



Finding the CLAN CHIEF

Submitted by: Isaac Baird

On August 19th, Roderick Baird, a member of the Saughtonhall family and cousin to Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall., contacted the Clan Baird Society Worldwide regarding the status of Clan Baird. After 240+ years, the heir to the Auchmedden family is in the process of collecting all the necessary evidence and documentation so as to be in a position to petition the Lord Lyon to be recognized as the Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird. Upon achieving this status, he should be granted supporters to his Arms. This will enable him to be recognized by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs as a member and be considered the Chief of the Clan Baird.

The requirements to gain supporters, or the heraldic devices that appear to hold up the shield or escutcheon on Coat of Arms are very specific. The applicant must demonstrate that he/she is the direct and senior heir to inherit the undifferentiated arms of the last Chief of the Name and Arms. The applicant is also required to carry the name of the arms in order to inherit them. This ancient solution solves a 21st century problem. A Clan Chief need not be a



male however as long as she maintains the name. Changing a name by hyphenation or assuming a husband's surname would disqualify the candidate unless they changed it back. There are rules established by the Lyon Court however as to how long a time period may occur before a line is entirely disqualified from applying for the chiefship. For example, The Duchess Of Rothesay, descended from Helen Baird, daughter of William Baird, IV of Auchmedden in 1720, would not be allowed to apply as more than two generations had passed. Besides that, as the wife of Prince Charles, Camilla, known also as the Duchess of Rothesay, probably has more important concerns.

The point to understand here that a Chiefship, particularly with Bairds, is not an item upon which clan members or Society members have a significant voice. Historically a Derbhfine, or family council established to vote for a new chief, existed. However, this ceased to exist in the 11th -12th century although elements could be seen within the fluidity of the turbulent times of the Clan System for centuries. It has been resur-

rected in more recent times for families that did not have a Clan Chief, or whose line has died out completely, and choose to select one in the modern era. For the Bairds, this is not the case. The Bairds, as a clan or society, cannot select, vote, or even politic for a candidate for the Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird. It falls upon the applicant to show genealogy that that person is their senior heir and has the heritable right.

In nearly all cases, being declared Chief of the Name and Arms is synonymous with being a Clan Chief. There are some cases where this is not so. Two popular instances are the Frasers, that maintain a Chief of the Clan Fraser of Lovat and a Chief of The Name and Arms of Fraser, and the MacNicol, that also have two chiefs. In both cases, this arises from a difference in whom is recognized as having the senior vs. historical reality of Gaelic Clan. In the case of the Frasers, the Frasers of Philorth, the Lords Saltoun are the senior branch. However the Frasers of Lovat represent the historical Gaelic clan of the Fraser. Lady Saltoun expresses this eloquently on her website "The Frasers of Philorth, Lords Saltoun, being the senior line, are Chiefs of the name of Fraser, although a lowland family. Lord Lovat is Chief of the very numerous Highland Clan Fraser of Lovat, based in Inverness-shire." The same is true with the Macnicols. In both cases, the two chiefs are accepted as members of the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs. Neither of these two cases applies to the Bairds. While one could argue the definition of a lowland family vs. a Gaelic

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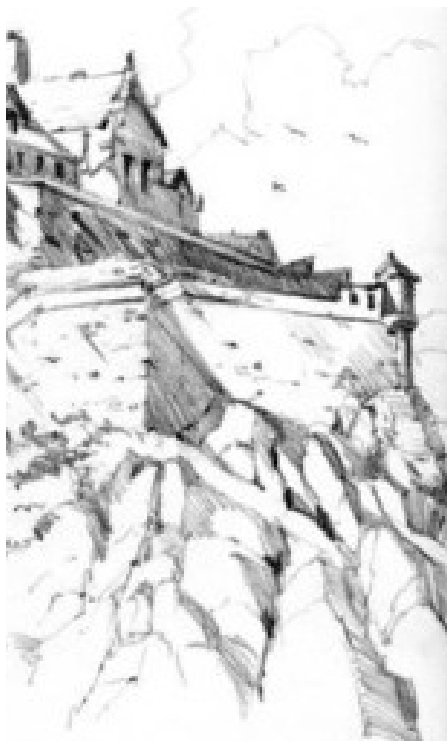
Ceud Mile Fàilte!
(100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our
Clan the following:*

George Henry Baird II
Kirksey, Kentucky

James Eugene Panches
Green River, Wyoming

Henry Baird
Bremen, Georgia



**The Legend of the
Baird Coat of Arms**

King William, later called William the Lion, ruled Scotland from 1165-1214, an unusually long reign and the second longest in Scottish history. He had a very eventful reign including a revolt against Henry II in 1173-1174 over Northumbria. His history is well-documented, but for our family, how we got our Coat of Arms is the most important part of William's long reign.



The Coat of Arms of Baird. The motto: Dominus fecit, says, "The Lord makes, or The Lord does it." But the coat of arms was awarded because Baird did it.

King William went out riding,
his new estates to see.
A man named Baird, a man at arms,
was in his company.
The day was fair and sunny;
a gentle breeze did blow.
At midday they ate juicy stag brought
down by William's bow.

They spied a wild boar running and
William spurred his horse
And from his saddle missed his shot,
then shot again, of course.
This time his arrow wounded,
but not a fatal spot,
So William stopped to better aim
and loose a fatal shot.

William the Lion was hunting the boar,
Baird riding right by his side.
Every Baird son knows the family lore
Of what he did on that ride.

The wild boar took exception;
charged and unhorsed the King.
Baird chased the boar on horseback
and he gave his lance a fling.
His aim was true; he slew it,
the boar that spooked the steed.
The King was fine; that night they dined on
roasted pork and mead.

William the Lion, unhorsed by the boar,
Baird was right there at his side.
Baird flung his lance and the
boar was no more.
The King's only wound was his pride.

But that's not all the story;
Baird's service to the King
Is now the stuff of legend,
of which bards of Baird now sing.
And William granted honors
for service in the field.
The Coat of Arms of Baird displays
a wild boar on a shield.

-submitted by Stephen Baird, 2016





Message from the President

Greetings from Clan Baird President

Greetings from Winston County, Alabama. Our Border Collie Lassie loves the cold and snow, and we just have not had any this year.

I hope your winter has been less cold than usual and your fire has been warmer. The winter months bring less activity to our group, but we have been getting ready for the next



festival season by preparing tartan tablecloths for the regions, and better organizing for the new season. Our membership renewals and new members continue to grow and our strength as a group continues to move.

This summer, I plan to spend time at the University of Aberdeen, looking through a set of Baird papers that have not yet been catalogued. I look forward to that. During spring break, I am traveling to the University of South Carolina to research a set of documents about the Baird's who settled in the Waxhaw district during pre-Revolutionary War days. For those history buffs,

this is the area where Tarleton's Massacre happened during the Revolutionary War.

Sincere Regards,
Debra



Kim Lewis ready to run

As to winter activities of our members, Kim Lewis (Georgia State Leader) represented Clan Baird in the Tartan Trot in February. It is held by St. Luke's Presbyterian Church in Dunwoody, Georgia. Kim's grandchildren, Preston and Maisie Cantin ran the 1 mile kids run and Kim, his wife, and daughter Jenna Cantin ran the 10K. Lots of kilts and tartans were on display and the North Atlanta Pipe Band started the race off and welcomed the runners back at the finish. According to Kim it was a great run!!



“Old Man of Hoy”, one of the stories in Frank Demain’s collection of four short stories, Off the Beaten Track

Our unsuspecting hero, Peter Sinclair, crosses from Scotland to the Orkney Isles in search of his family roots and discovers an illicit distillery – to his cost – substantially more than just a sore head from drinking substandard whisky!

The intrepid traveller also encounters some unexpected adventures whilst seeking a leisurely break with family and friends. He is drawn into a dispute between rival criminal gangs as he cruises around the Canary Islands and is drawn into an attempt to smuggle stolen diamonds into Spain; he is accidentally caught up in a planned uprising led a criminal resurrection of the National Liberation Committee of Istria in Croatia; and he encounters a band of ruthless smugglers in a cave on the North Yorkshire coast of England.

Off the Beaten Track is now available from Amazon on your Kindle, iPad or other e-reader for less than the price of a latté!



HERALDRY SIMPLIFIED

PART 3

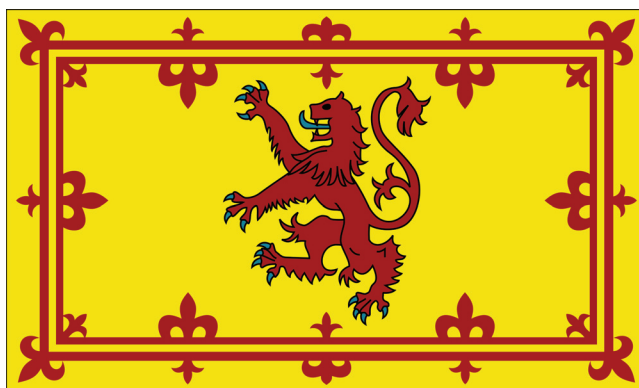
For those heavily engaged in heraldry, this article may seem quite simple on a very complex subject.

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

In the last few editions, we have looked at the role of Heraldry in Scotland, in Baird tradition, and as a genealogical tool. For most people in North America, Heraldry is seen as antiquated if not foreign. If it also misunderstood that there are family Coats of Arms. These articles reinforce the concept that arms are owned by a single person. This seems opposite to what many in the family history business may sell. If we liken heraldry to intellectual property, such as a personal trademark, it become very clear what role it serves. Some may, through a republican lens (in this case the term republican as system of government as opposed to Monarchy) it appears to be completely foreign to North America. This is completely false. Heraldry has a long tradition within North America.

In the United States, Heraldry has a long and established position as well as a controversial place. Historically, arms were used by George Washington, Benjamin Franklin, John Adams, Thomas Jefferson, John Kennedy, Franklin Delano Roosevelt, Ronald Reagan and Bill Clinton. In addition, half of the signers of the declaration of independence and United States Constitution bore arms. It is clear that in 1788, Washington recognized that Heraldry presented a sharp issue to the young republic. He wrote that although he didn't believe that heraldry "can have any tendency unfriendly to the purest spirit of republicanism..." He also knew a portion of the community

was "striving to make the credulity of the less-informed part of the citizens subservient to their schemes, in believing that the proposed general government is pregnant with the seeds of discrimination, oligarchy, and despotism..." (Washington 501) Washington concluded about attending a service for the Society of Cincinnati, a war veterans group, and he was accused of not being patriotic enough due to his participation in a group that created distinction due to descent from war veterans. Due to this, for the next 121 years, any form of Heraldry was relegated to private organizations. In 1919, Woodrow Wilson created the Heraldic Program office to manage and approve all coat of arms and insignia for the Army. By World War II, the Institute of Heraldry was established to



provide heraldic services to all branches of the government include the US military, office of the president, and all other uniformed branches of the Federal government. Every insignia, badge, award, uniform, coat of arms, and seal must undergo review by this department to ensure it meets heraldic standards including maintaining and developing the blazon in traditional heraldic fashion. The Institute of Heraldry doesn't work on private arms or register arms for private individuals. (History of the Institute of Heraldry) Clan members in the United States should look to the Lyon Court if they can identify their paternal ancestors

from Scotland, or the College of Arms if their Ancestors originated from the Colonies prior to the War of Independence.

The Heraldic Authority in Canada is invested in the Canadian Heraldic Authority which was created in the 1980's by Letters Patent. This came due to difficulties with the College of Arms and Lyon Court due to geography and a lack of understand of Canadian Symbols. Canadian Heraldry uses unique symbolism pulling from the flora and fauna of the region as well as unique symbols for descendants of Union Loyalist, or American Colonists who were expelled from the newly formed United States after the American War for Independence. This, coupled with a length process, encouraged Canadian politicians to press for a Canadian Heraldic Authority. The In 1988, as Queen Of Canada, H.M. Queen Elizabeth II issued Letters Patent to create a local authority.

Canadian members should look towards this authority first to matriculate arms unless they have a specific need to display arms in Scotland and/or intend to be domiciled in Scotland.

In addition to these Heraldic authorities, Mexico also maintains privately funded organization Mexican Academy of Genealogy and Heraldry (Academia Mexicana de Genealogía y Heráldica) that is lead by historians, scholars, and enthusiasts. South American members who can't trace their genealogy to Scotland, Britain, Canada, may look towards South Africa or Spain for registration and design of Arms.

Heraldry is unique tradition in Scotland. Scottish Heraldic traditions have influenced United States Military and Government, as well as the Government of Canada. Members have the opportunity and are encouraged to participate in this unique tradition regardless if they live in Ecuador, the US, or Scotland.



The Genealogist's Corner:

The first steps: Gathering information starts at home

In the last article, we discussed setting goals and how to define what the outcome of family history and genealogy should look like. Once those goals are set, it is time to focus on gathering information. In the 21st century, the temptation is to run out and search microfilms and online databases. However, the first place we should look is at home.

Great examples of this information are the mounds of old scattered pictures in everyone's home. Many times, those pictures have no names associated and the only one who remembers the people are the owner's of the photographs. When the owner passes away, that information is lost forever. Recently, in a trip to an elderly woman's home, I found scores of pictures of homes and people that had no names. The photos were almost 80 years old and she had even older photos, including tintypes, of ancestors. We were able to save this information from being lost.

In our homes, there may be many pictures that will be valuable to future generations. Our photos need to be documented as well. As family historians, we have a responsibility to preserve not only old documents, but our contemporary documents for future generations.

Documenting and preserving photos is also a great way to initiate conversa-

tions around family history. In fact, it can make for a great family activity. Bringing older children, siblings, relatives along can help spur questions and what appeared to be a simple photo documentation become a comprehensive discussion around family history. Documenting and preserving family history contains two parts. The first part is setting up and performing the interview. The second is documenting the information. For the interview, some pre-work is required. First, we need to make an appointment of one to two hours. For people who may tire easily, several smaller interviews may work better. Setting an appointment will eliminate distractions and ensure you will have the time and focus to meet with the person.

The next step is to develop a list of questions. The first few questions should be simple to get the interviewee at ease. Additional questions should help get the conversation going.



These questions might include where one was born, or what was their favorite memory. They might be questions around an object or photo. Once the interviewee is going, it is important not to interrupt the natural flow of the conversation. The natural flow of speech will help generate a series of memories that otherwise may not be remembered.

Thirdly, we should check to ensure we have recording equipment and permission to record it. We should also assure the person that we won't reveal any personal details or post sensitive information on any website. When recording an interview, it is important to respect privacy and get permission to use the transcription.

After the interview, do not wait long to transcribe the record. Important details can quickly be forgotten. In addition, audio tapes and video technology can quickly become obsolete unlike a written record. Transcribing a record also requires understanding that written records are not the same as spoken records. In spoken languages, there are many false starts, verbal repetitions, and pauses that can be edited. While editing, keep the "voice" of the individual authentic by keep the distinct parts of speech intact.

Preserving this information will prove to be a huge boon. Many times, family stories, if not always exact have many true details that will aid with your search.



Heraldry Continued from page 4

Works Cited

History of the Institute of Heraldry. n.d. Website. 11 August 2015. <<http://www.tioh.hqda.pentagon.mil/>>. Washington, George. "From George Washington to William Barton". Ed. W.W. Abbot. 7 September 1788. University Press of Virginia. 15 Jan 2015. <<http://founders.archives.gov/documents/Washington/04-06-02-0446>>.





Scottish Events



Glen Erin Pipe Band of Lansing Robert Burns Birthday Celebration



On the left are Mary Baird and Clan Baird Society secretary Robert Baird. On the right is Randall and Bonnie Bard and their son Hans Bard, who are the new volunteers for the Baird Tents in Michigan. Visit them at the Alma Highland Games and the St. Andrews Society Highland Games in Livonia. Randall and Bonnie took over from Wrem Diem, who volunteered for years at the Highland Games.

Edinburgh FESTIVALS

Edinburgh is the place to be this year! Following is a short list of amazing festivals showcased for the first half of the year!

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL SCIENCE FESTIVAL

26 March 2016 - 10 April 2016

Edinburgh International Science Festival delivers one of Europe's largest Science Festivals, giving audiences amazing experiences through a programme of innovative and inspiring discussions, workshops, performances, screenings, special events and exhibitions.

IMAGINATE FESTIVAL

28 May 2016 - 5 June 2016

The Imagine Festival is Scotland's international festival of performing arts for children and young people. Every year the Festival showcases the finest selection of shows from Scotland and across the world. In 2016, this includes companies from New Zealand, Belgium, Australia, Norway, Spain, the Netherlands, Poland and Germany.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FILM FESTIVAL

15 June 2016 - 26 June 2016

Established in 1947, EIFF is renowned around the world for discovering and promoting the very best in international cinema - and for heralding and debating changes in global filmmaking. Intimate in its scale, ambitious in its scope, and fuelled by pure passion for cinema in all its manifestations, EIFF seeks to spotlight the most exciting and innovative new film talent.

EDINBURGH JAZZ & BLUES FESTIVAL

15 July 2016 - 24 July 2016

Edinburgh Jazz and Blues Festival plays host to the finest jazz and blues talent from all corners of the globe. From bop to boogie-woogie to blues-rock, from samba to swing to soul: there's some-

Clan Chief, continued from page 1

Clan, from a purely legalistic view, the Auchmedden Bairds have been recognized as holding the undifferentiated arms of the Name of Baird and hence are the Chiefs of the Name. Historically, as descendants of the Bairds of Ordinhivas and through their own history, one could also argue effectively to the case of Chief of a Highland Clan for the Bairds of Auchmedden and their descendants. In the case of the Bairds, the title of Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird.

The Clan Baird Society has long recognized that Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, Bt. is the heir to Bairds of Auchmedden and the Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird. The society fully endorses Sir James and supports him in this role.

thing to suit every mood and musical taste over ten groove-packed summer days. Plus the free open air Mardi Gras and Festival Carnival events.

EDINBURGH ART FESTIVAL

28 July 2016 - 28 August 2016

The UK's largest annual celebration of visual art, attracting over 250,000 visitors each year, Edinburgh Art Festival brings together the capital's leading galleries, museums and artist-run spaces, alongside new public art commissions by established and emerging artists and an innovative programme of special events.

EDINBURGH INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

5 August 2016 - 29 August 2016

Every August, the Edinburgh International Festival transforms one of the world's most beautiful cities, presenting three exhilarating weeks of the finest creators and performers from the worlds of the arts. Edinburgh's six major theatres and concert halls, a few smaller venues and often some unconventional ones too, come alive with the best music, theatre, opera and dance from around the globe.



Update Letter from our Scholarship Recipient, Erin Park

I have just started the seventh week of the second semester of my honors years. My courses for English Language haven't changed since last semester, but I am taking a new course in Gaelic called "The 19th Century Through the Eyes of the Gael." It has been a fascinating look at the clearances and land agitation, immigration, development of literature and culture, and the Gaels' view of the new technological advancements such as steamships and railroads. In English language I am doing two projects, both very unrelated to anything I've done before: the first on the development of the "discourse of terror" in American politics, and the other on a Canadian celebrity's ability to fake a Punjabi-English accent. Both of these projects have taken me out



of my comfort zone and given me an opportunity to develop skills which I hope to apply to Gaelic in the future.

This semester has been very exciting already outside of the classroom. As part of the residency scheme, we've had a contingent from University College Dublin (a special relationship exists between our residency scheme and their's as our's is based on their pioneering efforts) come to visit. We put on a ceilidh for

them, introduced them to campus, and got their feedback on one of the projects we hope to launch soon. The next week we went to Dublin! It was a short three days, but we packed a ton into



it. We had workshops on the intersection of Scottish and Irish song, an Irish Gaelic language workshop, we learned about Gaelic football and its relationship to Irish language, as well as hearing about several of UCD's residency students' projects -- very inspiring as to what could be done with Gaelic, as well as discovering all our similarities with our fellow Gaels. We spoke with the other students (or tried) in Gaelic, and got to know them and their journeys to Gaelic during the social activities. I've attached some pictures of the group. In other news, only last week we were awarded Best Community Drama for our short film 'Clìù nan Caoraich' by FilmG. FilmG is a Gaelic short film competition designed by MGAIBa to foster

young (and old) Gaelic film-making talent and to encourage creativity. We were absolutely thrilled to win such a prestigious award, and our prize will be support in putting on a community event at the end

of the year. It's been a busy but exciting few months, and I thank you so much for all your support; I would not be able to take advantage of these opportunities without Clan Baird!

Sincerely,
Erin Park

Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Fourth Quarter 2015

October 1 through December 31, 2015

Income:	
Dues Received	1,040.00
Misc Income	
Donations	
Quartermaster Sales	

Total Quarterly Income: 1,040.00

Expense:	
Advertising	150.00
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Secretary	
Treasurer	
Genealogy	158.95
Gryphon	
Games	
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	8.29

Total Quarterly Expense: 317.24

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: 722.76

Cash in Bank - Last Quarter: 6,843.47

Cash in Bank/Available Funds: 7,566.23

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



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Newsletter Deadlines

Spring 2016 Issue
deadline is April 15th

Summer 2016 Issue
deadline is July 15th

Autumn 2016 Issue
deadline is October 15th

Winter 2017 Issue
deadline is January 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**

