



# Baird Heritage

## Archival Home of Clan Baird of Scotland

(Baard, Baird, Bard, Barde, Beard)

info@BairdHeritage.com



Clan systems today are very different from the practices of Scotland's Highlanders and Islanders of the Middle Ages. While those venerable constructs are quite interesting and historically significant to the development of Scotland, it doesn't help us much today as we look forward to a time when we kinsmen will have a Chief for the Name of Baird. So for the purposes of contemporary accuracy, we will not lament the evolutionary restructuring of clan systems, but instead, embrace the current legally regulated laws that are administered and controlled by Scotland's Court of the Lord Lyon.

- Karen Baird Vierra, March 22, 2019

## CLAN STRUCTURE

### Lyon Court

This Scottish Court maintains the Public Register of All Arms and Bearings in Scotland, is responsible for reviewing petitions to determine the granting of Letters Patent for new Arms, the Extracts of Matriculation of previously granted Arms, grants for the dignity of Chief, and, within a limited criteria, the appointment of Commander for a Clan without a Chief or rarely, the designation of Chieftain. Among many other duties, there are officers who oversee Family Conventions.

### Chief

In the case of the Scottish Surname of Baird, the Lyon Court determined that the Arms registered in 1672 to Sir James Baird, 5<sup>th</sup> of Auchmedden are the "undifferenced" Arms for the surname of Baird. Therefore, the primogeniture descendant of this line is the person eligible to matriculate the Arms and thereafter receive the dignity of Chief of the Surname of Baird. Additionally, the Court recognized that, of the two descending armigers branching from Auchmedden, the Newbyth line had ended without an heir, making the Saughtonhall stirp the senior cadet line. Today, the person who appears to be the most direct descendent is Sir James Andrew Gardiner Baird, 11<sup>th</sup> Bt. of Saughtonhall. As of August 2020, Sir James has filed his Petition and it awaits the Lord Lyon's consideration.

### Lieutenants

Some Chiefs appoint the head of a *gilfines* or branch to serve as a Chieftain. Today, that person is more likely to be titled Lieutenant. Since Baird currently has no Chief, we have no Chieftains/Lieutenants. These individuals serve at the request of the Chief.

### Heads of Houses, Branches, & Armigers

The head of a House of Baird is the eldest living descendant of that House. If that House has more than one junior branch (referred to as a stirp), the head of that cadet line can be recognized. An Armiger is a person who possesses a legally registered Scottish Coat of Arms. That individual may be the head of his House, or his Stirp, or a private citizen for whom the Lord Lyon of Scotland granted a Coat of Arms. A Chief may recognize any or all of these.

### Commander

In the case of a chiefless clan, the Lyon Court can appoint a Commander via a process now termed a Family Convention. A Commander's duties are limited. He is commissioned for the purposes of uniting the Clan and searching for, and supporting, the person most eligible to matriculate the Chiefly Arms and thereby be granted the dignity of Chief.

### **Clanswomen & Clansmen**

Clansmanship is a birthright and is not dependent upon joining a club or society. Specific to Clan Baird, we are all the community of Baird & Bard, along with our kinsmen of various spellings, our extended families, and all those who have been accepted by the Chief.

### **Clan Organizations**

Specific to Baird, organizations created to support and assist the Clan Baird Community, the Commander, and in the future, the Chief. Examples of Baird Organization are: Baird Heritage and Clan Baird Society Worldwide.