

Flight of the Baird

Submitted by Isaac Baird ~

On the wide open sand of Ettrick Bay, in 1910, an engineering marvel from a small island village took flight and changed the United Kingdom. At the age of 25, 1887, a young Blacksmith opened his shop on the small island of Rothesay (Baile Bòid) in the highlands and began the work of shoeing horses for the local population. Born in in Sandhead, in Galloway, Andrew Blain Baird's life already bore the hallmarks of a restless soul looking to be free. He worked in the shipyard in Clyde, and in a light house in Lismore (Lios Mòr).

For a normal person, this would be the story of poor country blacksmith slugging out a living as industry and technology reduced his place in the world. Andrew Baird, the uncommon sort, instead slugged back. Driven by a dream to design and invent, this highland bound blacksmith demonstrated the innate Scottish Engineering ability to design, invent and engineer.

Andrew Baird stared into the sky and dreamt larger than before. Spurred by news of air flight, Andrew could not be held back by the fears of failure or ignorance. He corresponded with the top aeronautical engineers, as well as aviation pioneers, such as Louis Bleriot, the first man to cross the English Channel in a heavier-than-air flight. In October of 1909, he even traveled to England for the first ever Aviation Week. He may even have met the leader of the oldest Aeronautical Engi-

neering society, the Royal Aeronautical Society led by Baden Baden-Powell, the brother of Robert Baden-Powell. For the average person, such an event would have been enough to discourage. For Andrew Baird, the trip enflamed his passion for flight. He returned even more dedicated to his cause, determined to build a monoplane equal to Bleriot. The next summer, after toiling



1910
INSPIRE UT ASPIRE

on his plan, Andrew emerged from his shop, not as a Blacksmith but as the premier, but unknown, Scottish Aeronautical Engineer. With him, the Baird Monoplane sallied forth to go on display at the Esplanade Flower Garden. Finally, Andrew moved his plane to the Bute Highland Games on August 20, 1910.

The day arrived on September 17, 1910 to move to the landing strip. Using a horse drawn wagon, the Baird Monoplane arrived on the beach at Ettrick Bay. He started the plane with the help of another engineer, Ned Striven. The plane taxied along the sandy beach, increasing in speed before lifting into the air. Andrew Baird, the Blacksmith turned Aeronautical Engineer and Pilot, achieved the dream of not only the first heavier-than-air flight in Scotland but also the first Scottish Monoplane. Upon gaining altitude, disaster struck.

The plane listed to the left during taxing and as the plane rose, the plane over corrected to the right and swooped down clipping the sand. Andrew Baird crashed into the earth after short but successful flight. He designed the plane so well that there was little damage despite plummeting to the earth in a monoplane with only a tubular frame covered in silk. According to Flight Magazine, the experience of crashing was not uncommon, even amongst experienced pilots. Andrew Baird was a success.

If the story ended here, it would be amazing. However, Andrew Baird changed the course of the United Kingdom. While his plane sat in the Highland games, a man named Tommy Sopwith sailed his yacht into to the harbor. He examined the Baird Monoplane and gained permission to use many of its advancements into his own design. Sopwith would found one of the first Aviation Manufacturing companies that would later supply the famous Sopwith Camel in WWI and thus revolutionizing how the world moved both in peace and at war.

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Ceud Mìle Fàilte!
(100,000 Welcomes)

**We welcome to our
Clan the following:**

- Alexandra Baird, Virginia
- Colin George Graham Baird, Ontario, Canada
- Dana Baird, North Carolina
- Douglas Carroll Baird, B.C. Canada
- M. Eugene Baird, Alabama
- James O. Baird, Alabama
- Joan Lynn Baird, Georgia
- John Baird, New Zealand
- Lester B. Baird, Florida
- Ralph William Baird, Virginia
- Renee Baird, Iowa
- Robert Baird, Pennsylvania
- Penny Carpenter, Washington
- Patti Baird Fields, Alabama
- Amanda Johnson, Alabama
- B.B. McDowell, Colorado
- Lani Dollar, Alabama
- Matthew Dollar, Alabama
- Shawn Olson, Montana
- Ann Baird Quinn, Washington
- Jon Stansbury, Alabama
- Sean Wise, California
- John Baird, New Zealand
- Laurie Baird, Georgia

**Clan Baird Society
General Meeting 2017
Grandfather Mountain
Highland Games
July 6th-9th**

Clan Baird Society will hold its general meeting at Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina, July 6th-9th, 2017. The general meeting became an every-other-year event with the voted changes to the By-Laws passed in October 2015 at the Stone Mountain Highland Games General Meeting of the Society. All members are encouraged to attend the general meetings of the Society and join in our work. The 2017 General Business Meeting will be Saturday, July 8th, in the Chief's Tent, at the park. Look for the sign at the Baird Tent for meeting time and place.

Join us for the fun and enjoyment of being with family you might not now know, but will now know well when you leave the gathering!

The website for information is:
www.gmhg.org/homepage.shtml

Visitor Information may be found at:
www.gmhg.org/visitorinfo



Annual Meeting Events

**May 20, 2017
Clan Baird Society
Meeting in Scotland**

Clan Baird Society will be meeting at the Boat Inn Restaurant in Aboyne, Aberdeenshire on May 20, 2017 at noon. All members are invited. The U.S. group that arrives in Gardenstown (near the old Auchmedden Estate) on May 16th will be there, as well as many of our members from Scotland and England. Please plan to attend if possible.

**July 8, 2017
Annual
Clan Baird Society
Meeting at the
Grandfather
Mountain Games**

The U.S. side of our 2017 meeting will be at the Grandfather Mountain Games, MacRae Meadows, near Linville, North Carolina, on Saturday, July 8th. Please come by the Baird Tent to get directions and time of the meeting. We hope to see each of you this spring and summer!



clanbairdsociety.com



Message from the President

Greetings members! Spring has arrived early in our part of the world; it is hoped that you are also enjoying some milder weather and some beautiful flowers. We won't mention the pollen that comes with all those blooms.

The Baird group making the pilgrimage home to Scotland in mid-May is ready, I believe. We have studied and planned as much as possible and very much appreciate the great help we have received from Scotland, in the form of Richard



Holman-Baird, Ross Baird, Andrew Baird, and Jack Baird, as well as Bob Watson and Bill and Lynn Pitt. They have all been most gracious in inviting us to visit with them, and suggesting places and things we need to see or experience.

We will have a general meeting in Scotland at noon on May 20th at the Boat Inn Restaurant in Aboyne, Aberdeenshire. All are welcome to attend. We mailed paper invitations to those in Scotland, England, and Canada, as well as the American members traveling over, but all Baird's are invited to be part of the meeting, should you be in Scotland that day.

The biennial general meeting in America this summer will be on Saturday, July 8th, at the Grandfather Mountain Games in Lineville, North Carolina. Please plan to be with us if possible. If you have read the Outlander series of books, a gathering such as this one is referred to in the later books. The Grandfather Mountain games are considered to be the largest in North America, and we look forward to having our hospitality tent ready for any of our kin who arrive. We will be setting up the tent on Thursday, and are looking for people to help man it during

the four days of the festival. Please let me know if you can help us.

I have heard from several smaller Baird family groups who are traveling to Scotland this summer, at differing times. It seems it is the summer to go to our roots. I hope all of you who are traveling later in the year, have a wonderful trip. Please call on me if I can help in any way.

May you have a prosperous summer. Dh'fhaodadh sibh a bhith soirbheachail as t-samhradh.

Your Servant,
Debra



Flight of the Baird *from page 1*

Today, the Baird of Bute Society holds an annual commemoration of this first flight and to keep the memory of Andrew Blain Baird alive. Each year, in Rothesay, they celebrate his life and achievements including holding school presentations, developing DVDS, and a Museum of Andrew Baird artifacts. More information is available at www.bairdofbutesociety.com. The Baird of Bute Society is a registered Scottish charity.

For Andrew, the best is the tribute listed in the newspaper under the advertisement:

**A.B. Baird & Son,
General Blacksmiths and Horse-shoers,
Implement Makers and Mechanical Engineers - and Ornamental Iron Workers**
"A valiant Scotsman with a creative mind. His hand was ever open and against no man. A man of mettle".





Sgoil Ghàidhlig

Gaelic School
pronounced (skoal gallic)

Submitted by Bethany Scott

Numbers - Na h-airemhan (na-aryevan)

1. aon (uhn)
2. dà (dah)
3. trì (tuhree)
4. ceithir (kayhur)
5. còig (coo-ik)
6. sia (shee-a)
7. seachd (shehk)
8. ochd (oahk)
9. naoi (nuhee)
10. deich (jeh-eek)

Days of the Week

Làithean na seachdain
(leh-uhn na shechken)

Monday - Diluain (jeloo-en)

Tuesday - Dimàirt (jemarsht)

Wednesday - Diciadain (jekeya-tan)

Thursday - Diardaoin (jertuhn)

Friday - Dihaoine (je-huhneh)

Saturday - Disathairne (jisa-harnya)

Sunday - Didòmhaich (jitonichk) or Là
na Sàbaid (lah na sabich)

Sunday has two different translations, and the one a person uses is often (though not always) dependent upon their Christian denomination. Didomhaich (From the Latin for “Day of the Lord”) is used primarily by Catholics and Episcopalians. Là na Sàbaid (Gaelic for “Day of Sabbath) is used by Presbyterians.

The names of the days take us back to the history of Roman influence in Scotland, as three of their Gaelic translations are taken from Roman mythology (Monday - Day of the Moon, Tuesday - Day of Mars, and Saturday - Day of Saturn). The other three translations derive from ancient Celtic roots (Wednesday - Day of the First Fast, Thursday - Day between the Fasts, and Friday - Day of the Fast). Sunday has two options, one with Roman roots, and one with Celtic roots.

William Baird and the Jacobite Rising of the “45”

Son of William Baird and Janet Brown, Aberdeen

~ Submitted by Debra J. Baird ~

Most of the written Baird historical discussions and records of the Jacobite Rising of 1745 involve the path of the highland chief of the family, William of Auchmedden, or the activities of the lowland Bairds, who were mostly with the English and Cumberland. This would be very true of most clans and families, for the chiefs/officers had the most possibility of being noticed and recorded as participants. This article is not about those in charge, it is about those in the general ranks; those who had nothing more than pitchforks and dirks or axes taken from farms and woodlots, as weapons.



Photo of William Baird and other Jacobite wax figures in the newly renovated Tolbooth Prison, Aberdeen.

There are Bairds that were just regular citizens, not tenants of the chief, but independent businessmen who heard the call of the Catholic Stuarts and gave their all to the cause of the Bonnie Prince and his father. One of those was William Baird, a middle class sixteen-year-old, who had already made a name for himself in the silk and wool trade in Aberdeen City. William was the son of William Baird and Janet Brown, born 6 June 1729 and baptized at St. Nicholas Kirk in Aberdeen. There is also recorded one sister, Janet Baird, born and baptized the next year, 1730. The marriage of his parents is also duly recorded at St. Nicholas Kirk, 1728.

William worked with his father in the silk and wool trade, and they were the first manufacturers in Aberdeen to employ the use of machinery in the production of dyed textiles. For those who remember how wool and silk was dyed in that century, the use of mechanical means allowed human beings to forgo being covered in boiling urine, which was used to set the dye in the wool or silk. Rows of people on both sides, usually women, would pour hot urine (usually their collective own) on the fabric and “waulk” the wool to songs used for this purpose. In Gaelic, this process was called luadh (“loo-ugh”) and the songs

used for the work were known as orain luaidh (“or-ine loo-ie”). Use of machinery would have allowed the dyers to remain mostly dry and clean, rather than covered with urine all day .

As to William’s involvement with the Jacobites, he put a white cockade in his hat and paraded with a group in

Aberdeen, September 1745, joining James Moir of Stoneywood demanding arms at the house of Lord Lewis Gordon, and fought with Stoneywood’s Regiment, at the battles of Inverurie, December 1745 and Culloden,

Continued on next page





William Baird *continued from page 4*

April 1746. He was in Aberdeen on 14 April 1746, and had given himself over to the authorities, who recommended he be held in the prison there, but was released in the custody of his father, due to his youth, and promptly ran away toward Culloden, in order to fight, according to the family stories passed down to his great-grandson, Rueben Richard Baird, who was born in 1850. After the fall at Culloden, he escaped the field with James Moir and his troops, eventually returning to Aberdeen, where he gave himself up according to the terms of the Duke of Cumberland's demands and was imprisoned at the Tolbooth there; a horrible hole in which to be cast.

William was moved to Carlisle and transported on the ship Gildart, Richard Holmes, Captain, in May 1747. It turned out that Richard Holmes was the relative of men who had been transported after the Rising of the '15, and it is believed that he set up the sale of the men who came on with him to Maryland for this trip. Some of the Jacobites were sold in Virginia, but those who were Catholic, were of course, taken on to Maryland, which was the Catholic Colony, and sold to three or four gentlemen. Two were sold to "Longhunters" who took them back to the wilds of the western territories. Those who were bought by the other gentlemen were mostly allowed their freedom, almost as soon as they left the ship. Those who had been transported after the '15 had done well in the colonies, and were quite wealthy when the Gildart brought the newly deported Jacobites. It is believed that William was one of these, and made his way to the Waxhaws in the Carolinas, to become a yeoman farmer.

Recently, in researching the papers of the South Carolinian Library at the University of South Carolina, it was proven that there were indeed two William Bairds who settled in the Waxhaws. The first was from Pennsylvania, by way of Augusta, Virginia, and the other was William Baird from the ship Gildart. The latter was reported by Nancy Crockett, in her papers donated to the li-

brary, as having moved about several times, and never being clear as to where he was from or how he arrived in the colonies, only ever admitting that he was from Aberdeen, Scotland. William married a woman named Jean, and had several children. He died in 1800, and there are records of the dividing of his property in 1824, most likely at the death of Jean.

Stories of the middle class Jacobites who were transported are plentiful in American history, not to mention entire villages of tenants later put out by the Highland Clearances. Those middle class people who lost everything due to Culloden, then those who lost everything because they were put off their lands, another means of the English breaking the Clan System forever, made up a great deal of the strength of the United States.

There were 88 prisoners transported on the Gildart in 1747, all reported Jacobites. The diaspora that was forced upon Scots, for more than a 300-year-period, filled the frontiers of the United States and it is this author's premise that the anger and fury surrounding how the Scots viewed their treatment by the English fueled the American Revolution to a great extent.

Certainly, many thousands of those who fought in the Continental Army and State Militias were transported Scots or their descendants, and the memory of the Scots is very long. What was done through the Duke of Cumberland's orders, after Culloden, the burning, rape and starvation of the people of Scotland, as punishment for the Rising, was fully remembered by those who fought for the freedom

of the States of America. William Baird was a soldier in the Carolina militia and fought for that freedom he so firmly believed in, here, in his new country, finally achieving what he fought to obtain in the Rising of the '45. Freedom, liberty, and independence are clearly a hallmark of Scottish civilization.

William Baird is now featured as the person speaking historically about the Rising, in the Aberdeen Tolbooth Prison Jacobite Cell, recently set up in the newly renovated and opened museum in that building. Time allows all things to come full circle, and William Baird's ghost has clearly gone home.



**Clan Baird Society Worldwide
Financial Statement**

First Quarter - 2017
January 1 to March 31, 2017

Income:		
Dues Received		1640.00
Misc Income		
Donations		365.77
Quartermaster Sales		
Total Quarterly Income:		2,005.77
Expense:		
Advertising		
President-Membership		365.77
Vice President		
Scholarship		
Secretary		
Genealogy		
Gryphon		492.06
Games		339.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations		
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees		10.08
Total Quarterly Expense:		1,206.91
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:		798.86
Cash in Bank - Last Quarter:		5,921.94
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:		6,720.80
Submitted by: Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide		



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**Newsletter
Deadlines**

Summer 2017 Issue
deadline is June 15th

Autumn 2017 Issue
deadline is September 15th

Winter 2018 Issue
deadline December 15th

Please submit newsletter articles to:

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

**Any questions about The Gryphon
submissions please feel
free to call Heather
at 802-485-5541**



**Where you
can find us**

**Finding Your
Family Roots**

We have other of 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**

