and cultures. In doing so, he surely collected a new name and title. Amongst his men, his clan, he would have garnered a new identity. He was no longer just a Lowland Scottish Baronet with a paid commission or connections but had transformed himself into Highland Chief as well. If Lord Lovat carried the name *MacShimidh*, and the Duke of Argyle, chief of the Campbells, was *Mac Caillein Mor*, then he was not just Sir James Baird of Saughton Hall but the more coveted designation, amongst the Gaels of Scotland at least, of *Seumas Mor*, and his descendants the patronymic name of *Mac Sheumais Mor*

² The death of Commander John Baird RN would end the Baird of Auchmedden line in 1806 per Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall, the current Baronet. In 1845, the Saughtonhall line would be declared the Senior Cadet Branch and are the leading contenders for the Chief of the Baird name.

Seumas Mor would take his Clan across the ocean, with kilt, broadsword, and musket, and bring battle to the rebels in every engagement throughout the entire war.

To Be Continued :

Over the Waves to War

ⁱ Stewart, General David **Sketches of the character, manners and present state of the Highlanders of Scotland with details of The Military Service of The Highland Regiments (Edinburgh 1825)** Archibald Constable pg 43. http://books.google.com/books?id=Ldijlvttwt4C&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=sir+james+baird+highlanders&source=bl&ots=7B-o-N683X&sig=fUFFhyebiNbZ8M_MPWKtBFbbdY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ewYcUcnOOJKXqAH-8IGACQ&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Baird&f=false Feb 14 2013

ⁱⁱ pg 44.

ⁱⁱⁱ pg 44.

^{iv} Pg 46

^v Pg 47

^{vi} Gibson, John G. *Traditional Bagpiping, 1745-1945* (Montreal 1998) McGill-Queens University Press pg 97

^{vii} Stewart, General David **Sketches of the character, manners and present state of the Highlanders of Scotland with details of The Military Service of The Highland Regiments (Edinburgh 1825)** Archibald Constable Pg 47

^{viii} pg 46. Date Accessed: 14 Feb 2013

^{ix} Pg 48

^x Pg48

^{xi} Pg53

^{xii} *The Records of the Parliaments of Scotland to 1707*, K.M. Brown et al eds (St Andrews, 2007-2013), 1581/10/35. Date accessed: 25 January 2013.

^{xiii} Newton, Dr. Michael **Warriors of the Word**

^{xiv} Mackay, John. Mackay, Annie **The Celtic Monthly, (Edinburgh 1904)** Vol 12 pg 16

^{xv} Pg 53

^{xvi} Pg 83

^{xvii} Pg 83

^{xviii} Velde, Francois. <http://www.heraldica.org/topics/britain/lordlyon.htm> Accessed June 27th 2013.

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Velde, Francois. *Heraldica.org - Lord Lyon* . n.d. 27 June 2013. <
<http://www.heraldica.org/topics/britain/lordlyon.htm>>.

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Over The Waves to War

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The following is a series of articles of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall and his role in the American War of Independence while serving in a Highlander regiment.

War rumbled again in North America in 1774. The last time this occurred, British and American Colonials marched against the French and their first Nation allies. The end result saw the expansion of the Anglo culture, the beginning of Quebec's Anglo-French political issues, and the use of kilted highland warriors in North America. In 1757, Simon Fraser of Lovat, the Lord Lovat, raised men despite not having lands or means to motivate his men. The Lord Lovat, or simply Simon Fraser as his lands and titles were forfeit after the final uprising, was a Jacobite. Yet, he called and led men back to war for Britain. His officers, clan chiefs and sons of chiefs, flocked to his standard. They came not in the spirit of rebellion but in support of King and Country.

The Highlanders marched again in 1775 and congregated in Glasgow on the west coast of Scotland, led by their chiefs and dressed once more in the kilt. Simon Fraser of Lovat the 19th, or *Simidh MacShimidh* in his native Gaelic tongue, regained his titles and lands for service rendered. Amongst his officers, one man, a lowlander, would rise and lead his band of Gaelic speaking highlanders, his new clan warriors, on a string of victories across the North American continent. Thus he would begin a family military tradition to rival any other.

Exploring the history of 71st Fraser's Highlanders, and the role of Sir James Baird, requires the suspension of long held myths. For citizens of the United States, it means sacrificing the Hollywood portrayed romance of freedom loving irregular militia using previously unknown guerrilla tactics to defeat a superior military organization at every turn. The Colonial military utilized tactics well established by the British Forces in the French-Indian war and support for the war was never as universal as displayed in national myth. For those in the United Kingdom, it requires suspension of the deep rooted belief that Scottish culture, and especially Highland culture, can only be found in the physical boundaries of Scotland. The Gaelic Speakers of Nova Scotia alone should dispel that myth, not to mention the Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment created from Gaelic speakers in the American Colonies during this time period. For Canadians, it may be accepting that Gaelic culture and emigration endured in the United States after the war. Historical evidence, coupled with reports from travelers and immigrants, supports the existence of Highland communities outside of Nova Scotia in the U.S. existing well into the 19th century.

It is outside the scope of these articles to argue these particular points, but rather to chronicle the exploits of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughton Hall and his Highlanders. A common question for all sides should be why the Highlanders, Jacobites and sons of Jacobites, would enlist to support the crown so soon after 1745. Fortunately, they strongly answered in their own words. Preserved in their songs and poetry, were the very reasons for which their loyalties so quickly shifted.

Highlanders shifted their loyalties due to existing cultural beliefs in the rights of a King, as well as the rapidly shifting economic situation with the advent of the Industrial Revolution. These two forces, which had been in play for some time, ground the clan system into the dust by the end of the 18th century. Hence, when called by their chiefs to march to war for the Clan, and for the King their fathers opposed, the Highlanders descended onto Glasgow.

The men were mustered and dressed as a Highlander regiment. We are not sure as to the exact nature of the kilt but we know that the regiment went without breaches. It is suspected they wore the Government Military Tartan or the Black Watch Tartan. This would not be surprising as they shipped out after mustering to the Americas with the 42nd Black Watch.

Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall led a light infantry unit. Dramatic differences appear between this type of unit and regular infantry. Military historians consider light Infantry, and grenadiers, as elite units. While not on par with Special Forces of Today, they did operate in a similar fashion. For example, light infantry units did not serve in disciplined ranks as ordinary infantry but acted independently as skirmishers which allowed them to use more initiative. Typically, they were smaller and more agile men who wore a darker green known as "Rifle Green" which was adopted to allow them to attack from behind the cover of trees and utilizing the colour as an early type of camouflage.

The 71st embarked to North America in a large convoy together with the 42nd black watch to land at Boston. During the crossing, the convoy was broken up by a large storm which resulted in American privateers from attacking the ships. One ship, with Sir Aeneas Mackintosh fought off a privateer until depleting all of the ammunition upon which it charged the privateer with the intention of boarding. The privateer, seeing the transport approach, quickly fled.ⁱ It should be noted that the men of the 71st light infantry were not experienced in warfare or the use of arms since the act of disarming highlanders had been in effect for many years. Yet they were ready to perform when the situation were to presented itself.

The scattered convoy sailed towards the harbor town of Boston. But, during the time of enlistment to sailing, control of the city had changed hands. General Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the British Army in North America, abandoned the city.ⁱⁱ Although ships were sent out to warn any new ships of the transfer of power and not to enter the city, the gale had blown these messengers of course.ⁱⁱⁱ The result was the 71st 2nd Battalion, entered the Harbor where American forces attacked. Although the 2nd Battalion put up a strong resistance, eventually, they were forced to surrender and taken prisoner.

Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall was an officer in the first battalion. Since his transport and troops were separated from the 2nd battalion, they did not get caught in the Boston harbor. They traveled south and disembarked in North America in New York in July. When they landed, their reputation preceded as General Howe, generally impressed with actions of the 71st Fraser Highlanders in the 7 Years war (French and Indian War) immediately sent them to front on Staten Island in August of 1776. The previous 2 months had seen a buildup of troops in the area as it was seen as the next strategic location.

What is important to see here is the speed in which Sir James integrated with his men and his unit's ability to faithfully serve under him. The highlanders lived up to their martial reputation and were ready at a moment's notice to fight with full ardor. This will become critical and will make Sir James Baird infamous during this time.

To Be Continued:

The Battle of Long Island

ⁱ Stewart, David. Sketches of the Character, Manners and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland, Longman, Hurst, Res, Orme, and Brown, 1822. pg 48

ⁱⁱ Stewart. Pg 48

ⁱⁱⁱ Stewart. Pg 48

The Last Clan Battle

Battle of Long Island: To Make a Villain By Isaac S. Baird

The following is a series of articles of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall and his role in the American War of Independence while serving in a Highlander regiment.

The unique aspect of war is that few engage battle with complete strangers. The opposing side must have not only wronged the other but also represent the worst traits in humanity. We can see this in modern warfare. Propaganda is considered an essential part of any war strategy. The same is true during the American War of Independence. All sides, Canadian, British, and American developed specific propaganda and the villains against which they were opposed. Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, the leader of the 71st 2nd Battalion Highland Light Infantry, wrongly became a villain in American Propaganda due to his incredible success on the Battlefield.

It is important to stop here and deconstruct a few myths that have grown especially from Hollywood. The American forces lacked experience and discipline. They were not unified in either cause or ideology. Despite rewritten history where wealthy middle-aged landowners marched to war for freedom against tyranny and nobility, the opposite seems to have been true. The poor masses supplied the rank and file. Similarly, the British Forces were in no way experienced soldiers with limitless supplies. They were raw recruits stranded months away across the ocean from their base.

The adage "History is written by the winners" could also be augmented that historians often write to create a specific narrative. They delete unwanted and unsavory characters depending on how it affects the narrative. Interesting characters, such as the American William Alexander or General Lord Stirling for the American side, will be forgotten and vile new enemies, such as Sir James Baird for the British side, are created from honorable men.

It was August 1776. The 71st Highlanders, born and raised in the Gaelic speaking regions of Scotland and the sons of those that fought in Culloden, followed their Clan Chiefs across the ocean to New York. One unit, led by Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, comprised the Light Infantry Highlanders or an elite advance force of infantry skirmishers that eschewed 18th century battle tactics for guerilla warfare. Their leader learned their culture and language and in return the men pledged their loyalty to him. But that had not yet been on the battlefield and any training was minimal.

Genera Howe, Commander-in-Chief of the British Forces of North America, had seen this unit in action years earlier and knew of the Highlanders ability. A year earlier, Howe defeated the colonial resistance at Bunker Hill yet had suffered high losses to do so. Separated from Great Britain and without the means to readily replace troops, Howe needed to purchase victory cheaply as steep losses. Victory with heavy losses would lead to a defeat of war. For this reason, Howe evacuated Boston in an attempt to isolate the American forces in New England. He began to gather all of his troops outside of New York City.

For the American side, they unsuccessfully attempted to capture Quebec and were regrouping under General George Washington in New York. Both sides viewed this city as a key to winning. They began to build defensive positions on Brooklyn Heights and reinforced it with “a series of entrenchments and fortifications”.ⁱ With more than 10,000 soldiers encamped, the Americans were preparing for the largest battle the war would see.

Having suffered losses at Bunker Hill, General Howe, from advice from Sir Henry Clinton, decided to flank the American forces by going through the Jamaica Pass. Unfortunately for the Americans, they “neglected to defend the pass, believing it to be too far away.”ⁱⁱ Historians attributed this mistake to General George Washington due to inexperience and issues of his troops operating as a unified Army for the first time.

This handed Sir James Baird the opportunity needed to strike decisively at the Americans. He received orders based on intelligence to lead his small unit through the Jamaica Pass under the cover of night. To create a diversion, the British force began a series of feints along the main front. American attention quickly shifted to the front. Then on August 27th at 2 AM, less than 2 months since arriving, Sir James Baird’s light infantry burst through the pass to the surprise of a small American post. Shock of this flanking move resulted in the American troops being “easily captured and all civilians nearby were detained.”ⁱⁱⁱ

Amongst those captured, was Brigadier General Nathaniel Woodhull of the New York Militia. He injured by multiple sword strikes time in the arm and head of which he later died.^{iv} How the injuries occurred is a matter of historical argument. Originally, it was stated that the wounds were given by Sir James Baird for not saying “God save the King” but rather “God save us all.”^v This tradition, purported by Silas wood, gained credibility. Years later the painter J.W. Dunsmore, in his painting the *Capture of Nathaniel Woodhull*, depicts the scene where Sir James Baird allegedly assaulted Woodhull with his highlanders behind him and Delancey, a British Officers, defended the prisoner. This original painting is currently in private ownership.



Fig 1. The capture of Nathaniel Woodhull

However later historians have come to doubt this as contemporary testimony showed the reverse actually occurred. According to Colonel Troup, he claimed Woodhull told him that while fellow prisoners “the General told him he was taken by a part of light horse, under Captain Oliver De Lancey; that on being asked by sad Captain if he would surrender, he replied in the affirmative – provided that he would treat him like a Gentleman, which Captain De Lancey assured him he would; whereupon the General delivered his sword; and that immediately after, the said Oliver De Lancey, Jr., struck him; and others of his party, imitating his example, did cruelly cut and hack him in the manner he then was.”

^{vi}The historian W. H. W. Sabine, argued against Sir James Baird committing this atrocity. He pointed to multiple evidences against this story. Additionally, the tradition of Sir James Baird committing this war crime would not surface until after the war many victories against the Americans.

This is not to say that Sir James Baird was not aggressive in fighting. In this war, all sides fought with extreme aggression and all sides committed atrocities. But in this case, there is no specific evidence despite his rank as an officer that links Sir James to the act. Sir James Baird would be vilified in America for the next 50 years. In 2012, the US Congress would enact legislation to rename the Mastic Post Office building to the Woodhull Post Office Building noting the capture by Captain James Baird and his abuse from a “British Officer” that led to his death.^{vii} While the final bill that passed the US congress did not contain the biographical information, this miscommunication continues to show the far reaching effects of this propaganda. The Clan Baird Society should lead the way in scholarship and activism to preserve the good name of Sir James Baird.

At 8 am, the full assault began. The Americans discovered the enemy at the front and to the rear. With 32,000 British soldiers surrounding them, the day quickly led to a ferocious battle. With casualties mounting, the Americans “just simply ran, although here and there they fought hard.”^{viii} The American forces were quickly overwhelmed. Washington determined that his troops needed to retreat to the Brooklyn Heights defenses. The day belonged to the British forces, and if not for two historical curiosities, the entire war could have ended that day.

The first historical curiosity is that of General Lord Stirling. William Alexander, the son of Scottish immigrants, travelled to England earlier in life where he attempted to press his claim as Earl of Stirling. This title would have granted him “significant title to coastal lands on the New England coast of the American colonies....”^{ix} Although denied that title, he was granted the title of Lord Stirling and used that title throughout the war in service of American side. He used his own money to support and raise his troops for the American cause despite insisting on the noble title. He went on to be a close confidant of General George Washington who referred to him as “Lord Stirling”. Clearly, he didn’t get the memo that nobility would be phased out of the new America. Despite being very active in the war, his death in 1783, and perhaps his inability to fit into the general American narrative, prevented his fame and notoriety today.

General Lord Stirling’s forces held their line against the British forces. He ordered 400 men (although now historians suspect the total number to be less than 300) to hold the line against the British while the resistance retreated. Stirling’s “400” charged the 71st Highlanders repeatedly only to have “their ranks thinned by musketry....”^x 250 of the Lord Stirling’s men died in the fighting, but the American forces were able to retreat to defensive positions.

General Howe ordered his soldiers to quit the assault fearing increased loss of life. He saw the Americans surrounded on three sides and the backs to the river. However, his officers believed, as historians do today, that had he pressed he might have captured the entire American force and General Washington.

Washington did the unthinkable and retreated with his entire army across the river in the dead night. Upon waking in the morning, Howe discovered that the Americans escaped. Despite Sir James Baird and the 71st Highlanders setting up an incredible victory, one American born noble of Scottish descent fighting for the Americans and a one cautious military decision by the British military resulted in a continuation of the war.

The battle also created a new villain. Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall began a campaign of stunning victories unparalleled in this conflict. His success on the battlefield, in New York and a host of other battles, would deliver fear and loathing from the Americans. To be sympathetic to his accusers, and perhaps to explain why they singled him out, one must only imagine the scene, in the heart of battle with Sir James Baird in the forefront, his sword unsheathed, shouting directions in an unearthly language while his troops, clansmen in loyalty, dressed in the kilt burst forth shouting their ancient Gaelic war-cries and rained death upon the land. His image would loom large after the war and he became a propaganda target which is still echoed today by some amateur historian groups in the US.

To Be Continued:

Capture the Capital-Brandywine

ⁱ Kennedy, Roger T. The Battle fort Brooklyn, 1776 New York Public Library.
<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2009/05/22/battle-brooklyn-1776>

ⁱⁱ Kennedy, Roger T. The Battle fort Brooklyn, 1776 New York Public Library.
<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2009/05/22/battle-brooklyn-1776>

ⁱⁱⁱ Kennedy, Roger T. The Battle fort Brooklyn, 1776 New York Public Library.
<http://www.nypl.org/blog/2009/05/22/battle-brooklyn-1776>

^{iv} Marsh, Luther Rawson. General Woodhull and His Monument: An Oration on the Life, Character, and Public Services, of General Nathaniel Woodhull. Leavitt, Trow & Company, 1848 pg. 8
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^{vi} Dawson, Henry B The Historical Magazine and Notes and Queries Concerning the Antiquities, History and Biography of America, Volume 5 John Ward Dean, George Folsom, John Gilmary Shea, Henry Reed Stiles, Henry Barton Dawson 1861 pg 233

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^x Kennedy, Roger T. The Battle fort Brooklyn, 1776 New York Public Library.
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UThe Last Clan Battle

Capture The Capital: The Brandywine By Isaac S. Baird

The following is a series of articles of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall and his role in the American War of Independence while serving in a Highlander regiment.

In 1776, the American Colonies declared independence sparking war in the United States. The government of Great Britain, although divided on how to proceed in either supporting or opposing the new nation, decided on a military campaign which leveraged Scottish soldiers in the American Theater. One particularly large and active division, the 71st Fraser Foot, was raised by former Jacobites who fought at Culloden and comprised mostly of Gaelic speaking Highlanders. This unit was unique in that a descendant of the Bairs of Auchmedden served in the forefront. Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall led an elite light infantry irregular unit that specialized in guerrilla warfare and skirmish tactics.

Most interestingly is not what Sir James Baird did in the war but rather the method he went about it. Since the unit was raised by Highland Clansmen, from their own clans, Sir James Baird integrated himself into the unit culturally. In the end, he learned their culture and language and came to be seen as the Clan Chief to his men. In this war, the Clan Baird lived one final time. The loyalty his men gave him allowed him to become one of the most feared enemies of the Americans.

Battles of Fort Lee and Fort Washington

That same year, New York fell to Scottish Highland onslaught. The Americans fell back to two forts on the northern end of Manhattan island after losing at Long Island and then again at White Plains. Fort Lee and Fort Washington stood on opposite banks of the Hudson River. Fresh off of victory, the 71st Fraser Highlanders, one of the largest units operating in the American War of Independence, were called again to wage war.

General Howe of the British mustered his troops and surrounded the Fort Washington on three sides. The American forces, convinced of the need to hold the fort, refused to surrender. General Washington previously considered retreating and abandoning the fort but deferred to his local commanders. He split his army and led 2000 men across the Hudson to Fort Lee. Meanwhile, the commanding officer of Fort Washington, Colonel Magaw, became overconfident his ability to hold the fort.

When the British military attacked, Washington could do nothing but watch. Under Lord Percy, the 71st highlanders attacked from the south. Sir James Baird, and his Gaelic speaking unit comprised of the sons of Culloden's fallen, engaged in the assault. Historians noted the activity of Sir James Baird and his light infantry that "there was hardly a movement, however trifling, in which Sir James was not engaged."ⁱ He participated in a number of battles as "whenever he was within reach he was generally first called upon, and he was almost always the first ready."ⁱⁱ His reputation as a warrior and his unit's exploits became well recognized "as Sir James and his light infantry, being always in front, had the credit of killing more of the enemy than any other company."ⁱⁱⁱ

The American defenses crumbled and shortly afterwards the American CO surrendered his force. Over 2,700 men were taken prisoner and the American flag lowered. General Washington, on the other side of the river, could only watch. This would not be his last engagement with Sir James Baird nor the last time would he see Sir James Baird outmaneuver his troops.

Washington, seeing the fort collapse knew he could not hold Fort Lee on the other side of the river. A few days later, as winter set in, the British army crossed the river and General Nathaniel Greene retreated with Washington into New Jersey

“These are the times that try men’s souls...”^{iv} wrote Thomas Paine. General Washington faced a shrinking military and decreased morale. The British forces continued to push the Americans and gloom settled over the American forces. The 71st during this time wintered in Amboy, New Jersey. At the time, this probably seemed wise. But on Dec 26th, General Washington completed his crossing of the Delaware River to capture Trenton. Next, he defeated a second assault at Assunpink Creek before capturing the city of Princeton. These three victories reinvigorated his campaign.

The 71st highlanders, and Captain Sir James Baird, did not participate in those battles. These American victories came when the Highland unit had already made winter quarters. With the highlanders unavailable, the American forces won three small but very significant battles in the war.

The Battle of Brandywine

As spring 1777 came, a new phase in the Campaign opened. Up until this time, an effective stalemate existed. General Howe decided that capturing Philadelphia, the seat of the American government, would be an effective means to winning the war. In the early days of the campaign, the 71st did not enter pitched battles but participated in a series of skirmishes. It wasn’t until September that the 71st engaged the Americans at the battle of Brandywine that participated in a major battle.

The conditions favored Howe’s victory. On September 11th, a fog settled in hiding British movement.. General Washington established a strong defense line in front of the British army. Howe countered by again utilizing a flanking technique. This technique would be used repeatedly on the Americans. Washington, continually hampered by poor scouting and intelligence, found himself at a disadvantage.

Howe led one column around to flank on the right. The 71st stayed under the direction of Lt. General Wilhem Knyphausen at Chadds Ford to provide a diversion and cause confusion. This led the American to suppose the battle would be held there. When the Americans learned of the flanking action, they attempted to reposition their troops. Upon hearing Howe’s gun open fire, Knyphausen pressed the Americans. Sir James Baird and his light infantry again pressed into action. Sir James Baird and the 71st Light Infantry faced General “Mad Dog” Anthony Wayne for the first time. The assault was fierce and Sir James Baird forced the Americans and General Wayne back quickly.

Washington again faced complete defeat again when another historical curiosity occurred. This time, it was a French noble named Gilbert Du Motier who, although wounded in the leg, organized and led a retreat from the Battlefield which prevented the American forces from being captured or crushed. General Washington, the future leader of a new republic, would cite the officer for bravery. He recommended that, despite his foreign birth and title, Motier should be given his own unit to command. Motier’s fame increased exponentially as he continued to find success. Later in his life, cities throughout the US would rename themselves to honor. Motier’s story is enshrined in American History but not under his name but rather his noble title: Marquis de LaFayette.

The Americans fell back on retreat with fear gripping Philadelphia. The British however, would make one more assault before taking the city. Once again, Sir James Baird and his highlanders would face the Americans and this time he would defeat General Wayne in manner that embarrassment would lead to court martial.

To Be Continued:

Capture the Capital-Paoli and Germantown

ⁱ Stewart, General David **Sketches of the character, manners and present state of the Highlanders of Scotland with details of The Military Service of The Highland Regiments** (Edinburgh 1825) Archibald Constable pg 43. <http://books.google.com/books?id=Ldiljvtwt4C&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=sir+james+baird+highlanders&source=bl&ots=7B-o-N683X&sig=fUFFhyebiNbZ8M MPWktBFbbdY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ewYcUcnOOJKXqAH-8IGACQ&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Baird&f=false> Feb 14 2013

ⁱⁱ Stewart, Pg 43

ⁱⁱⁱ Stewart, Pg. 43

^{iv} Paine, Thomas. **The American Crisis**

The Last Clan Battle

Capture The Capital: Battle of Paoli and Germantown

By Isaac S. Baird

In the American War of Independence, in 1777, a stalemate grew. The British made significant gains in New York and in Brandywine, Pennsylvania. The Americans had success, albeit smaller but more significant in morale. One historian, Stanley Weintraub, stated that the British faced not only the American colonial forces but two other even greater adversaries. General Demography, or the sheer number of Americans, and General Atlantic, or the distance from London to North America for resupply and fresh troops, insurmountably faced the British Army.ⁱ For the British, victory meant not only defeating the Americans but also limiting casualties to be able to continue the war.

Great Britain supplied Scottish Highland units such as the 42nd Black Watch and the 71st Fraser Highlanders to engage the enemy. The 71st specifically was raised by the Clan Chief of the Frasers and its commanding officers were the sons of Clan Chiefs that fought at Culloden. Those men in turn had recruited from their clans. But lowlanders were found among them. One of them, Sir James Baird of Auchmedden, gained the loyalty of his men by assimilating into their culture and becoming their chief. From the is perspective, the American War of Independence becomes a Clan battle where a Baird Chief led his clansmen once more into war dressed in the kilt. This is the last battle of the Clan Baird.

After the british defeated the Americans at Brandywine, the Americans retreated and panic set in the American capital of Philadelphia. The continental congress abandoned the city. The next week the British and American Forces attempted to outmaneuver each other. Finally, Washington crossed the Schuylkill River to protect the capital leaving Brigadier General "Mad Dog" Anthony Wayne. Wayne camped his troops in a place known as Paoli thinking it safe. Wayne, born and raised nearby only 32 years earlier, must have felt at home in his own backyard. He knew the terrain and the people.

The British had other plans. The British General Charles Grey decided on a surprise night attack on the American forces. The assault required absolute discipline to catch the Americans off guard. He ordered that his troops remove their flint and unload their giving him the nick name "No-Flint" Grey. This assault would be of sword and steel not bullets. In the lead, the 42nd Black Watch and an Amalgamation of Light Infantry silently they made their way to the Americans. The British surprised Wayne's force and enveloped them. It was described by an officer of the British Light Infantry as "a dreadful scene of Havock The Shrieks Groans Shouting, imprecations deprecation The Clashing of Swords and Bayonets &c &c &c... was more expressive of Horror than all the Thunder of the Artillery &c on the Day of Action.[sic]"ⁱⁱ



The Paoli Massacre by Xavier Della Gatta, 1782 (ExplorePAHistory.com)

The battle was depicted later by Della Gatta in the painting *The Paoli Massacre* which was commissioned in London years later by an officer at the scene. It is noted for its accuracy in terrain. Although Della Gatta was not there, the painting demonstrates the surprise, horror, and defeat felt by the Americans. Propagandists quickly used this battle to show the atrocities had been committed by no quarter being given. In truth, only 53 men out of 2100 were killed, and over 200 were captured or wounded. But the scene of Scottish Highlanders, including Sir James Baird and his Light Infantry, created a memory that could not be forgotten.

In history books, the 71st is not listed as being present. However, this is not accurate. Sir James Baird and his 71st light infantry were at this battle as evidenced by Lieutenant Roderick Mackenzie who, after the war, wrote “those of the seventy-first regiment were distinguished under Sir James Baird at the Serprise[sic] of General Wayne in Pennsylvania...”ⁱⁱⁱ The 71st, represented by the Light Infantry under Sir James Baird, was present and distinguished themselves in the surprise. The reason for the lack of recognition is that Grey amalgamated several light infantry units into one group. With limited troops, and no hope of new recruits, the British appear to have creatively combined light infantry units before dissolving them back into their original commands after the need passed. At Paoli, Sir James Baird and the 71st 1st Battalion Light Infantry fought as apart of the 2nd Light Infantry.

The Americans would use this to incite their men with the cry of “Remember Paoli.”^{iv} This propaganda continued to escalate atrocities on both sides as the Americans would show no quarter in later battles as a response. Additionally, this battle was linked to several British military traditions until 2006. When the Americans cried for revenge, it was claimed that the 2nd Light Infantry dyed their feathers so that the Americans might know who they were. The 42nd Black Watch acclaimed that General Howe ordered the 42nd to get Red feathers as well, which in 1795 became regulation.^v The actual source of the red feathers, or Red Hackle, is controversial as other units active in this battle such as the Royal Berkshires had a red backing to their cap badges as the ‘Brandywine flash’ in honor of that Battle. All of the units however intimated that it was due to distinguishment in American War of Independence.

The real reason for the confusion and origin may lie at Sir James Baird's unit. When the first documentation of red feather came in 1821, it was in the discussion of Colonel John Maitland who led the 2nd Light Brigade and later led the 71st at Tappan. Sir James Baird fought as a part of the 2nd Light Infantry and then returned to the 71st 1st Battalion Light Infantry after the Pennsylvania campaign. Sir James Baird's unit under Maitland "attracted the attention of General Washington."^{vi} Maitland sent an "intimation to the American commander, that in future his men would be distinguished by a red feather in the bonnets, so that he could not mistake them nor avoid doing justice in their exploits...."^{vii}

The confusion existed in that the historians originally thought Maitland could not possibly have been the source of the red feathers since he had two separate units, the 2nd Light Brigade and the 71st, while tradition stated that the red feather was worn by the 71st after Tappan but the 42nd and other units claimed use prior due to The 2nd Light Infantry or actions in Brandywine. The answer is that 2nd Light Infantry consisted of Sir James Baird and his men in the Battle of Paoli and at Tappan, when Maitland took over the 71st, they had reverted back to the 71st. Maitland led Highlanders in both conflicts, specifically, Sir James Baird's Light Infantry.

The Battle of Germantown

On the 19th, at Saratoga, New York, the British would defeat the Americans in a very costly battle. With these victories, General Howe marched into Philadelphia and claimed the capital. The American side did not capitulate and on October 4th General Washington launched an assault on German Town outside of Pennsylvania.

At day break the Americans began "began their attack upon the 2d light infantry, which they sustained for a considerable time...."^{viii} The 2nd Light Infantry "being overpowered by increasing numbers, the light infantry and a part of the 40th retired into the village..."^{ix} They defended themselves in a stone house until General Grey brought reinforcements. Upon being relieved, the 2nd Light Infantry advanced and "the enemy's left gave way, and was pursued through a strong country between four and five miles."^x

We know that Sir James Baird also participated in this battle as he is listed as one of the wounded from the 71st that participated in the Battle of Germantown. He most likely returned to the 71st in New York where he recovered and where fresh troops arrived. Upon recovering though, he would personally repay the Americans in such a way that he would become famous.

ⁱ *Iron Tears, a British View of American Revolution*. NPR Interview with Stanley Weintraub July 3 2005
<http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=4727956>

ⁱⁱ McGuire, Thomas. *Battle of Paoli*. Stackpole Books, 2006 Pg. 110

ⁱⁱⁱ Moncure, Lt. Colonel John. *The Cowpens Staff Ride and Battlefield Tour*, includes a transcription of statements by Tarleton, Cornwallis, Howard, and Mackenzie's August 9, 1782, letter in the *London Morning Chronicle*. Pg 191.

^{iv} <http://www.ushistory.org/paoli/info/faq.htm> accessed Jan 16 2014

^v Schofield, Victoria, *The Highland Furies 1739-1899* Quercus 2012

^{vi} Stewart, General David **Sketches of the character, manners and present state of the Highlanders of Scotland with details of The Military Service of The Highland Regiments (Edinburgh 1825)** Archibald Constable pg 66. Feb 14 2013

^{vii} Stewart, Pg 66

^{viii} *Battle of Brandywine The Craftsman; or, London Intelligencer. Issue No. 101. W. Parker. Saturday, Dec 6, 1777*

^{ix} *The Craftsman; or London Intelligencer*

^x *The Craftsman; or London Intelligencer*

The Last Clan Battle

“Then We Shall All Be Cut Off”

Isaac S. Baird

War between Great Britain and the American colonies had reached a Stalemate in the winter of 1777. The American forces wintered in Valley Forge while the British camped in the American Capital of Philadelphia. The American Continental congress fled into hiding. The American forces experienced success. They defeated the British General Burgoyne at Saratoga and forced a stalemate. In the long run, this stalemate favored the Americans. The American forces suffered a loss over 2,500 men or almost 20% of their forces. Valley Forge did provide the Americans an opportunity to develop a unified and disciplined army. Baron Von Steuben, a Prussian officer and minor noble, joined the American forces and instituted a training program and order in the American ranks.

For the British forces, the stalemate was a chance to rebuild. Burgoyne had lost over 6,200 soldiers when he was forced to surrender at Saratoga. The loss was devastating to General Howe, the leader of the British Forces. He resigned his commission, and given the distance to London from Philadelphia, it was months before it was confirmed that he was replaced by General Sir Henry Clinton. In addition, France officially entered the war opening the front not beyond the rebellious colonies to the Caribbean and as far as India. The kingdom of Mysore in India, led by a man named Hyder Ali, would wage war on the British after British forces seized a French colony. This war would summon another Baird, named David Baird, to war.

It should be noted that at this time, ¼ of the population of the 13 rebellious colonies was of Scottish or Ulster Scots descent.¹ In fact, it has been widely postulated that there the majority of Americans that claim to be Irish are really people of Ulster Scots descent based on census data. Over time, the popularization of Ireland has led many to become unaware of their Scottish heritage. Historians are sometimes tempted to even cast the war not as a war between Great Britain and her colonies but rather as a war between Scotland and the American colonies. British forces employed Scottish Highlanders in several key military units in many of the battles. This includes the famed 42nd Black Watch, 71st Fraser Highlanders, 74th Argyle Highlanders, 76th Macdonald's Highlanders and a Highland Unit raised entirely in the colonies known as the Royal Highland Emigrant Regiment. These units were Highland or Gaelic speaking units, and the number of Lowland Scottish units merely increases the sheer presence of Scots fighting in the American War of Independence.

In one regiment, a young Baronet named Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall purchased his commission as a captain of the 71st Highland regiment. Clan Chiefs and the sons of Clan Chiefs that fought at Culloden for Prince Charlie returned to their ancestral clans and for perhaps the final time raised troops for the Clan. Sir James Baird joined the light Infantry and was given control of a Gaelic speaking unit. He learned their language, customs, and songs.

Sir James Baird, key in most of the campaign, held an undefeated record in each of his campaigns. He captured key positions, crushed his enemies, and served with distinctions. He led his men, like clansmen of old, into battle armed only with sharpened steel in a night raid. Wounded in the battle of Germantown, Sir James and his elite unit of light infantry retired to New York, a loyalist stronghold, to recover. The stalemate allowed him to recover and gain recruits from Scotland.

The new British Commander, General Sir Henry Clinton, abandoned Pennsylvania for New York. Once in New York, the introduction of France (and eventually Spain) into the war forced him to rethink his strategy. HE began plans to rally in the strong loyalist areas of the country, the southern colonies, to remount a long term campaign. Yet, he also wanted to draw the Americans out.

On September 28, 1778, Lt Colonel Baylor and his Third Continental Light Dragoons bivouacked at near Old Tappan, New Jersey in barns nearby the British locationⁱⁱ The Dragoons styled themselves “Mrs. Washington’s Guards” as they had served as an escort for Martha Washington, wife of the American General George Washington.ⁱⁱⁱ They had been “tasked to protect the person of General (and Mrs.) Washington”^{iv}

The expedition was led by Major General Charles Grey.^v Using the same tactic as in the Battle of Paoli he ordered “his troops to remove the flints from their muskets so that the pieces could not be fired and to attack by stealth only, with bayonet.”^{vi} The light dragoons settled into sleep when Sir James Baird’s Highlanders overtook the sentries and surrounded the encampment.

What occurred next is not debated. The Sir James Baird led the covert assault that decimated the troops. Between one and two in the morning, they attacked the headquarters. Lt. Colonel Baylor was caught unaware and attempted to escape up the chimney. He and his officers were bayoneted^{vii} One American officer, demanded to know the names of their attackers and was answered, ‘The British light infantry,’ on which he exclaimed, ‘Then we shall all be cut off.’^{viii} Sir James Baird and his men detached to a private barn and caught the dragoons off guard. According to British account, the Americans “discharged ten or twelve pistols, and striking at the troops sans effet with their broadswords, nine of them were instantly bayoneted and seven received quarter.”^{ix}

In all of the 106 American men, 54 were wounded or captured while 15 were killed. However, Sir James Baird, and his successes made him a target for propoganda. American sources claimed that Sir James Baird’s men “rejected calls for mercy with cries of ‘Skiver Him,’ there is no quarter for you’ and ‘run him through’ or coldly warded them off with assertions ‘that their Capitan had ordered them to stab all and take no prisoners.’”^x Additionally they claimed that Sir James Baird “walked through the streets with his bayonet hanging at his back, stained with the blood of Lady Washington’s Life Guards.”^{xi} A year later, claims would come that Baird “vaunted of having put to death nearly a dozen . . . supplicants with his own hands, and even eventually showed their blood oozing out of the touchhole of his fusee.”^{xii}

George Washington himself wrote “this affair appears to have been attended with every circumstance of cruelty.”^{xiii} Dr David Griffith, in a letter passed to Washington, indicated that ‘the principal Agents of General Grey, in this Bloody business, appear to be a Major Straubenzie [Turner Van

Straubenzee], Captain Sir James Baird, & a Captain[-Lieutenant Bent] Ball, all of the 2nd Lt Infantry.”^{xiv} Griffith gathered 13 depositions to support his claim that “very few, or none, of the British Officers, entered the Quarters of our Troops on this occasion that no Stop might be put to the Rage and Barbarity of their Bloodhounds.”^{xv}

The American Congress swooped in to find the cause and required William Livingston to use obtain “the best information upon oath of the treatment of Lieut. Col. Baylor & his party by the Enemy who attacked them”^{xvi} The American newspapers quickly denounced it as a “Massacre”. Sir James Baird became the villain. Undefeated in war, and with covert night assaults, he became an American nightmare. American sources claimed the “enemy] after Butchering in a most inhuman manner a number of the Light Horse and militia who had surrendered themselves prisoners, they turn’d their Cruelties to Woman and Old men; whom thy[sic] treated with every kind of brutality their Perfidiousness could inveny[sic]”^{xvii}

We need to stop for a moment in this gory scene to understand the role of propaganda. Only 15 men of 106 were killed. Four times as many were captured. This quickly appears to be the case not of war crimes but rather poor tactical planning on the American side. Baylor was caught unaware and suffered a humiliating loss to Sir James Baird. The answer, rather than admitting mistakes, became blaming the new villain of the British military, Sir James Baird.

Washington appeared to recognize this as propaganda as well. He wrote “I have only received an account of this unfortunate affair from some of those that escaped, and from Gen. Putnam who had it of the same source- there is hope of its not being so bad as represented.”^{xviii} Nonetheless, this meant an escalation of the intensity and aggression. Although not convinced of the spin, he stated he remained of the same opinion as he “did at first of the enemy’s intention; yet as appearances grow more serious, it is necessary our dispositions should be adapted to them.”^{xix}

Later historians would view the raid in a different light. Instead of a planned massacre, environmental factors led to the casualties that the attack “being made in the middle of the night, when neither order nor discipline can be observed, may apologize in some degree with men of a certain description, for this bloody scene.”^{xx} Washington himself may not have seen this as a massacre when a similar surprise occurred for British forces, he lauded that “about 150 Chasseurs and Yagers, took a Lieut. and eighteen privates, and left ten dead upon the spot. Not a man upon our part was either killed or wounded.”^{xxi}

Sir James Baird although turned villain and the perfect target. Undefeated, he stopped the Americans at every point in the campaign. He led savage army of Highlanders in a barbaric tongue. He was not a human but a monstrous incarnation of some foul demon. Today, we might praise such a man on both sides of the Atlantic and Pacific. A Highland warrior, surrounded by his adopted clansman, charging into the night with only steel blades to secure victory in a raid is often a cherished myth about which Hollywood churns movies.

Washington confused with the British intentions of staying in the North or retreating to the south, as well as the attack by Sir James Baird, ordered his newly reformed Cavalry led by Count Casimir

Pulaski to march into the Fray. Sir James Baird and his Highland soldiers would once again prepare to fight.

ⁱ Maclean J.P. *An Historical Account of the Settlements of Scotch Highlanders in America Prior to the Peace of 1783*. John MacKay, Glasgow, 1900 pg 43

ⁱⁱ Miller J.P. *The History of Great Britain from the Death of George II to the Coronation of George IV*. Jones & Company 1831 p.136

ⁱⁱⁱ Maurer, C.F. *William Dragoon Diary: The History of the Third Continental Light Dragoons*, Author House, 2005 pg.121

^{iv} Maurer. Pg. 121

^v Miller J.P. p. 136

^{vi} Maurer, Pg 131

^{vii} Stryker William S. *The Massacre Near Old Tappan*, Book and Job Printers, 1882. Pg. 8

^{viii} Moore, Frank. *Diary of the American Revolution Vol II*. C. Scribner, New York. Pg. 96

^{ix} Moore, Frank. Pg 96

^x Spring, Matthew *With Zeal and With Bayonets Only: The British Army on Campaign in North America*. University of Oklahoma Press, 2012 pg. 234

^{xi} Spring, Matthew. Pg 234

^{xii} Spring, Matthew. Pg 234

^{xiii} "From George Washington to Henry Laurens, 3 October 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0247>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 239–240.

^{xiv} "To George Washington from Colonel George Baylor, 19 October 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0476>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 456–458.

^{xv} Chase, Philander D. pp. 456–458.

^{xvi} "To George Washington from William Livingston, 13 October 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0387>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 366–368.

^{xvii} "Propaganda: The Might Pen" The Historical Marker Database (<http://www.hmdb.org/marker.asp?marker=8474>) Source : From a petition by citizens of Orange County to Governor Clinton, October 18, 1778"

^{xviii} "From George Washington to Brigadier General Charles Scott, 29 September 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0193>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 193–194.

^{xix} "From George Washington to Major General Horatio Gates, 30 September 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0201>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 200–202.

^{xx} Ramsay, David and Robert Hayne *History of the United States Vol II* (Philadelphia: M.Carey 1816) Pg.272

^{xxi} "From George Washington to Major General John Sullivan, 1 October 1778," Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0223>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, *15 September–31 October 1778*, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 219–220.

The Last Clan Battle

No Defeat in the North

By Isaac S. Baird

This is part of a series of articles chronicling the exploits of the Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall in the American War of Independence.

Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall grew from irritant to monster. In each step of the American War of Independence where he led his men, the British forces gained a resounding victory. He surprised them at Long Island and broke the American Forces. He helped capture significant forts. He won at Brandywine and German Town. He stealthily defeated the Americans in covert night assaults.

His men followed him as a Clan Chief. Those men, born in the highlands, followed the call of the Clan Chiefs who fought at Culloden. Sir James Baird learned their language, customs, and culture. They gave them their loyalty. Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, for this brief time, resurrected the Clan Baird. It was not the Kinship group we think of today in terms of a clan, although bonds formed in war are deeper than blood, but rather in terms of the Highlands. They gave them their loyalty, and led them in their own language as one of them. While the men were not surnamed Baird, they had sworn loyalty to him.

The British Forces faced a greater foe than the Americans. Distance, Demography, French Involvement, and campaigns in the Caribbean and India made holding the North a difficult task even with a string of victories. The plan to move to the Southern Colonies, where Loyalists were more abundant, began. The Americans scouted the British on a daily basis waiting for them to move south. In addition, General Washington of the American military "thought it expedient to detach another brigade thither to act in conjunction with the one already there, together with Pulaski's corps..."ⁱ

Casimir Pulaski was a Polish Count who joined the American side. More than an aristocrat, he was noted for his swordsmanship and horsemanship. It is said that when his horse was at full gallop he would discharge his pistol, throw it in the air, catch it as it descended, again hurl it with all his power in front of him and with but one foot in the stirrup pick it from the ground and resume his position in the saddle."ⁱⁱ Known as the father of the American Cavalry, Washington ordered him to stop Patrick Ferguson.

Captain Patrick Ferguson, born in Aberdeenshire Scotland, and developer of the Ferguson Rifle, spent two weeks watching Pulaski's movement. A breakthrough occurred when Lt. Gustav Juliet deserted from Pulaski's regiment. He claimed "that Pulaski had directed in orders that no quarter should be given to any of the British soldiery if at any time a fight ensued."ⁱⁱⁱ

Determined to surprise Pulaski, Ferguson called upon Sir James Baird. Between 3 and 4 on October 15th, Ferguson ordered the attack. Unfortunately, the Americans left "no sentinel, a criminal neglect..."^{iv} They surrounded the Americans and when "awakened by the shouts of the British party

around their houses, hastily seized their weapons and prepared to make a defense.”^v The American Cavalry was “surprised and nearly cut to pieces by the light infantry under Sir James Baird”^{vi}

The British killed fifty men and lost only two men. When Pulaski awoke to the sounds of gunfire, he mounted his horse and rode. By the time he arrived, the British had escaped. This added fuel to the propaganda fire. Angered at the loss, two Quaker men were arrested. The son was flogged for providing compulsory service after his life was threatened.^{vii} Two weeks later, with no evidence, Pulaski ordered their release.

In defense of Sir James, Captain Ferguson stated “it being a night attack, little quarter could, of course, be given.”^{viii} Additionally, he must have thought that failure meant death as he heard from Juliet “that Pulaski had ordered no quarter to be given, he thought he could do no less than pursue the same method”^{ix} What is often portrayed as a Gentleman’s war was really a vicious battle to the end.

Sir James Baird escaped and boarded a vessel to take him south. After being victorious in every fight, orders directed him away. No defeat would follow him in the North. He grew famous or notorious for the American side, and began to be mentioned in letters back to London.^x Sir James Baird and his Highland Clan did not stop their campaign. Ordered to Georgia, he would do something no one would suspect. He would capture a whole city.

To be Continued-From Savannah Up

ⁱ “From George Washington to Henry Laurens, 3 October 1778,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/03-17-02-0247>, ver. 2013-12-27). Source: *The Papers of George Washington*, Revolutionary War Series, vol. 17, 15 September–31 October 1778, ed. Philander D. Chase. Charlottesville: University of Virginia Press, 2008, pp. 239–240.

ⁱⁱ Stryker, William S. *The Affair at Egg Harbor* (Trenton: Naar, Day, & Naar, 1894) pg. 12

ⁱⁱⁱ Stryker W. Pg 15

^{iv} Stryker W. Pg 17

^v Stryker W. Pg 19

^{vi} Stewart, David. *Sketches of the Character, Manners and Present State of the Highlanders of Scotland*, Longman, Hurst, Res, Orme, and Brown, 1822. pg 53

^{vii} Stryker W. Pg 21

^{viii} Stryker W. Pg 21

^{ix} Stryker W. Pg 21

^x “To Benjamin Franklin from Thomas Digges, 10 August 1779,” Founders Online, National Archives (<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Franklin/01-30-02-0156>, ver. 2014-01-05). Source: *The Papers of Benjamin Franklin*, vol. 30, July 1 through October 31, 1779, ed. Barbara B. Oberg. New Haven and London: Yale University Press, 1993, pp. 208–210.

The Last Clan Battle

Capture the City

By Isaac S. Baird

The following is a series of articles of Sir James Gardiner Baird of Saughtonhall and his role in the American War of Independence while serving in a Highlander regiment.

In 1778, the world found itself locked in war. While in the United States, this time period is only remembered for one theater of a global conflict, war raged every else. France declared war on Britain and shortly in the Caribbean, the French and British navies clashed. The kingdom of Mysore in India, led by Hyder Ali, rose up against the British. A young Captain David Baird watched his 73rd highlanders cut down in the Battle of Pollilur before being captured. Spain initiated support of the French and American cause and signed a treaty with France to fight the British. Great Britain faced challenges at Gibraltar and Minorca. The Spanish fought the British in Florida (a Spanish Possession at the time) as well as in Nicaragua. The Dutch Republic later declared war on Britain and the conflict erupted Sumatra and Mumbai. Great Britain confronted war on a global scale while attempting to face rebellion in the American Colonies.

Controlling a rebellion in the colonies presented unique challenges. To maintain loyalist support, the British military limited their tactics. This necessity derived from the expansive Atlantic Ocean and crossing times that prevented immediate resupply. Despite significant victories in the northern colonies, it became apparent that British Forces could not win without more reinforcements. Battles with large casualties, even if victorious, turned into defeats as manpower dwindled.

General Sir Henry Clinton, Commander-in-Chief in North America, faced the lack of reinforcements and supplies due to changing situations. His attention turned to the southern colonies. Modern Hollywood dramatization portray the American War of Independence as a conflict between solidly united local everyman colonialists fighting for high ideals and wealthy professional soldiers originating in a foreign land. The real participants in the war on more complex realities. The commonly portrayed differences (accent, dialect, loyalty) did not present itself as uniformly imagined today especially in the Southern Colonies. While the Southern colonies maintained governments consisting of rebellious colonists, the more rural parts of the colonies remained fiercely loyal to the British Government.

Nor should one imagine that Scots or their American born descendants fought solely on the British side. The colonial army boasts leadership containing Lachlan McIntosh, (Lachlan Mac an Toisich, a Gaelic speaking Highlander from Badenoch), Hugh Mercer (a Jacobite from Rosehearty and neighbor to the Bairds of Auchmedden), and Lord Stirling. In 1778, the British forces decided in subjugating the southern colonies, beginning in Savannah, Georgia. After facing Mercer and Stirling in the North, Sir James Baird and his 71st light infantry Highlanders would face the defenses left in place by Lachlan McIntosh in Georgia. (Lee and Agnew)

General Howe, commanding the Colonial forces in the South received word from Colonel Lachlan McIntosh that British forces were moving on Savannah and that defenses could not to stop the advance (Lee and Agnew). Howe arrived to discover that only 350 men guarded the city with no major defensive positions. Meeting in a war council, Howe decided upon defending the city until reinforcements arrived.

Lacking military intelligence, the British forces numbering around 3500, called upon Sir James Baird and his light infantry to investigate the situation. Sir James' unit moved on to Wilmington creek using flat boats, Sir James and apprehended two individuals that could provide information. They gathered "the most satisfactory intelligence concerning the state of matters at Savannah...." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) Armed with knowledge, Lt Colonel Archibald Campbell resolved to attack immediately.

On the 29th, the British regiments began their assault on the city. General Howe, leading the Americans, fortified positions at Girardean's, plantation, also known as Geridoe's Plantation. Immediately, the difficult swampy terrain became apparent. Lt Colonel Archibald wrote that between the landing point on the Savannah "the whole country between it and Tybee being a continued tract of deep marsh, intersected by the creeks of St. Augustine and Tybee, of considerable extent..." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) The 71st Highlanders moved from the landing to point to Brewton's hill, where Colonial forces waited, traversing "a narrow causeway six hundred yards in length." (Lee and Agnew)

The Colonials caught the Highlanders in confusion by holding off fire until the main column of Highlanders reached the hill. Led by Captain Cameron, the Light Infantry engaged heavy fire which immediately caused three casualties included the Captain. Gunfire caused the remaining highlanders of the 71st to "rush forward to participate." (Lee and Agnew) Lt. Colonel Archibald recounted that "they received a smart fire of musquetry; but the Highlanders, rushing on with their usual impetuosity, gave them no time to repeat." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65)

Facing overwhelming odds, the Colonials retreated, back to Savannah. Lt. Col Archibald ordered Sir James to lead. The Light infantry "throwing off their packs, formed the advance." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) They approached within 800 yards of the Colonial forces when Campbell determined that the Americans held a superior position advantage. Fearing a loss, he ordered the attack to stop.

It was at this time that Sir James again saved the day. During the assault, a former slave taking advantage of promised freedom promised to lead Sir James through the swamp behind the Colonial defenses. Similar to New York, the Light Infantry under Sir James would move stealthily around the defenses and engage the assault from behind. The Highlanders crept through the swamp to flank the Americans. Their first resistance, a small force, was immediately dispersed. The shots "notified Campbell that Baird had accomplished his purpose...." (Lee and Agnew) Campbell began a frontal assault while Sir James attacked from the rear. The Americans, caught between fighting on both sides, retreated. The terrain quickly lost its advantages. The Americans faced a rising tide preventing them from escaping through the swamp and an advancing military in the city. Given no options, the Colonials surrendered to the 71st. The 71st stripped them of all weapons and valuables and forced to watch Sir James "mount himself on a ladder and sound his brass bugle horn, which the Highlanders no sooner heard than they all got about him when he addressed them in Highland Language...." (Lee and Agnew) Like a Clan Chief of legend, Sir James stood victorious over the conquered city, surrounded by his warriors and praised them in their own Gaelic tongue.

The incident only grew the legend of Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall. Undefeated, he snatched victory from overwhelming odds again with a daring covert assault. In propaganda terms, the Colonialist again attempted to use him and his Highlander warriors as a foreign force, alien and barbarous, with no regard to human life or decency as they had been portrayed in countless other engagements since the beginning of the war. For Baird, this would begin a series of victories in the South that would end tragically due to his superior commander's inability to lead. It would draw the attention of the Empire and create an epic showdown.

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