

2017 Highlights

CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

HIGHLAND GAMES FESTIVALS & EVENTS

~ Submitted by Sandy Baird ~

Our records show that proud members represented Clan Baird at 10 different games across the US and Canada in 2017. These are the best opportunities for us to show off our stuff and make new friends from around the world as many of the attendees are on holiday from the corners of the earth.

Anyone interested in hosting a tent in 2018 please contact 3rd VP Sandy Baird at stanford.baird@gmail.com.



May 20th - Michael Baird hosted the Finger Lakes Highland Games and Celtic Festival in Shortsville, New York

This is a brief summary for 2017. If for any reason we have left you out, please make sure that in the future you fill out a **Games Report Form**, which is now available in an updated format, and return it to Sandy.

May 20th - Society Chieftain Richard Holman-Baird and President Debra Baird, hosted the Biennial General Meeting in Scotland, at The Boat Inn, Aboyne, Royal Deeside. This was the first in Scotland for more than 20 years. In attendance were Lady Diana Baird Holman, Karen Baird Scott, Ross and Doreen Baird, Bethany Scott and Genie Gallagher, Erin McCanna, and Heather Snyder. We plan to have a Biennial General Meeting in Scotland again in July 2019, as part of the Clan Baird Tour that summer, and hope all will attend.

May 26th-28th - Boni, Randy & Hans Bard hosted the 50th Anniversary Alma Highland Festival and Games in Alma, Michigan, with 4 grandkids assisting.

There were 30 Clans present with 15 Bairs marching in the Parade of Tartans. Boni's homemade Scottish Shortbread was a big hit with many guests including the 9 families of Bairs who visited the Clan Baird tent.

June 9th-11th - 2nd VP Isaac & Past President/Honorary Chieftain Vincent Baird hosted the Utah Scottish Festival & Highland Games in Salt Lake City. The Baird grandchildren were also in attendance and made the day very



Biennial General Meeting in Scotland, at The Boat Inn, Aboyne, Royal Deeside. This was the first in Scotland for more than 20 years.

special. July 6th-9th - President Debra Baird, et al., hosted the Grandfather Mountain Highland Games in Linville, North Carolina, during which the Clan Baird Biennial Meeting was held. This meeting was reported in a previous issue of the Gryphon.

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Ceud Mìle Fàilte!

(100,000 Welcomes)

*We welcome to our
Clan the following:*

Tony Simmons
Texas

Mary Baird
North Carolina

Wayne Baird
California

Robert "Bobby" Beaird
Arkansas

Anna Lynn Bone
Nova Scotia

Edward Bayrd
Japan

Heather Jensen
New York

Kevin Kimerer
Kansas

Julie Lott
Georgia

Nicolette Baird Miller
Idaho

Scott Baird
Arkansas

Kimberly Ann Withrow
Illinois

2017 Highlights continued from page 1

July 8th & 9th - Art & Elsie Steilling, our troopers from the northwest, hosted the Skagit Valley Highland Games & Celtic Festival in Mount Vernon, Washington for the 2nd year in a row.



Art Steilling, Jennifer Colvin
and Elsie Steilling

August 4th & 5th - Boni, Randy and Hans Bard hosted the St. Andrew's Society of Detroit Highland Games in Livonia, Michigan, once again with the help of 4 grandchildren. There were 33 Clans present with 8 Bairds marching in the Parade of Tartans. There were many visitors to the Clan Baird tent including 11 Bairds.

August 11th-13th - Anne [née Baird] Curwood and David Radley [David's mother was a Baird] hosted the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games in Fergus, Ontario. David is the President of the Festival. This 72nd anniversary



L to R [all from Ontario] - David Baird, Belwood; son Ransleigh Baird, Toronto; Heather Baird, London; Event hosts Anne Curwood, Salem, and David Radley, Eden Mills; and Joanne Baird, wife of David of Belwood

event is the largest Highland Games in Canada. This year there were 50 Clans represented and a total attendance of 17,000. Twenty Bairds visited the Clan Baird tent and Clan Baird was represented in the Parade of Tartans. Inclement weather forced the cancellation of the Red Hot Chili Pipers on Friday evening but the weather cleared for a beautiful weekend.

Michael Baird had a busy August hosting several games in New York including:

August 12th - Central New York Scottish Games & Celtic Festival in Liverpool.



Clan Baird Tent Host and President of the Fergus Scottish Festival & Highland Games David Radley with Doug Baird

August 19th & 20th - Buffalo Niagara Scottish Festival in Amherst.

August 26th - Jamestown Regional Celtic Festival & Gathering of the Clans in Mayville.

October 20th-22nd - Stone Mountain Highland Games and Scottish Festival in Stone Mountain, Georgia.

Debra Baird, Alton Wilson, Branton Baird, Seth and Julie Burgess with their daughter's Rowan and Lauren,

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Message from the President

Greetings Members!

Dear Members,

As we turn indoors to the hearth and home fires, let us remember those who came before and who fought to get us where we are. Honorary Chieftain and past president, Vincent Baird, sent along this toast, inspired by our last Gryphon and our description of the Baird Aisle, the Old Kirk St. Drostan's at Aberdour.

*"This is my toast to them:
You've lived long. May We, live long.
You've lived to make life well,
May We, live well.
You've lived to bring rustic hills and
glens, from bloody fights and strife.
To peaceful, loving, songs of life.
May we enjoy this greatest kiss,
from all the sands of life. This kiss,
from you, our clans motherland.
To the BAIRDS!*

~ Vincent Baird

It seems the old country and the Old Kirk bring about similar emotions for Vincent and myself, as I am sure they do for you all. This type emotion makes it all the more sad that, for a number of years now, there has been a lot of bullying surrounding what is "true" Baird research and what is not. I once had a professor tell me that research was just that, "re" searching material that has already been searched many times. There is nothing new in it, and there is a lot of space

where we don't know the facts, and where the facts that are known can be interpreted differently. With that being the case, all interpretations are equally plausible, according to the old professor, and I tend to agree with him. In the case of ancient Baird documents, we are all just looking for information to fill in the cracks that have been caused by loss of evidence, whether purposely destroyed by the victors in particular situations, or lost by attrition.

Keeping this in mind, we will all prosper by respecting the research of the other, arguing civilly if there are differences of opinion, and still come out Bairds working toward the common goal of preserving our heritage. For those who have been attacked so viciously by a few or even one particular member over the past few years, I am sorry; that member is no longer a part of us. There is simply no place for such bullying within our society.

It is hoped that all can publish their findings in our Gryphon, when they wish, and if someone else believes there is a different explanation, that can be published in subsequent editions as well. As researchers of our family history, we simply are looking for the most reasonable and best explanations in every situation. No one has the last word on historical research; we are all getting only part of the story at all times, there is no other way to do the research. Granted, we should, and do,

2017 Highlights continued from page 2

and David and Jennifer Gray, with their daughter's Martha and Becca, hosted the Clan Baird tent for the weekend. They had a record number of Bairds come by and several new members join. The tent was reconfigured this year, with the tables and chairs along each side, leaving the entire tent front open and inviting to passers-by, with the hospitality area at the back. Visitors could come and go, work with the genealogical materials on that table, read about and look at the artifacts on the other side of the tent, and sit down for a wee dram or soft drink, with a bit of 1st VP Jim Baird's mother Maggie's shortbread or other snacks, and a rest. Becca Gray played her Scottish Harp when she was not busy competing in the harping contest, and Baird pipers from the Atlanta Pipe and Drums came by to work on Stephen Baird's new song about William Baird, the young Jacobite. Martha Gray and Branton Baird worked on their fencing skills on the lawn behind the hospitality area, and have made plans to bring all their equipment for a rematch next year.

*We hope to see you
at the Games in 2018*

strive to have information as accurate as possible at the time we are publishing, but that possibility is very elusive. Let us all accept that we are working toward the same goal, and not attack each other. Let us all do responsible research and give/accept civil discourse.

- Debra Baird





Two Towns in England Combine “TO LIGHT THE WAY” Towards the 400th Anniversary of “The Mayflower”

Three photographs show that
“LIGHTING THE WAY”
took the form of
“AN ILLUMINATED
LANTERN MARCH”

Jack Baird and Joanne Ash
Photographs by Joanne Ash
and Stephen Field

The towns are Retford in Nottinghamshire on the west side of The River Trent and Gainsborough in Lincolnshire on the east side. The event was supported by the Art Council of England, Bassetlaw Christian Heritage, Gainsborough Old Hall, several Local District and Town Councils, many schools and community groups.



Already discussions have started about future Mayflower-related events before the year 2020. One major object is to highlight in England the importance of what followed the

success of the Pilgrim Fathers.

The lanterns were designed by local artists and made of willow and paper, many by school children who claimed that they were easy to make. One statement was “It is huge but it took me only two hours to make”. Illumina-



tion is by battery-operated LED lights. Jack, Joanne and family live near Gainsborough, therefore the photographs were all taken in Gainsborough. Gainsborough is proud of its links with The Separatists and the Pilgrim Fathers that are well documented. It is known that worship took place in Gainsborough Old Hall which is still standing and used. The first ship that set-off towards America had to take refuge in Plymouth, however, when The Mayflower appeared, those who had seen it many times at Gainsborough in

The River Trent knew it to be sound. The other photographs are of the Gainsborough United Reformed Church that was built in memory of-



John Robinson Pastor and Exile. The stone was laid by the Hon. T.F. Bayard who was the American Ambassador in England.

This church is expected to play an important part in future events during the years leading up to The Mayflower Anniversary. Already, on the 22nd November 2017 it was packed solid for a key service that was given the title

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The Buddn Blaze

BAIRD TARTAN SHREDDER GUITAR

Guitar maker of the very famous since 1985, Buddy Blaze, has produced a Baird Tartan Shredder for Scott Baird of Oklahoma. Scott could not be happier with the outcome of the order, something he has been considering and wanting for many years. Scott has played in bands most of his life and his brother Christian Baird owns/manages the Green Room in Dallas, Texas, where bands play their way to more fame, most every weekend, <http://www.dallasgreen-room.com/>.

Buddy Blaze builds the top-shelf guitars. He began in the Dallas-Ft. Worth area in 1985, and has been around the world, building guitars for the up and coming, and the very famous. His first creation sold in less than a week, amid a bidding war that took him off guard. After that first surprise, Buddy decided to build guitars full-time, and has been at it ever since.



The Baird Tartan Shredder Guitar specially made for Scott Baird. Just look how beautifully it turned out!

1985 Customers Dave Watson and Steve Mandile joined American country music star Lee Greenwood in Nashville, introducing the Buddy Blaze guitar and

Buddy to that world. In less than six months, the Lee Greenwood band was playing only Buddy Blaze made guitars and were featured on the "Today Show" using these instruments.

Not long afterward, Buddy met guitar legend Vivian Campbell, then new



Scott Baird and Buddy Blaze with the Baird Tartan Guitar

member of Whitesnake, and began making guitars for him. The now famous 'blueburst' polka dot guitar, Shredder VCI, was introduced to the world in the Whitesnake video "Here I go Again" on MTV. Buddy continued to make every guitar Vivian used while playing with Whitesnake, including the Kramer models, and finally went to work full-time with Kramer, as guitar designer and artist relations director. He made guitars for many of the most famous bands and players during these years.

In early 2012, Buddy came full circle, re-locating his operation back to the Dallas, Texas area. Vivian and Buddy celebrated the 25th Anniversary of the famous BlazeBurst Polka Dot Shredder by offering a limited edition run of 25, handmade in Texas. In early 2013, Buddy and Vivian introduced a 25th Anniversary version of Vivian's famous Lighting Storm Shredder/"NightSwan".

Again, they offered a limited edition run of 25.

In October 2103, Guitar Center added Buddy blaze Guitars as an official vendor. Now you can visit your favorite Guitar Center and ask for Buddy Blaze Guitars, or go to the main website at: <http://www.buddyblaze.com/>

Vivian Campbell of Def Leppard, Scott Patton of Sugarland, Eddie Ojeda of Twisted Sister, Terry Glaze of Lord Tracy/Pantera, L.T. Smooth, Stig Mathison (Guitar Chair at Musician's Institute, M.I.), Rudy Parris/The Voice, Sam "Bam" Koltun, and many, many, other major players in the music world today use Buddy Blaze Guitars.



Flowers of the Forest

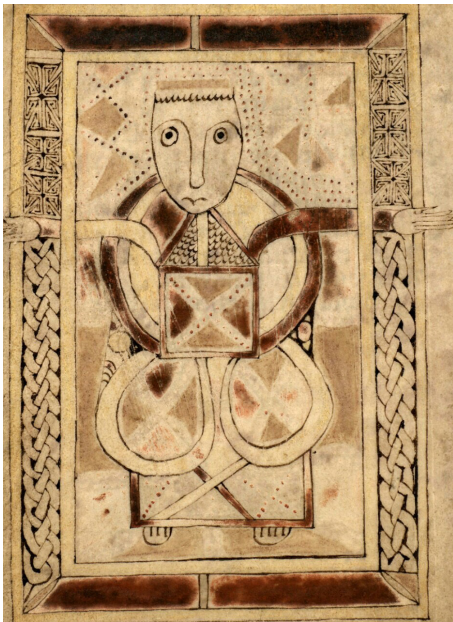


Dr. Donald Elmore Carpenter, Washington, left us on October 30, 2017. He practiced dentistry all his life, both as an officer in the Air Force and as a private citizen in Oregon. Donald spent his final years living near his daughter Penelope "Penny" Carpenter. He was a member of Clan Baird Society and very much loved all things Baird. His grandmother was a Baird, and he continued to honor that heritage. His daughter Penny continues in his footsteps as an active member of Clan Baird Society. May he rest in peace.



Baird Archaeology & Historical Initiative Project 2018 (BAHD)

The ancient monastery at Old Deer, Aberdeenshire, Scotland, has been lost for hundreds of years. This monastery is believed to have been founded by St. Drostan and St. Columba in the 600's CE. Clan Baird Society helped a bit with the St. Drostan Pilgrimage Walk last September, held partially at St. Drostan's Well and Old Kirk on Aberdour Beach, which is also on the old Auchmedden Estate. The Book of Deer, which is held in the Cambridge



A plate from the Book of Deer, which is a book of the Gospels

University Library, England, is believed to have been used at this monastery and have originated there. It is the oldest specimen of written Scottish Gaelic known, at present. This year, we wish to support the further {6}

dig at the newly found site; it is the most promising yet for where the old monastery may have been. Cameron Archaeology of Aberdeen is leading the dig. <http://www.bbc.com/news/uk-scotland-north-east-orkney-shetland-42569851>

This year's project has a Crowdfunding site established by the Book of Deer Project Organization, and an address for other ways of sending donations.

The Crowdfunding site is:
<https://www.justgiving.com/crowdfunding/bookofdeerprojectdig2018>

The project's physical address is:
Book of Deer Project
c/o Maud Area Office,
Nethermuir Road
Maud
Aberdeenshire
Scotland AB42 4ND

Please consider donating to the work. Our president, Debra Baird, and her husband, Alton Wilson, will be helping with the dig in early July, for a few days, while they visit Scotland to do Baird research.



Matthew's Scottish Project

Matthew, the 3rd-grade grandson of Justus Baird of Georgia, who was our treasurer and Gryphon editor for many years, was asked to show his heritage in a school project by decorating a clothespin given him by the teacher. He did his best to replicate his grand



father's full Scottish regalia and wrote this report for his presentation.

Here is what Matthew reported to his class, while showing the doll he made with the clothespin:

"Part of my family is Scottish. That means that I am part Scottish. I learned about a tartan, coat of arms, and a crest. A tartan is a "plaid" for a clan. My doll's kilt shows my family tartan. It has cool colors. A crest is a badge for a clan. My doll is wearing my family's crest. A coat of arms is a design on a shield for a clan. My mom's great-great-great grandparents are from Scotland. I have visited Scotland before. My favorite part was when I got to hike the mountains of Quiraring on the Isle of Skye. I like to hike and to sail, and Scottish people like doing those things."



clanbairdsociety.com



To Light the Way... from page 4

“Illuminate 2017”. This was
“A Service of Commemoration of the
Mayflower Pilgrims’ Story”.



TO THE
GLORY OF GOD
THIS STONE IN MEMORY OF
JOHN ROBINSON PASTOR and EXILE
WAS LAID ON JUNE 29th 1896
BY THE HON. T.F. BAYARD
AMBASSADOR IN ENGLAND OF THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA



Clan Baird Names Three New Honorary Chieftains

The Society named three new Honorary Chieftains in December 2017. The three are Ross Baird, of Aberdeen, Scotland, Robert L. Baird, of Ann Arbor, Michigan, and Andrew Baird of Ware, Hertfordshire, England. With these



Ross Baird

three, we have a full complement of six Honorary Chieftains to serve as advisors to the four main family line Chieftains and the Board of Directors. All three are long serving members of the Society and have been in leadership roles over time. Robert L. “Bob” Baird served as secretary, vice president, and other offices over many years, Ross Baird has served and remains the Regional Representative of Scotland and England (previously called the Commissioner of those countries),



Robert “Bob” Baird

and Andrew Baird has worked as historian and researcher for many Gryphon articles/genealogy searches over time, as well as fact checker.

Please help welcome our newly named Honorary Chieftains and feel free to talk with them about any concerns or kudos you may have for the Society. Congratulations to each of them!



Andrew Baird



*Flowers
of the Forest*



Mrs. Martha Lampkin Colvard died January 4, 2018 at the age of 104. Her husband, Dean W. Colvard, chancellor emeritus of UNC-Charlotte, preceded her in death after more than 50 years of marriage. A genealogy researcher, she was a member of the Osage Missouri Historical Society, a very active and appreciated member of Clan Baird Society Worldwide, and the Manakin Huguenot Society. Martha worked with Frances and Byron Baird to develop and strengthen Clan Baird Society early in its history, and her research and leadership will be sorely missed.



CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE

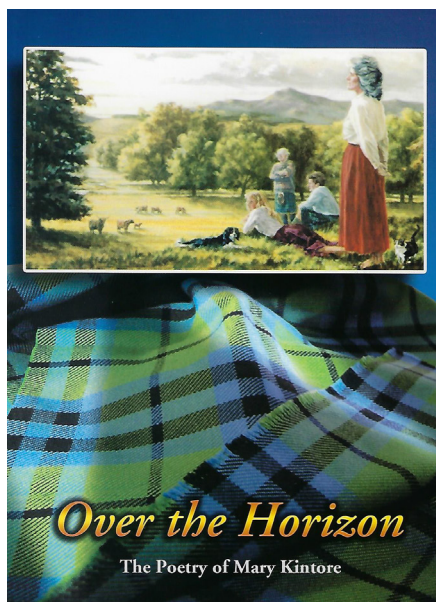
SCOTLAND TRIP

SPRING 2017  part three

Lady Mary Plum Keith, Countess of Kintore

During our Scotland travels, we learned more about the remarkable Lady Mary Plum Keith, Countess of Kintore. She was clearly a very gifted poet, having published a book before her death, *Shafts of Light*. While visiting Lady Diana Baird Holman in Scotland, she graciously gave each of us a book of Lady Mary's poetry that was published posthumously by her children. *Over the Horizon* is a beautiful tribute to a life well lived, and it was a delight to sit down with it a few months ago. Reading her words has been a profoundly revealing look into the world of a lady who was amazingly strong in faith, hope, and love.

For those members who are not aware, the kinship between Baird's and Keith's go back centuries, though various marriages. For the latest closest relation, one needs to only look back one generation, to the parents of 2nd Viscount Stonehaven, James Ian Baird, later Keith. James Ian Baird's mother was Lady Ethel Sydney Keith, 11th Countess of Kintore, thus his name change and becoming Chief of Clan Keith as well as the 12th Earl of Kintore. Mary Plum married the Earl's son, Michael, the 13th Earl of Kintore (Lady Diana's brother), and spent her life making the world a better place. She and Michael attended Grandfather Mountain Games North Carolina, representing Clan Keith and also Clan Baird Society.



A poem from the book, **Over the Horizon**

Glen Muick

Diana and I set out for Glen Muick
On a foray to hear stags roar,
We leave Shannel around three o'clock
Not knowing what would be in store.

The leaves are in their Autumn colours,
Fieldfare feed off berried trees.
The falling rain fills the rushing burns,
It's damp and wet with a gentle breeze.

We journey due west towards Ballater,
Driving along the South Deeside Road,
The river Dee surging beside us,
Peaty brown through boulders it flowed.

We stop at Linn of Muick waterfall,
Steaming foam as it plunges below,
Crashing between grey granite edges
As on into the Dee it will flow.

The trees open up on to hillside
Covered in grass, moss, bogs and heather.
Patched of cloud hang low in the sky;
Hills reflect a rich purple-blue colour.

Lyre-tailed black grouse strut by pine trees,
Blue-black plumage with white under tails.
Two golden eagles soar high in the sky,
Fingered wings stretched for
thermals and gales.

Lochnagar on our right towers above,
Prince Charles's painted and much loved hill;
It reaches down to the Loch of Glen Muick
Whose waters can be turbulent or still.

Suddenly we hear what we came for:
From nearby, a stag's rough cough,
Waiting till he came into the open,
Antlered head held proudly aloft.

As evening approached they come
out of the woods,
Stags chasing running groups of hinds,
Crossing directly in front of us,
Their mates they are trying to find.

Dusk is approaching, we turn for home,
When we spy hinds, their heads
stretched high,
Standing behind a dyke of stone,
Timid faces and large dark brown eyes.

What a wonderful day we spent
at Glen Muick.
We had heard all we wanted to hear:
Roaring stags, with majestic antlers,
And herds upon herds of red deer.

The drive home at night was special too.
A deep yellow moon shone out brightly.
Silhouetting scots pines on the roadside,
As we both thought of our day quietly.





Sgoil Ghàidhlig

Gaelic School
pronounced (skoal gallic)

~ by Bethany Scott ~

Sgoil Ghàidhlig

Gaelic School
pronounced (skoal gallic)

WINTER

an geamhradh (ahn gow-rohk)

STORM

gaeilleann (gay-lee-awn)

WATER

uisge (ooshka)

WIND

gaoth (got)

FROST

reothadh (reh-hahg)

OLD WOMAN

cailleach (kaylehk)

According to Donald Alexander Mackenzie, in his 1917 work *Wonder Tales from Scottish Myth and Legend*, Beira (from the Gaelic: Cailleach Bheur, which translates as 'harsh old woman') was the ancient Gaelic Queen of Winter and the mother of all gods and goddesses. Believed to have created most of the hills, mountains, and lochs in Scotland, Beira was a giant who ruled over the weather and landscape of Scotland in the fierce winter months.

Each year, Beira completed a full cycle of life, beginning annually in the spring as a young maiden and ending in winter as a withered old woman. She didn't begin her harsh reign until she was beginning to age at the end of autumn during Samhain (sah-win). Because the diminishing of her powers as she aged enraged Beira, she raised spring storms with destructive winds and waves and she sent frost all over the land to kill the earliest spring growths. The winter weather of Scotland is her final swansong before her nemesis, Bride, the Queen of Summer, takes over for the months of nice weather.

Beira was thousands of years old because each year she drank from the Well of Youth. On the day of the Spring Equinox, when the days begin to get longer, Beira would visit the Green Island to drink from the well. To the ancient Gaelic people, the Green Island was a perpetually summery island that floated in the sea and was elusive to men who sought it. Mortals would seek the Green Island in order to drink the invigorating waters of the Well of Youth.



2018 Clan Baird Society Worldwide Scholarship

Rebecca Gray, 9-year-old daughter of members David and Jennifer Baird Gray, is the winner of the 2018 Clan Baird Society Worldwide Scholarship. Becca has been representing Clan Baird Society in Scottish Harp competition for three years, and has won numerous prizes. We appreciate her hard work in representing us, and look forward to many more years of her beautiful harp playing.



Clan Baird Society Worldwide Financial Statement

Fourth Quarter - 2017
October 1 to December 31, 2017

Income:	
Dues Received	1,730.00
Misc Income	
Donations	1,000.00
Quartermaster Sales	
Total Quarterly Income:	2,730.00
Expense:	
Advertising	150.00
President-Membership	
Vice President	
Annual Report Fee	
Secretary	
Genealogy	
Gryphon	489.06
Games	
Awards, Trophies & Donations	
Miscellaneous - PayPal fees	17.90
Total Quarterly Expense:	656.96
Net Income or (Loss) for Quarter:	2,073.04
Cash in Bank - Last Quarter:	6,079.36
Cash in Bank/Available Funds:	8,152.40

Submitted by:
Robert G. Beard, Treasurer for Clan Baird Society Worldwide



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Newsletter Deadlines

Spring 2018 Issue
deadline April 15th

Summer 2018 Issue
deadline June 15th

Autumn 2018 Issue
deadline August 15th

Please submit newsletter articles to:

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

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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 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



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