

# 2019 CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE SCOTLAND TRIP



## Clan Baird Society Worldwide 2019 Scotland Tour and General Meeting July 28 - August 6, 2019

Join us in 2019 for a tour of Scotland and Baird Sites, as well as our general meeting in August 2019. Our meeting will be part of the tour and will occur as a dinner on one of the dates, most likely the evening of the Tattoo in Edinburgh. The final and spectacular part of the tour will be the Military Tattoo in Edinburgh, on August 4th, but the rest is also well planned for maximum enjoyment and relaxation. August 5th is an open day for you to explore Edinburgh as you wish, or with help from the tour guides. If you have not heard of nor seen the Tattoo,

If there are places that you particularly want to see before or after the regular tour, we can work with you to include those. We hope you will come with us to Scotland and enjoy the land of our fathers and mothers, as well as a general meeting and dinner with our worldwide members.



### Highlights...

- Bagpipe Lesson • Whisky Distillery
- Isle of Skye • Armadale Castle
- Loch Ness • Orkney Islands
- Dunrobin Castle
- Sheepdog Demonstration
- St. Andrews • Choice on Tour

- Edinburgh Castle
- Scottish Cooking Experience
- Royal Edinburgh Military Tattoo

*Preliminary dates, rates and itinerary, subject to change.*

10 Days • 14 Meals

8 Breakfasts • 6 Dinners

**PRICE WITHOUT AIRFARE:**  
Round Trip Air, Hotel Transfers,  
Cancellation Waiver and Insurance  
of \$295 per person

**Double: 3,099.00**

**Single: 3,649.00**

**Triple: 3,049.00**

*Or, if you prefer flights to be included*

**PRICE WITH AIRFARE:**  
Round Trip Air from New York, Air Taxes and  
Fees/Surcharges, Hotel Transfers  
Per Person Rates\*

**Double: 4,449.00**

**Single: 4,999.00**

**Triple: 4,399.00**

*Not included in price:*  
Cancellation Waiver and Insurance  
of \$315 per person

\* All Rates are Per Person and are subject to change

Pre-nights will become available  
once tour is finalized for 2019,  
please call for details!

**IMPORTANT CONDITIONS:** Your price is subject to increase prior to the time you make full payment. Your price is not subject to increase after you make full payment, except for charges resulting from increases in government-imposed taxes or fees. Once deposited, you have 7 days to send us written consumer consent or withdraw consent and receive a full refund. (See registration form for consent.)



please look it up. It is a true "bucket list" event and for most a top-five-memory in life.





## Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our  
Clan the following:*

Jan Baird, England

Peter Baird, New York

Carri Beard Bramlett, Indiana

Alan Baird Carpenter, Alaska

Eric Dumke, Florida

Teresa Hardman, Kentucky

Michael Jay, Colorado

David Lindsey, Rhode Island

Magdalena Gray Mombert, Oregon

Genevieve Mae Mombert, Oregon

Kyle Kirk Mombert, Oregon

Whitney Gray-Shepard Mombert,  
Oregon

Norman Ratliff, Arizona

Harold Roberts, Arizona

## The Baird Mansion of Stichill

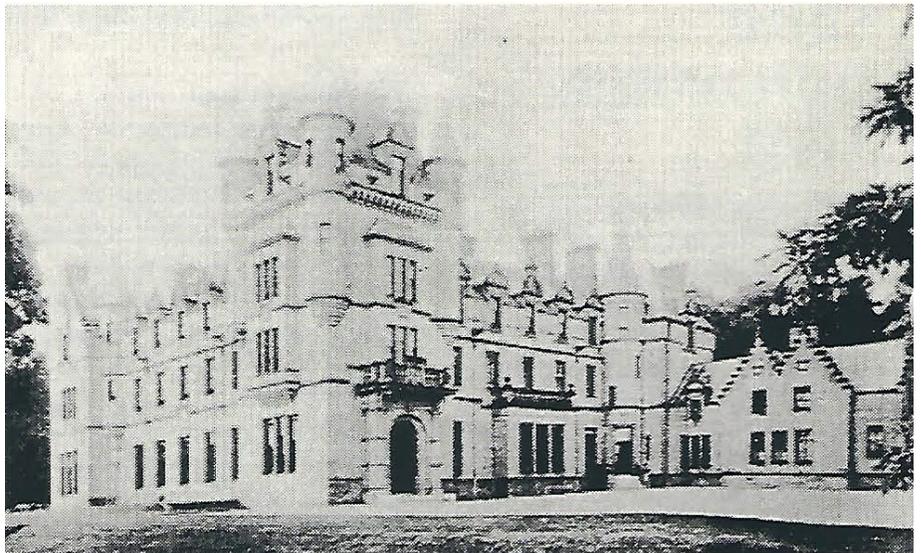
By Jack Baird

(\*first printed in the 2002 Gryphon)

*I imagine many members of the Clan Baird Society, and I imagine many members of the Clan Baird Society, and certainly those who participated in the 25th reunion tour of Scotland in 1997, will remember the great riches amassed by the Bairds of Gartsherrie. These riches came from their innovation, efficiency in mining, and production as "ironmasters". They are on record as owning several houses, including one in London.*

England. Mrs. Thomson and her husband live in the Main Lodge, which is situated just inside what was the main gate of the Baird Estate. The information which I have used in writing of this article is based on information and photographs kindly provided by Mrs. Thomson. Most of these come from a reprint of a 32-page sales document by E&H Lumley, produced when they were acting as land agents of St. James, London, in June, 1895, when the house and estate was sold on behalf of the younger George Alexander Baird who had died two years earlier.

The estate and existing house was bought by David Baird (1st of Stichill 1816-1860) a few years before his death. His elder brother George Alex-



A few months ago I noticed a snippet of information about the Baird Mansion of Stichill coupled to a note about it having been used by Leith Holiday Homes. This prompted me to try to find some details of the mansion and where it is or was situated. I was very fortunate in establishing contact with the very helpful and pleasant Mrs. Mary Thomson, who is the sub-postmistress in Stiehm.

Stichill, pronounced as it reads, is 3 miles north of Kelso, in southern Scotland in the Borders area, adjacent to

ander Baird (1st of Strichen, Aberdeenshire, 1810-1870) inherited the land, and built the new mansion between 1861 and 1863 in the Scots Baronial Style.

George Alexander Baird was married to Cecilia Hatton who outlived him by some 25 years. Apparently there are still fond memories in Stichill of the Bairds, who really put Stichill on the map. George and Cecilia built the mansion and took an interest in rebuilding

*Baird Mansion, continued on page 6*



# Message from the President

## *Greetings Members!*

Dear Members,  
Greetings for the Spring and Summer. We are looking forward to attending several Highland festivals and seeing many of you before August. Our Society continues to grow and prosper, with several new members each month. We appreciate the monetary donations from a few members that have allowed us to do more with festival attendance and participation this year. We especially appreciate the very generous help given by Douglas Baird, the son of Jim Baird, our 1st Vice President.

We continue to look into how to set up a foundation for preserving Baird history, documents, and artifacts. I hope to institute this foundation by the time we have the 2019 general meeting in Scotland. The 2019 Baird Scotland tour is outlined in this Gryphon, and we are still considering

the place for the general meeting. Collette is the tour company and I have found them to be very dependable over time, and look forward to this trip. If you have questions about the 2019 Baird tour, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Alba gu brath!  
Debra



## *Regional Commissioner Steps Down*

*George Baird Snyder, Jr. of Kansas recently stepped down after long distinguished service as Mid-West/Region Four Regional Commissioner/Coordinator, and Kansas State Leader before that. He took over from Georgia Capshaw after her many years as the Commissioner of that region. The Society has been very fortunate to have George work with us for so very many seasons and we wish him well in his further endeavors. We hope he will remain as an advisor to the Board, the Council of Chieftains, and the person he recommended for the post, Karen Baird, of Kansas, formerly the Kansas State Leader during George's tenure. We look forward to working with Karen and the newly appointed State Leader, Nicholas Green. George will be sorely missed, and the Society salutes him with profound appreciation for his service to the family Baird!*





## The Story of a Baird Engagement Ring

We met Lee Anne Patterson, a descendant of Isabel Louise Hutchings Baird, at the Stone Mountain Highland Games last October, where she showed us her ring. Isabel was Lee Anne's great-great grandmother, and the ring was passed down from her through her granddaughter Marjorie. Marjorie was a first cousin of Malcolm Black, Lee Anne's grandfather, and Marjorie gave the ring to him for his own daughter Anne. Anne, of course, gave it to her daughter, Lee Anne, where it resides now. There were also two letters given along with the ring. The first was from Isabel Baird herself, explaining where the ring originated.

In her words from the October 28, 1925 letter:

*My Dear Marjorie,  
This little parcel contains my engagement ring, which grandfather Baird gave to me in 1860, it was bought*

*in Glasgow, Scotland. I prize it very much - now -, giving it to you as a remembrance of me when I have passed away. It is not like the diamond engagement rings of today; always thought it chaste and neat. I hope in the near future you'll receive an engagement ring, from some good man who will be worthy of you, dear. God bless you in your noble work, may you have a happy, happy life. I trust I'll soon be called from this life; it is only an empty dream.*

*~Your loving Grandmother Baird*

Many years later, in 1953, Marjorie wrote to her cousin Malcolm concerning the ring. Marjorie had recently spent a weekend with Malcolm's family and wrote a thank you with the little ring as a gift to young Anne Black. She told him that her own daughter already had a new engagement ring and would most likely not appreciate "Granny's little ring" at this point. She wanted Anne to have it, since she found her to be a very fine little girl, and was sure Granny would love her very much as well be very proud of

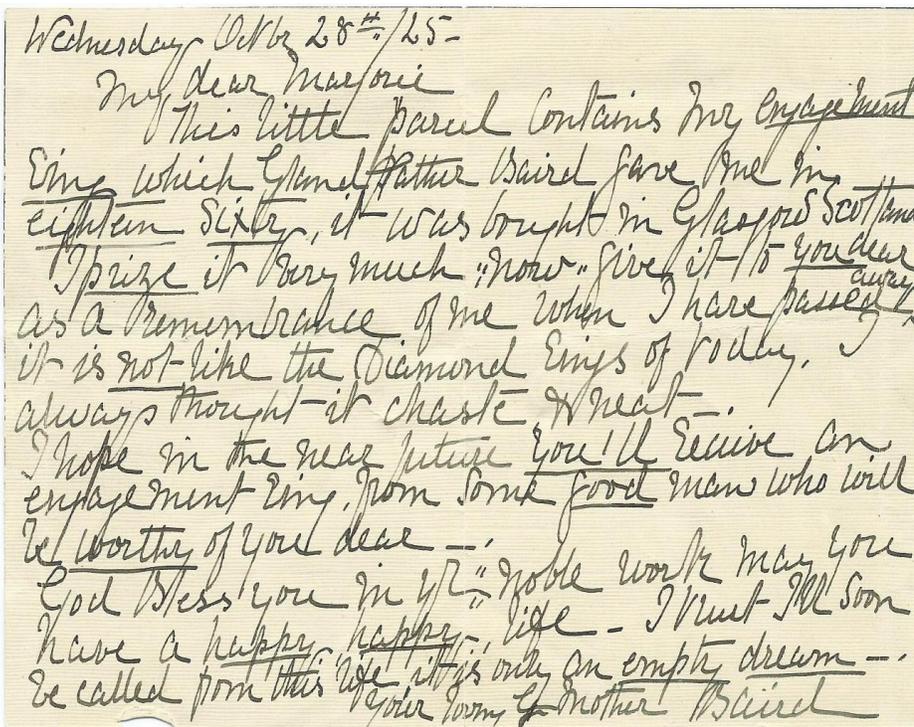


Isabel Louise Hutchings Baird

her. That is how Anne, the little great-granddaughter received the ring, and Lee Anne inherited, wearing it still.



In looking for information on the ring-type, it is an historic Victorian enamel and pearl ring along the lines of the Scottish nouveau art awakening, later popularized by the Glasgow designer, architect, and artist, Charles Rennie McIntosh (1868-1928). This ring is a forerunner to McIntosh, showing the increasing uses of enamel during the Victorian era. A beautiful remembrance indeed.





## Flowers of the Forest



**Ms. Ann Elizabeth Baird** of Cleveland Heights, Ohio, died October 11, 2017 at the age of 84. She was preceded in death by her parents Richard and Ruth (Blowers) Baird. Ann's first job out of school was at Stouffer's as a dietician. She went back to school for teaching and became a kindergarten teacher. She loved her job and her students even after retirement. She was very active in her church and a long-time member of the Clan Baird Society, even attending highland games (including the Macalester Scottish Fair and Highland Games in Minnesota in the 1990s). Ann also dealt in antiques (a legacy from her parents).



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



**Dorothy Baird Baker** passed away at age 83 on June 1, 2018, in Acton, California. A memorial service will be scheduled later in Acton for friends and family. Mrs. (Baird) Baker was born and raised in Stamford, Texas. After graduating valedictorian from Stamford High School, she attended Stephens College before moving to California. She married Stanley Baker and they had a son, Jeffrey, and daughter Cyndi. By correspondence she completed college, attaining her bachelor's degree.

She was an active member of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide for many years, in fact, since its inception. Dorothy was adept at genealogical research. She was active in festival work, and helped Dale Baird with the Estes Park, Colorado celebrations over time. In the last two years, she donated her genealogical library and many books to the Clan Baird Society Archives. The website managers are moving them into digital papers and will place them in the members only area very soon. Her paper files will be kept in the archives.

Predeceasing her were her parents, Reginald and Lois Baird, her husband, Stanley Baker, and a sister Martha Baird Puckhaber. Surviving her are her son Jeffrey Baker and family of California, her daughter Cyndi Baker of California, a sister, Janice Baird Whitlock of Minnesota, a brother, Bythel H. (Buddy) Baird and wife Carolyn of Tuxedo, Texas, six nieces and one nephew.

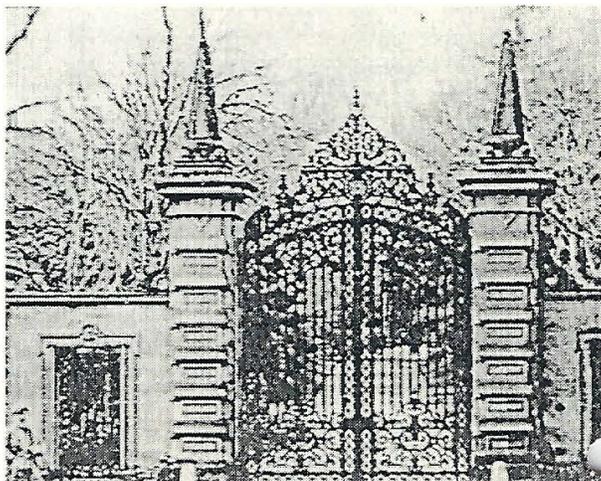


## The 2018 Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games

If you are going to be in Minnesota in July, come join us for the 15th Annual Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games. The 2018 Minnesota Scottish Fair & Highland Games will be a two day event - Friday, July 20 from 5:00PM-9:00PM for Celtic music, Highland Dancing, food and more. Then come back on Saturday, July 21 from 9:00AM-9:00PM for a full day of entertainment including Celtic music, highland and country dancing, heavy games, pipe bands, food, vendors and exhibitors. Admission and parking are free! Information is on their Facebook page and website: [www.mnscottishfair.org](http://www.mnscottishfair.org)

*Baird Mansion, continued from page 2*

the village as well, which is still described as being “a lovely little village.” One example of the Baird interest is a row of four quaint cottages built by Cecilia, complete with plaque, in



memory of her husband and their son, also named George Alexander.

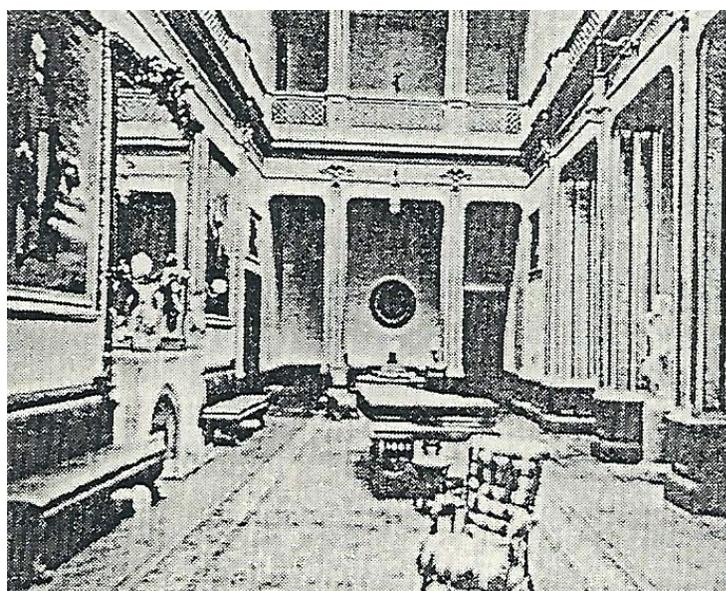
Their son, George Alexander, also known as “Mr. Abington” or “The Squire,” was the jockey who owned “The Derby” winner in 1887. He died in New Orleans in 1893, having squandered much of the fortune he inherited. However his estate included the lands, mansion, and £846,051, a fortune then.

The lands extended for a few miles and had a total area of 5740 acres. At the time, a Scottish acre was 6150 square yards, so I calculated the area in excess of 11 square miles.

Two years after his death, the house was bought by Mr. James Duechar of a distillery family. Mr. Duechar died in 1927 and the estate was sold in separate lots, with some of the farms being bought by the sitting tenants who could afford them. The mansion was then bought and sold several times, once to Leith Holiday Homes, an organization

that provided holidays for poor children from the Edinburgh area.

Ultimately, the sheer size of the mansion proved its undoing, and it was demolished for its splendid wrought stone and other building materials, and the interior fittings (fireplaces, and staircases). One of the fine carved staircases and two of the fireplaces are in a private house in Chimside, which is a small town some 8 miles to the west of



Berwick-upon-Tweed. Mrs. Thomson tells me that one iron gate is still in existence on one of the farms and is being “well guarded”. However the main gates, which were still in place in the 1930’s, and were known locally as “The Golden Gates,” were taken for scrap during WWII.

One village story is that the iron was found to be unsuitable and that the gates were eventually dumped in the North Sea. The stone pillars on which the main gates hung, are still standing beside the Main Lodge owned by Mr. and Mrs. Thomson. There are decorations on the pillars; one is of the initials of George Baird, and the other a Gryphon, shown in the photos.

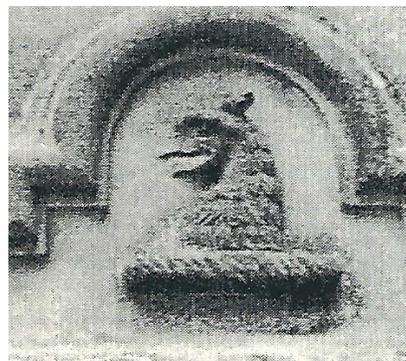
One strange coincidence occurred during the correspondence between May Thomson and myself. When Mr. and

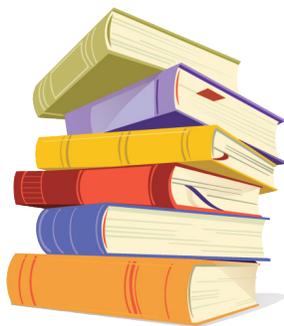
Mrs. Thomson moved into the Main Lodge in 1962, they dug up a large conch sea shell inscribed with details of wins by a horse called, “Palmy Days”, in the Liverpool Cup in 1903, and Northumberland Plate” in 1904. The inscription refers to the horse bred by the owner J.G. Baird-Hay, Esq. When I sent Mrs. Thomson, the family tree of the Bairds of Garthserrie, which has been produced by Sir James Andrew Gardner Baird (11th Baronet), she spotted mention of James George Baird-Hay of Belton who was born in 1826. He was a

relative by marriage of both David and George Alexander Baird (Mr. Abington, the jockey).

I have not yet had confirmation, but anticipate that this chap was born J.G.

*Baird Mansion, continued on page 7*





## Sgoil Ghàidhlig

**Summer** – an samhradh  
(ahn sav-rahg)

**Young** – Og (oohg)

**Flower** – am fluhr (ahm floor)

**Sunny** – grianach (gree-ah-nokh)

**Teardrop** – deur (dayr)

**Queen** – banrigh (bahn-ree)

**King** – righ (ree)

**Slave** – traill (trah-eel)

*In the Winter newsletter, Beira, the Queen of Winter, was introduced. And now that the weather has warmed and the days are longer, it's time to learn about Bride, the Queen of Summer.* Bride was a beautiful maiden who was captured and enslaved by the harsh Beira. While Bride was the slave of Beira, Angus Og, the God of Summer, was comfortably in residence on the Isle of Summer, a mythical floating island that men sought but could never find.

One night, Angus Og dreamt of a beautiful maiden weeping in the forest. His father explained to him that the woman he dreamed of is Bride, weeping because of her imprisonment by the Queen of Winter. His father foretold that when Angus Og would take the throne as King of Summer, Bride would be his queen. When Angus Og wanted to set out immediately in the harshest days of winter, his father cautioned against it, but he would

not be swayed. He needed to rescue his queen from her captor.

Angus Og rode his steed hastily across the ocean to the snow-covered mainland of Scotland, to Ben Nevis, the mountain fortress of Beira, located on the western side of Scotland near the town of Fort William. When she learned of her rescuer, Bride cried tears of joy, which sprouted violets the color of her eyes every spot they fell. Once she was free, Bride stepped upon the ground outside of Ben Nevis, and the snow melted underneath each footfall. Flowers sprang from the earth wherever she walked, and the two made their way into the forest to be wed immediately by the Queen of the Fairies.

Once Beira heard of the newly free and wed Bride, she pursued the newlyweds all the way to the Isle of Summer, kicking up violent and angry spring storms in her wake. Once she arrived at the Isle of Summer she was so weary that she drank from the Well of Youth and fell asleep until the autumn when she would begin aging again in the continual cycle of seasons.



*Baird Mansion, continued from page 6*

Hay and adopted the hyphenated name Baird-Hay after marrying Janet Baird, daughter of William Baird of Ebe and his wife Janet Johnstone, and may possibly have been known to "Mr. Abbington". Margaret and I wrote an article a few years ago after visiting the Auchmedden Estates, the Mains of Auchmedden, and the Pennan Inn, we added a note that any member of the Baird Society would be made welcome in that area by the people we met.

Although I have not yet had the pleasure of meeting Mrs. May Thompson, I finish this article with a similar comment about a visit to Stichill in which a project was started in 1999 to research its past history, which of course includes relevant Baird history.



### Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

First Four Months of Year  
January 1 to April 30, 2018

Income:	
Dues Received	440.00
Misc Income	
Donations	
Quartermaster Sales	

Total Quarterly Income:	440.00
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Expense:	
Advertising	
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Annual Report Fee	
Scholarship	500.00
Genealogy	
Gryphon	944.02
Games	714.00
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	3.52

Total Quarterly Expense:	2,161.54
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Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	(1,721.54)
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Cash in Bank - Last Quarter:	8,152.40
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Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	6,430.86
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Submitted by:  
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide



**Clan Baird  
Officers & Staff**

**President** Debra J. Baird  
djbaired4@gmail.com  
205-454-6852

**1st Vice-President** James D. Baird  
jimbaird45@gmail.com  
315-382-1702

**2nd Vice-President** Isaac S. Baird  
iandsbaird@gmail.com  
801-243-4077

**3rd Vice-President** Sandy Baird  
stanford.baird@gmail.com  
307-752-0842

**Secretary** Jane Baird Elliott  
jelliottreporter@gmail.com  
205-746-6689

**Treasurer** Robert G. Beard, Jr.  
beardrobert@msn.com  
813-963-0251

**Gryphon Editor** Heather Snyder  
gryphon@clanbairdsociety.com  
802-485-5541



**Newsletter  
Deadlines**

**Summer 2018 Issue**  
deadline July 31th

**Autumn 2018 Issue**  
deadline August 30th

**Winter 2019 Issue**  
deadline December 30th

**Please submit newsletter articles to:**

Heather Snyder at  
gryphon@clanbairdsociety.com  
hsnyder65@yahoo.com  
or mail to:

Heather Snyder  
63 Northview Dr.  
Northfield, VT 05663

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

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



**Where you  
can find us**

**Finding Your  
Family Roots**

We have other of Clan Baird Society  
who are very knowledgeable in the  
history of Baird. Please email  
[info@clanbairdsociety.com](mailto:info@clanbairdsociety.com)  
for more information.

**Check out our website!  
[clanbairdsociety.com](http://clanbairdsociety.com)**



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