

# *the* GRYPHON

Early Autumn 2019 / Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc.



On August 5th, 2019, Carrick Pursuivant, Sir George Way of Plean, heard the arguments for Clan Baird to have a Commander named and after a three-hour council with 73 Bairs from around the world, as well as several by ZOOM video conference, Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood, was elected overwhelmingly. Later in August, the Lord Lyon,

Dr. Joseph Morrow, commissioned Richard as our leader. The photograph is of those who were in attendance at the Family Convention.

There were three nominees who stood for election during the meeting. They were Andrew Baird of Newbyth, Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, and Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury and Lochwood.

Meanwhile, after the voting, Richard immediately stood and asked that the other candidates and named Chieftain Douglas Baird of Elie and Durris, help him bring the family lines together, working in one accord to improve our presence and family well-being in all



parts of the world. I hope that his plea is heeded by all of us and that we all now “pitch in”, working together for the betterment of all.

Let us continue the good work we have begun, by cooperating with Richard and the Chieftains to the fullest extent. We finally have a path to leadership of our Clan. What a momentous day it was!



Photograph credit to Anna Ryan Ferguson, Official Clan Baird Society Photographer







## Welcome to my first post in the Gryphon

A lot happened this August in Scotland with a packed tour for the American Clan Bairds. We had a Chiefs / Chieftains' croquet match at Crathes Castle, Banchory prior to the Aboyne Highland Games, I played with Ronnie Marks, Mayor of Athens, Alabama - we didn't win, but nor did we disgrace ourselves! We had fantastic (unusual) weather for the Aboyne Games and it was a privilege for us to host Ellen Wong, US Principle Officer for Scotland for her first visit to a Highland Games, she also kindly



Ronny Marks and Richard Holman Baird accepted to become an Honorary Baird at the Sister City signing, held at Rickarton House, between Athens, Alabama and Stonehaven, Scotland. I would like to thank James Burnett, Chief of Clan Burnett for all his hospitality and for

hosting us at the Aboyne Games this year. My wife Polly, daughter Amelia and I had enjoyed the Southern hospitality of Alabama, Kentucky and also Washington DC in May 2019. My other daughter, Louise and son Angus sadly missed out



Commander Richard Holman Baird and Ellen Wong this time. Louise was in Kenya with her husband, Christopher (Topper) Murray and Angus was studying hard to pass out

with a Degree in Rural Estate Management from Cirencester, Gloucestershire.

August brought the Family Convention in Edinburgh and I must thank everybody for their support over this period and Debra, our President, for all her hard work and bravely stepping into the unknown!



Angus and Polly at graduation

I am having a meeting with the Scottish Chieftains of Saughtonhall, Newbyth and Durris here at Rickarton in May 2020 to discuss ways that we may advance Clan Baird throughout the whole world, but especially in the USA, Canada, Australia and New Zealand. We will play to our individual strengths and I hope to visit the USA sometime in 2020 and there is another Clan Baird Tour of

*Continued on next page*



Athens and Stonehaven Sister City signing at Rickarton House





*Commander's Message continued*

Scotland in August 2021, when we hope to host a Baird Clan Tent at the Aboyne Games.

Finally, if anybody has any suggestions or thoughts for Clan Baird, please let me know and I will try and make them happen.

Best regards

Richard



## Inter-Clan Croquet

James C.A. Burnett of Leys

The annual Inter-Clan Croquet match was held on the lawn at Crathes on August 1st. New entries included two teams from Clan Baird who were ably



The entire group, including Jamie Burnett of Leys, our host, and Ronnie Marks, Richard Holman-Baird, Angus Holman-Baird, and Branton Baird, from the Clan Baird teams.

supported by a number of clan members and representatives of Athens, Alabama with which Stonehaven is twinned. The supporters included Dr Debra Baird, President of Clan Baird



Society Worldwide, Inc who kindly forwarded to me the group photograph. Baird players included Richard and Angus Holman Baird, Branton Baird and Ronnie Marks, Mayor of Athens.

The House of Gordon fielded two teams and were victorious with their "A" team consisting of Andrew Gordon and his daughter, Rosie who beat the Burnetts "B" team in the final. Robert Bogdan and John Bond represented Clan Irvine, Roddy and Fiona Strachan, Clan Strachan; and Lucy and William Gordon playing for House of Gordon "B".

We were very grateful to Bill Strachan, Captain of the Aberdeen and Crathes Croquet Club and Nick Marshall for organising the event which we hope

to stage again next year as we have an increasing demand for participation.



Heather Snyder giving Bob Baird the Torchbearer Award, for the Society member who has done the most to carry the torch of our Scottish Heritage forward, during the previous year, and over a lifetime. Received at Leonards Hall, Edinburgh during the Clad Baird Family Convention.



Commander Richard Holman Baird riding horseback in Athens, Alabama



## Greetings

Dear Members:

It is with great joy I write this late summer message to you, our family.

*We have an official leader, Commander Richard Holman-Baird; a Baird leader for the first time since Culloden.*

He has given his first message in this Gryphon and our excitement at the possibilities for our Clan, with this very strong and involved Commander helping us, is beyond words. I wish to thank Richard, his family, and all those Bairds who helped with our drive to have a Commander named. It has been two years of very hard work, which was preceded by fifty years of very hard work by many, some who are no longer with us.

*We are planning a Baird Gathering from August 6th-9th in Aboyne, Scotland for 2021. Please plan to be with us then*

We have rented the Potarch Lodge on the Ballogie Estate, Banchory, for our meetings, and all Bairds are invited to

attend. We will have a welcome party on the evening of Friday, August 6th, host a Baird tent at the Aboyne Scottish Festival on Saturday, and have a farewell garden party on Sunday afternoon of August 8th back at the lodge. Please go ahead and make reservations for your hotels in and around Aboyne. It is about a two-hour drive from the Edinburgh Airport, and about the same from Glasgow. If you travel to Aberdeen airport, it is about an hour from there.

It has indeed been a wonderful summer for Clan Baird! There is too much to tell in one Gryphon, so we will be reporting all the activities we enjoyed while in Scotland over the next few issues. Stay tuned.

Your Servant,  
Debra



[clanbairdsociety.com](http://clanbairdsociety.com)

## Clan Baird Society Worldwide Tents this Summer

We had several Baird Tents around the US this Summer. Glasgow, Kentucky was the lead off, with Skagit Valley, Washington, Grandfather Mountain, and Niagara Celtic Festival and Virginia Scottish Festival, all coming along quickly. We were the guests of Jamie Burnett of Leys and Clan Burnett at the Aboyne Games on 1st August, in Scotland. Photos are below. We appreciate all the helpers at Glasgow, Jennifer and Rebecca Gray, George and Kathy Baird, Richard, Polly, and Amelia Holman-Baird (Richard served as the chief of the games), Jerry and



Clan Baird Tent at Niagara Celtic Festival, New York. Heather Baird-Jensen and her brother, Peter Baird, hosted the tent.

Louise Todd, with their dulcimers, and all who attended our US general meeting there. Many thanks to Art and Elsie Steilling for all their hard work at Skagit Valley, as well as Penny Carpenter and her husband John. Doris

*Continued on next page*





## CLAN BAIRD AROUND THE WORLD

### Baird Happenings in Canada

Andrew and Victoria Baird, of Leamington, Ontario, were guests at the Queen's Garden Party in London, earlier in the summer. Andrew is the Chief of Fire, Leamington, and was honored to be a part of the celebration.



Andrew and Victoria Baird at the Queen's Garden Party

Page Baird, former Convener of the Bairds of Atlantic Canada and the Islands, invited our president Debra and her husband Alton, to visit Nova Scotia in the Summer of 2020, to attend the Nova Scotia International Military Tattoo. Both Debra and Alton are ready to go. June cannot get here soon enough for them. It will be wonderful to meet some Bairds there and see where they settled after leaving Scotland.



### Baird Happenings in Australia

Dr. Joseph Morrow, The Right Honourable Lord Lyon, King of Arms and Nea McCullough, who is wearing her Baird tartan (her grandmother was Kennedy MacIntosh Baird) Nea is the Deputy President of the Scottish Australian Heritage Council, [www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au](http://www.scottishaustralianheritagecouncil.com.au). The Lord Lyon was visiting Australia earlier this year, and spent time with the Council as a special guest.

Our Australia Commissioners, David and Patricia Benfell, are working to



Dr. Joseph Morrow, The Right Honourable Lord Lyon, King of Arms and Nea McCullough

increase our membership in both Australia and New Zealand. If you know Bairds who could benefit from being a member of the Society, please send their contact information to David and Tish. Their email address is [highland-treasures@yahoo.com.au](mailto:highland-treasures@yahoo.com.au). We appreciate their efforts to help us be more organized and active.

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### Clan Baird Society Worldwide Tents this Summer

Isaacs, Branton Baird, and Bill Rodgers held down the fort at Grandfather Mountain, and their work was most impressive. Heather Baird Jensen and her family, as well as her brother Peter Baird, hosted our tent at the Niagara Celtic Festival, with new people sign-



Penny Carpenter, along with Art and Elsie Steilling at the tent at Skagit Valley, Washington

ing up this year. Bruce Beard, our 3rd Vice President and Virginia State Leader, along with Branton Baird and Liam Voigt, hosted the Virginia Scottish Games Baird tent, and brought in several new members. This was the first Baird tent in Virginia in a very long time. Many thanks to all of you!

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## *The Helmsdale Highland Games*

This is just one of the 11 Highland Games I attend as a co Judge of track and field, heavies and cycling as well as stewarding for Piping at Tain and Dornoch Games.

*Helmsdale Games on the North East coast of Sutherland have just completed their 39th Games on the 17th August 2019.*

The Games had a crowd of some 2000 spectators and included the usual trade stands and Marquees for Catering and the all important Beer Tent.



Fierce competition took place amongst the athletes in track and field and in cycling. The local heavies performed well but no record breaking events happened at these Games.

Michael Baird



## *Virginia Scottish Games and Festival*

This was the 46th annual meeting of the Virginia Games and the first that included official representation by Clan Baird Society. SE Commissioner Branton Baird and Clan Baird Society Member Liam Voight traveled long distance to join me in manning the Baird tent at the games.



Through the two day event, we had five or six folks stop by the tent, person's that were Baird's or with direct Baird ancestry. Without an exception, each of them were thrilled to see the Baird representation and seemed truly interested in following up to learn more about Clan Baird Society.

Branton and Liam were of great value in describing their first hand experiences at the recent Scotland Family meeting and the election and confirmation of Richard as Clan Baird Commander.

Bruce Beard  
VA State Leader





## Historic Bridge Celebrated on old Auchmedden Estate near Pennan

Bridge of Nethermill 1719, also known as the Mill at Auchmedden before the Rising of '45 was duly celebrated and nearly decorated with a bronze plaque from Clan Baird Society, and a pottery



The commemorative bronze plaque to be installed next to the bridge.

year plaque made especially and exclusively for the Bridge by Lynn Pitt, one of the current owners of the mill. The bridge was built by James Baird, 6th

Laird of Auchmedden and Alexander Garden, 2nd Laird of Troup, with other local gentry, in answer to a plea from the King to improve roads for commerce in the highlands.

The Bairds were Jacobites; the Gardens were Hanoverians. Putting aside these differences they constructed this first means of travel connecting Aberdeenshire and Banffshire and Gamrie and Aberdour parishes. Before the bridge was built, it was impossible to travel in a wagon between the communities.

Bill and Lynn Pitt, now honored members of Clan Baird Society and owners of the Mill, invited us to participate in the 300th anniversary celebration they sponsored on 2nd August. It was such an honor to be able to place a plaque commemorating the bridge and those who built it.

Many thanks to Heather Snyder for her hard work to design and get the bronze plaque cast, as well as delivered to Bill and Lynn prior to the celebration.



The Bridge and Branton Baird, Richard Holman Baird, and Isaac Baird with the Commander's Colors on the Bridge.

Should you travel to the northeast of Scotland, be sure and stay with Bill and Lynn. They have turned the old Mill into four very nice cottages/flats. They rent them on a weekly basis, and love for Bairds to come home to Auchmedden.

Special thanks to all the Bairds and friends who attended the party. Our Commander, Richard Holman-Baird, Branton Baird, and Isaac Baird were instrumental in remembering the Bairds. Isaac was especially well received when he spoke to the group in Gaelic.

Most special thanks to Bill and Lynn Pitt for having the celebration.







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Camilla Hellman, President of the American Scottish Foundation, and Branton Baird, in the Baird tent at Grandfather



Bill Rodgers, South Carolina State Leader, ready for the Tartan Parade at Grandfather Mountain



Ashley Baird Bernardi and family at the Virginia Scottish Games Baird Tent, new members, whose father was John Baird, a very active member of a few years ago, that so many of you know.



Clan Baird Society board members and Commander Richard Holman Baird at the Family Convention  
L-R: 1st. VP Sandy Baird, 2nd. VP Isaac Baird, Commander Richard Holman Baird, President Debra Baird, The Gryphon Editor, Heather Snyder

*The Baird's marched for freedom on the 4th of July in Marietta, Georgia, representing the Scots who fought for the Colonies during the Revolutionary War.*

The photo and write-up are courtesy of Beth's New-Fangled Family Tree.

Baird's who marched were Branton Baird of Alabama, Liam and Jake Voigt of Georgia, and Kelley Rainwater of Georgia.



Branton, Jake, and Liam

### Let Freedom Ring Fourth of July Parade Marietta, Georgia

The Scottish Heritage Society of the South participated in the 2019 Fourth of July Parade in Marietta, Georgia this past July. Participants included: Branton Baird, SE US Convenor for Clan Baird, Bill Boyd, Jessica Rosso, Lord John Morrison Allen, Jr., Personal Representative of the Chief of Clahn MacKay, his daughter, Kaydan, Jacob Voigt with girlfriend and Kelly Rainwater. For more information about the group, contact <shsots@gmail.com>







## Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our  
Clan the following:*

### New Members Summer 2019

Scott Paul Axworthy, Washington  
James Chenoweth Baird, Oklahoma  
Edward Baird, Tennessee

George Henry Baird, Kentucky  
Greg, Denise and Amanda Baird, Virginia  
Jeffrey L Baird, Maine  
Jonathan Baird, Utah  
Mark Baird, Florida  
Mark R. Baird, Arizona  
Michael Baird, Scotland  
Nathan Baird, Kentucky  
Ralph Baird, Texas  
W. Douglas Baird, Florida  
Charles Mancel Baird, Washington  
Susan Beckelman, Maine  
Ashley Bernardi, Virginia  
Sue Thomas Briggs, Alabama  
Debra Baird Coffing, Colorado  
Martin A. Coyle, California  
Crystal Torney Davis, Maine

Janet Gage, South Carolina  
Dennis Layson, Kentucky  
Nea McCulloch, Australia  
Andrea McGlynn, Virginia  
Deena Baird Maley, Ohio  
Laura Miller, California  
John Ferguson Misenheimer,  
North Carolina  
Bill Pitt, Pennan, Scotland  
Lynn Pitt, Pennan, Scotland  
Ray Shear, Kentucky  
Lilly Shear, Kentucky  
Jay Snyder, New York  
Henry Clay Williams, Virginia  
Ellen Wong, Edinburgh, Scotland  
Debi Stringberg Yeager, Missouri  
Adam C. Smith, Pennsylvania



At the 300th anniversary celebration of the Bridge at Nethermill  
L to R: Branton Baird, Bill and Lynn Pitt, owners of the Mill,  
Commander Richard Holman Baird, Debra Baird, Colin Snyder

### Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Second Quarter - 2019  
April 1 through June 30, 2019

Income:	
Dues Received	380.00
Misc Income	
Donations - President, Coat of Arms	46.00
Donations - Bruce Beard	75.00

Total Income for Period	501.00
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Expense:	
Advertising	
President-Membership	
Annual Report Fee	
Scholarship	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	498.33
Games	491.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	7.92

Total Expenses for Period:	997.25
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Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(496.25)
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Cash in Bank - Last Report:	6,399.35
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Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	5,903.10
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Submitted by:  
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide





## Clan Baird Officers & Staff

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Anna Ryan Ferguson  
*Official Clan Baird Society Photographer*



## Newsletter Deadlines

**Autumn 2019 Issue**  
deadline October 30th

**Winter 2020 Issue**  
deadline January 30th

**Spring 2020 Issue**  
deadline March 30th

### Please submit newsletter articles to:

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hsnyder65@yahoo.com  
or mail to:

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Northfield, VT 05663

Electronic file formats accepted are  
Microsoft Word documents  
Adobe Acrobat. Any photo images,  
JPG, TIFF, GIF

**Any questions about The Gryphon  
submissions please call  
Heather at 802-485-5541**



## Where you can find us

### Finding Your Family Roots

We have others in Clan Baird Society  
who are very knowledgeable in the  
history of Baird. Please email  
[info@clanbairdsociety.com](mailto:info@clanbairdsociety.com)  
for more information.

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**Check out our website  
[clanbairdsociety.com](http://clanbairdsociety.com)**



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