



Big Changes to the Clan Baird Society

2014, an exciting year for the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, brought a wave of exciting improvements.

During this year, we developed the new Clan Baird Website, the Clan Baird Twitter Feed, the Clan Baird Blog, and our New Clan Baird Facebook page.

Clan Baird Twitter Feed

The Clan Baird Twitter feed is a great way to follow the Clan and interact with members. Twitter is an internet communication form that allows a "tweet" of 180 characters to be sent out. We send out information on Scotland, Scottish History, Bairds, and current events. We also send out twitter announcements when something big is happening. Stay current with the latest information from the Clan Baird by following us at Twitter.

To use Twitter:

1. Go to www.twitter.com
2. Setup your account.
3. Search for @ClanBaird and follow us.

Use this as a way to respond to us quickly.

Clan Baird Blog

This is the unique blog to the Clan Baird. There are many historical articles that we would love to write but don't always get

completed or aren't quite ready to be printed in the gryphon. When articles do get printed, we sometimes leave out the bibliography and footnotes for space. These footnotes and bibliographies can be found at the blog:

<https://clanbairdsociety.wordpress.com/>
The Blogspot is also a place to contribute and share opinions as well as post pictures. If you would like to contribute, please contact a member of the Board to upload your files.

Clan Baird Facebook Page

We launched our new Facebook page. This is a way to communicate with everyone and announce news. We also share pictures of local games and have the ability to communicate with each other. Sometimes, the anonymity and lack connectivity on social media can cause a less than familial conversation. Our Facebook will follow the same rules established by other clan societies and our rules, based on other Clan Societies, will be posted online.

We invite you to join our Facebook page at: <https://www.facebook.com/pages/Clan-Baird-Society-Worldwide/319365708271645>

In 2015, we launched our online payment system on the website. You can now sign up and pay for Membership dues completely online using Paypal.

This means you can use your credit card or bank account to pay membership dues. This is extremely convenient and easy. It allows for members to pay their dues online and to pay using their own currency. Now you can pay in US Dollar, Canadian dollar, Australian Dollar, Pound Sterling, or any other currency accepted by PayPal. With a smart phone, new members can now pay online and sign up directly at a Game event.

To pay go to:

1. Go to Clan Baird Society Worldwide website:

<http://www.clanbairdsociety.com/>

2. Select Membership tab, then Online Payment!
3. If you do not have a PayPal account, it will ask you to create one.
4. Paying online is very simple once you have a PayPal account!

2015 is just starting. This year we will continue our exploration of the lives of famous Bairds in Scotland and explore the lands of Auchmedden. We are also looking forward to the release of our anticipated new Baird history book. We will also be looking for new board members. Join us online and through The Gryphon by renewing your dues.





Ceud Mìle Fàilte! (100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our
Clan the following:*

George Richard Baird
Martinez, California

Abigail Baird
Paris, Arkansas

Glenn Baird
Paris, Arkansas

Ronnie Glenn Baird
Lufkin, Texas



The Last Clan Battle Capture The Capital: The Brandywine

Submitted by Isaac Baird ~

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

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

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

Battles of Fort Lee and Fort Washington

That same year, New York fell to the Scottish Highland onslaught. The Americans fell back to two forts on the northern end of Manhattan island after

losing at Long Island and then again at White Plains. Fort Lee and Fort Washington stood on opposite banks of the Hudson River. Fresh off of victory, the 71st Fraser Highlanders, one of the largest units operating in the American War of Independence, were called again to wage war.

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

When the British military attacked, Washington could do nothing but watch. Under Lord Percy, the 71st Highlanders attacked from the south. Sir James Baird, and his Gaelic speaking unit comprised of the sons of Culloden's fallen, engaged in the assault. Historians noted the activity of Sir James Baird and his light infantry that "there was hardly a movement, however trifling, in which Sir James was not engaged." He participated in a number of battles as "whenever he was within reach he was generally first called upon, and he was almost always the first ready." His reputation as a

Continued on page 4



clanbairdsociety.com



Message from the President

Change in Officers

Happy New Year to all !! – Carol and I send our best wishes to each of you and your families, and hope 2015 will be a great year for all of you.

With each new year comes change, and I've decided I need to step aside from my six year stint as Secretary – President/Secretary – President, and let Dr. Debra Baird, our current 1st Vice-President, take up the reigns. Debra has agreed to assume the Presidency until we can have another election, and I have agreed to act as 1st Vice-President to be of assistance in any way I can until then as well. I've truly enjoyed being of service to the organization, and hope my time there has had a positive effect. I've had the chance to meet many of you, and have had contact by phone and email with a great many more. I've enjoyed it all.

We now have a great new website up and running, and the "Gryphon" continues to be one of the best newsletters available. In addition, we have a number of people willing to help with the many tasks necessary to keep an organization like ours going, but WE STILL NEED YOUR HELP.

The current officers had never met each other until our Annual Meeting last year, and we were able to work together quite well using new technologies. We need others to come forward to help, and would welcome all those with positive and cooperative attitudes, willing to work as a team, to come forward to help where needed. Please think about it, and let us know if you would like to help.

My many thanks for all your support, and I'm sure Debra, our new President, will have your continued support as well.

*All the Best,
Jim Baird*

Call to Help from Debra

Hello everyone; I hope 2015 is treating you well. Jim Baird has asked me to step up to the role of president until our next election, and I have accepted. I look forward to working with all of you and will be calling on you for help in particular projects.

Our officers have been diligently working together this year, and we will really miss Jim as president, but he has very kindly agreed to remain as 1st Vice President, so his guiding hand and Clan Society memory will continue to be of great assistance to us.

My husband, Alton Wilson, and I look forward to seeing you at either a highland games or at our annual meeting, and hope we move the Clan Baird Society forward in ways that help you connect or reconnect to the group.

Please call on me if you should have any questions or suggestions about how the Baird Society can better serve you. My contact information is djbaird4@gmail.com and 205-454-6852. I live in Haleyville, Alabama, which is in the Northwest corner of the state. Please let us know if you are ever in the area, we would enjoy meeting and getting to know each of you.

Debra Baird



Last Clan Battle Continued

warrior and his unit's exploits became well recognized "as Sir James and his light infantry, being always in front, had the credit of killing more of the enemy than any other company." The American defenses crumbled and shortly afterwards the American CO surrendered his force. Over 2,700 men were taken prisoner and the American flag lowered. General Washington, on the other side of the river, could only watch. This would not be his last engagement with Sir James Baird nor the last time would he see Sir James Baird outmaneuver his troops.

Washington, seeing the fort collapse knew he could not hold Fort Lee on the other side of the river. A few days later, as winter set in, the British army crossed the river and General Nathaniel Greene retreated with Washington into New Jersey "These are the times that try men's souls..." wrote Thomas Paine. General Washington faced a shrinking military and decreased morale. The British forces continued to push the Americans and gloom settled over the American forces. The 71st during this time wintered in Amboy, New Jersey. At the time, this probably seemed wise. But on Dec 26th, General Washington completed his crossing of the Delaware River to capture Trenton. Next, he defeated

a second assault at Assunpink Creek before capturing the city of Princeton. These three victories reinvigorated his campaign.

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

The Battle of Brandywine

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

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

Howe led one column around to flank on the right. The 71st stayed under the direction of Lt. General Wilhem Knyphausen at Chadds Ford to provide a diversion and cause confusion. This lead the Americans to suppose the battle would be held there. When the Americans learned of the flanking action, they attempted to reposition their troops. Upon hearing Howe's gun open fire, Knyphausen pressed the Americans. Sir James Baird and his light infantry again pressed into

action. Sir James Baird and the 71st Light Infantry faced General "Mad Dog" Anthony Wayne for the first time. The assault was fierce and Sir James Baird forced the Americans and General Wayne back quickly.

Washington again faced complete defeat when another historical curiosity occurred. This time, it was a French noble named Gilbert Du Motier who, although wounded in the leg, organized and led a retreat from the Battlefield which prevented the American forces from being captured or crushed. General Washington, the future leader of a new republic, would cite the officer for bravery. He recommended that, despite his foreign birth and title, Motier should be given his own unit to command. Motier's fame increased exponentially as he continued to find success. Later in his life, cities throughout the US would rename themselves to honor him. Motier's story is enshrined in American History but not under his name but rather his noble title: Marquis de LaFayette. The Americans fell back on retreat with fear gripping Philadelphia. The British however, would make one more assault before taking the city. Once again, Sir James Baird and his highlanders would face the Americans and this time he would defeat General Wayne in a manner that would embarrass him and lead to a court martial.

**To Be Continued:
Capture the Capital-Paoli
Germantown**

Stewart, General David Sketches of the character, manners and present state of the Highlanders of Scotland with details of The Military Service of The Highland Regiments (Edinburgh 1825) Archibald Constable pg 43. http://books.google.com/books?id=Ldiljvtwt4C&pg=PA53&lpg=PA53&dq=sir+james+baird+highlanders&source=bl&ots=7B-o-N683X&sig=fUFF-hyebiNbZ8M__MPWKtBFbbdY&hl=en&sa=X&ei=ewYcUcnO OJKXqAH-8IGACQ&ved=0CDcQ6AEwAQ#v=onepage&q=Baird&f=false Feb 14 2013

Stewart, Pg 43
Stewart, Pg. 43
Paine, Thomas. The American Crisis

Paying Annual Dues has been made EASY through PayPal

1. Go to the Clan Baird Society Worldwide website:
<http://www.clanbairdsociety.com/>
2. Select Membership tab, then Online Payment!
3. If you do not have a PayPal account, it will ask you to create one.
4. Paying online is very simple once you have a PayPal account!



Interesting Bairds to Present

from Past

When I was growing up in Glasgow there was an interesting picture hanging on the wall on a half landing in our house. It was of James Baird "the Hampden of Newfoundland" and gave a brief description of the reason for his fame. He was a relative, a little removed, and showed up on the family tree that my father put together back then. When I came to Canada I had opportunity to visit Newfoundland and meet my distant cousins, his descendants, and have kept in touch ever since.

I thought you might find his story of interest and so I searched the internet and found the picture I had looked at those many years ago and have in my den now.

~ A. Melvin Baird (Mel)

James Baird

by Melvin Baker (c)1994
Originally published in the
Newfoundland Quarterly, vol.LXXXVIII,
no. 4 (Summer 1994)

James Baird was born on 30 November 1828 in Saltcoats, Ayrshire county, Scotland. His father was the local postmaster and a weavers' agent. Baird came to Newfoundland in 1844 and worked as a draper's assistant until about 1853 when he established his own importing and draping business with his brother, David. On 8 December 1857 he married Anne Boyd, daughter of merchant John Boyd of St. John's and they had three sons and one daughter. In 1872 James started his own business under his own name and was later joined by his nephew, James Gordon. By the early 1880s the company had expanded into the wholesale and retail of groceries and dry goods and the sale of wines and spirits as well as the fishery supply business.

The company was cautious in entering the colony's fish export trade doing so in the mid-1880s and then for only a few years. This proved a sound business decision; having lost his premises in the 1892 fire that destroyed much of St. John's

and rebuilding on a much larger scale, Baird successfully survived the financial collapse of the island's banking system in December 1894. Indeed, the company was well-positioned to fill the gap left by several major financially troubled firms and re-entered the fish trade taking over the assets of several bankrupt companies, including Thorburn & Messier owned by former premier Robert Thorburn. Baird's company subsequently grew into a major 20th century fish exporter.



By 1901 Gordon, who previously had managed Baird's businesses, became a fun partner in the firm now known as Baird, Gordon & Co. Gordon died in February 1908 and the name of the firm was changed to James Baird, Ltd., with Baird's sons as managing partners. In October 1908 the firm's premises were again destroyed by fire and substantially rebuilt.

Along with fellow merchants Moses Harvey and Augustus Harvey, Baird had been prominent in developing local industries in St. John's, having, as the Newfoundland Quarterly observed, "a finger in every pie." Among his holdings were shares in boot and shoe, wooden and clothing factories, a bakery, a nail foundry, and the Colonial Cordage Company, a local company started by Monroe. He was also active in the sealing and whaling industries. Baird was president of the St. John's Gas Light Company which by 1914 was generally regarded as the most secure of local investments in Newfoundland.

Baird is best known in Newfoundland history for his role in the famous "Baird v Walker" case of 1890; earning himself the title of "Newfoundland's Hampden". In 1889 he purchased the mortgage to a lobster factory on the island's west coast where France had historic fishing rights. In 1890 the factory was closed by Sir Baldwin Walker of the British navy under the terms of a modus vivendi reached for the 1890 fishing season between France and Britain prohibiting the erection of new lobster factories after 1 July 1889 by Newfoundland fishing interests on what was known locally as the French Shore part of the island. Walker had acceded to a French request that the factory be closed because the French held that it had been erected after 1 July 1889. Baird in 1890 sued Walker in the Newfoundland Supreme Court for approximately \$5,000 in damages for the loss of business resulting from the factory's closure.

The court found for Baird against Walker noting that the latter had no legal authority to close the factory. The imperial legislation under which Walker had acted was no longer in force in Newfoundland and there was nothing short of new imperial legislation the British government could do to prevent Newfoundlanders from fishing on the French Shore. Walker appealed on behalf of the Imperial Government to the Privy Council where Baird once again fought his case and won. Baird's action was a significant political and constitutional victory for Newfoundland in its long dispute which both Britain and France over French historic fishing rights in Newfoundland, an issue that was finally settled in 1904 as part of a broader French-British agreement on colonial issues.

Baird's also rallied a demoralized Tory opposition, unofficially led by Moses Monroe, that had been crushed by Liberal leader William Whiteway's electoral victory in 1889 over Robert Thorburn. In 1898 the newly-elected Tory Government of James S. Winter appointed him to the Legislative Council, where he served until his death on 30 May 1915. (The author would like to acknowledge the assistance of David Baird in the preparation of this article).





Highland Game Events

*Clan Baird
Annual AGM Meeting
is tentatively set for the*

**2015 Stone
Mountain Games**

October 16-18, 2015

*The website is www.smhg.org
for more information.*

**Cowal Highland
Gathering**

**August 27, 28, 29th
in Dunoon, Argyll**

*This is the largest Highland
games in the world, where you
can take part in a ceilidh and see
dancers compete for the title of
world champion.*

It's renowned for its unique atmosphere, world-class competitors, beautiful Highland location and spine-tingling salute to the Chieftain.

The new activities included the Clan Mountain Bike Stunt team, a pop up 3d cinema from the Glasgow Science Centre, the Drakes of Hazard, Artie's Tartan Tales, come and try sporting areas, the Cowal Kids Tent amongst many others.



clanbairdsociety.com

**An Almost Forgotten
Scottish Memorial...**

In September of 2014, touted as "The Year of Homecoming" by Visit Scotland whose monthly news e-mails had called to me early on, I traveled to the land of my Baird ancestors. Arriving in Glasgow on the morning of the historic vote, alas... it was not to be that I would later raise a glass in a Glasgow pub to my paternal 4x great grandfather, one William Wallace Baird, born in the backcountry of South Carolina in 1760.



Lincoln Memorial, Old Calton Burial Ground, Edinburgh.

Over the next several days traveling round this beautiful country no larger than the place where my 4x great granddad was born, I was awed by the grandeur of its mountains and waters, its many must-see attractions... and one attraction that is seldom seen.

In Edinburgh's Old Calton Burial Ground there stands, almost forgotten, a memorial honoring Abraham Lincoln, the great emancipator, and the Scottish-American soldiers who fought on behalf of his beloved Union. While the British government remained

neutral as Americans fought against each other, many of Scottish descent, on both sides, were all too eager to join in the fight during the War Between the States whose 150th Anniversary will draw to an end in April of this year. And once again, the Bairds, who had by the 1860s moved on to Georgia, were on the losing side. My paternal 2x great grandfather, Samuel W. Baird, 16th Regiment Georgia Volunteer Cavalry, fought against my maternal 3x great grandfather Richard B. Walker (also a Scot!), 119th Pennsylvania Infantry. May God rest their souls... and the souls of all the others of our ancestors who perished during those terrible times.

- Barbara Allen Bergan



Robert Burns Birthplace Museum offers a truly unique encounter with Scotland's favourite son. Set among 10 acres of the poet's cherished Alloway countryside, the museum comprises the famous Burns Cottage where the poet was born, the historic landmarks where he set his greatest work, the elegant monument and gardens created in his honour and a modern museum housing the world's most important collection of his life and works.

www.burnsmuseum.org.uk





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!

Many of those of Scottish descent have clan hereditary surnames, like many of you with the last name "Bard" (and its variant spellings). In the Highlands especially these names are more common than names that began in a nuclear family, and are a distinctive feature of being Scottish. There are a few different surname categories in Scotland. The first is surnames that come from a place of origin. These are the earliest type of surname, and they started among the upper classes and worked their way downwards. Landed aristocracy would have taken their name from their own estates, and in the 14th century ordinary Scottish people started taking local place names as surnames. A second category are surnames of relationship. These surnames mostly come from a parent's (usually father's) personal name. Two common types are "mac-" (or "mc-") and "-son." Of course, not all those with the name "MacDonald" or "Johnson" are descended from a single ancestor named "Donald" or "John" - besides there being many potential ancestors with those names, in the Lowlands tenants often adopted the

surname of their landholder and in the Highlands an entire clan might adopt the name of a clan chief. These names would have originally been in Gaelic (as in "MacDhomhnaill") and then become Anglicized into what we know them as today. A third common type is surnames of occupation, as in Smith. Although there are a few Gaelic surnames of this type (Clacher, Caird are some exceptions) these names come from the Lowland Scotland trading burghs. A fourth type is nicknames, which were most common among lower classes and usually based off physical characteristics (such as Brown or Gray).



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Fourth Quarter 2014
October 1 to December 31, 2014

Income:	
Dues Received	290.00
Misc Income	
Donations	
Quartermaster Sales	

Total Quarterly Income: 290.00

Expense:	
Advertising	307.68
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Scholarships	
Gryphon	426.65
Games	
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Annual Report Fees (4-years)	100.00

Total Quarterly Expense: 834.33

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: (544.33)

Cash in Bank - Last Quarter: 7,636.98

Cash in Bank/Available Funds: 7,092.65

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



**Clan Baird
Officers & Staff**

President Dr. Debra June Baird
dbaird@centurytel.net
205-454-6852

1st Vice-President James D. Baird
jimbaird45@gmail.com
315-382-1702

2nd Vice-President Isaac S. Baird
iandsbaird@gmail.com
801-243-4077

2nd Vice-President Miller S. Baird
msbdu@earthlink.net
303-332-3122

Secretary Robert L. Baird
BAIRD3990@aol.com
734-604-2341

Treasurer Robert G. Beard, Jr.
beardrobert@msn.com
813-963-0251

Website Developer Linda Gee
webdeveloper@clanbairdsociety.com
248-477-8345

Gryphon Editor Heather Snyder
gryphon@clanbairdsociety.com
802-485-5541



**Newsletter
Deadlines**

May 2015 Issue
deadline is April 15th

August 2015 Issue
deadline is July 15th

November 2015 Issue
deadline is October 15th

**Please submit newsletter
articles to:**
Heather Snyder at
gryphon@clanbairdsociety.com

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

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

**Any questions about *The Gryphon*
submissions please 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 his-
tory of Baird. Please email
info@clanbairdsociety.com
for more information.

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

