

Newsletter of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide, Inc. | VOL. 51 / Issue 1/ Winter 2023

December in NEW ABERDOUR, SCOTLAND

Update on the Clan Baird Society Centre - Commercial - Dower Hotel

During the month of December, Clan Baird Society members, Debra Baird, Laura Lynn Kerner (our hotel strategic/business planner), her husband, Jim Kerner, Kate Baird Kelly, Ailsa Kelly, Branton Baird, Tracey Holley, Levi Yealock, and Seth, Rowan, and Lauren Burgess, traveled to New Aberdour to prepare the old hotel for renovation.

The highlight of the trip was our Clan Baird Christmas Ceilidh held on December 17th at the Aberdour Parish Hall. There were about 90 villagers and people from the surrounding area in attendance, as well as several clan baird members. Commander Richard, Polly, and our piper Adam were with us, as well as Joanne and Chris Ash (Jack Baird's daughter) from Lincolnshire.

Entertainment at the party was splendid! The band Beyond Boyndie played (included our own John Woodside, Jim



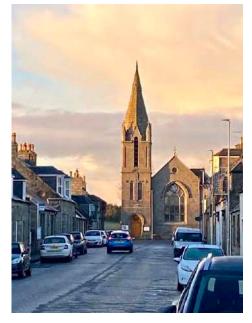
Buchan, and Bob Watson), Peter Chapman and his wife Edie Watson Chapman were with us, and Peter gave a wonderful rendition of several Doric ballads as well as poems.



Peter Chapman and the Beyond Boyndie band entertained the guests at the Christmas Ceilidh.

Kirsty Howie, a young lady from the village, played the guitar and sang, accompanied by Bob Watson on the accordion. Adam Cadmarteri, the Clan Baird Piper from Stonehaven, also played for us. One of the village pipers, Sarah-Jayne Morrice, played outside as we gathered, and we very much appreciated her fine work. Kirsteen Watson, Claire Harper, Isobel Watson, and Emma Colledge all helped in the kitchen, where our chef Jill Summers was finishing the Cullen Skink and Broth. Katherine Harper prepared some of the Cullen Skink beforehand. We appreciated the help of all the ladies and gentlemen who contributed to the food.





New Aberdour street view

We found the old hotel in rather dismal shape but did secure some of the historic items that were found inside, and plan to return in March to secure some doors and larger items before the final clean out down to the rock. We

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are currently seeking planning permissions to continue our work from the Aberdeenshire and Community Councils. Our architect, Ian Rodger, is finalizing the plans for the building use, and we hope all will be settled by the end of



February 2023, so that we can move forward.

The water damage from the central gutter leakage is our main problem, but we have found that the entire roof must be reworked. Thankfully, many of the slates can be repurposed and reused in the new roof. Many of the old timbers must be reinforced with new timbers close by, but we plan to save as much of the original structure as possible. There is a treatment we can do for wormwood, so that the historic timbers and other wooden parts of the building can be retained.

According to workmen who were there, the rock structure of the building is unbelievably sound and only the inside must be renovated, which we had planned to do anyway. Getting the roof sound is our next part of the project, and the building watertight.

Grants are being prepared for help with the renovation since the building is a



class B historic site. It is hoped the Aberdeenshire Council and the Community Councils will help us develop the old hotel into our Baird Centre and a community centre for the village of New Aberdour.

We appreciate the continued efforts of Bob and Isobel Watson, Ross and Doreen Baird, our Commander Richard Baird, Corinne and Phil Cox, Gordon and Claire

> Harper, Bill and Lynn Pitt, Graeme Bruce, John Woodside, and Jim Buchan, as well as all those who have done so much preparatory/ongoing work for us to be successful with this project. We all hated to leave the villagers and the work, but alas, our jobs called us home. We plan to be back in the summer, for more work and progress toward getting our hotel open and running.











Dear Members,

Winter in Scotland is the time for hibernation and I am very good at it ?! I was woken by a posse of American Bairds descending on New Aberdour over Christmas, to start work on the Baird Centre, which is part of the old Dower Hotel.

The renovations will commence over the next couple of years and hopefully we will have an opening ceremony in the foreseeable future to commission it to receive all Bairds and their friends as a base in Aberdeenshire.

As you will read, Polly and I have a new Grandson and although he is a Murray, he is also part Baird and we welcome him to the Clan. I have yet to meet him, but Polly and our daughter, Amelia are travelling to Kenya in March and will report back.

I am already looking forward to welcoming Bairds worldwide to Scotland in August 2023 and hope we will make our presences known at the Aboyne Highland Games, where we will again host a Baird tent in the Clan area.

Best wishes to all for 2023 and beyond.

Best regerds Riserd



George Angus Murray 20th Dec 2022

Congratulation to Commander Baird who now has a grandson!

His daughter, Louise, husband Topper and "big sister" Rose welcomed a boy into the world in December. They live near Nanyuki, Kenya.



George Angus Murray



Renovation work on the Baird Centre, which is part of the old Dower Hotel.



Baby George, sister Rose and Louise Murray



The 51st Alexandria Virginia Scottish Christmas Walk

The weekend is in recognition of Alexandria's founding by Scottish merchants who stepped off a boat on a rainy but cheerful December morning in Alexandria Virginia. Many colorful tartans were in full display and Clan Baird Society Worldwide was well represented with Clan members, family and friends. Bruce Beard, Virginia State Director was joined by his family as well as CBSW members Greg and Denise Baird and Amanda McGrady whose mother and grandfather are Bairds,



with Amanda driving to Alexandria from Fredericksburg, Virginia. Bruce's cousin and CBSW member Kevin Harryman joined in the parade as well. Though it was a rainy, very "Scottish-like" weather in the morning, as expected, the sun came out just as the parade got underway and Clan Baird looked very smart with the new CBSW banner leading the way of our merry group. Good time had by all.



The First Presbyterian Church of Myrtle Beach celebrates Heritage Day the last Sunday of October each year. This celebration includes parading our Clan Banners into the chapel. Currently, the church has 94 Clan Banners which have been bought and donated by the members of the congregation.

On October 30th Bill Rodgers had the honor of carrying the Baird Banner which is the Ancient Tartan. All 94 banners were presented during the celebration.



Bairds at the Beach House, New Aberdor, Scotland. L to R: Debra Baird, Corinne Cox, Bob Watson, Branton Baird, and Corinne's mother, Catherine.





AUCHMEDDEN CHURCH AT PENNAN FOR CHRISTMAS SERVICE ON DECEMBER 18TH





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ON THE HUNT FOR A BAIRD HERO Isaac Baird, Convenor, CBS USA

On Nov 7, 2018, the Royal family tweeted the following:

rificed their lives for the homeland and country. It is a simple message but one that renders emotion. On the front lines and mired in the horrific



The **#RoyalArchives** has this message from Major Baird, which reads: "All ranks 1st Battn The Gordon Highlanders beg you will lay before His Majesty their most loyal and respectful greetings"

This message originated from a Major Baird, the commanding officer of the 1st Gordon Highlanders, during the Great War, or WWI. A message of loyalty to country and sovereign, it echoes the traditions of the loyal highland soldiers from the earliest

known records of warriors which sac-

"C" Form (Duplicat AND SHONALS I Gordon beglande PLACE THE Royal Archives

trench warfare of WWI, this Major Baird wanted to relay his unit's loyalty and respect. The author of this message is a Baird Hero who deserves to be remembered.

In August of the 1914, the 1st battalion of the Gordon Highlanders were stationed in Plymouth when the war started. They immediately embarked for France, landing at Boulogne. They trekked through Belgium and 8 days later, on August 23rd, they met the invading German army.

The Gordon Highlanders inflicted heavy

casualties on the attacking force. However due to superior numbers, British leadership determined that the army needed to retire. The Gordon Highlanders outnumbered and outgunned, faced the German army that stormed on to the fields in waves. British forces fell back but days later, while marching to regroup, they faced the German army again.

Chaos erupted on the battlefield and in communication lines. In retreating, the British II Corp separated from the British Expeditionary Force (BEF). Sir Douglas Haig, commander of the BEF overestimating the German forces, continued retreating for five full days. The II Corp, with the enemy closing in, decided to turn and fight. Orders to continue retreating came but were rejected.



Figure 1. Gordon Highlanders in Plymouth 1914. Wikimedia

On the 26th of August, three days later, the German forces attacked exhausted troops at the Battle of Le Cateau. The battle proved disastrous for the Gordon Highlanders. Realizing that the I Corp would not support them, General Smith-Dorrien determined they would strike the German army and continue retreating. His subordinates either misunderstood the orders or ignored them. Some units received orders to hold at all costs while others received the order to retreat hours later. While the II Corp was able to the escape, the Gordon Highlanders were decimated or captured.

At this lowest moment, the Gordon Highlanders were forced to regroup. Reinforcements came from Scotland and from Egypt to rebuild the 1st battalion. The 2nd Battalion arrived from Egypt in October and immediately engaged the German forces at the 1st Battle of Ypres. Trench warfare began and both sides dug

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in for a fight that lasted over 1 month. Heavy casualties occurred on both sides with German forces losing up to 134,000 men while the allies lost a comparable amount. After one month of fighting, the battle lines had shifted slightly. New tactics, weapons, artillery, and the industrial revolution brought the horror of battle to a new level. The fields of Flanders faced its first wave of death. It is here that we see the first information regarding a Major Baird commanding the Gordon Highlander. The Harriestsham History Society shared the following transcript online:

Dear Mrs. Buckingham

It is with the greatest sorrow that I write to tell you of your husband's death. It was on November 17th, and our position was being heavily shelled by German Artillery. Your husband, with two officers of the Wiltshire Regt was taking shelter in a dug-out, when suddenly a German shell fell right on top of the dug-out, killing your husband and one other officer, and very dangerously wounding the third.

I need not tell you how deeply the whole Regiment, officers, and men alike, have felt and will feel his loss. We have lost a sterling friend and splendid officer, whose whole heart was in his duty.

We have buried him in a wood, close to where he fell. The place has been enclosed and marked with a wooden cross. The spot where he lies is in a little wood, not far from the road which leads from Ypres to Menin, S.E. of the village of Hooge.

Yours Sincerely,

Major Walter Baird Commander, 1st Battalion Gordon Highlanders

This heartfelt letter, and the message shared by the Royal Family, begins to give us clues as to the identify of this

HOMECOMING OF CAPT. A. W. F. BAIRD, D.S.O.

REJOICINGS AT URIE.

There were many manifestations of rejoicing last Wednesday on the estate of Une and in the town of Stonehaven on the occasion of the homecoming from the war in South Africa of Chptain Alexander Manual Bostianal Harrd D.S.O., of the Gordon Highlanders, second son of Sir Laborander Band of Unie and Ricksroon, Bart. Captain Paired who is about 25 years of age, has been absent from Unie for about four years, and has gone through the war in South Africa from/ beginning to end.

When the North British Rashway train steamed into Stonekaves Station a large growd of repro centulive citizene had assembled to welcome the gallant young officer on his arrival. The captain, on stepping on to the glandorm, was greeted by his in ther, Sir Glassadad Barrell Bart, and subse-quently by his sisters, Mise Barrel and Miss Nora Epord. The captain also met, and shock hands with, a number of the representative others of biomehaven and district, who greeted him with Outeude she band. bearty obsers. etation 2 arowd had assembled ITISE: Inggo greeted which, notwithetandong heavy the. was falling at the DERI-P. and hinery wum UN-TU

after an absence of nearly four years, and t ceive such a webcome; and if there is snyth that could have added to this pleasure it is to such signs of continued youth, health, and p perity on the faces of the tenants, employ, and friends with whom my thoughts of he have been incoparable hound up (Oheers) Big Electronic Band cald—I have to thank ; most warmly for the hearty welcome you h given to my son to day. I should not like t given to my son to-day. we should separate without bearing in m that the country has been relieved from a he cloud of anniety; that we are no longer spondent in our hope for the King's period covery. (Cheers.) The whole mason breat a sigh of relief onen we icarned that I Majesty was no longer in any danger " eyes of Europe, the eyes of the easure, inde the eyes of the whole world, were turned Buckingham Palace, where His Majesty lay suffering. I ask you all to give three hea chests for the long life of the King. (Chests The call for cheers was very heartily respond to, and the band played "God Save the Kim Thereafter, with his usual hospitality, Elemanded Band areaged for a number of

company being supplied with refreshments Urse Horas. The whole proceedings, notw etsnding the heavy min, ware very excession In the evening a bonfire was ht in the We

head Park, on the Unic estate, in honour of (tain Raud's homeooming. The rain had cea and the evening was finn. There was a lattendance of the tannotry and others when There was a li bonfire was lit at ten o'clock, and there was go On Thursday a reception was half Wheream ?

in connection with the vest of HE Mighness

Figure 2. Aberdeen Press and Journal - Homecoming of Capt. A.W.F Baird 18th Battilion Middlsex Infantry Archives

"There were many manifestations of rejoicing last Wednesday on the estate of Urie [Sic Ury] and in the town of Stonehaven on the occasion of the homecoming from the war in South Africa of Captain Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird of Urie and Rickarton, Bart. Captain Baird, who is about 26 years of age, has been absent from Urie for about four years, and has gone through the war in South Africa from beginning to end.

When the North British Railway trained steam into Stonehaven Station a large crowd of representative citizens had assembled to welcome the gallant young officer on his arrival. The captain, on stepping on to the platform, was greeted by his father, Sir Alexander Baird, Bart, and subsequently by his sisters, Miss Baird, and Miss Nora Baird. The captain also met, and shook hands with, a number of representative citizens of Stonehaven and district, who greeted him hearty cheers. Outside the station buildings, a large crowd had assembled notwithstanding the heavy rain which was falling at the time and greet the captain in a very heart manner..."

Major Baird. In WWI, and Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird, known as Walter, served with the Gordon Highlanders with distinction and may have given a greater gift to all members of Clan Baird.

Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird, or A.W.F Baird, epitomized a movie action star hero. Born in 1876 to Sir Alexander Baird of Ury and the Hon. Annette Palk in Scotland, he attended Eton and graduated from Oxford. Opportunity and privilege abounded but he decided to pursue a career the Army in the

infantry. Upon entering the military, he became a second Lieutenant and served in the 2nd Boer war with the Gordon Highlanders, in South Africa. During the South African War, 1899-1901, he took part in operations in Natal, 1899, including actions at Lombard's Kop, the Defense of Ladysmith and Laing's Nek. He was mentioned in dispatches four times, received the Queen's Medal with three clasps and the King's Medal with two clasps.

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Figure 3. Ury House, the home of Captain A.W.F. Baird

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He received the rank of Brevet Major in 1902, and was then created a Companion of the Distinguished Service Order, according to the London Gazette for "For valuable services in the Intelligence Department". By the end of the war just four years after graduating college, he was promoted to Captain. When he returned home at 26 years of age, he was celebrated as a hero.

While home, he married and began a family. He served then in Afghanistan in the Mohmand Expedition in 1908 as an adjutant for the Gordon Highlanders before ending up in Egypt. Egypt held a special place in the heart of the Baird's of Ury. Sir Alexander, an Arabic scholar and diplomat, held a home outside of Cairo. The family regularly spent time in Egypt and A.W.F. Baird's sister become a prominent person in the region. Our hero, A.W.F. Baird, joined the family in Egypt but not on holiday but rather he continued to serve in the military in Egypt.

In WWI, he was highly decorated and rose from Major to Colonel and became a Brigade Commander. He was mentioned in dispatches 9 times during WWI. This brings us back to the Battle of Ypres where Sir John French, Commander of British Expeditionary Forces stated that:

"The Gordon Highlanders with great gallantry advanced up the Maedelsteed Spur, forcing the enemy to evacuate his front trench. They were, however, losing heavily, and found themselves unable to get any further. At nightfall they were obliged to fall backAlthough not successful, the operation was most creditable to the fighting spirit of the Gordon Highlanders, most ably commanded by Major A.W.F. Baird, DSO."

The message to the Royal Family, came for the son of Sir Alexander Baird of Ury and Rickarton, who was the great uncle of the current commander of Clan Baird, Richard Holman Baird of Rickarton.

A.W.F. Baird continued fighting for the duration of the war. The Gordon Highlanders saw action in multiple campaigns and battles including at Amiens and the Somme Offensive in 1916 where over 57,000 casualties were incurred. He advanced to the rank of Lt. Colonel and rose to the rank of Brigadier General later in life. He was appointed a companion of the order of St. Michael and St. George as well as a companion of the Order of Bath. In 1930, he traveled to the United States, before returning home and passing away tragically at 54 years of age in 1931 to a car accident.

The Gordon Highlanders had a long tradition with the Bairds of Ury and Rickarton. Nina Isabel Baird, an extremely talented artist, entrepreneur, early 20th century diplomat (and one who deserves her own article) and sister of

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Figure 4. Sir Alexander Baird of Ury Reviewing the Gordon Highlanders in Stonehaven. Artist Nina Isabel Baird (1882-1919). Photo credit: The Gordon Highlanders Museum



Bridadier-General Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird

Continued from age 8

A.W.F. Baird, painted the review of the Gordon Highland troops in Stonehaven as a young woman before the family moved to Egypt. The Bairds of Ury were clearly not just another family but rather a prominent family in the Gordon Highlanders.

It is during this time that our Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird returned home and fell in love with Maud Constance in 1907. This is interesting because it is directly at this time that this occurred, the Baird Tartan first appears in the historical record. According to Scot Millsom, a tartan expert and proprietor of the Granite City Highland wear in Aberdeen, the Baird tartan first appeared in A.W. Johnston's book "The Tartans of the Clans and Septs of Scotland with the Arms of the Chiefs" but did not appear in the 1886 version. It was roughly at this time the Highlander society of London collected their sample. One theory proposed is that the Baird tartan is based on the Gordon Regimental tartan with the main difference being a change in the black striping and the colors of the yellow/purple striping. If this were true, it may be that it corresponds with the homecoming of our hero and his subsequent marriage. However, there is not specific documentation confirming this at this time and there may be other origins.

Regardless of whether the Baird Tartan derives from A. W. F. Baird, or from a different source, Brigadier- General Alexander Walter Fredrick Baird was a hero of WWI. He is rose through the ranks and faced multiple campaigns and wars in which he was victorious. His career was shortened by a tragic death and he was buried near the Houff Mausoleum, the traditional burial site for the Bairds of Ury and Rickarton, at Ury near Stonehaven. He is one of our Baird heroes, honored by the Royal Family and the British Government, and deserves not to be forgotten.





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Figure 5 Comparison of the Baird Ancient and Old Gordon Ancient Tartans. Scott Millsom

THE LEADER, FRIDAY, JULY 18, 1997

All roads lead to Stonehaven for Sunday's Highland Games

THOUSANDS of spectators are expected to flock to Mineralwell Park in Stonehaven this Sunday for the Aberdeenshire Councilsponsored Highland Games.

The organisers are promising an even bigger and better show for what has become Kincardineshire's great family summer day-out.

The Games start at 11am and go on until 5pm in the evening.

The spacious show grounds cover a large part of the field, and there are plenty of parking spaces available at Baird Park. It is readily accessible as it is situated next to the main road and within easy walking distance of the showground via the footbridge over the Cowie Burn, recently built near the former Commodore Hotel.

Parking is free and admission to the games is only £2 for adults and £1 for concessions. The feature of the programme is, of course, all the traditional Highland Games events caber tossing, hammer throwing, tug o' war, drumming, piping, Highland dancing and athletics.

Many children's and adults' athletic events are planned on an open basis and you can enter on the day. There are lots of prizes on offer.

The kilted 'Heavy' athletes will be competing and throwing in the prestigious Glenfildich Qualifying competition rounds, as well as for local prizes and records. The Glenfildich is a roll-over tournament contested at all the major Highland Games in Scotland to decide an overall winner at the end of the summer.

There are also fine prizes and top class competitors expected in the drumming, individual piping and Highland Dancing tournaments. The Highland Dancing will have an additional interest as young members of Clan Baird from U.S.A. will be welcomed. These dancers from America will be pitting their skills against local dancers.

They are members of a party of about 53 Bairds who are to be at the Games as part of the 25th anniversary of the setting up of their society by the late Earl of Kintore of Rickarton House.

The party, led by Dale Baird, sen., of Denver, Colorado, are also hoping to parade around the ring, before sampling the unique Stonehaven atmosphere! Chieftain of the Games is the last Commanding Officer of the Gordon Highlanders, Lt. General Sir Peter Graham, and the Games Convener is Councillor Mrs Doreen Ewing,

They will be piped around the Park by our own award-winning Stonehaven Pipe Band.

Keeping the fun going throughout the afternoon will be well known radio personality Robbie Shepherd, an expert M.C.

The tug o'war competition is sponsored by the Royal Insurance Co. and teams are expected from all over Scotland as part of a 10venue competition series being staged at Games this year.

Highland Dancing convener is Eileen Lindsay. Dancing will start at 12pm in 10 disciplines, covering several age groups from nine-year-olds to adults.

A big attraction in recent times at Stonehaven Highland Games are the wide range of stalls and tents, and food and drink outlets set up around and beyond the ring.

This year's Highland Games include a Bike Bash and many sideshows and stalls, most of them manned by local charity and club organisations. They provide an added attraction to the entertainment that is going on continuously in the show ring from 11am until 5pm.

Games secretary Mrs Jean Smith-Gorman is convinced that she and her associates have set up another winner this year.

If you go along to the Mineralwell Park on Sunday, you are sure to agree that this year's Stonehaven Highland Games has something to cheer up and entertain young and old - and in the traditional Scots style!



Aberdeenshire



Clan Baird tent at the 2022 Aboyne Highland Games in Aboyne, Scotland



2022 Quechee Highland Games, in Quechee, Vermont



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Our Aims

- to celebrate locally and nationally the centenary of the invention of television by John Logie Baird in 1925-26.
- to educate people as to his significance and the roles which he played in the development of television until his death in 1946.
- to reintroduce one of the key inventors of the 20th century.
- to present his little-known wider body of inventions.
- to explain in what ways his inventions have influenced the development of television since his death.
- to inspire the next generation of John Logie Baird fans.

John Logie Baird –

The Life and Achievements of a Master Inventor

- 1888 Born in Helensburgh
- 1906-14 Student in Glasgow
- 1925 Invention of Television
- 1926 World's First Public Demonstration of Television
- 1926 World's First Video Recordings
- 1926 Infra-Red Night-Sight and Fibre Optics
- 1928 World's First Trans-Atlantic Television Transmission
- 1946 Dies; buried in Helensburgh

Patron: Lord McFall of Alcluith





1925 -2025

What To Expect in 2025-2026

 World class physical, digital and audio exhibitions, both locally and nationally.

- Conference in Helensburgh
- Innovation awards
- Schools programme

Creative and collaborative programmes across Scotland
Something for everyone – families, children and experts

Who we are

a Scottish Charitable
Incorporated Organisation
(SC051167)
initiated by people in
Helensburgh; now with
experts from elsewhere
including John Logie Baird's
son Malcolm and grandson
lain

Contact: Stewart Noble snobleg84@gmail.com



Helensburgh Library Televisor

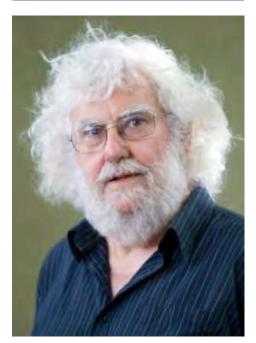




Sir Charles William Stuart Baird 6th Baronet 8th June 1939 – 14th August 2022

Sir Charles was a man of the world born in 1939 at Haddington in Scotland, one of the seats of the Baird clan and then brought up in Bermuda, educated in USA, England and Switzerland, met his to-be wife in Spain, married in England and emigrated to Australia where he lived the rest of his life. He married Jane Bridge, daughter of Brigadier A Darley Bridge, at the Guards Chapel in London in 1965 and had 3 daughters; Tara, Senta and Petra. Tragically, Senta died earlier in 2022.

In Australia he set up and ran a successful cleaning agency - where the employees happily called themselves "Charlie's Angels". Horse racing was a passion of his and one of his horses, "Lennoxlove" - named after the Baird house in Haddington - won 21 races. He was outgoing, gregarious, good natured and loved talking to people. He also loved food and wine and had an encyclopedic knowledge of wine, grapes and wineries and was an avid reader of restaurant reviews. He was one of life's great storytellers and had lots of crazy stories which he very much enjoyed telling, particularly to strangers. A sample of stories include being given a Gin and Tonic by Salvador Dali at the Georges V hotel in Paris or coaching Charlton Heston at tennis in Bermuda... In 2001 he inherited the Baird Baronetcy from his Uncle David and often threatened to put the title to good use in securing scarce restaurant reservations. He will be sorely missed by friends and family. The heir presumptive of the Baird Baronetcy is Andrew Baird, 4th cousin to Sir Charles.



Aonghas MacNeacail at the Edinburgh International Book Festival in 2014. Image: Russell G Sneddon/Writer Pictures.

A true loss to Scottish culture': Award-winning Gaelic poet Aonghas MacNeacail dies aged 80

First written by Denny Andonova in the Press & Journal, Aberdeen Scotland

Mr MacNeacail, also known as Aonghas Dubh or Black Angus, was a leading voice in Gaelic poetry for decades, playing a central role in preserving it for future generations. He was born in Uig on the Isle of Skye in 1942 but lived for many years in the Scottish Borders with his wife, the actor and singer Gerda Stevenson, and their family. Mr MacNeacail took his first, and probably most important, steps to his future career in the 1960s, when a Langside College teacher introduced him to contemporary Gaelic and English poetry.

While most of his work is in both languages, he devoted his life to bringing Gaelic back to the world stage, holding poetry readings at major literary festivals across the globe. His poems, plays and scripts for television and radio have been widely translated and have appeared in many magazines and anthologies both in the UK and abroad.

Mr MacNeacail won the prestigious Scottish Writer of the Year Stakis Prize with his third collection, Oideachadh Ceart (A Proper Schooling and other poems), in 1997. Throughout his career, he has received three Scottish Arts Council writers' bursaries, and was awarded a Society of Authors Travelling Scholarship in 2003.

As an established lyricist and librettist, Mr MacNeacail has collaborated, in both folk and classical idioms, with many of Scotland's top composers and visual artists. These include Phil Cunningham, Donald Shaw, William Sweeney and Ronald Stevenson, as well as Calum Colvin and Will MacLean. Mr MacNeacail was always keen to inspiring a love for Gaelic in future generations and regularly ran writers' workshops for pupils in schools, colleges and universities.

Tributes pour in for 'giant of Gaelic' Tributes have now poured in on social media for the "brilliant, warm and funny" poet, who "saw Scotland vividly and loved this crazy place".

"Our thoughts and condolences go out to Gerda and the family. As a founder of the SPL, and a bright light on Scotland's poetry scene for decades, he'll be hugely missed. RIP.





Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

We welcome the following to Clan Baird Society Worldwide

New Members since Autumn 2022

Aaron Leon Baird, Michigan David Baird, Michigan James Baird, Georgia Joseph Baird, Texas Walter Eugene Baird V, Tennessee Walter Eugene Baird VI, Tennessee Walter Eugene Baird IV, Tennessee William Daniel Baird, Michigan Janet Brydson, Scotland J. Ryan Duffy, Virginia Gerri Gould, Minnesota Mary Ann Gwin, Washington Peter John Hodgkins, Wales Hayley Hodgkins, Wales Chad Holdsclaw, North Carolina Yuliya Holdsclaw, North Carolina Meg Jones, Alabama John Klute, Ohio Samantha Knight, Georgia Corinne Lapan, New Hampshire Sue Majer, Pennsylvania Amanda Baird McGrady, Virginia Andrew Baird McGrady, Virginia Angela Morrice, Scotland Lori Morton, South Carolina Reginald Morton, South Carolina Laura Nevin, California Linda Nevin, California William Nevin, California Margaret Nichols, Virginia June Phillips, Virginia Rachel Pinson, Georgia Rebecca Puzig, Georgia Cathy Shafer, Virginia



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For every purchase you make, MypersonalJewellery will give CBSW £20 commision per item donation to the Society.

Follow these links to our bespoke Baird jewellery.

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NECKLACE CBSW Member Design

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Baird and Naesmyth **DNA Study**

CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

HOSTED BY: ANCESTRAL SPOTLIGHT AND BRANCHES IN TIME GENEOLOGY



Go to:

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

Income:		
	Dues Received Donation - Foundation Donation - Scarves & Ties	785.00
	Coat of Arms donation to date: \$46.00	
Total Inc	come for Period	785.00
Expense: Advertising Website Services - 3 to 4 months Annual Report Fee Scholarship Genealogy		170.70
Gryphon		300.00
Games Ties & Scarves - UK		135.00
PayPal fees		28.40
Total Expenses for Period:		634.10
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:		150.90
Cash in Bank - Last Report:		4,859.54
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:		5,010.44
Submitted by: Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide		



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Spring 2023 Issue Deadline May 15th

Summer 2023 Issue Deadline July 15th

Autumn 2023 Issue Deadline October 31st

Winter 2024 Issue Deadline February 1st

Please submit newsletter articles to:

Heather Snyder at clanbairdpublicist@yahoo.com

or mail to:

Heather Snyder 63 Northview Dr. Northfield, VT 05663 USA

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

Any questions about The Gryphon submissions please contact Heather at

clanbairdpublicist@yahoo.com

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