

THE GRYPHON

Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. | VOL. 50 / Issue 2/Spring 2022



2022 Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and the 50th Jubilee Anniversary of Clan Baird Society Worldwide July 7-10, 2022

Our own Richard Baird, Commander of Clan Baird, will be leading the games at Grandfather Mountain and the Bairds are the Honored Clan



We hope all of you will come to the festival, especially on Sunday, when we finally have Richard's installation ceremony, which has been put off since 2019, of course, due to COVID.

We will also be installing him as our Hereditary President of the Society (which his grandfather helped to establish in 1972), and his son Angus as our Tanist and Heir Apparent.

Richard's wife, Polly, his mother, Lady Diana Holman, and his son Angus will be attending the games and festivities. His cousin, Lady Iona Hopkins Keith and her family will also attend Richard's installation and time as Chieftain of the Games.

The Bairds are so very appreciative of being the Honored Clan on this our 50th Jubilee Anniversary of having an organized Society. We will also be celebrating these 50 years of bringing our family back together. The Clan Baird Society Worldwide is very thankful to each member that keeps us going and growing.

We look forward to seeing you at Grandfather! All Baird family lines who wish to offer Richard a gift during his installation are asked to contact Debra Baird at djbaird4@gmail.com, to sign up to take part in the ceremony.



Richard and Polly at Glendessary



Angus, Louise, Baby Rose, Polly and Amelia at Rickarton House



Blaring bagpipes, Scottish athletics, Highland melodies, Celtic cuisine, crafts aplenty and a spectacular highland setting make this colorful celebration of Scottish culture one of the most highly acclaimed games in the country. Additional cost. For more information, visit www.gmhg.org.



BREAKING NEWS:

Lord Lyon, Family Projects, Social Media Pilot, Global Expansion of the Society



Lord Lyon Sets Hearing for Chief Petition The Lyon Office Court

The official representative of the Crown for everything related to heraldry, announced that a hearing has been set for the 7th September 2022, in Edinburgh, to review the petition of Sir James Baird Baronet of Saughtonhall, to matriculate the Undifferenced Arms of Name of Baird. Members of the public may observe but not participate, as Sir James will review his petition with the Lyon Court. This is groundbreaking news for all Bairds.

If the Lord Lyon accepts the petition, Sir James will become the Chief of the Name and Arms of Baird. In the eyes of the Lord Lyon, the Name of Baird will have Chief. This would also allow Sir James to sit on the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs amongst the Chiefs of Highland Clans and Lowland families such as Clan MacLeod of Harris and House of Bruce¹.

With a favorable judgement, Sir James would be named Chief of the Bairds. Sir James will be the Chief of all Bairds but not of any Society or group which will retain independence. This would also represent the first time in the modern era that the Bairds would have a Chief

identified by the Lord Lyon. Sir James has worked for more than 25 years collecting all the documentation required which extends back to the 1500s which included completing the petition during the pandemic when resources were not readily available. His efforts represent one of the single greatest efforts in genealogy as he was required to show descent from each subsequent generation and show that he is the heir to Arms awarded to Sir James Baird of Auchmedden in 1672.

All Bairds are excited to see the results of the hearing of this historic occasion. For those interested in learning more about Heraldry, Lowland families, Highlands Clans and Chiefship, the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs contains guidance to answer general questions.

When a decision is reached, the Society will send out a communication to all members to make all aware of the event.

¹"Chiefs, Clans, and Families." The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, The Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs, <https://www.clanchiefs.org.uk/chiefs-clans-and-families/>

Family Projects

To expand genealogical resources, and widen the tent for all Bairds, the Clan Baird Society Worldwide will develop family genealogical projects that will focus on Individual families.

These projects will be given space in the Gryphon, Society website, and on social media for project members to share, contribute, and learn about families in which they have an interest.

These will include prominent families in Scotland as well as the rest of the world. Project members will have the ability to request funding and promote research

for those family lines. Further information will be provided as we approach the pilot project kickoff in early July.

Social Media Pilot

Board members of have begun a new social media pilot to investigate Discord program. Discord, similar to Microsoft Teams, or a cross between Facebook wall, Skype and Zoom allows members to interact with each other either via text or voice-based messages. It can be accessed via PC or mobile device, offering easy access from anywhere, at any time.

This type of software is used in the corporate world, to instantly message teams and improve productivity. The hope is to expand usage of the platform to engage all members and drive productivity. Any members interested in the pilot program should reach out to the either Isaac Baird or Crystal Davis for inclusion.

Global Expansion of the Society

The Society is moving closer to truly becoming worldwide and has established its headquarters permanently in Scotland. The Board reviewed and created a draft model of the Worldwide organization.

This will include the continued creation of independent Baird organizations representing different regions of the world. Membership in Clan Baird Society Worldwide will include free membership in any one regional organization, creating a seamless worldwide organization, rooted in Scotland, that has the flexibility to deal with specific regional interests.

More information will be communicated as the Society Board completes the necessary work.



Broadening Clan Baird Society, USA Board

Each year, the Board of Directors actively seeks to add talent to its rank to help serve the society. During this time, we also vote to retain members who continue to serve if no one is available to take their place. The goal of the Board is to reach a maturity level where members can rotate in and out to allow fresh ideas and perspectives. The question that often comes up is *"how does an individual get on the Board of the Clan Baird Society?"*

Before answering this, we should first ask the question "what does it take to be on the board of directors?" First, and foremost, is the desire to serve and give. There is no payment for being on the board. There are opportunities to travel to worldwide and participate in local and national events. Board members are not paid or reimbursed for any travel costs or work performed for the society. Board members donate their own money and supplies for food, parties, clan tents, etc. as well setting up for events. There are many phone calls, zoom calls and car trips.

The rewards are getting a chance to participate fully in helping to preserve the Clan, meet interesting people, and visiting amazing places. This can mean everything from standing on misty cliff

overlooking the Scottish sea, celebrating with members, or grieving with family. Board members get a chance to give back to the society to help others.

To join the Board is quite simple.

First, anyone who obtains the support of 25 members is automatically entered into the election of Board officers. Even easier, is to ask to participate in the Board. This can be in an official capacity or unofficial capacity. There is so much work to do, its guaranteed we will find a place for you. For those who feel that time, health, or financial challenges prevent them from being on the Board of Directors, there are many different opportunities of service that can be performed for skills sets. These include tasks that can be performed from home without travelling anywhere. If you have the desire serve, there is a place and role for you.

Simply contact me or the commander and let us know that you are interested in serving and we can quickly get you connected to see if it is something you are interested in.

This year, per our by-laws, we will be voting on board member positions and each year we have openings. Please reach out to Isaac Baird or Commander Richard Baird if you would like to serve.



Loch Linnhe looking across to the highlands near Ballachulish, Scotland



CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

PRESIDENT'S FORUM



Dear Members,

Firstly, may I begin by offering my sincere condolences and those of the whole Clan, to Debra Baird, her sons Branton and Seth and her entire family, at the loss of Debra's husband, Alton.

Alton never looked for any recognition but did a huge amount of work behind the scenes to allow Debra the freedom to spend time on all the rest of us in the Society and beyond. A real unsung hero.

On a more uplifting note, I received a letter from America last week which always excites me. It was from a lovely lady called Natalie, who began 'I am no longer acquainted with a typewriter, so you get a letter written or printed by hand.'

Well, the letter was written in very neat handwriting, much better than mine, but it wasn't until I read on further that Natalie said that she had been a member of the Society some time ago and wanted to re-join again. She then let slip her age, a very youthful 99 years old!

Welcome back Natalie, you have become our oldest member by a 'country mile' and I hope you enjoy catching up with all the Baird news in the Gryphon. Even better, you get free membership after you reach the age of 80 years, which being an Aberdonian I thoroughly approve of!!

I am much looking forward to my upcoming trip to America in July and will also be visiting Canada in August. I look forward to meeting as many Bairds as possible, while I'm 'across the pond'.

Best regards
Richard



Natalie R. Baird Yaskow

Recently, our commander received a letter from a previous member of Clan Baird Society, Natalie Baird Yaskow.

It is suspected that Natalie is now our eldest (returning) member and has become an

**Honorary Member at
99 years old!**

*Congratulations
and Blessings
to you Natalie!*





BAIRD

FROM MONMOUTH
TO MONKLAND

CBSW Genealogist Crystal Toronyai Davis, proudly presents her new book, **BAIRD: From Monmouth to Monkland**, in honor of her 8th great-grandfather, John Baird of Monmouth NJ.

[Video about the book.](#)

[Available on Amazon.](#)

Descended from Andrew Baird, son of John Baird of Monmouth N.J., our clan has held a special place in my heart since I was a young girl. I began my journey

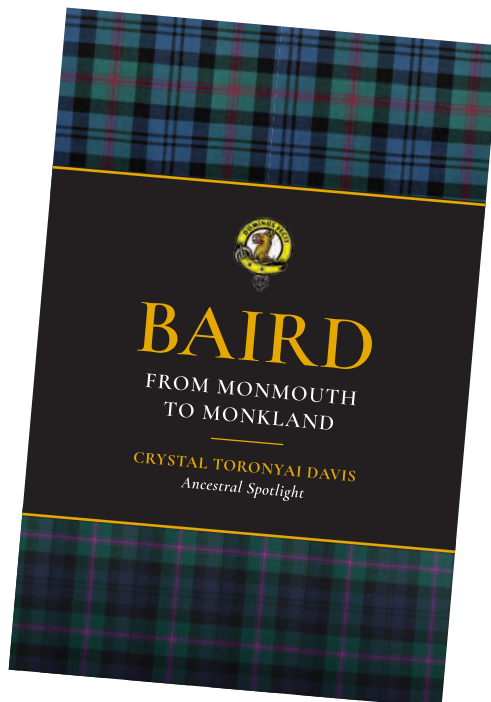


Crystal Toronyai Davis

into family history research at the early age of nine, fortunate to have been mentored in traditional genealogical methodology from many elder cousins. I come to you with over 25 years of experience. Having built my own family tree from breadcrumbs, it was not long before I began doing research for relatives and friends. I have worked with genetic genealogy since its inception to the consumer base. I have helped solve countless adoption cases and have served clients with a variety

of genealogical queries. I am currently pursuant of certifications with the National Institute of Genealogical Studies and seeking ICAPGen accreditation. I hold the honor of serving as genealogist for the Clan Baird Society Worldwide.

BAIRD: From Monmouth to Monkland, was inspired by the great lack of sources connecting my ancestor, John Baird of Monmouth, to his family in Scotland. Information circulating about Old John is often misinformation presented with little to no sourcing, abundant with errors. This work was written and compiled to provide a modern reference guide, as a testament to Old John, and his probable father, James Baird the Exile, providing sources and original text packaged together in one place. With full source citations and supportive genetic analysis presented in an easy-to-understand manner, readers are able to retrace my research journey and discover how I came to the conclusions outlined herein.



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CONVENOR'S COLUMN

Greetings Society Members

As an introduction to myself, I should start with my first interaction with the Clan Baird Society Worldwide. At 15, I saw my first highland games. The games were so small and held on a small field. I remember looking at Clan row and sadly, not seeing any Beard/



Baird/Bard tent. I set out to find the clan. I met a wonderful gentleman from Aurora, Colorado named Dale F Baird, Sr., former president of the Society. He visited, we setup a tent, and he started me a long journey of being a state rep. A few years later, at 19, I was manning a tent alone when an elderly gentleman from Scotland entered my tent. He began to quiz me about Scotland, then about Clans, then about genealogy. I was no match for

him. Mr. Moffat began to challenge me if the Bairds were even really a clan. Finally, as if out of a Stevenson novel, having failed to impress him with genealogical, Scottish or Clan knowledge, he laughed at me and claimed, "I probably didn't know my father."

Thus began my quest to learn all that I could so the next time I met him; I would stand against him.

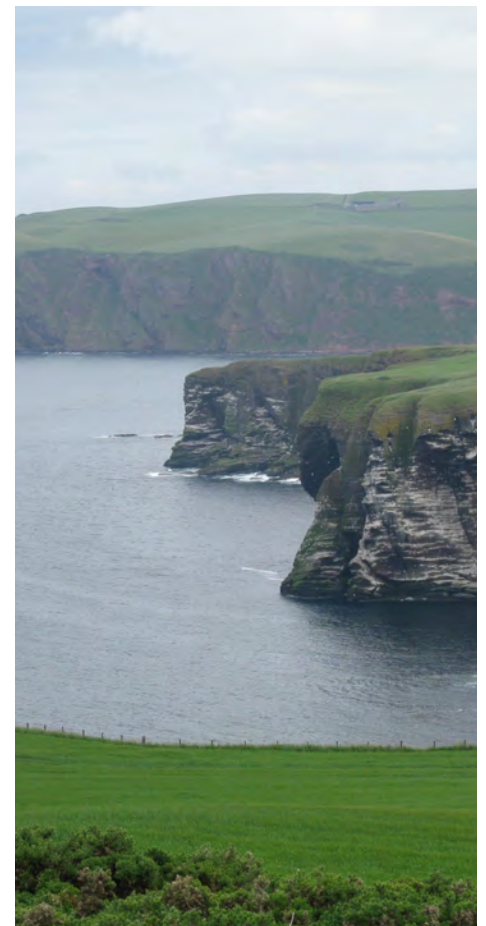
I learned to speak Gaelic. I studied Latin. I studied Scots. I learned to throw weight in the Highland games. I turned my attention to Baird history and Scottish history in my spare time on my way to get a biomedical engineering degree. All things Scottish and Baird became my passion. I have focused for years on uncovering and recording any historical evidence, however small, that we are a Scottish Clan. I have worked to document our true traditions, songs, crafts, and stories.

I now have adult children, but my passion hasn't wavered. But now, we focus on a different mission and goal. Our Society faces new challenges with growth and engagement. We are shifting into a digital age of social media, Zoom communication, and rapid modernization. We need to find way to engage these platforms and maintain our Scottish Baird culture where it can flourish. We need to learn how to connect as family and not merely allowing vitriol to overcome us.

With a background in Banking Risk and Governance, I will be focusing on ensuring the health and legal compliance of the Society. We will engage and provide membership value. We are going to focus on member engagement and getting people to volunteer to serve on the Board and a variety of committees so we can experience progress and growth. We will look to celebrating life together and harnessing our shared talents. We are going to support our state reps and commissioners and draw them closer. We will enlarge our tent to all the Bairds with a hand of friendship.

Each one of us has a role to play. This is the way of a clan. As we move forward, I hope you and your loved ones will join us as we continue to grow our clan. I hope to see you all at Grandfather Mountains or a Scottish game near you.

~ Isaac Baird



CLAN BAIRD AROUND THE WORLD

The old Kirk in Kincardine O'Neil contains an intriguing memorial. It reads as follows:

HERE LIE THE ASHES OF
CAREY HENRIETTA MORDAUNT BAIRD FRASER
CROIX DE GUERRE LEGION D'HONNEUR
YOUNGER DAUGHTER OF
MAJOR FRANCIS FRASER OF TORNAVEEN
AND WIDOW OF GEORGE BYNG MARSHALL
BORN 22-5-1896 DIED 22-8-1979

Carey Fraser was born on 22 May 1896. She was the youngest of the five children of Major Francis Fraser of Tornaveen and his wife Beatrice. She owed her name to a direct ancestor, Carey daughter of Sir Alexander Fraser of Durris, Court Physician to Charles II, who through her marriage to the eminent soldier and Third Earl of Peterborough, Charles Mordaunt, became Countess of Peterborough.

Carey's brother Lachlan and her elder sister Violet's husband, Archibald Robert-



Many thanks to Carey's great-niece and namesake for permission to use the photo below of Carey with medals, and for much of the information used to compile this note.

son-Glasgow, are both commemorated on the Kincardine O'Neil war memorial. Lachlan died in February 1915, weeks after Archibald was killed in an unsuccessful raid on enemy trenches in November 1914.

In March 1918 Carey, who had been in France in August 1915 and possibly since, joined the First Aid Nursing Yeomanry (FANY), as an ambulance driver, carrying out, among other things, the very hazardous task of conveying wounded men from the front to hospital behind the lines. In July of the same year, she was caught up in an incident in which a torpedo struck in front of her vehicle and the orderly beside her was killed. Despite the fact that she herself sustained serious wounds in both the chest and the liver, Carey got herself to the nearby hospital to summon help. This, most unusually, earned her both the Légion d'Honneur - France's highest military honour - and the Croix de Guerre. She is thought to be the only British woman to be awarded both. Her citation reads:

Charged, on the night of 18 and 19 July with transporting the wounded, accomplished her mission under a violent bombardment, received in the course of the way two very serious injuries, her ambulance having been destroyed by an explosion, had the superb courage to walk the two hundred metres which separated her from the nearby hospital to notify the doctor on duty that she was bringing wounded to him. Having collapsed and transported herself to the hospital to be operated on there, she insistently demanded not to be cared for until after the wounded for whom she was responsible.

Carey's unit was disbanded in early 1919, but some drivers were given the opportunity to work as part of the post-war Civil Relief Scheme, and she became the head of a new Unit 9 based at Compiègne, where the FANY continued to exercise

their driving skills in assisting with the reconstruction of war-ravaged France. In 1921, Carey married George Byng Marshall at St George's, Hanover Square.

She later lived in Italy, and in the US for a time including during WW2. She had two daughters and died in 1979 at Rapallo on the Italian Riviera, near Genoa. She returned on occasional visits to Aberdeenshire, but never came back to live here. There must nevertheless have been more than a lingering attachment to the place of her childhood; Carey's address in Rapallo was "Villa Tornaveen", and she left instructions that her mortal remains should be brought back and buried in the old Kirk with her family.



Baird and Naesmyth DNA Study

CLAN BAIRD
SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

HOSTED BY: ANCESTRAL SPOTLIGHT
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Please consider
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groups/baird-naesmyth-dna-study/
about](https://www.familytreedna.com/groups/baird-naesmyth-dna-study/about)

Any questions, comments, or
genealogical queries, please
email Crystal T. Davis at
AncestralSpotlight@gmail.com

Medieval Hip Hop Rap Battles: Flyting and The First Recorded Spelling of “Baird”

Over the last few decades, a fierce debate raged between Academics and amateur historians over the origin of the surname of Baird/Beard (and all other spelling variations). Belgian and Dutch academics point to potential Flemish origins of the name (Baarde) while Scottish Gaelic philologists direct attention to Gaelic origins (Fergus Mak Bàrd). William Baird, 7th Laird of Auchmedden, described Norman origins in Seigneur de Beart. More recent conjectures

(Photo: Public Domain/WikiCommons)



Medieval Bards traded insults in rhyme and rhythm known as “Flyting” for entertainment.

from non-academics allude to the Northern English Barde as a potential origin. Primary sources add to the confusion as 12th and 13th century documentation, written in Latin, spells names to match medieval Latin orthography. An example of this is the double “AA” spelling to represent grave accented “A” as in Baard versus “Bàrd”. The answer most likely is there are many origins of the name and but what we do know is when writers first spelled the name as Baird and Beard in Scotland.

Prior to the 1500s, documents spell the name as Barde. This can be seen in the “Barde (Baird) of Ordinhivas” and “Barde

Of Kilhenzie.” However during the 16th century, the Modern spelling emerged. In Aberdeen, we see an entry for a local elected burgh official, Alexander Baird. Elected as a “Beer Taster”, his fellow citizens elected him to the best sounding civic office possibly ever created. In reality, “Ale-tasters” or “Ale-Conners” had the miserable job of tasting bad Ale and then fining proprietors. This was not a highly desired office but the life of this Alexander is another article.

The shift in spelling in the 16th century occurs during what is termed as the great

vowel shift. This was a linguistic revolution called the vowel pronunciation to shift in which vowels changed their sound and producing the modern pronunciation. Both Scots and English experienced this change and created new words such as the rise of the word “Laird” from “Lord”. Baird also shifted during time from “Bard” to “Baird” in the literary sources.

Recently, the University of Glasgow and the Scottish government have documented early Scots language from original sources, and we can see the shift of Bard to Baird and Beard, These changes started in the 1400’s and continued in to the late 1600’s.

The earliest record of the spelling Baird in the Scots language is a fascinating piece of work from the lowlands of Scotland. Written in a late 15th century poem, The Flyting of Dunbar and Kennedy, Baird emerges for the first time in literacy sources.

The word Scots word Flyting, or Fliting, derives from Old English and Old Norse (Two linguistically related but similar languages) “Flitan” and “Flyta” respectively, meaning “To quarrel”. This word passed in to medieval Scots as Flyting. Flyting, an ancient Scottish tradition, occurs when two poets trade insults in metrical rhythm and rhyme to both impress the crowd with the lyrical skills and present their opponent as having inferior skills. The poets, also called Makars(or Makers in Middle English), entertained crowds in a feasting halls by attempting to elevate their status above their opponents.

Recently, researchers have compared American cultural Hip Hop/Rap battles to our understanding the Scottish Flyting tradition. In addition to the trading of insults in rhymes and in metrical rhythm, Scottish makars retained a “commissary”, or deputy, whose role was to support their poet and keep the crowd interested, similar to a “Hype man” in American Hip Hop. While insults ranged from clothing, to family, and even ethnic origins, participants brushed off the insults after engagement in both American and Scottish activities. In both cases, each side allowed the other side allotted uninterrupted time and could then respond during their turn. The winner, chosen by the crowd, would toast the loser afterward. In both cultural events, participants saw the trading of barbed insults as being just business. Coarser language was used, both modernly and in the Scottish flyting including the first accepted documentation of a particular four-letter word. Both would be viewed as an art form and as obscenity during and after their time. The similarities between to the two events is remarkable.

This brings us to the moment when William Dunbar, the East Lothian Makar, first used the term Baird in 1495. That year, Dunbar, from Edinburgh, confronted Walter Kennedy, a Gaelic speaker from Carrick, now South Ayrshire, in the court of James IV, the last Gaelic speaking King of Scotland. Both Makars, or poets, were considered poetical superstars, or celebrities, for their skill. This flyting or rap battle would have been cultural highlight of two lyrical giants squaring off. The modern equivalent might

Continued on page 9

be Snoop Dog and Enimem (or considering Scottish Rappers only, Griogair Labhruidh and McRoy) facing off in a rap battle at Windsor Castle for the Royal Family.

It is also interesting to note the Baird connection. Maybole, the capital of Carrick, is where the Bairds of Kilhenzie lived and their castle still exists to this day. Maybole was the also last place in Ayrshire, Galloway and the rest of the lowlands, to speak Gaelic until the mid-1700's. The Bairds of Kilhenzie were also vassals of the Earls of Cassillis, who were Kennedys and closely related to Walter Kennedy, the Scottish makar who participated in the flyting. 100 years later, the Bairds of Auchmedden in Aberdeenshire while in France would refer to the Earls of Cassillis as "my lord Earl of Cassillis" and seek to find connections to travel from France back to Scotland. In this way, this showdown was had both geographical and cultural implications as well as a connection to Baird history.

Dunbar began his attack on the office of the Gaelic bard and his superiority to Kennedy.

Bot wondir laith wer I to be ane baird,
Flyting to use for gritly I eschame;
For it is nowthir wynnyng nor rewaird
Bot tinsale baith of honour and of fame,
Incres of sorrow, sklander and evill name

Translation:

(But a distasteful wonder were I to be a Bard
Flyting to use, greatly puts me to shame
For it is neither winning nor reward
But the loss of both honour and fame
Increase of sorrow, slander, and evil name)

Kennedy retorted:

Pas to my commissare and be confest,
Cour before him on kneis and come in will,
And syne ger Stobo for thy lyf protest.
Renounce thy rymis, bath ban and birn thy bill,
Heve to the heuyn thy handis, ande hald the still.
Do thou not thus, bogane, thou salbe brynt,
With pik, fire, ter, gun puldre and lynt,
On Arthuris Sete or on ane hyar hyll.

Translation:

Pass over to my crew and be confessed,
cower before him on knees of free will,
And then to Stobo, for your life, to beg and protest.
Renounce your rhymes, and sign
your recantation bill,
Lift to heaven your hands and hold the
documentation still.

If you don't do this, pimple, you will be lit,
With pike, fire, tar, gun powder and flint,
On Arthur's Seat or on a higher hill.
Dunbar continued in his next verse:
Iersche brybour baird, vyle beggar with
thy brattis...

...Forworthin fule, of all the world reffuse,
Quhat ferly is, thocht thou rejoys to flyte?
Sic eloquence as thay in Erschry use,
In sic is sett thy thraward appetyte

Translation:

Gaelic wretched bard, beggar with your bratts..
...Forwithing fool, of all the world's refuse
What wonder it is, you thought it joy to flyte
Such eloquence as they in Gaelic use
In such is set your perverse appetite

The terms Iersche (Irish) refers to the Gaelic language after Scots supplanted it as a court language. The word, Scottis, originally signified Gaelic but changed meaning as lowland Scots replaced the lan-



Albrecht Durer's interpretation of the Leine and Brat or woolen overcoat on Scottish mercenaries in Ireland from the Western isles in 1521.

guage. Over time, Gaelic was referred to as Erse or Irsche. Brattis refers to a type of loose cloth worn as a cloak around the shoulders much like a blanket. During this time, the Brat began to be buckled around the waist to form the great kilt. This word was used as a precursor of the great kilt which was beginning to appearing at this time. Dunbar uses several lines to refer to the "Highland Strain" of his Kennedy's tongue and accuses Kennedy of being an uncouth Gaelic speaker dressed in either highland clothing or the pan-Gaelic leine or shirt. Albrecht Durer's interpretation

of the Leine and Brat or woolen overcoat on Scottish mercenaries in Ireland from the Western isles in 1521.

Kennedy responded:

Thou lufis nane Irische, elf, I understand,
Bot it suld be all trew Scottis mennis lede;
It was the gud langage of this land,
And Scotia it causit to multiply and sprede
Quhill Corspatrik, that we of tresoun rede,
Thy fore fader, maid Irisch and Irisch men thin,
Throu his tresoun broght Inglise rumplis in:
Sa wald thy self, mycht thou to him succede.

You love no Gaelic, elf, I understand
But it should be all true Scotsmen's speech
it was the good language of this land
And Scotia (Scotia) caused it to multiply and reach
While Corspatrik that we, of treason, read
Your forefather, made the Gaelic
and Gaelic men thin
And through his treason brought
English rumps in
So yourself might, if you to him were to succeed

Kennedy connected Dunbar to a traitorous family from the days of Wallace and Bruce and then turned the accusation of being Gael to remind that once all Scots spoke Gaelic and that Dunbar's family had betrayed the country in its formative years. This was an epic battle the covered ethnic, cultural, historical and linguistic divides that exist to this day.

The poem grants us a rare insight into Gaelic and Lowland Scotland as well as the cultural exchange. We can see a snapshot, even if in satire, of society. Its connection to the Earl of Cassillis provides insight into the less studied Bairds of Kilhenzie and even the ancient Bairds of Auchmedden. A deeper history is shown. More importantly, we see the earliest spelling of the word Baird and watch its evolution of the word from Bard. It shows the origin of the current spelling and how pronunciation drove the spelling as much as familial bonds and establishes an origin points of sorts for Bairds, Beards, etc.

¹ Toorians Laurant. Flemish Settlements in Twelfth-Century Scotland. In: Revue belge de philologie et d'histoire, tome 74, fasc. 3-4, 1996. Histoire médiévale, moderne et contemporaine - Middeleeuwse, moderne en hedendaagse geschiedenis. pp. 659-693.

² PoMS, no. 1050 (<https://www.poms.ac.uk/record/person/1050/>; accessed 17 November 2021)



Dr. Alton Leonard Wilson, Jr.
08 January 1954 – 16 May 2022
Haleyville, Alabama

Dr. Wilson was a country boy, a teacher, a scholar, and foremost, a kind gentleman. He loved teaching in all forms and enjoyed hearing from former students as well as meeting new ones. His current position at Wallace State Community College, teaching people how to drive trucks for their CDL license, was one of his favorites. It gave him another chance to feel close to his father, a life-long teamster.

He is survived by his wife, Dr. Debra Baird of Haleyville, son Mr. Jammy Wilson of Huntsville, daughter Ms. Heather Wilson Campbell of Chattanooga, stepsons Mr. Seth Burgess of Memphis and Dr. Branton Baird of Haleyville, granddaughters Ms. Anna Ryan Burgess Ferguson of Troy, Misses Rowan and Lauren Burgess of Memphis, Miss Ivy Wilson of Huntsville, Mr. Ryan and Miss Jaynie Campbell of Chattanooga, Mr. John Hales of Chattanooga, and sister, Mrs. Kathy Wilson Giles, of Monroe, Georgia.

Dr. Wilson graduated from Dora High School as part of the class of 1972, then attended Athens State University, earning his bachelor's degree in education, University of West Alabama for his masters and The University of Alabama for his

doctorate. He taught for several years in elementary and middle schools, and then at the college level. Before his teaching career, he owned A&J Freight Company in Chattanooga, and worked for Safety Clean Corporation as a District Manager.

Alton was a devoted father and grandfather, giving all to his children, rearing them as a single father at a time when that was extremely unusual. He made sure they were set in life before he married his childhood sweetheart, Debra. He loved fishing, farming, and sailing, and was especially proud of his roses. He also loved to travel, spending many happy days in Scotland and other countries.

His funeral was held at Old Bethel Church, Wilson Bend, Arley, Alabama on Thursday, May 26th, with the Rev. Raymond Dunmyer officiating. There will be a burial service in the adjacent cemetery, on the Baird Row.

In lieu of flowers, please make donations to Northwest Alabama Hospice, Winfield, Alabama. The family appreciates the kindness and care given to Alton by all the staff there.



Geneva Rountree Williams
15 June 1925 – 22 January 2022
Haleyville, Alabama

Geneva Rountree Williams passed from this life into the arms of Jesus, on Friday, January 22, 2022, in Tallulah, Louisiana. One of the last Tallulah citizens of the Greatest Generation, she was born on June 15, 1925, to William Lyle and Rosalie Baird Rountree in Tallulah.

Continued from page 9

³ Beveridge, James, et al. *Registrum Secreti Sigilli Regum Scotorum*. United Kingdom, H.M. General Register House, 1908.

⁴ Aberdeen Burgh Records Project. <https://www.abdn.ac.uk/aberdeen-burgh-records-database/> accessed Nov 13, 2002

⁵ Davis, Graeme. *The Baird Letters - Letters of Gilbert Baird Laird of Auchmedden, Scotland and Andrew Baird Friar of Lyon, France and Vicar General of Scotland*, L

⁶ William Dunbar, III *Poems of Court Life: 23 The Flying of Dunbar and Kennedie in James Kinsley (ed.), The Poems of William Dunbar*. Published in print: 1979 Published online: September 2012



As the granddaughter of a Scottish immigrant, she maintained close ties throughout her life with her Scottish roots. She participated in many Scottish games throughout the South and served as an officer of the Scottish Baird Clan of the United States. She made several trips to Scotland to visit relatives there.

Geneva was beloved by many people because of her good nature, and fun loving spirit. Her friends included people much younger than her and from all different ethnicities. She enjoyed the company of others, without prejudice.

She was preceded in death by her husband and her parents, as well as her sister Georgia Capshaw, and two sons, William Bryan, and Lane Baird. She is survived by her daughter, Susan Schlueter (Art), and son Lee (Neil) both of Atlanta, as well as grandchildren: Dr. Tres Stefurak of Mobile, Edward Lyle Stefurak of Commerce, Georgia, Sarah Whitman (Trey) of Natchez, Mississippi, Jonathan Williams (Jamie) of Baton Rouge, and Matt Adams of Monroe. Also surviving are her great grandchildren: Lane and Robert Stefurak of Mobile, Kate and Lane Whitman of Natchez, and Luke, Davis and Charlotte Williams of Baton Rouge.

A Baird and NaeSmyth Union

Brandon Nesmith, Member for Family NaeSmyth, CBSW Committee

The union of the Baird and NaeSmyth families began in 1544, and would spawn a close kinship that would last for centuries.

The year was 1544. In Edinburgh, Scotland, two prominent families would join together in marriage to create an unbreakable familial bond. Elizabeth Baird, born sometime between 1523-1525 to John and Janet Baird of Posso, married Sir Michael NaeSmyth, born sometime between 1518-1525. Elizabeth's father died while she was still young. Elizabeth had one sister named Janet and an older



brother named Gilbert. John's property of Posso was passed down to his son. However, Gilbert died at an early age and the property was divided between his two sisters. Janet went on to sell her half, but Michael and Elizabeth, who married a few years after Gilbert's passing, would keep theirs until it was taken from them after Mary, Queen of Scots, lost at the battle of Langside, with Sir Michael fighting under her banner.

Even though this line of Baird became extinct, there were still other related Bairds in Scotland. The next time we see the Bairds and NaeSmyths together is in 1683 when John 'Neismith' (3rd great-grandson of Sir Michael) and John Baird (AKA John of Monmouth) traveled to the British colonies of North America together on the ship "Exchange of Stockton." They left Aberdeen and eventually landed in New Jersey. Both Johns were indentured to Robert Barclay. Upon the ending of their servitude, they both came into possession of 100 acres of land in Monmouth, New Jersey. John 'Nesmith' would go on to sell his land and move to South Carolina, where he would live out the rest of his life. Many of his descendants would go on to move further south into Georgia, where the Nesmiths would grow exponentially and begin to spread out and extend into other southern and some northern states.

If you think this is where the kinship ends, that is far from the truth. There are a few cemeteries near my hometown in Georgia where you can find Baird and Nesmith families buried in the same church cemeteries all the way into the early 1900s.. Since I wasn't so focused on our kinship at the time that I visited these cemeteries, I didn't look into the matter. But the next time I go back home, I will pull up the church records to see just how close these families were. Regardless, it is still great to see the names of two prominent families having stayed close to one another for centuries. And it's amazing now to finally be reunited together once again!



Clan Baird Society Worldwide- YouTube

CBSW has an official YouTube channel. Please stay tuned as we prepare more videos for your viewing pleasure. Learn about Clan Baird and Clan NaeSmyth, the 50 year history of CBSW, our Commander, and events concerning CBSW membership.

Please consider sending pictures and videos of Baird and NaeSmyth related events, such as reunions, weddings and birthday celebrations, historical commemoration events, walks through cemeteries, castles and ruins, renditions of family lore, piping and dancing, etc. Include some details describing the event and include any credits to be given.

Send submissions to:
bairdbranton@gmail.com



www.houseoftartan.com

HOUSE of TARTAN®

CRIEFF, SCOTLAND



“House of Tartan”, one of the most respected suppliers of highland wear and tartan accessories in Scotland. Our dedicated Clan Baird online shop is already under construction - and new products are being added. It is a One-Stop shop packed with all the many items which proudly show our Baird heritage in both ancient and modern tartans.

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Please take a look at the developing online shop. Click the link above and it will direct you right to the Baird page. A link will also be added to the CBSW website soon.

For every purchase you make, House of Tartan will make a donation to the Society, thus helping us to achieve our goals for the future.





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The oldest and largest Baird organisation in the world

Bring Clan Baird family back together.

A very important change has been made in Clan Baird Society Worldwide. We are now using internet platforms to bring our Clan Baird family together. Facebook, Twitter, Instagram and YouTube are becoming a more popular way to share and learn about other Bairds in the world. *If you use any of these social media platforms, please connect with us to bring the Clan Baird family closer together!*

Click the links below to take you directly to our sites

Facebook

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NaeSmyth of Posso

<https://www.facebook.com/groups/346961323767156/?ref=share>

Clan Baird Society Foundation

<https://www.facebook.com/Clan-Baird-Society-Worldwide-Foundation-Inc-104715081479758>

Instagram

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YouTube

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC8nA2VUXEg_xToZB0zQ84Kg

Clan Baird

<https://www.clanbaird.org/>

Clan Baird Society Worldwide

clanbairdsocietyworldwide.co.uk

Richard Baird

Richard Baird, Commander and President CBSW





Ceud Mìle Fàilte! (100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our
Clan the following:*

New Members Spring 2022

Heidi Baird, Ohio

Johonna Baird, Florida

Liam Baird, Ohio

Mary Baird, Florida

Natasha Baird, Ohio

William Baird, Illinois

William Baird, III, Ohio

Tracy Eno, Michigan

Noralee Baird Eno, Michigan

Laura Frantal, Georgia

Jeff Frantal, Georgia

Ally Frantal, Georgia

Katie Frantal, Georgia

Matthew Helm, Illinois

Aaron Nunnenkamp, Nebraska

Ashlee Nunnenkamp, Nebraska

Layla Nunnenkamp, Nebraska

Logan Nunnenkamp, Nebraska

Janet Robertson, Scotland

Holly Yancey, Tennessee



2019 Aboyne Highland Games, Aberdeenshire, Scotland



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

First Quarter - 2022
Jan. 1 through Mar. 31, 2022

Income:
Dues Received 560.00
Donation - Foundation
Donation - Scarves & Ties

Coat of Arms donation to date: \$46.00

Total Income for Period 560.00

Expense:
Advertising | Website Services - 3 to 4 months 248.85

Annual Report Fee
Scholarship 258.95
Genealogy 300.00
Gryphon 979.00
Games
Ties & Scarves - UK
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees 22.35

Total Expenses for Period: 1,809.15

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: (1,249.15)

Cash in Bank - Last Report: 7,766.30

Cash in Bank/Available Funds: 6,517.15

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

Clan Baird Society Worldwide Foundation Financial Statement 2nd Quarter April 1st, 2022 – June 30th, 2022

Starting Balance \$5,199.41

Current Total \$4,759.41

Total Income for Period
Donation \$0.00

Total Expenses for Period -\$440.00
4/5 Baird Fire -\$40.00
4/12 Baird Fire -\$40.00
4/19 Baird Fire -\$40.00
4/26 Baird Fire -\$40.00
5/3 Baird Fire -\$40.00
5/19 Baird Fire -\$40.00
5/19 Baird Fire -\$40.00
6/7 Baird Fire -\$80.00
6/14 Baird Fire -\$40.00

Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter: -\$440.00

Total Savings \$4,759.41
Checking \$2,123.31
Membership Fee \$5.00

Balance \$4,759.41

Signed:

Branton B. Baird – Secretary - Treasurer

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NaeSmyth of Posso

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NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

Summer 2022 Issue
Deadline July 30th

Autumn 2022 Issue
Deadline September 30th

Winter 2023 Issue
Deadline December 30th

Please submit
newsletter articles to:

Heather Snyder at
clanbairdpublicist@yahoo.com

or mail to:

Heather Snyder
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Northfield, VT 05663
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Electronic file formats
accepted are
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Any photo images,
JPG, TIFF, GIF

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