

Ross OC Jennings is attempting to play the pipes in every country of the world, or at least the most possible. He has been working on this for more than five years, and has many stories to tell, as you can imagine. Ross' mother is a Baird, and he wears the Baird tartan while playing the pipes in far distant places. He offered this story for the Gryphon.



Bagpipes in Tunisia, my first country

I'd been driving for about an hour when the weather turned. The wind started to throw up sand in spirals around the car and I was suddenly thrown into a world of darkness. I slowed the car



down and switched on my lights; I could barely see 20 metres in front and having already experienced half a day of Tunisian driving, I wasn't going to take any chances. My destination was Mahdia, about a three hour drive from Tunis on

the southern highway, and because I'd spent an hour getting lost in the labyrinth of roads that surround Tunis, I was already pretty grumpy.

Playing the bagpipes on the old walls of Mahdia as the sun set over the Mediterranean was the aim, but I was very aware of the fact that I might be arriving in the dark. I battled forward in my awkwardly shaped rent-

al-car and struggled against the wind for another 30 minutes.

Eventually I made it into a small town and just as I decided to pull over for a break, the weather started to improve. I stepped out the car and assessed the sandy situation before me and decided I should probably soldier on. I hopped back in and revved away towards the highway.

100 metres outside the town I waved enthusiastically at a stationary police car and instantly regretted doing so. The police car's lights flashed on, and I was beckoned to the side of the road.

Miffed to have my journey disrupted once again, I stopped, rolled down my

window and awaited the approaching policeman. Through an initial interaction involving hand gestures and my abysmal French, I deciphered that there was a "problem" (said with thick French-Tunisian accent). "Ah" I replied.



He was not a happy man. There was an issue with my passport, or license, or even the car. Who knows?! Whatever he was doing, I can only assume he wanted some sort of bribe, and I wasn't about to concede; however, he now had my car keys in his hands and was refusing to give them back.

I stepped out of the car and he gestured at me to empty the vehicle - so I began laying my bags on the side of the road as he stared at my passport and license. He asked me to open each bag to have a wee look-see and when he eventually arrived at my bagpipes he paused and looked at me. "Mezoued?" He said with slight curiosity. At this point I should mention that I know about seven words in Tunisian Arabic; one of them

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Firstly and most importantly, I hope you are all fit and well in these turbulent times. Sadly the coronavirus has put paid to many Scottish events in the US, including my own trip over in June. We have had to postpone until next year, but the wait will make it all the more exciting when it comes.

The plus point of the lockdown is that the Board and sub Committees have had plenty of time to be in front of their computers and progress lots of things that have been in the pending file.

I won't go into what we have been doing, but let me assure you that everybody has been very busy and I am thoroughly enjoying listening into the plans and work for Clan Baird at our virtual meetings.

Let's hope the scientists can find a vaccine soonand the world can get back to normal.

Video and Slideshow of the Historic Bridge Celebrated on old Auchmedden Estate in August 2019

Bridge of Nethermill 1719, also known as the Mill at Auchmedden before the Rising of '45 was duly celebrated and nearly decorated with a bronze plaque from Clan Baird Society, and a pottery year plaque made especially and exclusively for the Bridge by Lynn Pitt, one of the current owners of the mill.

We are very fortunate to have video and slide show made from the celebration. Please follow the links below to view the historical day.

Link to the video https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Z2_9ggl9lKk&t=10s

Link to the slideshow

https://www.youtube.com/ watch?v=Oh0mgAAQSDk&t=1s

Best regards, Richard



The Bridge at Nethermill, built in 1719. Celebrating 300 years.

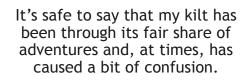


The commorative bronze plaque to be installed next to the bridge.



Continued from page one

is "mezoued" which means "bagpipes," and another is "Yalla" meaning "come on" or "let's hear it." He looked at me again, and I stared back and nodded. "Yalla" he said, without a smile. And I thought "Righto, I will then!" So I assembled the pipes in front of him quickly. "Yalla" he said again! The drones kicked in, and as I began to pipe out a squeaky rendition of "Cock of the



Last year whilst travelling to Vietnam, I spent four days in the beautiful coastal town of Hoi An. Every day, I put on my kilt in the morning, grabbed my pipes and marched into town to find a new piping spot. No matter what route I



North," his grimace melted away and was replaced by the biggest grin I've ever seen on a Tunisian policeman's face. "YALLA" he shouted as he started to stomp and spin on the spot! "YALLA" he beckoned to the other policemen sitting in their car not too far away.

Moments later I was back on the highway with a massive grin on my face speeding towards Mahdia. Any previous doubts I'd had about embarking on this trip were totally thrown out the window, and I knew the next few years were going to be an extraordinary adventure.

Since Tunisia, the first country I visited with 'The First Piper' project in mind, my travels have taken me across deserts, through jungles and even to the tops of mountains.



took, I always seemed to bump into the same two fruit vendors, who'd giggle away whilst firing questions at me in Vietnamese. My Vietnamese is pretty non-existent, so I would politely nod-back and smile, which only prompted them to laugh even harder. It wasn't until my last day, when I got someone to translate, that I realised their main questions were

"Are you a woman? And

if you are, why are you so ugly?!" Fortunately, the most common questions I'm asked aren't about about gender (!!), but more to do with why I decided to embark on this journey. In short, I started because I liked the idea of a bagpipe-related world record, but my initial inspiration changed as a result of my trip to Tunisia. Day by day I realised I shouldn't treat the journey as a box-ticking exercise, but rather a collection of experiences that are best enjoyed slowly. It is a bit of a cliché, but the journey is just as important as the end goal.





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Financial Statement First Quarter - 2020 Jan. 1 through Mar. 31, 2020		
Income:		
Dues Received Donation - Foundation Donation - Scarves & Ties Donation - Other Coat of Arms To Date	2,140.00 50.00 100.00 137.06 46.00	
Total Income for Period	2,427.06	
Expense: Advertising President-Membership Annual Report Fee Scholarship Genealogy Gryphon Games Ties & Scarves - UK Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	800.00 36.10	
Total Expenses for Period:	836.10	
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	1,590.96	
Cash in Bank - Last Report:	5,067.83	
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:6,658.79Submitted by:Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide		





Clan Baird Society Worldwide, in association with the Baird Archeology Initiative, would like to announce an exciting new project. We have established a Committee to explore the possibilities of preserving St. Drostan's Church and the attached Baird Aisle. The site is located near Pennan, just above Aberdour Bay, on the old Auchmedden Estate in northeast Scotland.

St. Drostan formed the original church, believed to be the first Christian Church on mainland Scotland, in the late 6th century. The Baird Family added Baird Aisle, now a ruin, sometime during the 16th century. Look for future stories about both the history and the project.



Greetings

Dear Members,

I fear this will be a very short Gryphon. Many of our activities have come to a grinding halt, with the Corona Virus problems all over the world. I very much hope you and yours are staying safe and well. I have not had notification that any of our members have lost their lives, but please do let me know if anyone in your close family have been ill or even worse.

We are working on many things that we can do through virtual meetings and computers. Those will be ready for your view and review soon. We hope that all our work helps structure and solidify relationships within the family, as well as sets a path for steady growth and success for our entire Clan. I so appreciate the work Richard, our new Commander is doing, and his vision for how our Clan can grow and prosper. We are very fortunate to have such a successful businessman, farmer, and laird as our leader. I am amazed at his energy and enthusiasm for helping us establish our footprint in Scotland once again.

It is hoped that we all come out of the current world woes better. Please always let me know how you are faring and what is happening in your world.

Sincere Regards, Debra





St. Drosten's Kirkyard, and the Baird Aisle



The tomb of George Baird of Auchmedden, written in Latin.



Ceud Mile Fàilte! (100.000 Welcomes) We welcome to our *Clan the following:* Douglas Andrew Baird, New Jersey Jason Baird, Massachusetts John Baird, New Hampshire Mae Alice Baird, Massachusetts Mary J Baird, Michigan Mary R Baird, Washington Raymond P Baird, Georgia Stewart Andrew (Drew) Baird, North Carolina Kathryn Carmody, Missouri Linda S Davis, Georgia Yvonne Marquette, California Susan Shear, Kentucky Chad Lueder, Wisconsin





Alexander Guthrie of Guthrie, chief of Clan Guthrie, died from coronavirus after two weeks of self-isolation in London.

Alexander Guthrie's claim to chiefship came by a circuitous route. The 20th chief was the distinguished soldier Lt Col Ivan Guthrie of Guthrie, Alexander's great-grandfather. Col Guthrie's twice-married elder daughter Moyra resumed her maiden name in 1968, and was recognised as 21st chief. Loetitia Philips, her daughter

from her first marriage, married Leonardo Bedini-Jacobini, son of a Roman count, with Alexander the son of that union.

Moyra, 21st chief, died in 1984, after which Alexander Guthrie petitioned then Lord Lyon Sir Malcolm Innes of Edingight, ultimately being given recognition as 22nd chief of Guthrie in 2000.

Alexander Ivan Bedini-Jacobini Guthrie (motto: "I stand for truth") received his education in Italy and England, latterly attending University College London. He went into business as a professional landlord, living in Rome with a toehold in London.

He grew up in a thoroughly Italian world, rapidly making his mark as someone who was both colourful and hospitable. Away from Rome at his villa in Tuscany, he entertained widely, friends and acquaintances from worlds as far apart as banking and the church, minor royalty and simple travellers.

Always an innovator, Guthrie early on saw how IT would change the way people booked accommodation, with one of his ventures developed as an upmarket city accommodation booking system.

Alexander Guthrie savoured his role as chief of a clan, attending gatherings of clan Guthrie - principally in the USA, where there is a flourishing Clan Guthrie association. At home in Rome, he had an engaging penchant for wearing full Highland dress to formal social occasions. On his way to one event, he was stopped by the carabinieri, and asked to explain why he was carrying a sword.

The chief came of a distinguished line stretching back to 1457, when an Alexander Guthrie is mentioned in a charter. Clan lore, however, claims earlier foundation, that a "laird of Guthrie" went to France in

> 1299 to invite William Wallace to return to Scotland. The mission was successful and Guthrie apparently landed back with Wallace at Montrose.

> Certainly, the line of Guthrie played its part in Scotland's history. Sir Alexander Guthrie, 2nd chief, was killed at the battle of Flodden in 1513. In 1567 Alexander, 5th of Guth-

rie, signed a bond upholding the authority of the infant James VI against that of his mother, Mary, Queen of Scots.

The spread of the family can be judged by the fact that Patrick Guthrie, 10th laird, was succeeded by his fourth cousin once removed, the Rt Rev John Guthrie. Nor were women excluded, for the 12th chief was Bethia Guthrie, John's daughter.

Col Ivan Guthrie, 20th of Guthrie, was the last Guthrie chief to live in the ancestral home of Guthrie Castle, near Forfar. Born in 1886, he commanded the 4th Battalion, Black Watch, and during the First World War gained the Military Cross for valour. The castle is now a venue for weddings, business meetings, and golf.

Alexander, 22nd of Guthrie, never married, but is survived by his long-term girlfriend Tal, a lawyer, and his brother Christian.

Memorial services for the late chief are due to be held later this year in London and Rome.

GORDON CASELY

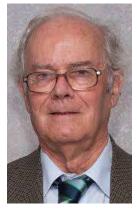
Originally published in "The Scotsman" Monday, 27th April 2020





Malcolm Baird, Ph.D. University of Cambridge, son of John Logie Baird Malcolm Baird is Chemical Engineering Professor Emeritus, who spent much of his career at McMaster University in Ontario, Canada, a public research university in Hamilton.

His research interests, according to the University website, include reciprocating-plate columns, transport phenomena, mixing and the extraction/refining of non-ferrous metals. As well as being a



chemist and researcher, he has written extensively concerning his father, John Logie Baird. He sent us this article recently, written about some of the little-known facts about his very famous television-inventing father.



John Logie Baird's trip to Trinidad in 1919

A research note by Malcolm Baird, 8 July 2019

I have been re-examining the colourful story of John Logie Baird's (JLB's) jam factory in Trinidad in 1919-1920. It has appeared in his own memoirs [1] and in later biographies [2,3]. Before leaving Scotland he obtained a British passport dated 18 September 1919; see his picture and signature on the right.

Some new information has come up about his outwards trip in 1919, 100 years ago.

JLB suffered from bad colds and breathing problems while running his "Baird Undersock" business in Glasgow. He was persuaded to move to Trinidad by Godfrey Harris who had been his neighbour in Helensburgh and a fellow-student in Glasgow before the war. Harris had moved to New York and he sent glowing accounts of the business opportunities in Trinidad. Jam could be made from the abundant and cheap fruit and shipped to Britain where it was in short supply and very highly priced in the shops. Here is an extract taken from p.33 of his published memoirs [1]:.

"I was full of optimism and I set out blithely for the West Indies, taking a cheap passage in a cargo boat so as to keep as much as possible of my capital intact. ... I arrived in Port of Spain after three very unpleasant weeks in a heaving cargo boat."

This was not the whole story. According to my mother's memoirs [2], in about 1917 JLB had met a girl to whom he became deeply attached.

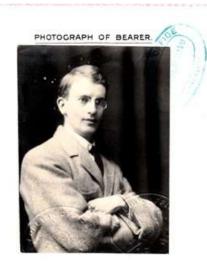
"His health was so poor that marriage was out of the question, and one of the reasons for going to Trinidad was that a warm climate might cure him. What he hoped for was a return to Glasgow with his health restored and his position in business assured. He came back with neither and found that while he was away the girl had married."

Recent research has established that the girl was Alice Bain (1890-1971), about whom I have written a detailed article [4]. She married another man on 24



September 1920, shortly before JLB's return from Trinidad.

JLB's outward travel arrangements in 1919 were somewhat confused. Having obtained his passport on 18 September, he booked passage on the liner "Columbia" due to sail from Glasgow to New York





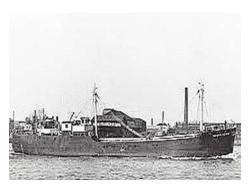
on 22 November. He may have intended to meet Godfrey Harris in New York before travelling on to Trinidad. However, JLB suddenly cancelled his booking on the "Columbia" and instead sailed on the freighter "Novian" (6400 tons) departing from Liverpool on 27 November to various ports in what was then called the British West Indies. This was the unpleasant "heaving cargo boat" referred to in his memoirs above.

The reason for JLB's abrupt change of booking is not known. It could be that his arrangement to meet Harris in New York fell through at the last minute, or it could simply be the financial saving on the fare. Last but not least was the possibility that JLB had a sudden health problem, such as a chill, and was forced to change his booking at short notice.

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The "Novian" is shown above. There were 11 passengers on the manifest and the conditions were spartan compared to those on the "Columbia" which had full lounge and dining facilities and a capacity of 1300 passengers.

It is believed that JLB arrived in Port of Spain in mid December 1919. Earlier in the month there had been serious riots in Trinidad and Tobago, arising from trouble with the stevedores at Port of Spain. At the Governor's request a troop of marines was landed from a British ship to guell the unrest and there had been two fatalities. This was reported in The Times of 15 December 1919 but, surprisingly, not in JLB's memoirs. His scribbled notes show that he was obsessed with the business at hand, namely jam-making. There is nothing in his notes to support a recent claim [5] that he developed television while he was in Trinidad.

Acknowledgement

I am very grateful to Donald McLean for providing details of JLB's cancellation of his "Columbia" booking and his booking on the "Novian".

References

[1] John Logie Baird, Television and Me (1941 memoirs). Mercat Press (now Birlinn), Edinburgh, 2004.

[2] Margaret Baird, Television Baird. Haum Publishing, Cape Town, 1973.

[3] Antony Kamm and Malcolm Baird, John Logie Baird, a Life. National Museum of Scotland, Edinburgh, 2002.

[4] http://www.bairdtelevision.com/alice. html

[5] Trinidad Express, "Santa Cruz, home of the first TV", 29 April 2012.



We decided to send the ballot in the Gryphon this year; to vote for the Board of Directors positions that are up for election. We have had no more nominations from the membership and so it is a fairly straight-forward ballot. It is always possible to write-in a candidate, of course.

Please send your ballots by mail or send an email with your votes for each position, or you can mail them to our Secretary, Jane Baird Elliot, 186 Elliott Road, Sumiton, Alabama, 35148. Please send them in by July 1st.



CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE, INC.

2020 OFFICIAL BALLOT

For the Election of the following to the Board of Directors for 2021-23

PRESIDENT

	Vote for 1		
	Debra J Baird		
	1 ST VICE PRESIDENT Vote for 1		
	Stanford Baird		
	3RD VICE PRESIDENT Vote for 1		
	Bruce D. Beard		
Name (Please Pr	rint):		
Signature:		Date:	
Address:			
City:	State:	ZIP:	
Telephone: Email Address:			

Please mail to Jane Baird Elliott, Secretary 186 Elliott Road Sumiton, Alabama, USA 35148

Or email to jelliottreporter@gmail.com







Membership Renewal Dues 2020

(Please PRINT or TYPE)

Date:

First, Middle (Maiden), Last Name:

State:

Changes in Address and Contact Information

Street:

Citan

City:

Phone:

E- Mail:

Zip:

Please send this renewal sheet with a check/money order for dues in the amount of \$20.00.

Make check payable to: Clan Baird Society Worldwide and mail to:

Robert G. Beard, Jr. – Treasurer Clan Baird Society Worldwide 16644 Vallely Drive Tampa, Florida 33618

(Note: Dues include subscriptions to the Clan quarterly newsletter - The Gryphon)



Happy Birthday to our 3rd Vice President, Bruce Beard

Being born on Feb 29th, this was Bruce's Sweet Sixteen birthday celebration and he celebrated with family and friends at a nice restaurant - and got the celebration in just before COVID lockdown. Being born on Feb 29th, he is also a charter member of the *Order of the 29ers*.The order of 29'ers was operated by the Pittsburg, Kansas, Headlight-Sun newspaper, from the 1920's through the 1960's. Their motto was "semel quatuor annis," and they sent out certificates to people born on February 29th.







Clan Baird Gathering in Scotland is every

two years. We were there in 2019 and will be back in 2021. We hope all will join us August 6-8, 2021 in Aboyne, for the Scottish Festival there and our meetings at Potarch Lodge, Balogie Estate.

Clan Baird, through more twists and turns than most clans endure, has revived itself in the modern era, and we other branch (the Saughtonhalls) being British soldiers far, far back into history, including at Culloden, another branch (the Newbyths) dying out and then being regenerated through a different line, Sir David Baird in the 19th century, and another line rising from farming in Lanarkshire (the Gartsherries), from the original Cambusnethans of whom the Auchmeddens originated in the 1400's.



Clan Baird Family Convention, August 2019, Edinburgh, Scotland. Richard is kneeling in front, as well as Andrew Baird of Newbyth, who lives in England.

have a Commander appointed by the Lord Lyon; a leader for the first time since Culloden. Our history is one of strife and challenges due to one branch (the Auchmeddens) being Jacobites, anMost of Clan Baird's Scottish world has been played out in Lanarkshire and Aberdeenshire. Our new Commander, Richard Holman-Baird of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood, owns the last Baird



Branton Baird, holding the Standard, with Commander Richard Holman-Baird, during a ceremony commemorating the bridge at the old Auchmedden Mill, Pennan, (now named the Mill of Nethermill) which was built by Bairds and Gardens in 1719. A plaque was placed during the general meeting in 2019, celebrating the bridge being in existence for 300 years. It was the first road bridge joining Aberdeenshire and Banffshire on the north coast.

estate in Scotland, Rickarton, which lies just north of Stonehaven.

As all can imagine, the family fractures that have come about from being on differing sides of the Risings in Scotland, from difficulties with philosophical and political ideologies, and the loss of estates and fortunes over time, have caused a scattering of Bairds around the globe. In fact, more Bairds live in Canada, Australia, New Zealand, and the United States than still reside in Scotland. All that strife of diaspora almost caused us to dissolve as a family. But, in the late 1960's and the early 1970's, two groups came into being. The Bairds of Atlantic Canada and Clan Baird Society in the United States, which later became Clan Baird Worldwide, Inc. With hard work and determination, these two groups began the long journey back; visiting Scotland, seeking out family leaders still there, and trying to give us all a home once again, as part of a larger organized group than our local immediate families.

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Amelia, Richard's daughter, Commander Richard Holman-Baird, Polly, his wife, and son Angus, at Holyrood Garden Party. Richard is a member of the Royal Company of Archers, Bodyguard to the Queen in Scotland, a role the group has performed since 1822.

Our new Commander, Richard Holman-Baird's grandfather and grandmother helped with these fledgling efforts, inviting all to their home and into their lives. His father and mother continued this effort, and gave Bairds a place to feel welcomed in Scotland. These efforts helped bring the varied groups of Bairds back to the table and back into the fold. Richard and his wife

Polly continue this tradition and are always happy to see Bairds as part of their work. Clan Baird had a large gathering in Scotland for the first time in 2019, when we had the Family Convention in Edinburgh, to discuss a Commander. The meeting was at St. Leonard's Hall on the campus of the University of Edinburgh, and the Lord Lyon saw fit to appoint Richard shortly thereafter. The next Clan Baird Gathering in Scotland will be in Aboyne, August 6-8, 2021. We plan to have a beginning Ceilidh on the evening of August 6th, at Potarch Lodge on the Balogie Estate in Banchory. On Saturday the 7th, we shall convene at the Baird Tent, Aboyne Scottish Festival, and about 2:00pm, we will have the



installation ceremony for our Commander. All are invited to attend. Afterward, we will have a dinner at the Lodge, in honor of our Commander and his family, and then on Sunday afternoon, August 8th, we will have a farewell garden party on the banks of the Royal Dee

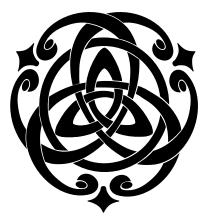


Photo: Bairds and Twinning partners, meeting at Rickarton House for signing of Sister City documents with Athens, Alabama and Stonehaven, Scotland, 2019

River, and the Lodge lawns. It is hoped that all Bairds and the friends of Bairds will come to the Gathering. In this time of Coronavirus, it is such joy to plan for a better summer and better times for us all.



Clan Baird Society Worldwide's Treasurer, Bob Beard has written two books. He has a great offer for members. If you purchase these books, he will contribute 50% net royalties to Clan Baird.









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Anna Ryan Ferguson Official Clan Baird Society Photographer



Summer 2020 Issue deadline June 30th

Autumn 2020 Issue deadline September 30th

Winter 2021 Issue deadline December 30th

Please submit newsletter articles to: Heather Snyder at gryphon@clanbairdsociety.com hsnyder65@yahoo.com

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

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

Any questions about The Gryphon submissions please call Heather at 802-485-5541

Where you can find us

Finding Your Family Roots

We have others in 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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