

SCOTLAND 2016 TOUR

This is an exciting opportunity. Most of us have dreamed of traveling to Scotland, to the home of our Baird ancestors. As we know, The Bairds have a long and fascinating history in Scotland.

Auld Country Tours of British Columbia, Canada, is offering a tour of Scotland, with an emphasis on the history of the Baird Clan. The tour will be 10 days, from June 21 to June 30, 2016.



Pennan, Aberdeenshire, Scotland

Day 6
Pennan and Auchmedden

Day 7
Culloden and Fort George

Day 8
Loch Ness, A Visit with Nessie

Day 9
A Tale of Two Cities
Glasgow, and a train back to
Edinburgh

Day 10
Farewell for now, Clan Baird

It will begin in Edinburgh, the Royal City, and travel through several cities, including St. Andrews, Aberdeen, Auchmedden and ending in Glasgow.

There is a maximum number of 25 guests. Spaces will be filled on a first-come first-served basis. This is a nice size group to travel with and it will probably fill up early.

For more information, we plan on adding a link to our website, clanbairdsociety.com, or you can contact the tour website directly at:

AuldCountryTours.com

Highlights

The Clan Baird Tour 2016
(10 days: June 21 - 30, 2016)

Day 1-2
Edinburgh Royal City
The morning of the 22nd, in Scotland's beautiful capital city, Edinburgh.

Day 3
Capital City, Then and Now

Day 4
St. Andrews and the Whisky Trail

Day 5
Baird history in Aberdeen





Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

We welcome to our
Clan the following:

Alan Ray Byrd
Iron Station, North Carolina

Jennifer Leah Baird Gray
Harvest, Alabama



The Last Clan Battle Then We Shall All Be Cut Off

~ Submitted by Isaac 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 of 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, a quarter of the population of the 13 rebellious colonies was of Scottish or Ulster Scots descent. In fact, it has been widely postulated that 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,

Then We All Shall.. Continued on page 3



Message from the President

Greetings from Clan Baird President

Greetings to all from Alabama. Thank goodness we have made it to August; it won't be long now until this terrible heat and humidity will let up and the coolness of autumn is upon us! Your support of the work of the Society is much appreciated and we continue to build our group through membership and service. We need scholarship applications for the 2015-2016 school year. Please have your students who are studying Scottish heritage or lessons in Scottish activities fill out an application and send it in as soon as possible.

Much progress has been made on regional coordinators and state leaders. We are almost ready to announce the new structure with leaders in place, and set up the meetings/website area for that work. Many thanks to all who volunteered their time and talent. We hope the regional coordinators and state leaders will offer much needed assistance to those who sponsor Baird Tents at festivals. A new structure with guidelines/forms for hosting Baird Tents will be a part of what is outlined on the website.

Cheryl and Henry Baird and crew are working hard to make our General Meeting a great success. Letters and

ballots about the meeting and elections are coming to your postal mailbox once again. The Stone Mountain Highland Games, Atlanta, Georgia, October 16-18, are being touted

as the best they have ever planned. The website is smhg.org The Hilton Atlanta Northeast is the official hotel, and there are several others close by. There is a Hampton Inn just outside the event area. Campgrounds are also available at Stone Mountain Park, if anyone wishes to stay there.

During the Stone Mountain festival, we will be holding a reception for our athletes at the Baird Tent and presenting Baird Clan plaques with a gift from the Society for their efforts in the sporting events. If you plan to participate in the contests, please send me your name and events, so that we can prepare for your award presentation at the reception, and send your special invitation to attend. I hope to see each of you at Stone Mountain.

If you have concerns or suggestions for making the Society better, please get in touch with me. I and the Board are always interested in the group being closer and serving one another better.

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



clanbairdsociety.com

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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 location. 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. They had been "tasked to protect the person of General (and Mrs.) Washington"

The expedition was led by Major General Charles Grey. 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." 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. One American officer, demanded to know the names of their attackers and was was answered, 'The British light infantry,' on which he exclaimed, 'Then we shall all be cut off.'" 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."

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HERALDRY SIMPLIFIED PART I

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.

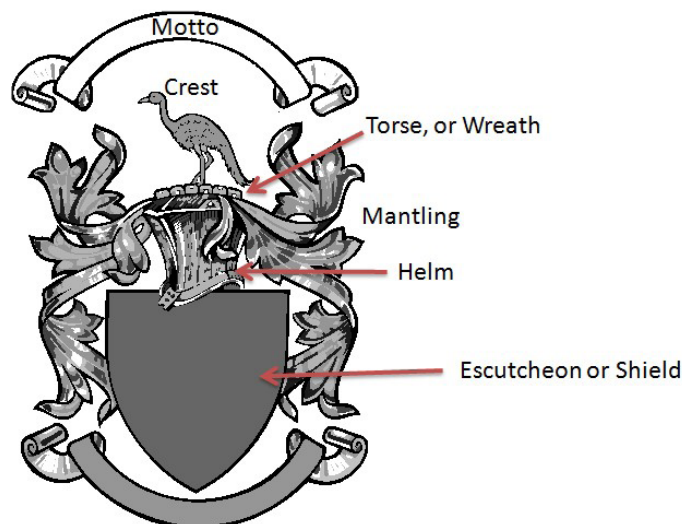
Many years ago, a relative purchased the "Family Coat of Arms" online to represent his Scottish heritage and displayed them in their home. Likewise, while searching Clan History online, I came across an image of a person who had the Baird of Auchmedden coat of arms tattooed on his arm as a sign of his family history. It is not surprising considering the complexity of heraldry with its own language and terminology that a fair amount of confusion exists within the North American members of the Clan Society on the subject of heraldry.

Often times, it is seen as an antiquated tradition of a privileged class with little to offer in the 21st century. It may also appear foreign and contrary to the history of the United States and Canada. Few realize that Heraldry as long played a role in the United States, Canada, Mexico, and South America. In the United States, the heraldic tradition is deeply ingrained in politics, business, and military. Few Americans however realize how important it is or its origins. North Americans should understand the origin of Heraldry, the role it plays in Scottish traditions and how heraldry is very much in use in the United States and Canada.

First and foremost, we must understand that heraldry is not merely for the ultra-wealthy titled pretentious individuals. Heraldry is in fact a genealogy tool and may be the oldest genealogy tool in the western world. It may be thought of as the medieval version of Ancestry.com. In the 12th century, when literacy rates were lowest, the invention of symbolically displaying your family origins and thereby assert-

ing your right to an inheritance would have been crucial.

Originally, a coat of arms began as a tabard or surcoat of a knight to identify him in battle that fit over the armor. In addition, the designs, or charges, were painted onto the shields. At that time, like today, it didn't belong to a family, but rather to an individual. Heralds, or people who work in Heraldry, would display this as a Shield or Escutcheon. (See Fig. 1)



In tournaments, knights would place a totem on their helmets, to further distinguish themselves in the crowd. This totem would later become the crests (or Clan Crests) of today. These crests are drawn by placing the crest atop a wreath, or torse, which holds the mantling in place. The mantling is shown as the draper attached to stave off the elements and deflect sword blows. Hence, the mantling is shown as being ragged. (See Fig. 1) The torse can also be replaced by a crown, coronet or chapeau depending on the owner's rank and standing in the peerage. The torse then rest upon a helmet or helm. Even this helm is symbolic of distinctions and standing of the owner.

Armour and land was expensive and when a Son inherited his father's armour, he would use the same picture

on the shield. When more than one son existed, the common course was to alter the coat of arms slightly to show the position that person had to the founder. In this way it could be used to show descent.

For example, when a landowner passed away, it could be quickly established who would inherit the land by a quick glance of the coat of arms to see whose arms who the least different or "undifferentiated" from the landowner to find out the true heir. Each person in the family, nephew, cousin, brother, or sister would have an individual coat of arms slightly different from the rest to show his/her position in the family. In each case, when a father passed away, the eldest would inherit the arms as long as he/she retained the family name.

In certain cases, when marrying into a wealthier family, a person might be enticed to "quarter the arms" or divide the shield into four spots and take two spots for one family and two from another. Those quarters might be quartered again

in the next generation. This is seen in the Frasers of Findrack who kept the Bairds of Auchmedden in their Arms for political and financial purposes.

Fast forward to the 17th century and heraldry became important in Scotland. The Scottish Parliament passed a law in 1672 requiring anyone using a Coat of Arms to register them with the Lord Lyon King at Arms and pay a fee. If you didn't pay up and register, the fine was bigger. In addition, the court had the right to take "all moveable goods and gear upon which the said arms are engraved". Thus one of the strongest heraldic traditions was born in Scotland. The Court of the Lord Lyon transformed from a symbolic feudal court to an actual court of law within



Heraldry Simplified from page 4

the Scottish Court System. Specifically, it deals with issues arising in heraldic matters such as who inherits what arms and the granting of new Arms. The Lyon court has protected this duty fervently. Heraldic laws in Scotland are not an historical quirk. In 2008, the Lyon court investigated Donald Trump for using a coat of arms as a logo in his new golf resort without matriculating them and threatened legal action. Trump, whose mother was born in the Western Isles of Scotland in the Gaelic speaking village of Tong, was forced to matriculate arms or face prosecution. In the next article, we will look in to the unique tradition of Heraldry in Scotland, the Bairds, and heraldry in the North America.

- submitted by Isaac Baird



Then We All Shall... continued from page 3

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 propaganda. 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 Captitan had ordered them to stab all and take no prisoners.'" 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." 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."

George Washington himself wrote "this affair appears to have been attended with every circumstance of cruelty." 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." 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."

The American Congress swooped in to a find the cause and required William Livingston to obtain "the best information upon oath of the treatment of Lieut. Col. Baylor & his party by the Enemy who attacked them" 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]"

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." 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."

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." 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."

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.





Highland Game Events

Two Very Hearty WHOOPES!!!

By Wrex R. Diem

Once again Memorial Weekend brought us the Alma Highland Games Festival. Clan Baird was represented at the Games with a Clan Tent.

The first WHOOPEE goes out to yours truly for I was not hosting the Clan Tent. After 30 years I finally stepped back and retired.

The second WHOOPEE goes out to the Bard Family. They stepped up and hosted the Clan Tent. Last year Randy and Bonnie Bard said with great trepidation that they would do it. Hosting for the first time is a very scary thought until one does it.

Their eldest son Hans assisted with great gusto by finding and adding great pictures and a banner depicting the Baird Estate in Auchmaddan.

In the Parade of Tartans, the Clan was well represented with 14 members and their families marching. 31 other Clans and the St. Andrews Society of Detroit also marched. The parade was as usual quite a sight to see.

As the events of the day began winding down the Bard Family decided to talk to the St. Andrews Society about hosting a tent at their Games. Then because of their success they admitted to me that yes they would host a Baird Tent at those games.

So, I am sending out an invitation to all Baird members and non members to come out and support the Bards and the Clan at the St. Andrews Society Highland Games, Greenmead Park, Livonia, Michigan. And while there, march in the parade and heartily thank the Bards for being gutsy and stepping up and hosting a Baird Tent.

K.C. Highland Games

Despite threatening weather on June 13, the intrepid Scots of the Kansas City area, exemplified, of course, by Clan Baird, attended the Highland Games at the picturesque E. H. Young park in Riverside. Tent staff included (left to right) Krystal Green, Cheryl Baird, and Karen Baird shown welcoming tent visitor Joseph Gilligan. Also staffing the tent (not shown) were Nick Green and Geo Baird Snyder.

The traditional Parade of the Clans at noon is always a favorite with the crowd at the annual K.C. Highland Games.





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!

Today I will continue the topic of Gaelic poetry. Among the Gaels, poetry, songs, and stories were transmitted orally, even though Gaelic has had a writing system for a very long time. *The emphasis was on oral learning in Gaelic society, rather than on physical written documents, so only the most educated members of society would have learned how to read and write.* Literacy in Gaelic was not a skill that most ordinary people possessed, even more so after the passage, in 1609, of the

Statutes of Iona, which required that the sons of clan chiefs be sent to the lowlands to be educated in English. *Gaelic medium education since then has been inconsistent, depending both on location and the particular time period; even into the 19th and 20th centuries some eminent Gaelic poets were not able to read or write their native language (for example, Donald MacDonald, born in 1887 in North Uist).* Oral poetry, songs, and stories remained the primary way the Gaels recorded their history, and so the oral tradition in Gaelic culture is extremely important for understanding Scottish history, psychology, culture, and literature.



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Second Quarter 2015
April 1 through June 30, 2015

Income:	
Dues Received	620.00
Misc Income	
Donations	
Quartermaster Sales	

Total Quarterly Income: 620.00

Expense:	
Advertising	
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Scholarships	
Gryphon	507.12
Games	
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous	1.96

Total Quarterly Expense: 509.08

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: 110.92

Cash in Bank - Last Quarter: 8,096.53

Cash in Bank/Available Funds: 8,207.45

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



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**Newsletter
Deadlines**

November 2015 Issue
deadline is October 15th

February 2016 Issue
deadline is January 15th

May 2016 Issue
deadline is April 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
free to call Heather
at 802-485-5541**



**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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