

## The Passing of a Legend, Jack A. Baird

A tribute written by Jack's son Grahame Baird

*Jack was born on 15th of June 1932,* in Falkirk to his Scottish parents Alexander and Christine, who wished to call him John. However, a relative pointed out that Jack's Uncle John, who died on the Somme in 1916, was also born on 15th of June 1900. So, he was christened Jack.



Jack and his parents left Scotland and moved to Dartford in Kent when he was three. During WW2 he recalled a Messerschmitt 109 losing off all guns over their house, trailing smoke before crash landing, and his Mother chasing a Dornier D17 down the road shouting and throwing bricks and

anything else that came to hand at it! For their safety Jack and his Mother returned to Scotland.

After the war, Jack returned to England and his education at the Dartford Grammar school, where he excelled academically in science and sports, particularly cricket and football.

Jack was passionate about music. Having learnt to play Alto Sax, Clarinet and violin from the age of 4. He attended the London School of Dance Music part-time. He played in dance bands, primarily for "The Omegans" which his Father had set up and played in.

Post school education, Jack became an articled structural engineer with AE Watson, he progressed through his exams, each time delaying his entry into National Service. Eventually he became a Fellow of the Institute of Structural Engineers.

Following National Service, Jack joined GEC Simon Carvers, with whom he was part of the team who won the contract to design and build Britain's 1st Atomic Energy Power Station.

It was around 1957 that he and Margaret met. They married in 1958; Jack sold his saxophone to pay for the engagement ring! His son Grahame John arrived in 1962, and his daughter Joanne Caroline in 1965.

Jack's career path saw him work with Taylor Woodrow, before moving to a senior role with the Dexion Group. Dexion bought Newsum Timber Engineering, which in turn led to Jack being promoted in 1967 to the role of Technical Manager. This led to a move North to Gainsborough and buying a house in Lea where he lived for 50 years.

Around the early 1970s he was approached by The Swedish Trade Commission to work for them. However, rather than moving back to London, he "pioneered" home working, spending much of the working week in his home office in Lea and commuting to London for one or two days a week.

As the role with the Swedes expanded, the home office became too small, so Jack set up a satellite office in Retford.

A culmination of Jack's work with the Swedes, was being awarded the Order of the Polar Star in 1988 - the Swedish equivalent of a knighthood; the award was presented by the Swedish Ambassador, at the Swedish Embassy in London. A memorable moment for his family.

Jack wrote and had published 3 technical books - The Timber Designers Manual (1976), 2nd edition Timber Designers manual (1984) and Timbers Specifiers Guide (1990).

In his social life Jack played for his local cricket team, and golf at Thunnock Golf

*Continued on page 2*

# 2022 CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

## BAIRD FAMILY TOUR SCOTLAND



**Our 50th Anniversary Jubilee Celebration, kicks off in July 2021 at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games and continues at Aboyne, Scotland in 2022**



*We are planning a tour of Scotland in 2022 that mirrors the tour taken in 1997.*

Adrianna Phillips, a long time member and North Carolina State Leader, is planning the trip. We will have more information soon. **The tour will begin around July 26th and end at the Aboyne Games through August 7th.**

Flights will be leaving August 8th, unless people want side trips, especially for the Royal Edinburgh International Tattoo, Adriana will be setting up the side trips as well.

This will be a semi-inclusive tour. We hope many of you can join us, but if you choose to have your own Scotland adventure, please schedule time to be at the Aboyne Highland Games to join us in the Society's 50th anniversary festivities!

More information will follow throughout the year, either through The Gryphon or direct email.

If you have questions please contact Debra at [djbaird4@gmail.com](mailto:djbaird4@gmail.com)

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Club. He was a leading member of the Masons and was associated with many lodges and well respected within them. He was also involved with other local charity based and historical based societies.

Jack retired in 1998 and returned to playing music, being part of various bands, enjoying performing, writing and arranging the music. He was a regular church attendee and was a season ticket holder at Gainsborough Trinity Football Club.

Jack had always been proud of his Scottish roots and he and Margaret were members/and one-time Presidents of their local Caledonian Society.

He and Margaret had often visited Scotland, tramping through graveyards etc in search of his ancestral home but with the expansion of the World Wide Web, tracing family ancestors became easier



*Jack and Maggie celebrating their 60th wedding anniversary*

and led to him becoming a valued member of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide. Jack spent his last 7 years enjoying a quieter pace of life in Knaith (moving to The Byre in 2013 with Margaret), the annexe of his daughter and son-in-laws' estate.

He passed away peacefully on 30th January 2021 and leaves behind his wife Margaret (62 years married), a son and daughter (Grahame and Joanne), and 3 grandchildren (Harriett, Oliver and Lucas).

He will be much missed by many and leaves a huge void in our family.







# CLAN BAIRD PRESIDENT'S FORUM



As Captain Sir Tom Moore was keen to say ‘Tomorrow will be a good day’ and this is very apt to the Society.

On the cusp of our Jubilee Celebrations your Board are in the process of conducting a radical reform of the structure of the Society and the way we run, which will bring us right up to the 21st century and will give us a far stronger Worldwide bond with all Bairds, where ever you live.

We are just in the planning stage at the moment, but as soon as we can give you concrete information, I am sure Debra will be in contact. My belief is that we are in a really exciting period in the Society’s history and we can’t wait to share our plans with you.

I am sorry to hear that Covid is still impacting on the social side of our lives for this year and many Festivals / Games are having to cancel or curtail their activities again. On a positive note there will be a huge celebration throughout 2022, perfect timing for our Jubilee climax.

Debra tells me that membership numbers are going up and up, the Board are giving us all many hours of their time and the Foundation is up and running.

There is much to look forward to and participate in for all members, your input is always welcome and feedback always appreciated.

Please all look forward to ‘a good day’ and I look forward to meeting as many of you as possible in the not too distant future.

Best wishes,

*Richard Baird*



***It’s hard to imagine life without television but back in the 1920s, it was a complete unknown.*** That was until John Logie Baird successfully produced televised objects in outline in 1924, transmitted the first recognizable human faces on 2 October 1925, and publicly demonstrated television to scientists of the Royal Institution in 1926. This was the very first time that television had become a reality and it shaped the world we live in today.

The Grandson of John Logie Baird, our Iain Baird, has worked with the mint to develop a commemorative 50 pence coin. This coin designed by Osborne Ross is available in gold, silver, and Cu-pro-nickel alloy for private collection and will not be circulated. We are very proud of the recognition that John Logie will receive from the coin. We consider him to be the most influential Baird, and person in all of world history. This brand new 50p, celebrates the life and works of this remarkable British inventor, electrical engineer, and innovator.

**Available for purchase here:**  
[www.royalmint.com](http://www.royalmint.com)

*‘The Baird family is very pleased with the result — this wonderful recognition of John Logie’s life and television contributions. It was exciting to have been included in the development process by the excellent staff at the Royal Mint, who contacted me just over a year ago to advise on various things.’*

- Iain Baird



# CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE FOUNDATION

***This is the first in what will be a regular feature column in the Gryphon reporting on the activities of the CBSW Foundation***

Let's begin with a bit of background. Byron O. and Frances Ellis Baird first had the idea of forming a Clan Baird Society during a visit to the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games (GMHG) in 1969. With the help of James Ian Baird, Viscount Stonehaven (later James Ian Baird Keith, Earl of Kintore), they petitioned the Lord Lyon for permission to organize an association that would honour the name of Baird.

The first organizational meeting of the Baird Family Society World-Wide was held during the GMHG in 1972. Articles of Incorporation were filed for Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. in the State of Michigan on December 2, 2010. In 2013 we were granted status as an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(7) corporation with the effective date retroactive to December 2, 2010. This status allows us to collect dues and donations for operational expenses such as sponsoring tents at Highland Games and producing the Gryphon, but not to support the types of projects that will require investment in property or ongoing programs. For that we needed a separate organization.

Articles of Incorporation were filed for Clan Baird Society Worldwide Foundation, Inc. in the State of Alabama on April 28, 2020 and we were granted status as an Internal Revenue Code 501(c)(3) corporation effective the same date.

This IRS designation allows us to raise funds for ongoing projects and makes donations tax deductible for US taxpayers. We are also investigating how members from outside the US can take advantage of tax incentives within your respective countries.

Although a separate organization incorporated in a different State, the Foundation will act as the fundraising arm of the Society. The Foundation does not have members as such, but is operated by a Board of Directors, the only requirement being that Directors be members of the Society. We have recently established a Foundation Fundraising Committee, which will begin meeting soon.

***We have had a busy summer and fall, identifying 3 projects to get the ball rolling; The St. Drostan's Project; the Baird Fire Scholarship; and the Clan Baird Society Centre***

The St. Drostan's Project is overseen by a Committee of the Society. We are extremely fortunate to have many of the Committee Members local to the Auld Kirk (St. Drostan's Church) with diverse expertise in the history of St. Drostan, the history of Auchmeddan, archaeology and local politics. We also have a volunteer legal advisor and a consultant for planning, marketing,



fundraising and the preparation of business plans. Since we have introduced the project in previous Gryphon's, I will not linger on the general topic here. The Aberdour Pals Subcommittee is identifying veterans who are buried on the grounds of the Auld

Kirk and several other nearby sites within Auchmedden. The Subcommittee is compiling a list of grave sites that will be available later this year.

On November 11, 2020, called Veteran's Day in the US and Remembrance Day in the UK, we held the first of what will be an annual Remembrance Day Celebration honouring these veterans. Limitations on group gatherings made for a small ceremony this year, but in the future we hope to advertise a much larger celebration.

The Historical Subcommittee is busy producing content for a tri-fold brochure that will explain the history of St. Drostan and what we hope that the project can accomplish. Our Publicist, Heather Baird Snyder (Editor of the Gryphon and a professional graphic designer) will be producing graphics for the brochure, which will be used for marketing and fundraising.

Branton Baird, Foundation Secretary and Treasurer, is overseeing the Baird Fire Scholarship Program, which has already received funding donations for one US and one Scottish Student. Branton will be telling you more about this Project in future columns.

***Our most ambitious project, is the Clan Baird Society Centre. It will be located close to the Auld Kirk in New Aberdour***

We are still in the process of identifying a potential site, but that has not kept us from discussing and planning what functions it could include.

In future columns I will have much more to tell you about our ambitions for each of these projects, introduce the major players and what expertise each of them brings, and how we plan to plan to proceed.

If you have any questions about the Foundation or you would like to become involved in any of our projects, please do not hesitate to contact me. My contact information is listed on the last page of the Gryphon.

For now, stay healthy and cross your fingers that we will be able to meet in Scotland this summer for the Annual General Meeting.

Yours Bairdly,  
Sandy Baird, President  
CBSW Foundation, Inc.





## Beginner Gaelic Learning

The Clan Baird Society Worldwide is pleased to announce one of the new benefits of being a member of Clan Baird Society Worldwide. The Society has coupled with the Utah Gaelic Club to provide Beginner Gaelic Learning materials and language instruction.

The weekly course will be taught by Isaac Baird, a fluent Gaelic Speaker. This course is provided free of charge and has a limited number of openings. The course covers 4 months and is designed to bring a non speaker to a beginner level and begin conversation. The expectation is weekly attendance and in home practice speaking aloud.

In addition, conversational opportunities will be provided with other beginner and intermediate learners.



Please contact Isaac Baird at [iandsbaird@outlook.com](mailto:iandsbaird@outlook.com) for more details



*Greetings members, and it is hoped you are still doing well. COVID has caused so many changes in our lives, it is good to know we have some things that remain the same, such as the Society and our Clan.* At Grandfather Mountain Highland Games 8-11 July 2021, we will begin our 50th Anniversary Jubilee Year, and we will end that celebration both at the Grandfather Games in 2022 and finally at the Aboyne Games in Scotland in August 2022, during our Worldwide Clan Baird Gathering. We will be celebrating our history and the Founders, Lord James Ian (Baird) Keith, Earl of Kintore, Georgia Capshaw, Rosalie Rountree, Frances and Byron Baird. We will also be celebrating the new edition release of John Logie Baird's memoirs and the UK coin that commemorates the 75th anniversary of his death.

As part of our 50th Anniversary Jubilee, we have some projects and plans that differing Board members will be rolling out over the next few months. Highlights of those plans are setting up endowed scholarships called Baird Fire, buying a property in New Aberdour, on the old Auchmedden Estate, that will become a Clan Baird Historic Centre and a home for all of us when we visit Scotland, and preservation of the cemeteries of Bairds, especially St. Drostan's Kirk.

Lately, many Clan Baird social media accounts have appeared online. We have several officially recognized social media sites and thought we would list them for you. Any other sites are simply trying to mine your contact information for their own uses, so please be careful when going online. The Society keeps your contact information private and offline. The approved sites are [clanbairdsociety.com](http://clanbairdsociety.com), [clanbaird.org](http://clanbaird.org), the Pictish Boar Blog, Clan Baird Society Twitter, Clan Baird Society Worldwide Facebook page, Clan Baird Society Australia Facebook, Clan Baird Society New Zealand Facebook, Clan Baird Aotearoa Facebook.

I hope you read the timeline of the Society that is included in this Gryphon. It gives some points of interest that we will be offering more information on during the next few issues.

Take care, stay well, and we hope to see you at a festival this summer. Richard is planning to be at Grandfather Mountain; we hope you will too.

Yours Sincerely,





**Armistice Day  
11th November 2020  
saw a Covid restricted  
service of remembrance  
held in the Baird Aisle  
of the Auld Kirk of  
St.Drostan, New Aberdour,  
Aberdeenshire, Scotland**

Corinne Cox | The Aberdour Pals  
New Aberdour, Scotland

In attendance was Commander Richard Baird, accompanied by the Clan Baird piper, Adam and two representatives of Clan Baird, Corinne & Philip Cox. After placing small remembrance crosses at the foot of each headstone which commemorat-



ed the 20 members of the Armed Forces who lost their lives during the conflicts of WW1 and WW2, the group moved into the Baird Aisle and after placing a poppy

cross inscribed 'Lest We Forget', embellished with a Clan Baird ribbon, in the alcove memorial to James Baird of Auchmedden, our Commander began the traditional remembrance service.

**“Today we remember the Fallen of both World Wars who are buried or commemorated here in the Auld Kirkyard of St.Drostan, in the ancient land of the Bairds, Auchmedden.”**

Following a reading of the poem 'In Flanders Field' by Corinne, the Commander read out the roll call of 20 names and there followed a 2 minute silence which ended with the Commander blowing his whistle.....a very evocative moment in keeping with the Somme-like weather conditions of the day. Following the Kohima tribute, the piper played, the moving sounds echoing over the kirkyard as a fitting memorial to the lost lives.



The Aberdour Pals project is currently researching the lives of those commemorated in the kirkyard and hoping to make links with the families who may still be living in the area to share in a perpetual remembrance.

**ABERDOUR AULD KIRK  
REMEMBRANCE ROLL**

(WW1)

William Scott  
Alexander Gatt  
Robert Bruce Scott  
Alexander M. Gerrard  
George T. Gerrard  
Robert Forsyth  
George Ingram  
James Ingram  
Frederick Gall  
Edward Gerrard Forsyth  
George Forsyth  
James Robert Robb Sutherland  
William Robb Sutherland  
Alexander Murcar  
George Irvine Sim  
Willie Rennie  
Alexander M. Webster  
Alexander Pratt Gibson  
Alexander Taylor

(WW2)

Andrew Gerrie  
Harry Charles Birnie

**In Flanders Fields**

BY JOHN MCCRAE

In Flanders fields the poppies blow  
Between the crosses, row on row,  
That mark our place; and in the sky  
The larks, still bravely singing, fly  
Scarce heard amid the guns below.

We are the Dead. Short days ago  
We lived, felt dawn, saw sunset glow,  
Loved and were loved,  
and now we lie,  
In Flanders fields.

Take up our quarrel with the foe:  
To you from failing hands we throw  
The torch; be yours to hold it high.  
If ye break faith with us who die  
We shall not sleep,  
though poppies grow  
In Flanders fields.



# WELCOME NEW SOCIETY REGIONAL LEADERS



**Arizona State Leader**  
Harold Roberts  
harold.clanbaird@gmail.com

How do I trace to the Baird Clan? My mum was born & raised in Govan, Glasgow and immigrated to the US in 1956 - to the Detroit, Michigan area, to be exact. That's where she met my dad - Welsh & English parents. I'm originally from the Detroit area, but moved to New Zealand when I was 10, lived there for a year and then to Australia for a year. My family ended up outside of Phoenix, Arizona 2 years after leaving Michigan. (Chandler, Arizona to be exact.) After graduating high school and a couple of years in college, I went into the Air Force and was fortunate to be stationed in England for 3 1/2 years (50 miles from my mom's brother in Norwich) I left active duty and went into the Air Force Reserves while I finished my university degree at Northern Arizona University. I have been a software engineer with most of my time in the defense industry. Since mid-1999, I have lived in Tucson, Arizona and I have adult children - Iain and Daniella.

I'm a huge history buff and have been hooked on genealogy for years, with this year being the most research I've done - great way to spend during lockdown periods. My family history covers the British Isles - Scotland, Wales, England, & Ireland are all well represented in my family tree. I'm also an avid cyclist, love football (aka soccer) and love doing anything outdoors - especially where mountains are involved. I love all things Scottish. Rangers Football Club are a family favourite, but it's just a game, right? Can't wait to get back to visit Scotland!



**Texas State Leader**  
Reverend Deacon James Glynn Baird  
jbaird@hollyfamilychurch.net

In 2018 I was ordained as a Deacon for the Diocese of Dallas. Assigned to Holy Family of Nazareth Parish in Irving, TX. (hollyfamilychurch.net) I am still currently a deacon there by the grace of God.

My interest in the Clan Baird: One day, as a very young man in the car with my father, he (being an historian himself) told us that he thought that we were probably of Scottish descent and that Baird was a Scottish clan name. I was terribly fascinated by this because my roots were otherwise in Texas cotton farming and ranching. The other reason was that it gave us roots. As a kid in the middle 70's Dad took us to Scottish festivals around the Dallas area and we learned more. Later in life, as our research continued and technology advanced, we were able to trace our line from Texas back to Kentucky, then to South Carolina, and then to Virginia at the Jamestown community. By this time, I was a young married man with a degree of my own and, yes, we finally knew that Baird was a Scottish clan, and we were in fact from a venerable old name.

My father sadly passed before my ordination, but I know that he would be very happy to learn about the recent developments for the Baird name worldwide. I am not sure what I can offer to this group, but I am pleased to offer what I can. God bless Scotland, the clans and our endeavors to preserve our history.



**Southeast Regional Leader**  
Linda Baird  
indawbaird@mail.com

I will be assisting my husband, Liam with the Southeast Regional duties, as well as helping with the Baird Cemetery Preservation in Scotland.

I was born and raised in Boone, NC, and we now live in Ewing, VA. I graduated from Massage School, and was formally Licensed in 2010. Liam and I co-own and operate Appalachian Massage. During the Nationwide COVID lockdown, I gained my Medical Massage License, and now work with several Chiropractors in the area.

I am a very proud mother, bonus mom and MiMi. When I'm not doing any of that, I enjoy an occasional cigar, write cigar reviews. I too, am a cigar influencer for several companies.



**Southeast Regional Leader**  
(Liam) Billy W. Baird  
baird@usa.com

I'm the Clan Baird Society Worldwide Kentucky State Representative and the Southeastern Regional Commissioner.

I grew up in Pineville Kentucky and now living ten minutes from Cumberland Gap, Tennessee with my beautiful wife Linda. Co-own Appalachian Massage and I'm a Brand Ambassador and Influencer for three Cigar Companies. I descend from the Bairds of Auchmedden.

I've studied the Martial Arts for 40+ years and I'm a Musician/Singer. I'm a Proud Father, a Proud Grandfather, a Proud Bonus Father and a Blessed Husband.



## Flowers of the Forest

It is with great sadness that we share the news of the passing Donald Francis Macdonald a co-founder of the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, passed away on February 18, 2021 Donald was 94 years old



Combining efforts with Agnes MacRae Morton, Donald began work in earnest in 1955 with planning for the first Grandfather Mountain Highland Games on August 19, 1956. The event was successful beyond their wildest dreams, and by 1958 they had moved to a two-day Games held the second full weekend in July each year. Donald served as the first President of the Games until he moved to Scotland in 1961.

Donald Macdonald was a man of many talents and held a number of distinctive awards, including the Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian award available in North Carolina. Of all his accomplishments, his work in co-founding the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games was the thing of which he was most proud, and the event he spoke about most often.



**Crystal Toronyai Davis**

Greetings Cousins, near and far. Foremost, I am humbled and have graciously accepted the invitation to serve the Clan Baird Society Worldwide as a Clan Genealogist and State Leader for Maine.

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 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 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. Currently, I study with the National Institute of Genealogical Studies, pursuant of certification in American Records, Scottish Records, and Forensic Genealogy. Additionally, I am working towards accreditation. More recent endeavors include my website, [ravenoakgenealogy.com](http://ravenoakgenealogy.com), alongside my YouTube channel, Ancestral Spotlight, where I highlight “ancestors a little less know” and offer educational videos about genetic genealogy.

**I am excited to work with members of our vibrant and ever-growing clan, so please feel free to reach out to me with your queries at:  
[ancestralspotlight@gmail.com](mailto:ancestralspotlight@gmail.com)**



**Brittany Moore-Bedell**

Hello Baird family! It's so wonderful to be a part of such an amazing group of cousins. I am so very thankful for the opportunity to also serve as a clan genealogist for Clan Baird Society Worldwide and look forward to working with everyone. I will also be the State Leader for Iowa.

I am also a descendent of “Old John Baird” of Monmouth County, New Jersey, through his son John Junior. For as long as I can remember, I was drug every summer to my maternal grandmother's “Baird Family Reunion”, held each summer here in Iowa. And thus, my “Baird Family Addiction”, was born.

I have worked on family research off and on in some capacity since high school, though my more focused research has surfaced in the last 7-8 years, and developed into a website, research, and personally-created research tools, available at Branches in Time Genealogy. In the last 5 years, I have also delved into the realm of genetic genealogy and volunteered as an “Adoption Angel” for Wiki Tree Adoption Angels and AdoptionAngels.org, assisting adoptees with discovering their birth families. Currently, I'm working towards accreditation and certification in American Records and Scottish Records through the National Institute for Genealogical Studies, and plan to add a DNA & Genetic Genealogy certificate when the program is available.

**I look forward to getting to know everyone and hope to see you all in Scotland next summer! If ever you have questions, you can reach out to me on Facebook or email me at:  
[branchesintimegenealogy@gmail.com](mailto:branchesintimegenealogy@gmail.com)**



# "As long's there's an eagle in Pennan, There will be a Baird in Auchmedden."

By David Radley | ONTARIO, CANADA

***This prophecy was said to be made by Thomas the Rhymer.*** Sir Thomas de Ercildoun, better remembered as Thomas the Rhymer (c.1220 – 1298) was a Scottish laird and reputed prophet from Earlston (then called “Erceldoune”) in the Scottish Borders. He was said to be a wise and learned man, bard and friend to Alexander III (King of Scots 1249 – 1286) who wrote much poetry and made many notable prophecies.

According to Elizabeth Burton, the author of “The Life and Times of Thomas of Ercildune (The Rhymer)” there are five manuscripts which contain the prophecies of Thomas the Rhymer, the earliest written in the 15th century, all of which are included in her book. She adds that “the prophecy regarding the eagles would appear to have been recorded in local documents of the time and attributed to Thomas; so in that respect, you can quote it with authority.”

A remarkable prophecy, considering Thomas lived in the 13th century and although the Baird family was around at that time, Auchmedden did not come into the Baird family until it was bought by Andrew Baird on the 10th November 1534.

The following two paragraphs are taken from “On the Bairds of Auchmedden and Strichen” by J. Malcolm Bulloch.

William Baird (1701 -75) VII of Auchmedden, the historian of the family, in his account of Aberdour, written in 1724, had said: “It is pretty remarkable that there is an eagle’s nest upon the high rocks at Pennan where Auchmedden’s milstone quarry is. The pair who breed there have continued in that place, time out of mind, and send away their young ones every year, so that there is never more stays but the old pair.”

According to Pratt’s “Buchan” (1858, ed., p. 181), the Bairds were “not free from the thralldom of this legend.” Believing that the fortunes of the family were in some inevitable way connected with the presence of these eagles, “they sedulously protected them, and had them regularly fed by causing a daily supply of food to be placed on the ledge of the rocks.” The story then goes on to tell that when the estate was sold in 1750 to the 2nd Earl of Aberdeen, the birds disappeared. But they returned in 1782 when Lord Haddo took his Baird bride there. According to the new “Statistical Account” (1843) the eagles remained in the rocks until the estate passed into the hands of the Hon. William Gordon. When William Gordon got Auchmedden the eagles again fled, and “have never (1843) since been seen in the country. These facts,” continued the “Statistical Account,” “marvellous as they may appear, are attested by a crowd of living witnesses.” The same story is also told in the “Antiquities of Aberdeen and Banff,” which was also



Photo by Juan Lacruz

published in 1843. The eagles did not return to Pennan until Robert Baird of the Gartsherrie family bought Auchmedden in 1854, when, as the minister of Aberdour told Pratt in 1856, “one of the eagles returned to the rocks. But this, the men of the Coastguard, either ignorant of the singular history connected with the return of the birds, or indifferent to the romance of the story, pursued from crag to crag with their guns, till they either killed or dislodged it.”

***So, there seems to be a very credible link between the Baird family and the eagles of Pennan Head. But which eagle?***

During the times in question, Scotland was home to very healthy numbers of both Golden and White-tailed Eagles; in fact up until the early nineteenth century when persecution resulted in the loss of many western European populations.

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**The more famous Golden Eagle, the national bird of Scotland,** has maintained a presence, albeit much reduced, throughout the years. It is named for the golden-brown feathers on the back of its neck, head and upper wings; the rest of its body is dark brown. It is a skilled hunter, but not particularly choosy about what it eats. Grouse and other mountain birds, hares, rabbits and snakes are all on the menu, and it will eat carrion (dead animals).

**The White-tailed, or Sea Eagle, while having a similar population in the eighteenth and early nineteenth century, was wiped out in Scotland, with the last British White-tailed Eagle being shot in Shetland in 1918.** It has a dark brown body, brown and white streaked head, neck and breast and a distinctive white tail. White-tailed eagles are also versatile and opportunistic hunters and carrion feeders, sometimes pirating food from other birds and even otters. They eat largely fish, but also take various birds, rabbits and hares.

**Starting in 1975 the White-tailed eagle has been systematically re-introduced into Scotland and in the words of Bob Watson “I believe that a pair or a couple of pairs are now nesting on the East coast, which could lead to them moving up to the cliffs of Pennan near New Aberdeen in time, thereby fulfilling the Baird prophecy”** (if the Clan Baird re-establishes itself in this area through the project we are working on).

Although both are large, the White-tailed is the larger bird with an impressive wingspan of 8 feet, compared to 7 feet for the Golden.

One of the concerns with eagles is their effect on sheep and lambing. An article published by the Scottish Ornithologists Club in 1985 (Golden Eagles and lambs in Badenoch, Highland, by D. N Weir) gives evidence of eagles also eating lambs. A report a few years ago looking into White-tailed Eagles and crofting found that less than 2% of lamb deaths on the west coast of Scotland were due to White-tailed Eagles, so the impact there is minimal.

***So which of these magnificent species were our Auchmedden eagles?***



Photo by Christoph Müller [www.christophmueller.org](http://www.christophmueller.org)

William Baird’s accounts just talk about the generic “eagle”, but based on the eating habits of both and the “Sea” eagle’s propensity for the coast, it seems more likely to be White-tailed eagles.” In John A. Love’s book “A Saga of Sea Eagles” he talks of White-tailed Eagle nesting sites - “Several other potential sites have now come to light. Formerly, eyries were known to have been located on Troup Head and on Pennan Head on the south coast of the Moray Firth, both notable seabird colonies today.” Both Troup

Head and Pennan Head are adjacent to, if not part of the original Auchmedden lands.

Also, when asked the question about the Pennan Head birds, following a query to the Scottish Ornithologists Club, Dr. Alan Knox, Emeritus Head of Museums, University of Aberdeen stated “Traditionally, this was taken to have been a White-tailed (Sea) Eagle, although it’s been a long time since an eagle has nested on the coasts of Aberdeenshire!” He also stated that “White-tailed Eagles often nest on the coasts; Golden Eagles would be less likely.”

Coupling this further quote from John A Love’s writings - “White-tailed Eagles are much more approachable, and more tolerant of human presence, than Golden Eagles,...” - with the quote from Pratt’s Buchan, it would seem more likely that White-tailed eagles would better tolerate having “a daily supply of food to be placed on the ledge of the rocks.”

So there you have it. Regardless of which of these majestic birds it was, we can be proud that the Baird family has an association with either. Interestingly, the popular description of a Gryphon is - a composite mythological creature with a lion’s body (winged or wingless) and a bird’s head, usually that of an eagle. Coincidence??





# CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE TIMELINE

1972 - 2022 | 50th ANNIVERSARY

- 1957** Rosalie Rountree, Georgia Capshaw and Ben Capshaw Jr. visit Rickarton for a few days, as guests of Lord James Ian Baird, Viscount Stonehaven, then Earl of Kintore and his wife Lady Kintore. Discussions of a Clan or Family Baird organization began.
- 1960's** Frances and Byron Owsley Baird were interested in beginning a Baird Family Society and talked with Lord Kintore more. He began to discuss the possibility with The Lord Lyon, King of Arms.
- 1970** Permission was given from the then Lord Lyon and with the help of Lord Kintore, the Americans started planning, contacting Bairs they knew, and writing up By-Laws.
- 1972** The Baird Family Society Worldwide was established formally at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in July. Byron Owsley Baird was named Convenor and Lord James Ian Baird Keith, Earl of Kintore was named Patron. Dues were \$15.00 for an individual and \$20.00 for a family. The Gryphon newsletter was published twice a year.
- 1975** "The Bairs of Auchmedden March" written by Pipe Major Albert Richardson of Moffat for the Society, at the request of the Earl of Kintore.
- 1977** Spring trip to Scotland for the International Gathering of the Clans, and visiting Rickarton once again as well as visiting with Sir David of Newbyth in Edinburgh. The estate of Newbyth was lately sold to be made into flats. Lord Kintore invited us to Keith Hall, and many days were spent there, meeting and celebrating Bairs. Bryon Owsley Baird died in July, and Frances took over as Convenor.
- 1978** The stone from Auchmedden that Lord Kintore acquired, to be placed in the Memorial Carin at Grandfather Mountain, was given to the leaders there. Bryon Baird brought the stone back from Scotland in May 1977.
- 1979** July Gathering of Baird in Nova Scotia. Page Baird of Truro welcomed all to the International Gathering of Scottish Clans - Nova Scotia. Lord and Lady Kintore were Honored Guests at the Stone Mountain Highland Games.
- 1981** International Gathering of Clans in Scotland. Special events planned for the Bairs by Harriet Roberts, our Tour Director. Georgia Capshaw designed and put into needlepoint, a Baird Crest Flag for use at festivals.
- 1982** International Gathering of the Clans in the USA for the first time. It was held at the Stone Mountain Highland Games in October. Our patrons, Lord and Lady Kintore were in attendance for the Bairs and the Keiths, as special guests of the games.
- 1983** Atlantic Canada members form Baird Family of Atlantic Canada Branch organization.
- 1984** The Bairs were one of the honored clans in a special section of the Grandfather Mountain program, called CLAN SCAN.
- 1986** The Council of Scottish Clans and Associations (COSCA) received word that they would be the named organization to disseminate any information to the USA, emanating from the Lord Lyon, King of Arms in Scotland.
- 1988** The Centenary of the birth of John Logie Baird was the theme of the year for the Society.
- 1989** The Society expands by setting up regions within the US and in Scotland, England, and Canada. Word of the death of the Earl of Kintore arrived and the Baird and Keith Clans mourned for the year.
- 1990** Dr. Kenneth Baird of Edinburgh University visited the US and suggested a Baird Gathering in Scotland, maybe at the University. Donald Erskine, who always claimed that he was a Baird, and his Catherine, were honored guests at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games. Donald was a vice president of the National Trust of Scotland.
- 1991** The John Logie Baird Foundation was established at the University of Strathclyde.
- 1992** Georgia Capshaw, Page Baird, Ken Baird, Dale Baird, and Donald Baird attended the annual meeting at Grandfather. They were all commissioners, as was Jack Baird in England, and Ross Baird in Scotland.
- 1993** The Baird Archives were presented to the Odom Library and at the 1993 Annual Meeting at Stone Mountain Highland Games, the name of the organization was changed to Clan Baird Society Worldwide, as of January 1994.
- 1994** The name of the Society changed to Clan Baird Society Worldwide. Jack A. Baird, Commissioner in England, and Dale Baird, President of the Society, went to Auchmedden and were welcomed by Mr. Duncan, the Mains of Auchmedden Farm manager. Jack and Dale found the foundation stones of the old Manse House/Castle.

*...more to come in the Spring Issue!*



Our farm has been in the family for nearly 100 years. Jenna and her partner Jacob are the fourth generation in our family to be sugaring on our property.

In January of 2017 they officially took over the maple syrup retail operation while still working for Bob (Jenna's father) producing the maple syrup.

Our 560-acre farm is located in Chittenden, Vermont and has been in the Baird family for four generations. Bonnie and Robert Baird own and operate the farm



today while their daughter Jenna and her partner Jacob run the maple syrup retail business.

Robert's grandparents, Sara and Ralph Baird, both grew up on farms on the road. In 1918 they purchased our farm from Sara's sister and brother-in-law. Their son Richard took over the operation in the 1940s and ran the farm until 1979 when Bonnie and Robert purchased the property.



Maple syrup was produced here even before the Bairds moved to the property. When Sara and Ralph began farming they milked cows and made butter that was sold door-to-door in the nearby town of Rutland. As the dairy herd grew, milk was sold into the Boston market and later to our local Cabot cheese plant. The milking cows were sold in 1996 and, since that time, maple syrup has been the primary crop on the farm.

## Baird Farm

65 West Rd

N Chittenden, Vermont

802-558-8443

Open daily 9:00 - 5:00

[bairdfarm.com](http://bairdfarm.com)

Tours by appointment or by chance

## Our Newborn Fresher Bairds

Rose Saragh Murray



Clan Baird Commander Richard is now a grandfather! His daughter, Louise and her husband Topper welcomed a girl into the world, in Nairobi. Born 16 November, 2020 She is called Rose Saragh Murray, which are very good initials and stand for Regimental Sargent Major, so she will hopefully keep her parents neat, smart and under control !!

Leyton Donald Harrell



Leyton Donald Harrell, born 27 September 2020 to Avy and Hogan Harrell, Society members. Grandparents are Chris and Marilyn Baird Stansbury, also long-time Society members. Avy, Chris and Marilyn were with us on the Scotland 2019 tour and we appreciate all the work they did to make our celebrations so grand.





# Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

## We welcome to our Clan the following:

Christopher Aldred, Pennsylvania  
 Joanne C. Ash, England  
 Allen Baird, New York  
 Beau Baird, Indiana  
 Bryan Baird, New Mexico  
 Colin Andrew Baird, Scotland  
 Daniel C. Baird, Washington  
 Danuel Baird, Utah  
 Darren Baird, Utah  
 Darren Baird, Jr. , Utah  
 David Baird, Scotland  
 Dawn Baird, California  
 Deandrea Baird, Nebraska  
 Gillian Grace Baird, Scotland  
 Grace Baird, Scotland  
 Grahame Baird, England  
 James W. Baird, Washington  
 Janet Baird, Washington  
 Joan Baird, Massachusetts  
 John S. Baird, Jr., North Carolina  
 Katelyn Baird-Bywater, Utah  
 Katherine G. Baird, Virginia  
 Kevin Baird, North Carolina  
 Kevin Baird, Pennsylvania  
 LaWynn Baird, Utah  
 Liam Baird, Virginia  
 Linda Baird, Virginia  
 Linda Baird, Arizona  
 Lucas Baird, England  
 Madeline Baird, Nebraska  
 Matthew Baird, North Carolina  
 Matthias Baird, Utah

Mike L. Baird, Colorado  
 Nigel D. Baird, Scotland  
 Oliver Baird, England  
 Raymond Baird, Colorado  
 Robert “Rob” Baird, Nebraska  
 Shawmarie Baird-Jeffrey, Louisiana  
 Taylor A. Baird, Utah  
 Thomas D. Baird, Jr., Massachusetts  
 Ty Baird, Utah  
 Wanda Baird, Utah  
 Xia Baird, Utah  
 Hillary Sea Bard, California  
 Harriett Baird-Bartram, Wales  
 John V Beard, Alabama  
 Ronald Beard, Maine  
 Dorothy Biard, Washington DC  
 John A. Biard, Texas  
 Abigail Bixby, New York  
 Jill Baird Bixby, New York  
 Samantha Bixby, New York  
 Judith L. Bloom, Virginia  
 Paul Bloom, Virginia  
 James R. Buchan, Scotland  
 Adam Cadmarteri, Scotland  
 Linda Cattani, Ohio  
 Sandy Coyle, California  
 Philip Cox, Scotland  
 Wanda Curtis, Alabama  
 Ryan Davis, Maine  
 Kade McGarry-Davis, Maine  
 Zander Davis, Maine  
 Trudy Denham, Nebraska  
 Elijah Dollar, Alabama  
 Susan Exworthy, nee Baird  
 Leyton Donald Harrell, Tennessee  
 (new-born member, son of Hogan and Avy)  
 Scott Hay, Scotland  
 Lady Iona Hopkins, Scotland  
 Hudson Hopper, New York  
 Ian Hopper, New York  
 James Hopper, New York  
 Lois Baird Hopper, New York  
 Nash Hopper, New York  
 Helen Marie Ivey, Alabama  
 Ivey-Elise Ivey, Alabama  
 Sarah Christen Ivey, Alabama  
 Ailsa Kelly, England  
 Ciara Kelly, England  
 Katherine Baird Kelly, England  
 James Kerner, Alabama  
 Laura Lynn Kerner, Alabama

Crystal Midel, Tennessee  
 Holly Lay Yancey, Tennessee  
 Rose Saragh Murray, Kenya  
 (new-born daughter of Christopher and Louise Murray and granddaughter of Commander and Mrs. Richard Baird)  
 Steven Robertson, Oregon  
 Anastasia Segura, Arizona  
 Camaron Segura, Arizona  
 Charlotte Segura, Arizona  
 Dylan Baird Segura, Arizona  
 Michelle Simmons Ivy, Texas  
 Russell Simmons, Texas  
 Tony Simmons, Texas  
 Scott Sinclair, Missouri  
 Colin Snyder, Vermont  
 Kurt Snyder, Vermont  
 Karl Stadelmann, South Carolina  
 Liana Stadelmann, South Carolina  
 David P. Stockton, Washington  
 Ian Nigel Webb, England  
 Colonel Georgette Wilson,  
 US Army,  
 Retired, Rhode Island



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Foundation Financial Statement 4 <sup>th</sup> Quarter – 2020 October 1 through December 31, 2020	
Income:	
Donations	2472.59
Dividend Interest	.44
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Total Income for Period	2473.03
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Expense:	
PayPal Fees	16.26
<hr/>	
Total Expenses for Period	16.26
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Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	2456.77
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Cash in Bank/Last Report/Checking	546.25
Cash in Bank/Last Report/Savings	5.00
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Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	3008.02
Submitted by Branton Baird, Treasurer	

## OFFICERS & STAFF

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UK Commissioner for Clan Baird  
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2nd Vice President CBSW Foundation,  
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**Anna Ryan Ferguson**  
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arferg66@gmail.com

## NEWSLETTER DEADLINES

**Spring 2021 Issue**  
deadline March 31th

**Summer 2021 Issue**  
deadline June 30th

**Autumn 2021 Issue**  
deadline Sept 30th

**Winter 2022 Issue**  
deadline Dec 30th

**Please submit  
newsletter articles to:**

Heather Snyder at  
clanbairdsociety@yahoo.com  
hsnyder65@yahoo.com

**or mail to:**

Heather Snyder  
63 Northview Dr.  
Northfield, VT 05663  
USA

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

**Any questions about  
The Gryphon submissions  
please contact Heather at  
hsnyder65@yahoo.com**

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## WHERE TO FIND US

[clanbairdsociety.com](http://clanbairdsociety.com)

[clanbaird.org](http://clanbaird.org)

**The Pictish Boar Blog**

**Clan Baird Society Twitter**

**Clan Baird Society  
Worldwide Facebook page**

**Clan Baird Society  
Australia Facebook page**

**Clan Baird Society  
New Zealand Facebook page**

**Clan Baird Aotearoa  
Facebook page**

### Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Fourth Quarter - 2020  
Oct. 1 through Dec. 31, 2020

<b>Income:</b>	
Dues Received	1,630.00
Donation - Foundation	
Donation - Scarves & Ties	
Donation - Treasurer	
Coat of Arms donation to date:	\$46.00

<b>Total Income for Period</b>	<b>1,630.00</b>
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<b>Expense:</b>	
Advertising	150.00
President-Membership	
Annual Report Fee	
Scholarship	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	300.00
Games	
Ties & Scarves - UK	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	4.37

<b>Total Expenses for Period:</b>	<b>454.37</b>
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<b>Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:</b>	<b>1,175.63</b>
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<b>Cash in Bank - Last Report:</b>	<b>7,339.26</b>
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<b>Cash in Bank/Available Funds:</b>	<b>8,514.89</b>
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Submitted by:  
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide