

# The GRYPHON

Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. | VOL. 48 / Issue 3 / Summer 2020



## WELCOME NEW BOARD MEMBERS

By Debra Baird | CONVENOR, CBSW

After our new Charter and By-Laws were approved, the Board moved immediately to name the new Board members, and rearrange some of the past members, to put together the leadership team that can serve our membership best. Those named have skills and attributes we need to do the things we set out in the new Charter

and the Foundation Charter. We welcome them to the



**Penny Carpenter**

Board as appointees and they will stand for election in the next cycle.

*Penny Carpenter* is a Baird through her great-grandmother, Emma Gertrude Baird, who was born in Iowa and lived most of her life in California. She and her husband John Ressler live in Leavenworth, Washington and Penny has spent her life in the northwestern US. Penny has many years of experience in the hospitality industry and event management. She is the just past-president of the Rotary of Leavenworth, and is this year's Royal Lady of the Autumn Leaves for that city. I hope

she will help us plan for our coming 50th anniversary jubilee in 2022. She has already found a typo



**John Baird**

*John Baird* is a native of New Zealand, who is of both Maori and Scottish descent. He and his wife, Claudia (who is also Maori and a MacGregor), live in Auckland. He has great experience in working with elderly programs in New Zealand and around the world. He put me on to the "Village to Village" model several years ago, which is an excellent way for the elderly to remain in their homes. He has served in many governmental and agency positions in his home country and has taken on setting up



**Isaac Baird**

on an important proclamation we are preparing, and I appreciate her eagle eye.



**Heather Snyder**

the template for how we grow in other countries. I appreciate John for joining us.

*Ross Baird* has been a member of the Society, with his wife Doreen, since the beginnings of its organization. He was first Commissioner of Scotland, but is now the Commissioner of the entire UK, and an Honorary Chieftain of the Society. Ross spent his career in car-



**Branton Baird**



**Sandy Baird**

had been working with the Board for several years, and now are full members.

*Continued on page 2*



*Firstly, may I say what an honour it is to have been elected your hereditary President, my Grandfather, Lord Stonehaven, would have been very proud as he was very influential in the initial inception of the Society many years ago.*

I believe I was the first Scottish member on the Society Board last year, which has now changed with Ross Baird joining me from Aberdeen and John Baird from New Zealand. Penny Carpenter

from the US has also joined the Board, so you have a very strong and hardworking team heading up the Society.

Debra has been keeping your Board hard at work during the Covid lockdown and we have accomplished a lot.

With my Commander hat on, we now have a Clan Baird Council to advise me. If you ever want to have anything discussed at our meetings please let me know through my website, [www.clanbaird.org](http://www.clanbaird.org) and I will put it on the next meeting Agenda.

Both the Society and myself are trying to raise the worldwide Baird profile and strengthen individual country's representation. I am delighted to announce that John Baird in New Zealand has agreed to become the Society guinea pig in forming what we have called as a working name a Clan Baird Society Worldwide Affiliate. Debra will no doubt expand on this elsewhere in the Gryphon.

The Society now have updated Bylaws and a Code of Practice with a Mission Statement, so we are a lot more focussed in where the Society is going for the future.

The 2021 Scotland Trip is in the final stages of planning and I hope we will see many members and their friends in July/August join us in this adventure. Hopefully there will be a vaccine before then and we will all be able to put Covid behind us and get back to the gatherings that we all used to enjoy so much.

*Richard Baird*

*Continued from page 1*

Heather's title has changed to Publicist and Branton is the Liaison to the President and Commander. They will continue in the jobs they already had, as well as take on new roles. Heather is working to brand all our images and put together a portfolio for us to use, as well as bringing all the websites up to date. Branton has taken on the role of Treasurer of the new Foundation and he and **Stanford (Sandy) Baird** will be working more with that. Sandy will be the President of the Foundation.

It is an exciting time for the Society, and we are happy to have all these dedicated people on the Board to help us.



## THE HOSPITAL



The English Prime Minister, on a meet and greet tour of Edinburgh, was being shown around a local hospital. Towards the end of the visit, he is shown into a ward with a number people with no obvious signs of injury or disease.

He went to greet the first patient and the chap replied, "Fairfa' your honest sonsie face, Great chieftain e' the puddin' race! Aboon them a' ye tak your place, Painch, tripe, or thairm; Weel are ye wordy o' a grace as lang's my arm."

The Prime Minister, being somewhat confused, moved on to the next patient and greeted him. The patient replied, "Some hae meat, and canna eat, and some wad eat that want it, but we hae meat and can eat, and sae the Lord be thankit."

The third patient rattled off: "Wee sleekit, cow'rin, tim'rous beastie, O, what a panic's in thy breastie! Thou need na start awa sae hasty, wi bickering brattle! I wad be laith to rin an chase thee, wi murdering pattle!"

The Prime Minister turned to the doctor accompanying him and asks. "Is this is the mental ward?" "No," replied the doctor, "It's the Burns Unit."





# 2021 CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE FAMILY GATHERING SCOTLAND



Clan Baird Gathering in Scotland is July 30th to August 9th, 2021. Clan Baird Society Worldwide is providing a *Scotland Tour* for those who want to take a bus tour as part of our Clan Baird Gathering in 2021. We are currently getting the tour set up, but we estimate it will cost about \$800.00 per person for the bus/van transportation and tickets for the events each day. The tour will only cover ground transportation in Scotland, and tickets to events.



Everyone will be setting up their own hotels/houses/cottages/B&B accommodations in Aboyne, Scotland (please try to stay within walking distance of the city center). There are several links on the Clan Baird Society Worldwide website, <https://www.clanbairdsociety.com/blank> under the "Scotland 2021" menu button on the main bar at the top.

People will have to pay for their own meals/food during the trip.

People will need to set up their own flights to Aberdeen, which is about an hour and a half from Aboyne. You should arrive early on July 30, or before, if you wish to spend a day or so in Aberdeen, before the tour bus/van picks you up.

We are planning to use vans so that we can easily travel to Pennan, New Aberdour, and places many of you have not yet been. The roads are smaller up there, and we want all to be able to see everything without a great deal of walking.

We will begin accepting reservations in October and will close sign-up for the tour by January 30th, 2021.

I am having trouble getting some ticket prices due to COVID 19 shut-downs, but I am sure I will have a final price per person by then.

If you have questions, please reach out to Debra at 205-454-6852 or [djbaird4@gmail.com](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)

-Debra Baird

***Those members who do not wish to take the bus tour in 2021 are still welcome (and very much encouraged) to plan your own trip to Scotland and join CBSW in all the events that are being planned for everyone at Aboyne and Ballogie Estates.***

Please reach out to Debra at 205-454-6852 or [djbaird4@gmail.com](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)

## **Proposed Clan Baird Scotland Tour Itinerary July 30th to August 9th, 2021** (subject to changes)

**July 30 - Saturday**  
4pm pickup from Aberdeen airport - to Aboyne

**July 31 - Saturday**  
Aboyne pickup 8:45am  
Pennan, Frazerburgh, St. Drostan's, Aberdour Beach, Trouphead bird sanctuary, Roseharty (lunch at Davron Hotel), Castle Fraser (tea) - 5:00pm  
Return to Aboyne by 6:00pm

**August 1 - Sunday**  
Edinburgh city for the day, and evening Royal Military Tattoo for any who wish to attend. It will be past midnight return Aboyne

**August 2 - Monday**  
Rest and tour Aboyne by foot on our own.

**August 3 - Tuesday**  
Aboyne pickup 9am - Rickarton, Ury and the Hauff, Stonehaven for lunch, Dunnottar Castle - 4:00pm  
return to Aboyne (by 5:00pm)

**August 4 - Wednesday**  
Aboyne pickup 9:30am - (via Cairn O'Mount) to Glenesk Hotel for coffee, St. Drostan's retreat, Edzell (lunch at Panmure), Whisky Distillery Fettercairn 4:00pm  
return to Aboyne (by 5:00pm)

**August 5 - Thursday**  
Pickup in Aboyne 9:00am, at Ballater cross bridge onto South Deeside Road to Balmoral (visitors centre), lunch in Braemar, North Deeside road to Crathes - 5:00pm  
return to Aboyne (by 5:30pm)

**August 6 - Friday**  
Aboyne pickup 5:30 - Ballogie (ceilidh) - collect 10:00pm  
return Aboyne (by 10:30pm)

**August 7 - Saturday**  
Aboyne Games

**August 8 - Sunday**  
Aboyne pickup 2pm - Ballogie - 5pm  
return to Aboyne (by 5:20pm)

**August 9 - Monday**  
Pickup Aboyne (morning)  
to Aberdeen Airport



Dear Members,

Greetings from what has become a very strange COVID 19 year. There is little to report about festivals, since almost all those we planned to attend were cancelled. We have missed seeing everyone around the world this year at our tents, and hope we will be back next year. There is a great deal to report regarding changes to the Society this summer. First and foremost, we have established a Foundation, set up as a separate corporation, and we have applied for 501 (c) 3 status with the IRS. We hope to build monies for preservation of Baird sites around the world, especially in Scotland. In fact, there is a committee to work on restoration of St. Drostan's Kirk (the old church on the Auchmedden Estate where so many Bairs are buried and memorialized), especially the Baird Aisle. We are planning a community meeting at the

Parish Hall in New Aberdour, to discuss our hopes and dreams with all those who live there. We hope many of our members will attend. Mark the evening of July 27th to be with us in New Aberdour, Scotland for that meeting.

Over our time in lockdown, the Board worked diligently and revamped our Society By-Laws to better reflect the new Foundation By-Laws and new ideas, as well as established a "Code of Practice". The membership overwhelmingly accepted those new By-Laws, with only three negative votes in the entire group. The Board appreciated this serious vote of confidence from the membership and will work hard to live up to your confidence in us. I welcome our Commander, Richard Holman-Baird as the President of the Society, Penny Carpenter, Ross Baird, John Baird, Branton Baird, as members at large, and Heather Snyder as our Publicist. I will serve as Convenor and Chair of the Board.

Another initiative has emerged from all that work. It is that we want to be more active in other countries, and truly be worldwide; not so centered in the US. In planning for our 50th anniversary in 2022, it seems to the Board that consolidating our efforts to set up affiliates in other countries is in order, as well as increasing expansion of all activities in those countries. We do not believe these are mutually exclusive,

and in fact, we believe they are mutually inclusive, helping grow our family ties, while making sure individual needs are met for each country.

Plans for the 2021 Gathering in Aboyne, Scotland are under way and we are still working on prices for tickets for each



day's activities. We will be setting our own flights and hotels in Aboyne, as well as meals on our own, and the tour will be just in Scotland. The airport pick-up will be at 4:00 PM at the Aberdeen Airport on July 30th, and a return to the Airport by noon on August 9th. Some of the highlights of the trip are a day on the old Auchmedden Estate, Pennan, and Fraserburgh, with tea at Fraser Castle, a day in Edinburgh with attendance at the Royal Military Tattoo that evening, and at least one distillery tour. Of course, the highlight of the tour will be a visit to our Commander, Richard's and his wife Polly's home on Rickarton Estate, and a visit to Stonehaven.

May you have a beautiful autumn, and stay safe. We want to see you all in Aboyne next summer.

Your Kinswoman,  
Debra







## Ceud Mile Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

**We welcome to our  
Clan the following:**

Jaynie Anderson, Arizona

David L. Baird, Hawaii

Robert Bruce Baird, Florida

Randy Baird, Utah

Carl Beard, Florida

Corinne Cox, Scotland

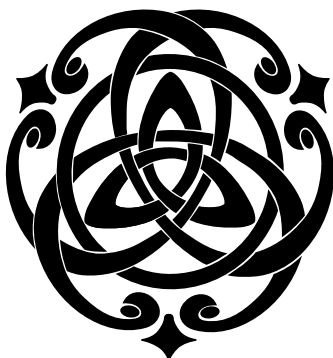
Kendra Ellington, Missouri

Jill Kozol, Florida

Amy Tiedemann, Indiana

Alexia Zdral, Pennsylvania

John Woodside, Scotland



**Recently Jack Baird from  
Lincolnshire, England, where he  
and his wife Margaret live, reached  
out to us with two exciting updates.**



*Harriett Bartram-Baird*

Virtually from birth Harriett had to be a vet, and Joanne started saving photographs that are now in a book - that brought joy tears to Jack. Currently, Harriett is 21 and has been at London University for five years studying veterinary medicine, with some time in New Zealand. With great excitement and pleasure, on the 12th June she qualified as a BVetMed from Royal Veterinary College, University of London. Harriett is now entitled to practise as a fully qualified Veterinary Surgeon. *We are so proud of her, as you can imagine.*

Although Harriett has been training on all animals her main interests are horses with other large animals including cows. One particular wish is to work on what is referred to as studying the injuries of "racing horses" at racecourses to reduce their injuries and deaths.

*Now to Margaret Baird*

The second excitement around "The Byre" was centred around Margaret when she reached the magic age of 90. This age was like a miracle to us when her health has been so poor - but still a life. Thankfully she has had much care and love, not only by her "morning carer" but one Doctor in particular, greatly by Joanne and I hope from myself.

The Birthday was on the 29th, which was a Monday, so the first celebration was held on Saturday 27th June. Unlike the 60th Anniversary of Jack and Margaret when we had 50 guests around Stephenson's Hill House, the gatherings were much smaller but no less enjoyable. Unbelievably, Joanne traced 15 photographs of Margaret as

a child from an age of one, to good-looking smiling lasses up to about fourteen. These photographs are very special. Joanne has also written an amusing text - followed on the back by a tall Cheeky lass whom I know is the one [a recent ex WREN] that I met soon afterwards at a dance - Margaret herself.

Unfortunately, because of the "lock down", we had to make the celebrations very minimal. On Saturday Margaret had a few 'Girly' lasses for afternoon tea with all the trimmings - and a cake. That was fun and very special. Sunday was 'Family Day, with the immediate family gathering around a quiet evening dinner to be enjoyed and us to cool out, and the pleasant surprise having Harriett home from University.

Monday, THE Day, was the biggest surprise, and probably one of the best because, our son Grahame came three hundred miles from Plymouth, with our two grandsons - Oliver (19 years) and Lucas (16 years) whom we have not seen for rather a long time; so it was good to see how they had matured. So then it was cards and presents - and the cocker spaniel, Bonnie ripping up the wrapping paper. More food and another magnificent cake. We would send a photograph of it, but now we have eaten every crumb. Like all good things, everything must come to an end, and Grahame had to return to Plymouth that same day, a journey of 10 hours at least. It was a marvellous effort on his part and greatly appreciated on our part.

-Jack Baird



*Jack Baird is one of the founding members of Clan Baird Society, and was its first Historian. He is a talented Baird researcher and, with Dale Baird, in the 1990's, identified the outline of the Old House/Castle on the Auchmedden Estate, which has now been mapped with new technology, exactly where Jack's research showed it was. He was the founder of the Modern Baird History Scholarship, given annually, and continues to contribute with historical advice.*



## The Grandfather Cairn and the Bairs, as well as a new Cairn in Scotland

In looking through old Gryphons sent us by Mrs. Virginia "Ginny" Baird (wife of our past Society Piper, Kenneth Baird), we found this article about the cairn at Grandfather Mountain. As many of you know, the Society was organized by Frances and Byron Owsley Baird and the Viscount Stonehaven, Sir James Ian Baird, who later became the Earl of Kintore. With a small group of loyal and influential followers, at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in 1972, the Society was born.

For the 25th Anniversary of Grandfather Mountain Games in 1980, a stone procured from Auchmedden Estate by Lord James Ian Baird Keith, Earl of Kintore, and brought to the US by Byron and Frances after their visit to Scotland, was placed in the Cairn, in Panel One, Number One stone. The Winter 1981 Gryphon reported the stone to be one of the most beautiful in the Cairn. The next time you are at Grandfather, be sure to find our stone and remember all those who have gone before. We stand on the shoulders of giants, who had vision, and knew we would need this Society in 2020, and our memories of better times.

In Summer 2019, we gathered on the Auchmedden Estate once again, at the Mill of Nethermill, owned now by Bill and Lynn Pitt, Society members. They invited the Bairs to place a plaque commemorating the rock bridge that still stands on their property. It was built in 1719 by the Bairs and the Gardens, linking Banffshire and Aberdeenshire for the first time by wagon road. 2019 was the 300th anniversary, and our Commander, Richard Holman Baird,



with Isaac Baird speaking Gaelic to the crowd, dedicated the plaque given by the Society.

It is now set in its own cairn, built by Bill and Lynn, and all can see it the next time they visit. I hope you attend the 2021 Grandfather Games, where we will have Richard's Installation Ceremony.



Kenneth Baird at Grandfather Mtn Games in the 1980's (above left) Donald Erskine was a Deputy Trustee of the National Trust for Scotland and came most every year to Grandfather (we believe his mom was a Baird) always marched with the Bairs.

From Virginia Baird of New Jersey. Kenneth Baird was her husband and they were very active members of the Society with Georgia Capshaw, Justus Baird, and Frances Baird. Frances had a house at Grandfather Mountain where she entertained the Bairs.



The new Cairn at Nethermill Bridge.







*Below is an excerpt page from "The Gryphon", Winter 1981* In the coming newsletters, we will be sharing pages from "The Gryphon" archives in celebration of the 50th anniversary of the CBSW organization in 2022. The newsletter has been in existence for almost 50 years, right along with the Clan Baird Society. Please enjoy the archived newsletters, they are a part of Clan Baird Society's enduring history.

to plan to go. If you can consider the trip you should contact at once: Mrs. Harriet Roberts, Let's Travel, 734 W. Colonial Dr., Orlando, Florida 32804 (305) 425-5387. Let her know you are a Baird Member.



#### FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

FRANK KEITH BAIRD

We were saddened by the death of the above member on December 19th at Apopka, Florida, where he had a winter home. Frank was a native of Truro, Nova Scotia, Canada and a descendant of Thomas, the first Baird to settle in Nova Scotia in 1761. He is survived by a large family of children and grandchildren in Nova Scotia. His son, Page, is also a member of the Baird Family Society. To Page and all the members of Frank's family, we extend our sympathy.

#### DUES RAISED

Inflation finally made it necessary to raise our annual dues. You will recall the questionnaire sent last spring to which you were requested to respond. We appreciated the response we received, which varied in choice from the lowest to the highest amounts we proposed. The membership attending the Annual Meeting in July voted to try the lower amount of \$6.00 for Single Membership and \$12.00 for Family to become effective for current members July 1, 1981 with new members joining after date of Annual Meeting required to pay the new dues rate.

We thank those of you who included an extra contribution when you sent your dues for this year. This generosity will help us meet our expenses until our new dues schedule takes over July 1st of this year.

If you have not paid your dues for this year (which runs from July 1, 1980 to June 30, 1981) please do so at once. Mail to our Treasurer: Mrs. Billie Bethel Bratton, 6 Redbud Dr., Nashville, TN 37215. **REMEMBER** on July 1, 1981, the new dues rate will be used. Your promptness will be appreciated. Overseas, please send by International Money Order in U.S. Dollars.

#### ACTIVITIES WITHIN THE SOCIETY

##### DEDICATION

The Baird Family Society was proud to be

a Clan participating in the dedication of the Cairn to the founders of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on the Game's 25th Anniversary last summer. Robert Baird of Oradell, N.J. was our tartan bearer for the Service. The Cairn was beautifully constructed of North Carolina native stone by Douglas James Ferguson, local artist and designer. The stones donated by each Clan from their Scottish Clan lands having been cut and polished, filled three panels around the Cairn with a fourth yet to be filled. Ours from Auchmedden was stone number one in panel number one and was among the most beautiful. A bronze plaque in front recorded the name of each clan donating a stone and gave the location of each in the panels.



*Following Dedication of Cairn, Grandfather Mt., Linville, N.C. Kenneth F. Baird holding tartan; Frances Baird pointing out stone, Robert Baird with Baird Crest.*

"What is a cairn?" you might ask. "Cairn" is a Gaelic word that means a "heap of stones". It is used to mark a grave or a historical spot but is always a memorial. In medieval Scotland, it was the practice when passing a burial place of a loved one to place a stone on the grave and ask a prayer for the repose of the soul. The



## Gryphon | OPINION



### Chief Baird

By Andrew Baird

We live in exciting times. In August 2019 Richard Holman-Baird was commissioned by the Lord Lyon as Commander of Clan Baird, making him the first to lead the Clan in over two hundred years. In addition, the Lord Lyon is currently considering the evidence presented by Sir James Baird Bt of Saughtonhall in support of his claim to be Chief of Clan Baird.

It's ironic that The Baird Letters - a series of letters written between brothers Gilbert Baird and Andrew Baird in the seventeenth century and now preserved in University archives - are cited by Dr Davis of Buckingham University as documentary evidence of the existence of a robust clan system and the powers and responsibilities of a Chief at the time, and yet the clan they're discussing now doesn't have a Chief.

Chiefship is not just rooted in the past. In the last two years the Clan Carruthers and the Clan Buchanan have both been elevated by the affirmation of Chiefs by the Lord Lyon. In both cases, the research to prove who is the prime claimant took between 10 and 20 years, and

then up to two more years of scrutiny and analysis by the Lord Lyon, before he was fully satisfied and prepared to admit the chiefships. After the Lord Lyon endorsed the Carruthers Chief, the Convenor of the Clan Carruthers Society said: "We can now take our rightful place alongside other Scottish clans with legally accepted Chiefs" Also he has words for other Clans as he hopes it will; "encourage other armigerous clans to persevere in seeking to identify and confirm their Chief..."

The Court of the Lord Lyon is the authority for heraldry in Scotland and the Lord Lyon who heads it was originally responsible for verifying the genealogy of the King of Scotland. The Court has the responsibility for maintaining the Public Register of Arms in Scotland and for prosecuting any unauthorised use of Arms. Arms, or Coats of Arms, belong to one person or institution at a time and can be inherited by the most direct living descendent.

In Scotland, "Chief" is not just a title of honour bestowed on a person by the Sovereign, through the Lord Lyon. It confers to the entire family a "noble corporation". There are currently only about 160 clans that have Chiefs recognised by the Lord Lyon (and over 200 without).

For a Scottish clan or family that is currently chiefless - as with Baird - the search for the rightful genealogical Chief starts by searching for the first coat of arms registered by that family in the Public Register of Arms in Scotland. These Arms are termed the "undifferenced arms" of the family and is considered the chiefly line. The person who can genealogically prove he or she is the most direct living descendant of the chiefly Arms has the best opportunity to petition the court for a request to matriculate the Arms, and to request to be named the Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird.

For our clan of Baird, the first Coat of Arms registered with the Court of the

Lord Lyon was in 1672 for Sir James Baird, 5th of Auchmedden. Today, any potential Chief needs to prove a direct genealogical link back to him. The proof requires the birth, marriage and death certificates of all direct descendants or other official documents such as legal contracts.

Richard Holman-Baird's position as Commander of Clan Baird means the clan does at last have a leader. However, the Lord Lyon made it clear that the position of Commander is an interim role for a period of 5 years and is specifically designed to focus the clan on finding the genealogical heir who can be the true Chief. A clan with a Commander is less honourable than a clan with a Chief so the clan's ultimate aim must be to find and support a potential Chief's petition to the Lord Lyon. While a Commander is a leader of the clan for now, a Chief links current day clanspeople back to the deeds and glories of the past, and elevates the status of the clan itself into the future.

As announced by the Clan Baird Society earlier this year, there is now a strong contender to be Chief of Clan Baird - After 20 years of detailed research, Sir James Baird Bt of Saughtonhall has approached the Lyon Court and submitted a petition to prove a direct link to the 1672 Arms. If granted, he would become Chief of Clan Baird.

I would very much like us as a clan to support this, as it is an incredibly exciting step in the Clan Baird history, but we need to show a little patience as the petition is under legal review by the Lord Lyon and no one is allowed to exert undue influence over the Lyon's decisions - for fear of contempt of court.

The Court of the Lord Lyon is a court of law within the Scottish judicial system. If another petitioner claims a stronger line back to the 1672 Auchmedden Arms the

*Continued on page 9*





*Continued from page 8*

case may be held in public, however the time allowed for opposing petitions has ended. In this case, as there is no opposing petitioner, it is likely the assessment will be held behind closed doors and the result announced in due course.

Understandably, in this COVID-19 affected year, the scrutiny process will be slower than in more normal times, but it could be that 2021 will see another great leap forward for our Clan Baird status!

## How to Speak Lord Lyon

### ***Petitioner***

Person presenting a petition

### ***Petition***

Legal document initiating a claim before the court, setting out what is sought

### ***Arms (Coat of Arms)***

Graphic signifier of a person or institution (often made up of a shield, helmet, mantling, wreath, crest, motto, and tinctures (colours))

### ***Matriculation***

(1) The recording in the Public Register of a new grant of arms

(2) The process of passing down through inheritance, a Coat of Arms, dignity, title, or peerage

### ***Interlocutor***

Order issued by a Scottish court

### ***Armigerous (clan)***

(in common use) Scottish clan which does not have a Chief currently recognised by the Lord Lyon

(technically) Armigerous means 'bearing a coat of Arms'. Note that a clan itself is not a legal entity, so cannot bear arms. Clan societies, clanspeople and chiefs etc can bear arms

### ***Undifferenced Arms***

The first Coat of Arms registered with the Court of the Lord Lyon (typically only the heads of a clan or family bears undifferenced arms)



## Grandfather Mountain Virtual Festival

Clan Baird participated in the virtual festival at Grandfather this year. Branton Baird, and Commander Richard Baird, put together a video of the calling of Clan Baird. Branton began in hot and humid Alabama, in our back garden. It took several tries because his videographer (Debra) is not a videographer at all, and Anna Ryan was in Texas. We finally made

a film that was acceptable, and Branton passed the torch to Richard.

Richard was on his Rickarton Estate and called us to the gathering in great style indeed, although he did not seem to be as hot as Branton was in all that wool. Regardless, we have had many, many lauds and "good job" remarks from many other clans. The Tennessee Valley Scottish Society gave a mention of us at our Board meeting last month, and several clans have sent congratulations, including the Keiths.



*The Call of the Bairds* video is on the Clan Baird Society website

Click on the link  
<https://www.clanbairdsociety.com/>

***We hope you enjoy it!***





## St. Drostan's Church PRESERVATION PROJECT

### Perserving St. Drostan's: The origin of Christianity in Mainland Scotland and The Bairds

“Columba and Drostán son of Cosgrach, his dalta [“foster-son, disciple”] came from Iona, as God guided them, to Aberdour. Bede the Pict was mormaer of Buchan when they arrived; and it is he who bestowed on them that church site, free from the demands of mormaer and toíseach to the end of time.

-From the marginalia of the Book of Deer, circa 1100 AD

In 1751, King George I purchased the library of John More, the Bishop of Ely, and presented its contents to the Cambridge University library. A single

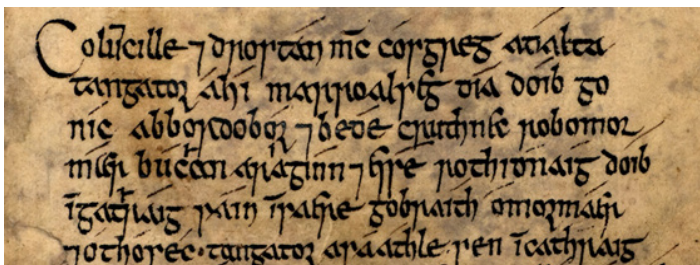


Fig 1. The Gaelic excerpt in the Book Of Deer. Copyright © Cambridge University. Licensed under a Creative Commons under Attribution-NonCommercial 3.0 Unported License (CC BY-NC 3.0)

illuminated manuscript, written in Latin and containing the New Testament, remained undisturbed until 1860 when it discovered the librarian Henry Brad-

shaw. The book set the Gaelic world aflame. Despite appearing to be a new testament manuscript, several additional pages kept secrets for over 800 years and changed history. Upon translation a few year later, the book was given a new name, The Book of Deer.

The exact provenance of how the Book of Deer came into English hands is not entirely clear. Historians hypothesize that invading English armies looted the book in either the 13th or 14th centuries. An illuminated copy of the New Testament, the book remained relatively safe and in good condition until its discovery, tucked away in various libraries, guarding its ancient secrets in the marginalia.

The marginalia of the book provided a narrative in the form a legends and land grants that transforms Buchan (North east Aberdeenshire) landscape and myth. The writings described how Colum Cille(English: St. Columba), the same saint that founded the magnificent Abbey on Iona, came east with Drostán MacCosgrach (English: St Drostan, Son of Cosgrach), his foster son or disciple(dalta) in 560 AD. The companions arrived at the seat of Bede Cruithnech (English: Bede the Pict) in Aberdour. Bede, holding the ancient title of Mor-

maer, gave land to Drostán in perpetuity for a site from which to press forward in their missionary work. There, near the beach of Aberdour, the founded the home church to teach Christianity to the Pictish people During their work, they asked the Mormaer for additional land near Mintlaw. The Book of Deer states it was “Full of the Grace

of God”. This time, the Pictish chief, perhaps weary of the proselytizing, or perhaps even the success and change



Former CBCW president, Debra Baird has become the Convenor and Chair of the Board of Clan Baird Society Worldwide, just as Frances Baird became when Captain Richard “Dick” Baird became the president many years ago.



Our Commander, Richard Holman Baird, will now be our president into perpetuity, giving CBSW an hereditary president, so that our Society is firmly grounded in Scotland. It is the first time our Society has had such a strong foothold in our old home, and we are much indebted to Richard for his committment to us.







*Continued from page 10*

Drostan was affecting, denied their request. Despair must have set in for the two companions. Then, the hand of Providence played its part when suddenly the Mormaer's son and heir fell deathly ill. We aren't told if the Mormaer called his druids, healers, or holy people, but we can surmise this was implied in the legend as later the Mormaer begged for aid from the missionaries. The Mormaer arrived and asked the missionaries to anoint and pray for his dying son. He begged them to heal him his son's sickness. The saints anointed and prayed for the Mormaer's son. Astonishingly, the son recovered where other methods failed. Upon his miraculous

next to the fact that it was written in Gaelic. There in Deer Abbey, in an area that has been historically claimed to be a part of the Scots language heart-land, the first written Scottish Gaelic emerged. Further lands grants in the Book, written in Gaelic, show that the language had a strong role in the region. In addition, the book may give insights into the purpose and origins of Pictish stone carvings as land was granted from Cloch in Tiprat to Cloch Pettite Mac Garnait ( "the stone of the well to the stone of sons of Gartnait").

St. Drostan remains firm in his role in spreading Christianity. His name, Drostan, does not appear to be a Gaelic name. The name is well attested on Pictish stones, and in Welsh legends as Drystan or Tristan. This gives us some clues that St. Drostan may have been a native Pict, or at the very least, a fluent Pictish speaker. The Pictish language skill, linguistically similar to Welsh or Cumbrian, would have been critical in spreading Christianity throughout the country. We find legends of St. Drostan throughout the country. These legends tell that after a long successful career, the saint moved to Glen Esk as hermit. In Glen Esk, the saint is credited with healing the blind. Finally, upon the end of his life, his remains and relics were transferred to a stone tomb in the Church which started his missionary career in

Aberdour. Local legends offer clues to where the relics remain, but in likelihood the relics were destroyed, much like other Scottish relics, during the Reformation.

Time trudged on. The original church built by St Drostan was rebuilt in successive waves. In many cases, the original stones were salvaged and reused in each progressive architectural design. For the Bairds, this Church is special. The site underwent transformation from an Iron Age church, to Anglo-Norman



James Baird of Auchmedden (erected) this monument (to the memory) of his.....Andrew, George.....George Baird of the same, whose bodies are here interred, and (who) died 10th Feb.1543, 29th May 1593.....1620, and 12th Feb.1642, and also to the memory of Ann.....er and |Elizabeth Keith, mother and grand-mother of the same.

recovery, the Mormaer's heart softened and the once fiery Pictish leader now offered land for a monastery. Together, the marginalia states, the two missionary companions founded their monastery. When Colum Cille announced his return to Iona, St. Drostan cried out in sorrow and named the site "Deur" (English: A tear). This was anglicized in to the modern "Deer" and is known as Deer Abbey to this day.

Whether this legend is accurate, or a creation of a later date, is irrelevant



A stone coffin found in Deer Abbey. This is not the same stone coffin described in the legend but may represent what was used.

style Catholic church, and then into the reformed kirk in that late 1500's. When the reformation swept over the land, the Bairds, as local lairds, were offered a chance to transform the Chancel into a memorial Aisle. Despite appearing to be Catholic, the Bairds constructed monuments into the walls and confirmed their genealogy and status in the region. The money used to effect these changes also enabled new construction to occur to bring the building into reformed usage. However, evidence remains of the pre-reformation construction including the Chancel Arch and transepts. In 1818, when the new Kirk in New Aberdour was completed, the site turned into a Graveyard and the stone walls have begun to crumble, including the Baird Monuments.

The Baird Foundation, the successor to the Baird Archaeological and Historical Initiative, was created in part to help preserve Scottish history. Recently, the Foundation has begun the task of initiating preservation of the site with an end

*Continued on page 12*



## OVERVIEW HISTORY & STATUS OF CBSW

Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. (originally Baird Family Society), is a non-profit, worldwide organization, which began to be formed in the late 1960's and was finally established, with the blessing of the Honourable Lord Lyon King of Arms, in 1972 by Frances and Byron Baird of Florida and our Commander's grandfather, James Ian Baird of Ury and Lochwood, 2nd Viscount Stonehaven and later 12th Earl of Kintore and Chief of Clan Keith.

The Earl of Kintore and his children have continued to support the Society through the years, as they still do, including the Newbyth line, today represented by Andrew Baird, when it became active with the Society a few years later. With the recent memberships of Roderick Baird (Saughtonhall) and Douglas Baird (Elie and Durriss), these branches of the family have also become active.

*Our Mission* - "Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. is an organization of Clan Baird Members, formed exclusively for charitable, religious, educational, and scientific purposes; who desire to support the family as a whole and to promote all things Baird, in Scotland and around the world. It is our mission to bring the diasporic Clan Baird together as a unified family; protect all things Scottish, as well as encourage others to do the same; encourage cultural, artistic and historic preservation endeavors; acquire, preserve, restore and act as custodian for Scottish historical records, relics, heirlooms and other chattel in general and those of Clan Baird in particular; educate others about Scottish life; encourage all family Members to discover their heritage; help Members in need; and promote fellowship whenever we gather with family. Membership is open to any individual who claims heritage with the Baird family or with whom they feel a close and devoted relationship."

The current incarnation of the Society became effective on December 2, 2010, when the Articles of Incorporation were filed with the Michigan Department of Energy, Labor & Economic Growth, Bureau of Commercial Services.

*St Drostan's, Continued from page 11*

goal of restoring the site to its former glory. Currently, planning is underway to collect the correct experience, knowledge and plans to begin restoration.

Several options have been floated from simply covering the ruins to developing a local run living history museum like the Crannog Centre.



Fig 2. The ruins of Deer Abbey. This is the Cistercian abbey that succeeded the original abbey. The original Deer Abbey may have been built in a slightly different location

The Society was granted Internal Revenue Code 501(c)7 status on November 13, 2013, although the effective date of the tax exemption is given as December 2, 2010, the same as the Articles of Incorporation.

The Gryphon is published 4 times a year. In addition to this website, we maintain a Facebook page and a Blog and there is a separate Society Facebook page in Australia. This website is currently undergoing a major upgrade, so please be patient.

Our Privacy Policy, provided here on our website, reads in part, "Your personal information will be used only for records; we do not share your information in any way."

A financial report is published quarterly in the Gryphon. However, details of our records and accounts are confidential.

General meetings are held annually in the summer. Beginning in 2017 with a trip to Scotland, they now alternate between the US during even-numbered years and Scotland during odd-numbered years. Our 2021 Annual Meeting will be held during the Society gathering, which will take place August 6th through the 8th in Aboyne, Scot-

land. We hope that many of you will be able to join us.

Since 2004, the Society has partnered with the Family Tree DNA Baird Project. We encourage all Bairds to participate.

The Society awards an annual scholarship to a student investigating subjects including Scottish history, lore, music, culture, geography, genealogy or some similar topic. Applicants may be an adult and need not be attending a college or university or a member of, or related to a member of the Society.

The Baird Archaeological and Historical Initiative involves the preservation of Clan lands, Heritage sites, Antiquities, and Monuments with the goal to develop, document, and advocate for the preservation of Baird history.

The Society represents Bairds by sponsoring tents at various Highland Games in the US from coast-to-coast and several in Australia. We also host a tent bi-annually during the Society gathering at the Aboyne Highland Games. In the near future we hope to expand into Canada and New Zealand.







## Clan Baird Officers & Staff

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## Newsletter Deadlines

Autumn 2020 Issue  
deadline September 30th

Winter 2021 Issue  
deadline December 30th

Spring 2021 Issue  
deadline March 31th

Please submit  
newsletter articles to:  
Heather Snyder at  
clanbairdsociety@yahoo.com  
hsnyder65@yahoo.com

or mail to:  
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63 Northview Dr.  
Northfield, VT 05663  
USA

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 802-249-0959



## 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.

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



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## Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Second Quarter - 2020  
Apr. 1 through Jun. 30, 2020

Income:	
Dues Received	1,030.00
Donation - Foundation	
Donation - Scarves & Ties	
Donation - Heather Snyder	30.62
Coat of Arms donation to date: \$46.00	

Total Income for Period	1060.62
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Expense:	
Advertising	75.00
President-Membership	
New Member Packets	404.31
Scholarship	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	600.00
Games	
Ties & Scarves - UK	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	10.56

Total Expenses for Period:	1089.87
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Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(29.25)
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Cash in Bank - Last Report:	6,658.79
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Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	6,629.54
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Submitted by:  
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide