



the GRYPHON

Spring 2019 / Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc.



Chief of the GLASGOW KENTUCKY Highland Games

OUR OWN CHIEFTAN
RICHARD HOLMAN-BAIRD

Clan Baird Society Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird opened and oversaw the Glasgow, Kentucky Highland Games on Saturday, June 1st as Chief of the Games for 2019. Richard, his wife



Polly, and daughter Amelia served with distinction as the first family of the games, and everyone involved was most impressed with their willingness to participate in every part of the festivities.

Highlights of the games were the Chief's luncheon on Friday, where Richard and family were welcomed by being piped into the room as the honored guests. Members of Clan Baird Society also were included in this procession. During the luncheon, Rebecca Gray of Huntsville, Alabama played the Scottish harp for all. The games on Saturday saw many world records placed by those who will move on to participate in the international games in Scotland later this year. Richard was on hand to award the prizes for each competition, including his wife, Polly, who won the Ladies Haggis Toss, with a record throw of 52 feet 8 inches.

Sunday's activities included the review of the tartans, with more than fifty clans participating, more athletic events, and the closing of the games, all in attendance sad that it was time to go home. Richard and family visited Washington, D.C. before returning to Scotland, where they were entertained by 3rd Vice President Bruce and

Beth Beard with a trip to Mt. Vernon. The Society is very appreciative of Richard's efforts to help Clan Baird Worldwide and all Bairds. It is so very



Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird, his wife Polly and daughter Amelia.

important for us to have a leader who is respectful of each of us and our place in the world, and Richard, as well as his family, over generations, have proven to be such leaders.





Ceud Mile Fàilte!
(100,000 Welcomes)

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

David Midel, Tennessee

Daniel Baird, New Jersey

Nathan Baird, Kentucky

Winfield R. Decker, Maryland

Dennis Layson, Kentucky

Cheri Lynn McCarty, Kentucky

Nea MacCulloch, New South Wales, Australia

Brittany Moore, Iowa

Ray Shear, Kentucky

Lilly Shear, Kentucky

Jay B. Snyder, New York

Jerry Todd, Alabama

Louise Todd, Alabama

Charlotte Wheelless, Arkansas

Cynthia Wunschel Wagoner, Kentucky



FINAL ANNOUNCEMENT

*Clan Baird Society will be having
the 2019 Scotland General Meeting*

Monday, 5 August 2019, 2 o'clock in the afternoon
University of Edinburgh
St. Leonard's Hall, St. Trinnean's Room
Pollock Halls of Residence

18 Holyrood Park Road, Edinburgh, Scotland EH16 5AY

The Lord Lyon is sending a representative
to discuss the State of the Bairds
All Bairds are invited to the meeting

~ You do not have to be a member of Clan Baird Society to attend ~



Branton Baird, Richard Holman-Baird, and 3 VP Bruce Beard, along
with two Glasgow Highland Games attendees.



Message from the President

Greetings

The spring brought many new experiences for Clan Baird Society members and we are looking forward to thirty-eight of us traveling to Scotland at the end of July. We have Bairds

on the Collette tour and Bairds staying in a house in Sandhaven, as well as in a hotel close by because we ran out of room in the house. There are several American, Scottish and English Bairds meeting us in Edinburgh for the General Meeting and Family Convention on August 5th. It is with great appreciation to all those who are traveling over that I write this president's letter.



clanbairdsociety.com

I was privileged to be part of the twinning/sister city celebrations in Athens, Alabama during May. Our Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird and Phil Mills-Bishop visited and were hosted by families. Richard was hosted by Mike and Diane Lehr and Phil by John and Kelley Smith. There were so many of the citizens of Athens who



Bridge at Nethermill built in 1719

helped with food and entertainment while they visited, they are far too numerous to name, and I would only leave someone out should I try, so all I can do is tell everyone how much I appreciate all that was done to make Richard and Phil be welcomed so completely. We will be signing an

agreement in Stonehaven at Dunnottar Castle on August 4th, to finalize our partnership in working together for the good of Scotland, the U.S.A. and the world, one citizen at a time.

As part of our visit to Scotland, we have been invited to take part in a celebration put on by Bill and Lynn Pitt who own the Nethermill (called the Mill at Auchmedden before 1750). There is a bridge there, built in 1719 by the Laird of Auchmedden and the Laird of Troup, at the request of the government, with hopes of improving travel in the highlands. It was the first bridge to cross over the burn that is the boundary between Aberdeenshire and Banffshire, as well as the parishes of Gamrie and Aberdour. As part of that celebration, Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird and Clan Baird Society will be placing a bronze plaque explaining the history of the bridge.

Your Servant,
Debra





Athens, Alabama and Stonehaven-north East Scotland

Twinning / Sister City Update

By Phil Mills-Bishop, Chairman Stonehaven Group

The Group under my Chairmanship along with my Co-Chair and Treasurer Richard Holman-Baird Chieftain Clan Baird continues to make rapid progress. Last October the initial proceedings, due in no small regard to Professor Debra Baird from Athens University, were made for the Group to twin with Athens

migration patterns of Scots who emigrated to US over the last 350 yrs or so many of whom found their way to the Southern US States such as Alabama.

During our trip here the hospitality has been tremendous and both Richard and I have tasted the delights of: black-eyed

peas, hush puppies, grits, red velvet cake and fried catfish! It is our intention to reciprocate when Mayor Marks and his delegation come to Stonehaven at the end of July beginning of August where we can offer: haggis of course, black pudding, fish and chips, deep fried mars bar and Cullen Skink.

used barrels are exported to Scotland for Scottish Malt Whisky to mature. The visits to the Elementary and Interme-



Ronnie Marks, Mayor, Sissy Thompson, Phil Mills-Bishop, Becky Howell, Debra Baird, Richard Holman-Baird, Diane Lehr, and Ruth Livingston Guertin at the signing of the sister city documents.

Alabama as part of their bicentennial celebrations. To cement that progress myself and Richard were invited out to Athens to sign an agreement of intent with the Mayor of Athens Ronnie Marks and others to promote: better understanding between our respective communities, tourism, sporting links and in particular educational exchanges based on Scottish Clan history, genealogy/family history, Gaelic language and

On our trip Richard and I visited a number of sites of interest. At nearby Huntsville is the US Space & Rocket Centre where many thousands of children go on Space Camp and Professor Debra Baird is exploring for Stonehaven to be the first in the North and North East of Scotland to participate. Naturally, Richard and I visited the Jack Daniels Distillery and learnt that the



Phil and Richard loved the Stonehaven and Sister City inspired artwork created by Athens High students in Beverly Langford Bobo's class. The students researched Stonehaven to find their inspiration.

diat Schools were made by the iconic "Yellow-Bus" that we see in US movies, and were a joy as Richard was in full Chieftain Kit. As you would expect the

...Continued on page 7



Recently, the Ann Arbor Symphony sponsored a night of music about Scotland. Our own Bob Baird of Ann Arbor was a major part of the program, being asked to give the flowers to the first violinist and wear his Baird kilt. He appeared in full kit and made us proud.

SCOTTISH FANTASY

by Elizabeth Clarke

Many of today's European countries were formed during the nineteenth century, with previously autonomous smaller states joining to create nations like Germany and Italy. These new countries were very interested in defining unifying national characteristics, which translated into music through an increased interest in the use of folk melodies and styles. Sometimes this was for the purpose of self-identification, but other times composers would portray countries other than their own. The idea of exoticism, depicting far away places for an at-home audience, became extremely popular across musical genres but also introduced some new problems.

Musical representations of other cultures could easily reduce these cultures to stereotypes. Composers had often never traveled to the country their music portrayed, and were sometimes more interested in creating a sense of otherness than in presenting an accurate representation of another country's musical practice. Mendelssohn, Bruch, and Davies each had a different relationship to Scotland as a foreign country, and each of their pieces presents Scotland to their non-Scottish audiences in a different way. Pondering

these differences, as well as considering some elements of Scottish history, can help us determine how we, as an American audience, might interpret



Robert Baird at the Ann Arbor Symphony

this music today. The musicologist Geoff Baker describes this way of thinking as "contrapuntal listening," a way of thinking beyond the notes to consider a piece's historical and social context.

As Murray Pittock describes in his book *The Invention of Scotland*, most of the images we associate with Scotland today, such as kilts and the bagpipes, were once politically charged symbols associated with the Jacobite uprisings of the late 17th and early 18th centuries. The Jacobites were Scottish nationalists from the highlands who had joined forces to protest Scotland's 1707 union with England, and to try to install a new king more sympathetic to Scotland. They ultimately lost their cause in 1745, and after this defeat, the victorious English rulers discouraged Scottish nationalism, in part by banning symbols like the kilt. Many highlanders who survived the

battles took refuge in other countries, all while new economic and social laws forced many others to move out of the highlands and into rapidly industrializing England. As people moved away and assimilated into Great Britain, the traditional Highland culture and clan system began to dissolve and soon became a legend of the past.

As the 18th century moved into the 19th, the Jacobites were no longer a real political threat and Scottish symbols instead became an English fashion. Rather than representing political uprisings, Scottish images began to evoke nostalgia and a romanticized version of an ancient people that no longer existed. As Pittock describes, Scotland became a "museum of history and culture," a place where wealthy English nobles could go on holiday and imagine past struggles, but not actually be concerned about living them. Promoting these images boosted Scotland's tourism appeal, but there was also another reason for English political powers to create this romanticized myth of Scotland's past. A showcasing of the real institutions of Scotland (its church, laws, etc.) could present a threat to England by rekindling Scottish nationalistic feelings. However, identifying Scotland with its traditional Highland culture that had been largely destroyed would encourage the notion that Scottish nationalism was an idea from the past, while



the rational way forward was through a greater connection with England.

It is in this context of romanticized Scotland that Mendelssohn and Bruch found themselves composing. Mendelssohn traveled to Scotland as a 20-year-old in 1829, as part of his “world tour” that was meant to inspire him as he developed his compositional style. He had read poems and novels by writers like Sir Walter Scott, which perpetuated the myth of Scotland as an exotic and slightly dangerous land, and he likely went to Scotland with this image in his mind. Mendelssohn found inspiration

especially if it evoked a place the audience would not otherwise visit. It is logical, then, that a piece with a programmatic title would be well received by Mendelssohn’s German audience, as a way of living vicariously through the music.

Bruch did not visit Scotland until after he wrote his *Scottish Fantasy* but had studied several Scottish folksongs at a library in Munich prior to composing the piece. Rather than attempting to evoke an image, as Mendelssohn does, Bruch uses Scottish folksongs as a source of melodic inspiration and structures the rest of his piece around these tunes. Bruch wrote several other pieces based on folk tunes from different cultures, and though the folksongs provide rich melodic inspiration, the harmony and form of all these works are mostly still in the German Romantic idiom. However, the prominent use of the harp (an instrument often associated with Scotland) in the *Scottish Fantasy* does suggest that Bruch was thinking beyond simply using the folksongs in an isolated context and was intending to reference some of the sounds of authentic Scottish music as well.

Peter Maxwell Davies is unique from Mendelssohn and Bruch in that, though born in England, he lived in Scotland for more than forty years. Though *An Orkney Wedding With Sunrise* does draw on Scottish stereotypes through its use of the bagpipes and its depiction of a



Robert Baird, Sue Dempsey, Tim Michling and Doug Gross



Robert Baird awarding the flowers to the First Violinist

for his *Scottish Symphony* in the ancient castles and wild landscapes he saw in Scotland, but the piece is not so much a reflection of Scottish musical practice as it is a portrayal of Mendelssohn’s own impressions and feelings inspired by his trip. Programmatic music, that which evokes a scene or narrative, was very popular during this time,

specific cultural event, and though it was commissioned and premiered by an American orchestra instead of a Scottish one, the composer’s extensive lived experience in Scotland raises some interesting questions. Is Davies creating a true image of Scotland as he knows it or a romanticized image for a foreign audience? Would the piece be received differently if it was premiered in Scotland with a Scottish orchestra? Would Davies have composed it differently? It is impossible to be certain, but pondering the question allows us to engage with the music on a new level. All pieces are more than simply their notes, and listening with an awareness of context helps us experience and critique even the most well-known pieces in new and interesting ways.

Elizabeth Clarke is a DMA candidate in piano performance also pursuing a masters in music theory at the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor.





Twinning / Sister City Update

By Phil Mills-Bishop, Chairman Stonehaven Group

kids asked all sorts of great questions about life in Scotland/Stonehaven... one little girl was concerned about

least had a "Macdonald's". Richard and I attended as guests the Memorial Day Traditional Obser-



Representatives from the two committees signed a proclamation for Athens and Stonehaven to explore mutually beneficial practical exchanges in fields such as education, economic development, educational exchange programs for youth, arts, sports, culture, and tourism.

our eating haggis when explained to her what it was and distraught that we had no "Tac-o-Bells" but relieved we at

Memorial Day Traditional Observance where we met a 2 star General and he agreed to put on Richard's Clan Baird Chieftain's Bonnet! Richard and I also did a walk-about the Town of Athens with Mayor Marks and others where both of us managed to encounter a "Cow-Boy" and his horse and Harley-Davidson motor bike which of course we were encouraged to try! The horse was not at all perturbed,

surprisingly with Richard's kilt!! On visiting a local store in Athens High Street called "Snap-Dragon" where the owner



Richard with Whisky the horse in downtown Athens.

Tiffany Siebert's Mother amazingly had originated from the Stonehaven area ...Richard and I were "Gobsmacked"!!! Another amazing feature was a visit to a historic African-American School called Trinity where it is believed that Prince Harry's now wife Megan Markle's Great4 Grandfather Joseph Betts, who helped found the School where many former slaves and their descendants obtain a quality education.



Phil, Mike Lehr, Richard, and Rick Hart, the pilot friend of Mike and Diane Lehr, who flew them around Athens and Limestone County for a tour by air.





ATTENTION ALL SCOTS

In the Atlanta/Marietta,
Georgia area

We are inviting all Scots who live in the Atlanta, Georgia area to put on their kilt and join with us in the **big Fourth of July Parade in Marietta, Georgia**. We are forming a unit of Scottish descendants to recognize and celebrate the Scots who fought for America's freedom and aided in the formation of America.

Anyone interested in joining us can contact me at 770-971-1322 or email me at shsots@gmail.com for more information.

This is a big event in the Atlanta area and we would like to have a great presentation of tartan.

Come join us!

Bill Boyd FSA Scot

Correction

In our Winter issue it was incorrectly stated that Jack and Margaret Baird were married 50 years. They actually celebrated their **60th wedding anniversary on Thursday 20th September 2018**

Cheers to them!

All the Baird Johns

Copyright, Stephen Baird, 2019

Every family named Baird had a John,
In a city or country, a John.
In each generation
In whatever nation,
All the households of Bairds had a John.

I share Y DNA with Mike Beard.
Guess who in both trees has appeared?
It's a fellow named John
That we both landed on.
When we found him, both Mike and I cheered.

But we found, though they had the same name,
It was clear these two Johns weren't the same.
Mike's---North Carolina,
Mine---South Carolina.
That's the genealogical game.

All our snps suggest four hundred years
'Til our common ancestor appears.
Paper records don't go
Back that far, we both know.

We're both stuck at just three hundred years.
So, it's back to our Y DNA,
From the west coast of Norway, they say.
'Twas some Viking of yore,
Who had sailed to the shore
Of Scotland, where his genes ran astray.

Was that Viking of yore known as Jens?
There were also some Eriks and Svens.
Whether Jhan or Jan,
It's his Y tht lived on
Around lochs and the mountains and glens.

Now the families of Bairds have their Johns.
And wherever we've bairns, we have Johns.
Through all generations
And all of the nations,
All the branches of Bairds have their Johns.



Jerry and Louise Todd are new members. They build and play Dulcimers and entertained everyone in our tent at the Glasgow Games. They also played for us at the BBQ held at Marilyn Baird Stansbury and Chris Stansbury's farm while Richard and Phil were visiting Athens.



GLASGOW KENTUCKY *Highland Games Review*



Branton Baird one of the first in line to salute
Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird.



Richard, Polly, and Amelia awaiting the clans



John Ferguson Misenheimer and Richard Holman-Baird,
and Clan Baird Society Worldwide 3rd. VP Bruce Beard

Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

First Quarter - 2019
Jan. 1 through Mar. 31, 2019

Income:	
Dues Received	360.00
Misc Income	
Donations - President	
Donations - Other	

Total Income for Period	360.00
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Expense:	
Advertising	75.00
President-Membership	113.50
Annual Report Fee	
Scholarship	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	539.34
Games	451.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	8.52

Total Expenses for Period:	1,187.36
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Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(827.36)
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Cash in Bank - Last Report:	7,226.71
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Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	6,399.35
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Submitted by:
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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**Newsletter
Deadlines**

Spring 2019 Issue
deadline March 31th

Summer 2019 Issue
deadline June 30th

Autumn 2019 Issue
deadline September 30th

Please submit newsletter articles to:

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or mail 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 call
Heather at 802-485-5541**



**Where you
can find us**

**Finding Your
Family Roots**

We have other of Clan Baird Society
who are very knowledgeable in the
history of Baird. Please email
info@clanbairdsociety.com
for more information.

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



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