



CHIEFTANS NAMED to Clan Baird Society

Clan Baird remains without a chief, as has been our state for over two-hundred-years, and with that in mind, the Board of Directors has named as Society Chieftains, the leader of each of the four most prominent Baird lines.

This effort is an answer to the call of many members that we have a more formal Clan/Family structure, working toward a larger worldwide presence.

In ancient times, a Clan Hierarchy existed with a Chief of the Clan, or head of the family, and a supporting council established in various roles. One role, called a Chieftain, or Chief of a significant branch, was widespread throughout the clans and families of Scotland. The definition of a chieftain is given in *The Clans, Septs, and Regiments of the Scottish Highlands* by Frank Adams and the former Lord Lyon, Sir Thomas Innes of Learney.

In consultation with the Office of the Lord Lyon, we have learned that designation of Chieftains belonged to the Clan Chief strictly under Clan law and outside the jurisdiction of the Lyon Office.



While the Lord Lyon is responsible for declaring Clan Chief, the naming of Chieftains is an internal role.

Historically, within the Bairds, significant families and branches were

recognized as principal branches and maintained a specific head of the family, or Chieftain.

The four remaining principal branches of the Baird family are Newbyth, Palmer's Cross, Rickarton Ury and Lochwood, and Saughtonhall. Lord Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood is named Chieftain of that noble house, while the lines of Sir James Baird of Saughtonhall, Lt. Colonel Niall Baird of Palmer's Cross, and Sir Charles Baird of Newbyth have been designated for each of the other families.

These lines make up the newly formed Council of Baird Chieftains, and it is hoped that they will help in advising the Board as we move to develop more involved work to preserve our heritage and antiquities. 2017 is an exciting time for Clan Baird Society; we are moving to become closer in goals and work for the good of the whole.





Ceud Mìle Fàilte! (100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our
Clan the following:*

- Morton Baird
- Rebecca Gray
- Sue Mosher
- Susan Schlueter
- Robert Stonecipher
- Ida Wade
- Robert Baird
- David M. Beard
- Kelly Baird Coyle
- Nicole Quiring Baracani
- Amanda Beard Dietz
- B. Sean McCanna
- Patricia Beard Quiring



Council of Honorary Chieftains Named to Clan Baird Society

While the Lord Lyon is responsible for declaring Clan Chief, the naming of Chieftains is an internal role provided by the Chief. "While we wait for our chief to be declared, the board has voted to ask certain individuals to act as Society Chieftains, (as opposed to Clan Chieftains)." Historically, within the Bairds, significant families and branches were recognized as principal branches and maintained a specific head of the family, or Chieftain.

On December 15th, 2016, the first group of Honorary Chieftains was named by the Society. These are individuals who have given great time, effort, and work to furthering the goals and objectives of Clan Baird Society. They have done a yeoman's work to improve our group and help our family.

Those named as the 2017 Charter Class were Mr. James D. Baird, of Fayetteville, New York, former president of the Society and present 1st Vice President, who worked to revive the group after the great chief discussions, Mr. Wrex R. Diem, of Chillicothe, Ohio, former president and person responsible for keeping the group together during the late 2000's, and Mr. Vincent B. Baird, of Tooele, Utah, former president responsible for taking over after Dale Baird, and increasing the membership during the early 2000's. These men have led us through most of the last 20 years, with grit, determination, and sheer will. We will be forever grateful for their work, and for their tenacity in keeping us together.

The Council of Honorary Chieftains will serve an advisory role to the Board of Directors and with the Council of Chieftains, will help determine our path over the next few decades.



***It is that time of year again!
We need to renew our membership for 2017*** If you would like to renew for more than one year, just send multiple years and indicate on the check how many years you are paying. It is \$20.00 per year, or for three years, it is \$50.00. Two years is still \$40.00.

**Make check payable to:
Clan Baird Society Worldwide**

and mail to:

**Robert G. Beard, Jr. - Treasurer
Clan Baird Society Worldwide
16644 Valley Drive
Tampa, Florida 33618**

Also, we are working toward increasing our membership, and we ask that each of you sign up one more family member for 2017. That would double our membership if each member would sign just one more member.

If you sign up five or more of your family members, then the price is half! Five members or more for \$10.00 each! (Yes, that does include yourself!)

We hope to double our membership this year, so your help is very much needed.

Thanks for all you do for Clan Baird Society Worldwide.

Your Servant and Kinswoman,
Debra



clanbairdsociety.com



Message from the President

Mo chairdean choir,
(My Dear Friends) We are well underway with our "Each One Sign One" campaign for increasing membership. It is hoped that we will double our active members in 2017 and for those who have already signed a relative, we appreciate your effort in our campaign.

The American Clan Baird members who are traveling to Scotland May 16-27th are ready to go! We are looking forward to touring the Baird sites and lands, as well as Culloden, Edinburgh, Inverness, Aberdeen, Fort William, and the beautiful scen-



ery of the highlands and lowlands in between. We have leased a house in Gardenstown, close to Pennan and the old Auchmedden estate, and will be using that as our home-base. It is hoped we will have some time for painting/drawing/writing/contemplating/resting/friending, as we tour the land of our forebears. For those of us who are the progeny of those who were forced out in the great Scottish diaspora of the 18th and 19th centuries, coming home is always bittersweet. Forced into the colonies, our culture was changed forever, but the memories of home were passed down to each generation, with heart and loyal remembrance of what was.

We are planning to meet with Scottish Clan Baird members during our trip and look forward to seeing them again or meeting them for the first time. It is hoped our new Baird Archaeological and Historical Initiative (BAHI) will be further defined and grow from this trip and meeting.

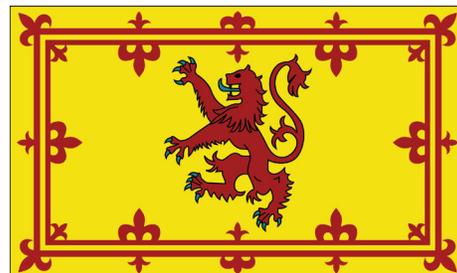
May each of you have a prosperous 2017, filled with peace and joy.

Beannachd Dia dhuit,
(Blessings of God be With You)
 Debra



We are very glad to announce our new 2nd Vice President, Stanford "Sandy" Baird. Sandy lives in Wyoming, and is going to help with coordinating festivals and games where we have Baird tents and where we would like to have them. He is currently working to name state leaders in states where we currently do not have a person. Sandy also hopes to work closely with the regional coordinators as they strive to raise our membership and work the festival tents.

Sandy takes the place of 2nd VP Miller Baird, who decided to step down because of other responsibilities. Miller will continue to serve as the State Leader for Colorado, we look forward to working with him in that new role, and appreciate his previous service as 2nd VP.





Highland Game Events

Clan Baird Society General Meeting 2017 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games July 6th-9th

Clan Baird Society will hold its general meeting at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina, July 6th-9th, 2017. The general meeting became an every-other-year event with the voted changes to the By-Laws passed in October 2015 at the Stone Mountain Highland Games General Meeting of the Society. All members are encouraged to attend the general meetings of the Society and join in our work. The 2017 General Business Meeting will be Saturday, July 8th, in the Chief's Tent, at the park. Look for the sign at the Baird Tent for meeting time and place.

Join us for the fun and enjoyment of being with family you might not now know, but will now know well when you leave the gathering!

Information for the Games

The Grandfather Mountain Highland Games are held at McRae Meadows, close to Linville, North Carolina, in the beautiful Appalachian Mountains.

Please sign up for the various activities open to clans and families. This is usually the largest gathering of Scottish descendants in the United States each year. The calling of the clans, called the Torch Light Ceremony, is on Thursday night, and should not be missed. It is a bone-chilling spiritual event, to watch the clan leaders add their torch to the flames of all the clans, and announce his/her Clan as

present for the gathering.

The website for information is:
www.gmhg.org/homepage.shtml

Visitor Information may be found at:
www.gmhg.org/visitorinfo



I am Debra Baird's first cousin once removed, and I recently started studying Scottish Gaelic language in New York City with the New York Caledonian Club. It's been a really interesting subject to study, so I wanted to do a mini Gaelic lesson in the Gryphon.

Sgoil Ghàidhlig

Gaelic School - pronounced (skoal gallic)

GAELIC GREETINGS:

Good morning - madainn mhath
pronounced (mah-ten va)

Good evening - feasgar math
pronounced (fess-ker ma)

Good night - oidhche mhath
pronounced (aycha va)

Good health - slàinte mhath
pronounced (slahnja va)

Scots use "slàinte mhath" as a toast to the good health of all those present. You say it as everyone raises their glasses into the air.

During the days of the Jacobite rebellions, the phrase "slàinte mhor" (pronounced slahnja vor) was used to toast to the health of Bonnie Prince Charlie at a time when openly toasting to his health would have been treason. So the Jacobites would use this phrase meaning "to Marion's health" as a code-name for Prince Charles Eduard Stuart.

--
Bethany Scott
205.427.2182



Flowers of the Forest

Diana Richardson (nee Baird)
1932-2016

*We have lost another
of our honored Bairds*

The daughter of John Logie Baird, inventor of television, died July 2nd, 2016. She was born in 1932 and spent her life in England and Scotland, with her parents and brother, Malcolm.

Diana was married to Norman Richardson and had a family she loved and served. She also gave tremendous effort for her father's legacy, working to preserve his work and history.

Please read this beautiful full story about Diana which can be found at
www.bairdtelevision.com/Diana



clanbairdsociety.com



The Last Clan Battle Capture the City

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 1778, the world found itself locked in war. While in the United States, this time period is only remembered for one theater of a global conflict, war raged everywhere else. France declared war on Britain and shortly in the Caribbean, the French and British navies clashed. The kingdom of Mysore in India, led by Hyder Ali, rose up against the British. A young Captain David Baird watched his 73rd highlanders cut down in the Battle of Pollilur before being captured. Spain initiated support of the French and American cause and signed a treaty with France to fight the British. Great Britain faced challenges at Gibraltar and Minorca. The Spanish fought the British in Florida (a Spanish Possession at the time) as well as in Nicaragua. The Dutch Republic later declared war on Britain and the conflict erupted Sumatra and Mumbai. Great Britain confronted war on a global scale while attempting to face rebellion in the American Colonies.

Controlling a rebellion in the colonies presented unique challenges. To maintain loyalist support, the British military limited their tactics. This necessity derived from the expansive Atlantic Ocean and crossing times that prevented (accent, dialect, loyalty) did not present itself as uniformly imagined today especially in the Southern Colonies. While the Southern colonies maintained governments consisting of rebellious colonists, the more rural parts of the colonies remained fiercely loyal to the British Government.

Nor should one imagine that Scots or their American born descendants fought solely on the British side. The colonial army boast leadership containing Lachlan McIntosh, (Lachlan Mac an Toisich, a Gaelic speaking Highlander from Badenoch), Hugh Mercer (a Jacobite from Rosehearty and neighbor to the Bairds of Auchmedden), and Lord Stirling. In 1778, the British forces decided in subjugating the southern colonies, beginning in Savannah, Georgia. After facing Mercer and Stirling in



the North, Sir James Baird and his 71st light infantry Highlanders would face the defenses left in place by Lachlan McIntosh in Georgia. (Lee and Agnew) General Howe, commanding the Colonial forces in the South received word from Colonel Lachlan McIntosh that British forces were moving on Savannah and that defenses could not stop the advance (Lee and Agnew). Howe arrived to discover that only 350 men guarded the city with no major defensive positions Meeting in a war council, Howe decided upon defending the city until reinforcements arrived. Lacking military intelligence, the British forces numbering around 3500, called upon Sir James Baird

and his light infantry to investigate the situation. Sir James' unit moved on to Wilmington creek using flat boats, and apprehended two individuals that could provide information. They gathered "the most satisfactory intelligence concerning the state of matters at Savannah...." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) Armed with knowledge, Lt Colonel Archibald Campbell resolved to attack immediately. On the 29th, the British regiments began their assault on the city. General Howe, leading the Americans, fortified positions at Giradean's, plantation, also known as Geridoe's Plantation. Immediately, the difficult swampy terrain became apparent. Lt. Colonel Archibald wrote that between the landing point on the Savannah "the whole country between it and Tybee being a continued tract of deep marsh, intersected by the creeks of St. Augustine and Tybee, of considerable extent..." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) The 71st Highlanders moved from the landing point to Brewton's hill, where Colonial forces waited, traversing "a narrow causeway six hundred yards in length." (Lee and Agnew)

The Colonials caught the Highlanders in confusion by holding off fire until the main column of Highlanders reached the hill. Led by Captain Cameron, the Light Infantry engaged heavy fire which immediately caused three casualties including the Captain. Gunfire caused the remaining highlanders of the 71st to "rush forward to participate." (Lee and Agnew) Lt. Colonel Archibald recounted that "they received a smart fire of musquetry; but the Highlanders, rushing on with their usual impetuosity, gave them no time to repeat." (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) Facing overwhelming odds, the Colonials retreated, back to Savannah. Lt. Col Archibald ordered Sir James

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Baird Archaeological and Historical Initiative (BAHI)

One of the new initiatives of the Clan Baird Society is the Baird Archaeological and Historical Initiative (BAHI), for which the membership will be able to donate time and resources for the preservation of Baird lands, antiquities, documents, and historical materials. The Board of Directors voted to begin this work in August 2016. Our goal is to work toward acquiring and maintaining all things Baird, that hold historic and special value to the family at large.

Isaac S. Baird, our 2nd VP-Seanchaidh to the Society, is heading up this initiative, should you have any materials you wish to donate. All written materials are going to be housed in the members-only area of the www.clanbairdsociety.com website, beginning September 30th. Much work has been done on the



website over the summer, and the new information and working pages will be live by September 30th. An email with the user Id and password to get you into the members-only system will be sent to each member then.

A small group of U.S. Baird's have rented a house in Gardenstown for May 16th- 26th, close to Pennan and the old Auchmedden Estate, in order to do family research and visit other sites where Baird's were prominent. It is hoped that they also will be able to do the

research at the University of Aberdeen that was canceled last summer due to illness. The materials in the University library are the William Baird of Auchmedden papers, and other family files. Debra Baird, President, and Jane Baird Elliott, Secretary, are a part of the group that will go on to Aberdeen for the library research. Other members of the group are Erin McCanna, Karen Baird Scott, Bethany Scott, and Heather Snyder, Gryphon Editor.



The Last Clan Battle

Continued from page 5

to lead. The Light infantry “throwing off their packs, formed the advance.” (The Universal Magazine, Volumes 64-65) They approached within 800 yards of the Colonial forces when Campbell determined that the Americans held a superior position advantage. Fearing a loss, he ordered the attack to stop. It was at this time that Sir James again saved the day. During the assault, a former slave taking advantage of promised freedom promised to lead Sir James through the swamp behind the Colonial defenses. Similar to New York, the Light Infantry under Sir James would move stealthily around the defenses and engage the assault from behind. The Highlanders crept through the swamp to flank the Americans. Their first resistance, a small force, was immediately dispersed. The shots “notified Campbell that Baird had accomplished his purpose....” (Lee and Agnew) Campbell began a frontal assault while Sir James attacked from the rear. The Americans, caught between fighting on both sides, retreated. The terrain quickly lost its advantages. The Americans faced a rising tide preventing them from escaping through the swamp and an advancing military in the city. Given

no options, the Colonials surrendered to the 71st. The 71st stripped them of all weapons and valuables and forced to watch Sir James “mount himself on a ladder and sound his brass bugle horn, which the Highlanders no sooner heard than they all got about him when he addressed them in Highland Language....” (Lee and Agnew) Like a Clan Chief of legend, Sir James stood victorious over the conquered city, surrounded by his warriors and praised them in their own Gaelic tongue. The incident only grew the legend of Sir James Baird. Undefeated, he snatched victory from overwhelming odds again with a daring covert assault. In propaganda terms, the Colonialists again attempted to use him and his Highlander warriors as a foreign force, alien and barbarous, with no regard to human life or decency as they had been portrayed in countless other engagements since the beginning of the war. For Baird, this would begin a series of victories in the South that would end tragically due to his superior commander's inability to lead. It would draw the attention of the world and create an epic showdown.

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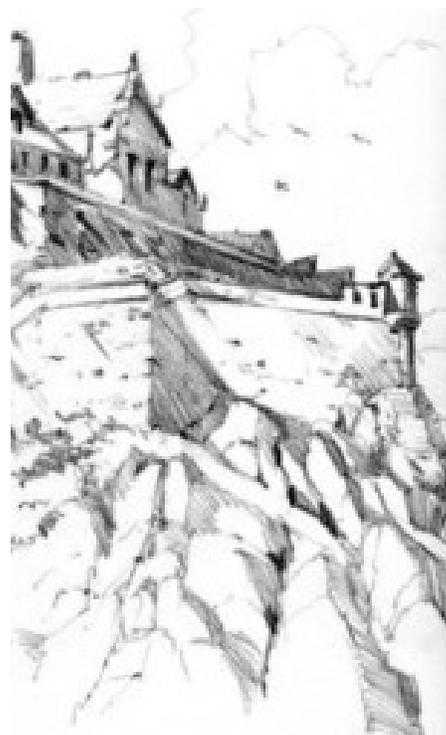
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Dualchas

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!

Most of you reading this, as well as myself, have ancestors who immigrated from Scotland to America or Canada in the 1700 and 1800s, and I'm sure are familiar with the classic American dream. However, you may not be so familiar with some of the words of the Scottish immigrants themselves. Looking at the poetry that has survived to today, we have a diverse range of thoughts, much of it very personal, and some contradictory. A major push factor for many was increasing rents and subsequent loss of high quality agricultural land. In addition, unfair laws and the breakdown of the clan system created an environment in which the Gaels' traditional lifestyle was no longer viable. Most of the early settlers went to North Carolina and to Cape Breton, Nova Scotia. Land was free and abundant in both these areas, and a new social order could arise. The new world was seen as a place full of natural resources and wealth. However, adapting was not easy. The environment was unfamiliar: both the heat of the American South and the endless forests of Canada were not a Hebridean Gael's comfort zone. Worse still, at first there was much

despondency over the lack of opportunities to speak Gaelic and mourning the loss of family and friends and the community left behind. One poet even went so far as to insist that he would be better off dead and buried with his friends in Scotland than alive in Canada! But slowly even he adjusted to a new life, and Gaelic communities sprung up (some of which can be found today). Once again there was joy and music. In keeping with tradition, Gaelic poets continued the centuries-old art of praise poetry. The only catch was that there weren't clan chiefs anymore, but a new leading class, made up of priests, teachers, and doctors. As the Gaels settled in to their new home, the mood becomes more positive. For example, in Praise of Nova Scotia, Allen of the Ridge, originally from Lochaber, says "Coming to the land of fine men, kindly gentle, and civil; here you will find lasting gold, unbounded right to land, all you would want upon your farm, of property and cattle." And what a beautiful image that is!



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Third and Fourth Quarter 2016
July 1 to December 31, 2016

Income:	
Dues Received	450.00
Misc Income	
Donations	
Quartermaster Sales	

Total Quarterly Income: 450.00

Expense:	
Advertising	150.00
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Scholarship	
Secretary	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	435.33
Games	787.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	3.52

Total Quarterly Expense: 1,375.85

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: (925.85)

Cash in Bank - Last Quarter: 6,847.79

Cash in Bank/Available Funds: 5,921.94

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



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**Newsletter
Deadlines**

Spring 2017 Issue
deadline is April 15th

Summer 2017 Issue
deadline is June 15th

Autumn 2017 Issue
deadline is August 15th

Please submit newsletter articles to:

Heather Snyder at
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or mail to:

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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
history of Baird. Please email
info@clanbairdsociety.com
for more information.

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

