

The BRAEMAR GATHERING 2015

Submitted by: Ross Baird, Aberdeen, Scotland

It has been my privilege to attend the Braemar Gathering for many years now, as I am in the fortunate position of living in Aberdeen at the gateway to Royal Deeside. This year however was especially exciting as it was the two hundredth year of the event, the first being three months after the Battle of Waterloo in 1815, coupled with Her Majesty the Queen's near celebration of being the longest serving Monarch.



My daughter has the good fortune to be married to a native of Braemar whose house is precisely at the gate to the Princess Royal and Duke of Fife Park where the games have traditionally been held. It has always been a family tradition to hold a ceilidh on the Friday night before the games and this year was no

exception with all manner of musical instruments including pipers and drummers, the evening was a great success with the promise of a great day ahead.

Games day dawned bright and dry but cold, the crowds started streaming in to take their seats for the upcoming spectacle, and that it certainly was. The cream of highland athletes were representing not only Scotland, but Poland and England as well as a US father and

son who acquitted themselves very well in all the disciplines including the mighty Braemar caber! The dancers provided a colourful and pretty sight in their bright tartans, all with their proud mothers beaming from the side lines. There were no less than twelve pipe bands in the massed bands from all over Scotland.

For this very special anniversary, the High-

land Society invited the Men of Lonach to march from their homes in Strathdon, led by their own pipe band, over the hills to Braemar. They are made up mostly of the Forbes clan but there are Gordons and Wallaces also. They march from Bellabeg to Braemar, a considerable distance; however they are fortified

along the way, as they stop at all the grand houses and Estates and are welcomed with food and more importantly - a wee dram or two!

Also invited were the Atholl Highlanders, who are the only private army in Europe. They are raised from the workers on the estate of the Duke of Atholl and are



allowed to march with colours flying and bayonets fixed in the presence of Her Majesty. Again, marching to their own pipe band, they were led by the Dukes son - The Marquis of Tullibardine.

An expectant hush with a lull in activity descends over the arena at 3.00, followed by massive cheering as her Majesty and the Duke of Edinburgh along with the Duke of Rothesay (Prince Charles) and the rest of the Royal family are welcomed into the arena in a procession of Range Rovers. They take their seats in the Royal Pavilion and thoroughly enjoy the games as well as presenting some of the prizes.

It is a magical setting in the glen of the heather covered Grampian hills and should not be missed by anyone with an ounce of Scottish blood; however, even if you haven't, everyone is given a hundred thousand welcomes.



Genealogy: Where to Start or Rather the Most Important Thing You Can Do

Genealogy: Where to Start or Rather the Most Important Thing You Can Do Genealogy can be extremely addictive. It is a combination of science, art, investigation, and history. Pursuing genealogy is fun! It's exciting! There are few joys as discovering ancestors and family history that appeared to be lost. Starting can seem daunting and diving straight in can clutter things as soon as possible.

Before getting started, the genealogist (Yourself) should sit down and determine some goals. What are you looking to complete through Genealogy or Family Heritage? How do you view this new activity? Is it a Job, a sacred calling, a hobby, or a fun distraction? Finally, you need what needs to be done first.

Genealogy is the study of one's ancestors and family history. It is the meticulous work of discovering names, relations, dates and developing a family tree. Genealogy is not a new subject, although until the last 200 years, it was primarily the realm of the rich and noble. Since accurate data leads to long lasting records, the goal

of the genealogist is to reevaluate and publish the most accurate data.

Family Heritage is the legacy that is handed down from ancestors. Closely related to Genealogy, it consists of the stories, the traditions, and memories passed from generation to generation. The goal of the family historian is to preserve the memories of the family. A family historian is also concerned about accuracy but also considers the back story behind the family and glean details from records to understand how ancestors lived.

In truth, Genealogy and Family history are linked and it is difficult to do one without doing the other. They both require time online, in libraries, and speaking to people. Understanding your commitment to either can help make doing genealogy more enjoyable by setting realistic goals. For example, if Genealogy is merely a fun distraction, target goals should be set lower than someone who views genealogy as a calling and can devote huge amounts of time to complete.



Understanding and setting goals, the genealogist can now begin the critical first step. Surprisingly, this first step is not to rush out and gather names from online databases. The first step for either the genealogist or the Family historian is to gather the perishable items first. In the digital age, it is extremely easy to gather names and quickly look 5 generations back. However, the most

pressing issue are to gather the memories of older relatives. Too often Genealogists lament "If only I had asked my grandmother..." or "my Aunt told me a story and I wish I had written it down." These perishable stories often give clues about past generations and will prove to be very valuable. Although online data is extremely easy to get, these perishable memories will be unavailable in a relatively short time.

When preserving information, you should aim to record or video tape these interviews if possible. At minimum, we should write them down. Reach beyond the dry details of cities, where people were born, and look into the why. This information can be incredibly helpful in learning why families moved or from where they originated.

Years ago, I met a very elderly man who as a child had known my great-grandfather who passed away 50 years earlier. Due to his distance, we conversed via email where he shared details about my ancestors' shop, his sons, their activities, and had a long discussion about life, where my ancestor imparted some wisdom to the man. This unique experience gave me large amounts of information including: where my ancestor came from, his occupation, children, tragedies, and although second-hand, a little family wisdom. All of this was widely unknown to my family. The gentleman passed away 6 months later.

In the next article, we will investigate conducting an interview as well as how to preserve records digitally.





Message from the President

President's Report for 2015

2015 has been a very good year for us!

1) Regional Coordinators and State Leaders have been returned to active service, and are still organizing for the most effective means of helping the Society. Many thanks to Isaac Baird for developing the new organizational materials.

2) Membership renewals and new member applications continue to grow, but more work is needed for recruiting members, especially by the Regional Coordinators and State Leaders.

3) A group trip is available for Summer 2016, completely planned and offered by Auld Country Tours at <http://www.auldcountrytours.com/tours/the-clan-baird-tour-2016>

4) Baird Society Tents were present at many venues. Those we are aware of are:

May 2015

Alma Highland Games, Michigan

June 2015

Kansas City Highland Games

Kansas

June 2015

St. Andrew's Society of Detroit, Michigan (Livonia)

June 2015

Ithaca Scottish Festival, Ithaca, New York

July 2015

Central New York Highland Games

Liverpool, New York

October 2015

Stone Mountain Highland Games, Georgia

Also, many thanks to their son, Nathan Brooks, for his work as our Baird athlete at the Games, and to Rebecca Bailey Gray, for being our Baird harpist for the year. They both took many prizes at the festival.



Alton and I wish each of you loving, happy, and joyful times with family and friends during the holidays, and hope your New Year wishes all come true. Don't forget to celebrate Hogmanay, in honor of our Scottish ancestors, and in remembrance of all the old times.

In Service to the Members,
an geall air sith,
Debra





HERALDRY SIMPLIFIED PART 2

For those heavily engaged in heraldry, this article may seem quite simple on a very complex subject.

The aim of these articles are to introduce the importance of heraldry as a way to understanding heraldry in Scottish tradition and genealogy.

Heraldry, the art, science, and history of using symbolic genealogical tools known as “Coats of Arms”, remains a source of constant question in North America. With a long and complicated history, multiple national heraldic styles, and unscrupulous companies that sell depictions of arms as “official”, confusion continues to reign. It does not need to be this way. Investigating heraldic origins, their roll in Scottish and Baird traditions, and their role in North America grants genealogists additional tools and contributes to the rich tapestry of the Baird and Scottish experience.

In the previous article, we looked at the general history of heraldry and some of the basic vocabulary of heraldry. In this article, we look at Heraldry in Scotland. Heraldry in Scotland represents a unique tradition. The heraldic authority, the Court of the Lord Lyon, is an official part of the Scottish Judiciary. (Innes of Learney 13) This is dramatically different than in most other countries. In England, for example, the Heraldic authority is located in the College of Arms, a royal corporation. While a Court of Chivalry exists, it met once in the last 230 years in 1955. (Janin 196) This means that Lord Lyon maintains an actual court and carries both civil and penal powers. The Lyon Court guards this power in Scotland as evidenced by forcing Donald Trump, whose mother was a Gaelic speaking highlander, to remove all of his Arms from his website, envelopes, letterheads and products in Scotland or risk losing control to the Scottish government. The Lyon

Court then worked with Mr. Trump to develop a legally granted coat of arms. The Lyon Court also worked to ensure the appropriate format, colors, and schemes were used within the heraldic tradition of Scotland. Donald Trump fell afoul of a 400 year old law. He essentially “assumed” arms in Scotland. Assuming arms, either by creating your own or using them or using someone else’s is against the law. Arms do not belong to family or name. Each individual has the opportunity to inherit, register or matriculate Arms. Arms, matriculated by a petitioner via the Lyon Court, become the sole property of that person. Much like a brand or trademark,



Baird of Muirkirk
From Armorial Families: A directory of Gentleman
of Coat-Armour
by Arthur Charles Fox Davies 1929

they belong to that person alone. Upon death, they are inherited, undifferentiated by the person’s heir.

The Lord Lyon has the ability to determine the criteria for matriculation or granting. Complex rules exist for the structure of the arms, and how the various descendants should have their arms differentiated based on their location in the family. In Scotland, “Captain” or the senior heir matriculates the undifferentiated arms, where

the junior branches or “Cadets” have a unique border applied to show their location in the family and genealogy. By understand the Border system, and the rules of heraldry, a genealogist can leverage these arms to develop a symbolically represented family tree. Historically, the Lord Lyon attempts to keep the main element or charge of the shield similar. Hence for the Bairds, a Boar appears to be the common charge with differences coming in color and additional marks of cadency, or symbols that show descent. Additionally, the Lord Lyon appears to favor the Eagle’s head as the crest although it should be noted that this is not always the case. Prominent Baird families such as the Bairds of Saughtonhall and Newbyth have a Boar’s head. To matriculate arms, a petitioner needs to prove that:

- A) They have an ancestor that was granted arms and that they are a “virtuous and well-deserving person”
- B) Or that they currently reside in Scotland, or have resided originally in Scotland. (The Court of the Lord Lyon: Applying for a Coat of Arms)

In some cases, this means that a petitioner may need to request matriculation for a Scottish ancestor and then request to matriculate those arms. For commonwealth citizens of Scottish descent not domiciled in Scotland, the lord Lyon will accept applications except where they live in Northern Ireland, England, Canada or South Africa or show a need. In those cases, the Heraldic authority exists separately and the Lord Lyon looks to those authorities. (The Court of the Lord Lyon: Applying for a Coat of Arms) For those interested in learning more about matriculating arms, the Clan Baird Society can help in providing more information around fees, costs, and requirements to getting started. The Clan Baird Society can also help in getting more information about how to use heraldry in genealogy.

In our next article, we will look at the role of Heraldry in the Western Hemisphere, particularly in North America.



Heraldry Simplified from page 4

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An Update Letter from our Scholarship Recipient Erin Park

I just wanted to send you an update on my summer and beginning of third year at University of Glasgow (my apologies for not getting in touch earlier!). This summer I spent at home in Pennsylvania, working at a local coffee shop



and as a volunteer intern at People's Light, a local professional theatre. I continued competing in highland

dancing, including traveling to US Nationals in Atlanta Georgia to support my younger sister who represented the Eastern Region!

I have just finished the seventh week of the first semester of my honors years. I am currently enrolled in two

courses for English Language: Sociolinguistics and Digital Humanities, and two courses for Gaelic: The Gaelic Novel and Language Skills. I am very much enjoying all of these courses and the increased emphasis on self-directed learning. In the second semester I will have a project in both my English Language courses that will give me an opportunity to conduct in-depth research in an area of my choice. Even though it is only the start of third year, I am gearing up for my dissertation in fourth year and have started thinking of the many different possibilities for research topics.

In addition to academics, I am very involved in the Gaelic scene on campus this year. I am living in the University's Gaelic language residency scheme with two other girls, both from Inverness. We speak Gaelic together, which has provided me with a lot of day-to-day exposure to the language. We will also be heavily involved in promoting Gaelic on campus through events, language campaigns, and informal gatherings. We are currently developing a blog focused on Gaelic-speaking young people and are working on a short film to be submitted to the nationwide Gaelic short film competition FilmG. In addition, I am the Treasurer for the University's Gaelic society and have been working closely with the president to run our annual literature competition. I currently hold two babysitting jobs for Gaelic-speaking families, which is another great opportunity to improve my Gaelic skills. It's certainly been a busy year so far, and I've been enjoy-

ing every minute of it! Thank you so much for all your support; I would not be able to take advantage of these opportunities without Clan Baird!

I am honored to have received Clan Baird's support. Thank you!

All the best,
Erin Park



Paul Baird of Green Valley Arizona died late August. He and Virginia would have been married 65 years in December. He loved having Scottish ancestry. He traveled to Scotland on business and was often asked as he checked into his hotel if he knew about John Logie Baird who invented the TV.

He enjoyed belonging to the society and like his brother Ted Baird, he was very active in the group. Paul, Ted, and Virginia went on the Baird trip organized by Dale Baird years ago.



Interesting Bairds to Present

← from Past →

Harriett Amy Bartram-Baird

Harriett is the grand-daughter of Jack and Margaret Baird and the daughter of their daughter Joanne. Jack and Margaret used to be very active within The Baird Clan Society including joining the Americans' Tour of Scotland when Dale was our president. They also visited "Dick" Baird and his wife Olive when Dick was the immediate past-president. Joanne's first husband was Nigel Bartram. Joanne did not want



to lose the "Baird" name which is why Harriett was Christened Harriett Amy Bartram-Baird. The name "Amy" comes from Margaret's family.

Even when Harriett was very young she had an affinity with animals and this continued as she grew-up, including becoming quite a dare-devil on horses. Whilst still fairly young it became clear that she was determined to be a vet for which very high exam results are

required. Fortunately when living in Essex with her Mum and Joanne's second husband Chris Ash, she was able to go as a "day-girl" to "New House" school that was once a mansion built by and for King Henry V111. Then, when Chris and Joanne decided to buy a larger house and estate [Stephenson's Hill House] in Lincolnshire some 14 miles from Lincoln, Harriett studied for her "A" Levels in "The Minster" School in Lincoln that is close to Lincoln Cathedral. Now, Jack and Margaret live in the annexe to Stephenson's Hill House.

During the final year, pupils who wish to go to university are advised to apply to four universities of their choice. With the help of Joanne and Chris, Harriett visited eight Veterinary departments including Cambridge before applying to Nottingham, London, Edinburgh and Liverpool. She was 18 in September 2015. To her delight she was "made an offer" from The Royal Veterinary School of London providing that she obtained an "A" Level in Biology, Chemistry and Mathematics. You can imagine the excitement and celebrations early in September when she achieved this. Also to her delight, all the Minster School "A" level students were offered a place in a university of their choice.

The Minster School held its 2015 year presentation of annual awards - not only for "A" Level students - in Lincoln Cathedral after a reception in The Chapter House for the successful "A" Level students and their parents. Some 600 "Senior School" pupils plus parents, teachers, clerics and the choirs of the school and Cathedral filled The Nave of the huge Cathedral. Well over 200 awards were presented for academic subjects, music and sport by the invited guest Daniel Mpanduzi from "The Voice School" in Tanzania.

To start as a trainee vet on the 21st September. Joanne and Chris drove Harriett to the "Halls of Residence" of the university.

Membership General Meeting

Stone Mountain, Georgia

by Robert L. Baird, Secretary

On Saturday, November 17, 2015, the Clan Baird Society Worldwide held its Membership General Meeting at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in Georgia. We approved the revised Clan By-Laws and elected the following officers which were nominated:

President

Debra June Baird

1st Vice President

James D. Baird

2nd Vice President

Isaac Samuel Baird

2nd Vice President

Miller S. Baird

Treasurer

Robert G. Beard

Secretary

Robert L. Baird





Dualchas

CULTURE · TRADITION · INHERITANCE

Hi! I'm Erin Park, and in this space I will be talking a little bit about Gaelic, Highland, and Scottish culture and history. Feel free to send me any suggestions that you would like to see covered!

One of the newest developments in Gaelic literature in the past 15 years is the resurgence of Gaelic prose fiction and the beginnings of Gaelic novels. While Gaelic literature has always focused heavily on poetry, prose literature in the form of short stories arose throughout the 20th century, starting with Iain MacCormaig and in the 1970s and 80s was continued by a number of authors, in particular the prolific Iain Crichton Smith, a well known writer in both Gaelic and English. While Gaelic prose fiction, particularly short stories, was around for a while by the turn of the 21st century, the variety of authors and genres was slim. However, in 2003, a publishing scheme called 'Ùr-sgeul' was established by Clàr and the Gaelic Books Council, to develop the canon of Scottish Gaelic prose fiction. 'Ùr-sgeul' means 'tale, romance, or fable'. The scheme provides publishing support, marketing, as well as financial support to Scottish Gaelic writers. As a result of this scheme, lots of new Gaelic books have been published. The first full-length Gaelic novel was published by Ùr-sgeul, called 'An Oidhche Mus Do Sheòl Sinn' or "The Night Before We Sailed." The novel is set in First World War Uist, and tells the story of a boy

who decides to become a priest, and explores elements of faith and power in the Gaelic community. Its style is often very literary, with lots of archaic vocabulary, which the author, Aonghas Pàdraig Caimbeul, uses to set the story in a Gaelic monolingual culture. Today the majority of the work published by Ùr-sgeul are novels, and there have been exciting new developments such as murder mysteries, stories set in exotic locations, graphic novels, and science-fiction! This has been a wonderful addition to the Gaelic language resurgence by creating lots of new material for Gaelic-speaking adults. The rise of Gaelic prose fiction will lead to more prolific prose literature in the future, as literacy levels of Gaelic speakers rise and as the status of Gaelic grows. The contribution of modern Gaelic prose to the literary canon of hundreds of years is exciting, and proves that fresh literary growth is crucial to the maintenance of Scottish culture.



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Second Quarter 2015
July 1 through September 30, 2015

Income:	
Dues Received	200.00
Misc Income	1.93
Donations	520.00
Quartermaster Sales	
Total Quarterly Income:	721.93
Expense:	
Advertising	384.98
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Scholarships	
Gryphon	501.93
Games	679.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations	500.00
Miscellaneous - Annual Report Fee	20.00
Total Quarterly Expense:	2,085.91
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(1,363.98)
Cash in Bank - Last Quarter:	8,207.45
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	6,843.47

Submitted by:
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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**Newsletter
Deadlines**

Winter 2016 Issue
deadline is January 15th

Spring 2016 Issue
deadline is April 15th

Summer 2016 Issue
deadline is July 15th

Autumn 2016 Issue
deadline is October 15th

Please submit newsletter articles to:

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

*Any questions about The Gryphon
submissions please feel
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**Where you
can find us**

Finding Your Family Roots

We have other of Clan Baird Society
who are very knowledgeable in the
history of Baird. Please email
info@clanbairdsociety.com
for more information.

**Check out our website!
clanbairdsociety.com**



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