



# the GRYPHON

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## PRESIDENT'S COLUMN

Spring is here, at least on the calendar if not in the weather. Scottish Games will soon begin all over the country and I, for one, look forward to attending and hosting games. This is a great opportunity to have fun, meet new friends, renew old acquaintances and learn more of our Scottish heritage. I certainly urge all of the members of Clan Baird to attend Games in your area and even sponsor a clan tent for Clan Baird.

A listing of Scottish Games by month can be found at [www.ccsna.org/games/](http://www.ccsna.org/games/). This will show the Games in your area as well as dates, contacts, directions, etc. I hope to see you at some of these games!

At present, I will be a guest in the Baird tent at the Grandfather Mountain Games in Linville, NC on July 11&12. I will sponsor a Baird tent at the Charleston, SC Games on Sept. 19 and will sponsor a Baird tent at the Stone Mountain Highland Games on Oct. 17&18 in Atlanta.

I would like to attend other Games around the country as time (and money!) permit. For those Regional Commissioners, State Representatives and other members who are sponsoring Clan Baird tents please email me the dates and locations of the Games and I will try to get them on my calendar and advise you of my attendance.

There are many other items of Clan Baird business to announce in this issue:

CLAN BAIRD'S Annual General Meeting (AGM) will be held this year on Saturday, Oct. 17<sup>th</sup> at the Stone Mtn. Highland Games in Atlanta. This is our annual Clan business meeting in which we update all attending members on financial info, membership, old business, new business and other matters of Clan interest. The meeting will be at either 2:00 or 3:00 PM depending on meeting tent availability. Hope to see you there!

**CRITICAL NEWS...** In January, I experienced a very severe computer failure. This resulted in a complete loss of all the data on my hard drive. Fortunately, all the Baird membership records and documents as well as most of your email addresses were on a backup disc so none of the critical records were lost. However, all of the emails addressed to [clanbaird@comcast.net](mailto:clanbaird@comcast.net) were lost. So...if you sent an email to this address in the last several months and have not gotten a response, PLEASE resend your email! I will try to get back to you promptly.

**DUES...** Please note that it is now time to renew your Clan Baird dues for 2009. If the number following your name on your Gryphon mailing label is 07, you have not paid your 2008 and 2009 dues and this may be your last issue of the Gryphon and result in loss of your Clan Baird membership. If the number is 08, your 2009 dues are now payable. A membership dues statement is enclosed for your convenience.

**MORE "DUES NEWS"...** In transferring membership information from disk to my new computer, some dates may not have updated properly. If you have reason to believe that the dues date on your mailing label is incorrect, please email me ([clanbaird@comcast.net](mailto:clanbaird@comcast.net)) and I will cross reference the date with our Treasurer and advise or change the dates.

**CLAN BAIRD SCHOLARSHIP...** as was noted in previous issues of the Gryphon, Clan Baird was authorized by the members at the AGM to pursue giving a scholarship for study of relevant Scottish interest. Included in this issue is a **PROPOSAL** for guidelines and application for this scholarship. Please review and send your ideas, comments, additions, suggestions, etc. to [clanbaird@comcast.net](mailto:clanbaird@comcast.net). This information will be further discussed (in hopefully finalized version) at the next AGM.

**SUCCESSION OF OFFICERS...** The Officers of Clan Baird (Pres., V.P., Sec., and Treas.) are elected for a 2 year term. All of us have now served for 4 to 8 years. It is important to begin training new officers to carry on the Clan Baird traditions. I am announcing that I will remain as President until the 2010 AGM which will be held at the Salt Lake City Games in June of 2010 at which point I will "ride off into the sunset" but will be available to assist in the transition of officers. If you have any interest in volunteering to be a Baird Clan officer, please contact me ([clanbaird@comcast.net](mailto:clanbaird@comcast.net)) for additional information.

**LOCAL VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...** There are several openings for State Representatives and Regional Commissioners for Clan Baird. There will be a listing of openings for which the Clan needs volunteers in the next Gryphon. Please consider volunteering; Clan Baird needs your support!!

**THE GATHERING** will be held in Holyrood Park, Edinburgh, Scotland on July 25<sup>th</sup> and 26<sup>th</sup>, 2009. This is the signature event of the Homecoming Scotland summer and will take the form of a classic Highland Games and will host the 2009 World Heavy Event Championship. There will be a special clan ceremony held on the magnificent Castle Esplanade, home of the Edinburgh Military Tattoo. This unique occasion will commemorate the contribution made by all Clans to the culture and history of Scotland.

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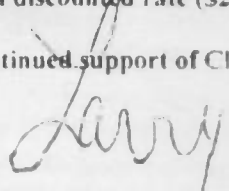
Continued from page 1

This event is being hosted by the Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs and is open to all clan members (including Clan Baird!) For more information on this event, go to [www.thegathering2009.com](http://www.thegathering2009.com)

Clan Baird will have a tent at this event sponsored by Karen & Robert Baird of Tampa, FL. Several Clan Baird members will be in attendance including our Past-President Dale Baird. Unfortunately, I am not able to attend as originally planned.

As you will see from the website, the Gathering requires an events "passport" for admission to all the related events. If any of our members wishes to attend, I have two Bronze passports reserved and paid for that I will sell at a discounted rate (\$200).

THANKS TO all members for your continued support of Clan Baird Society Worldwide! Yours, Aye!



## EDITOR'S NOTES

**Greetings:** Well, here we go again.

I want to thank those who responded to our last newsletter, and yes the heading this time should be straight. There were items that called for a response, and from some—nothing. Remember: this is your newsletter and we need the information ask for.

Wrex Diem, 2200 S. Osseo Rd.  
Osseo, MI, 49266 or  
[Alakazam@frontiernet.net](mailto:Alakazam@frontiernet.net)

**Next Gryphon will be out**

**early July!!!!** We need your notes, pictures, games info, etc. by June 17<sup>th</sup>.

## FLOWERS OF THE FOREST

No one to report at this time fortunately. But just in case—our deepest sympathies go out to those families who have lost a loved one.

## Membership Statistics:

I – the V.P. was curious what the status of our membership was as of the January mailing and I thought the membership would also be interested. As I put the labels on I tallied this info. First of all we lost 46 members whose membership was listed as 06. These members had been carried for 2 years and finally dropped. There were 77 members listed as '07, 110 for '08, 54 paid up for '09. Then we had 7 for '10, 2 for '11. There are 13 honorary members and 26 lifetime members. There are 5 others as others. This gave us a membership as of January, 2009 of 294. WOW, wouldn't it be SUPER if each member recruited one new member?

## MEMORIAL DAY

May 30<sup>th</sup> is the traditional day that is set aside in memory of those servicemen and women who paid the ultimate sacrifice for their country. We now observe this day this year on May 25<sup>th</sup>. We received no names from our membership. We do need to remember that FREEDOM is not Free and many did pay the ultimate, so in our busy schedule—on both days let's pause to remember.

## TREASURER'S REPORT

3 January, 2009

### Income

Dues received           \$1020.00

### Expense

Pres. & Membership \$128.73

Games                   \$295.00

Net Income           \$596.27

Total on hand       \$11,627.21

# SHARED KILTS—STILL TRUE????

December 2006—Associated Press

London-Great Scot! A shortage of ceremonial kilts could leave thousands of soldiers without a stitch of plaid to wear as they parade to the skiel of the bagpipes.

Military officials said that more than 5,000 Scottish soldiers are having to share their kilts because defense chiefs have not finalized a contract to buy enough garments to go around.

The men, who face regular tours of duty in south Iraq and Afghanistan, have just 320 kilts, or one for every 15 soldiers.

Combat troops wore the traditional Highland garb as late as World War I, but now the plaid kilts are used in ceremonial uniform.

New kilts are needed for all Scottish soldiers following the August 2006 merger of centuries-old regiments into a single Royal Regiment of Scotland.

“A planned deployment of kilts will be agreed with the Royal Regiment of Scotland on a role- out basis with..... the full program being completed by January 2008,” a Ministry of Defense spokesman said, speaking on condition of anonymity in line with government policy.

The Ministry of Defense has refused to say who has won the contract to supply the kilts; in the meantime, soldiers will have to share.

The 320 kilts provided so far have been supplied by Argyll Bagpipes and Kilts on a trial basis. The full contract is worth up to \$1.95 million, taking two years to complete and will involve 15,000 yards of fabric.

“The kilt is psychologically important for the identity of Scottish soldiers,” said Lt.Col. Willy Macnair, who served in the defunct Queens Own Highlander regiment. “It may mean that some soldiers in this (new) regiment, by the time they leave, may never have worn it.”

Scottish lawmakers and veterans had opposed the merger of the traditional regiments, which saw action in both world wars and the Anglo-Boer War in South Africa.

Baird Clan contacts:

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*Golf is a game in  
which you yell "Fore"  
shoot six, and write  
down five.  
Paul Harvey*

**PETA BATTLES BUCKINGHAM PALACE**

**WILL BEARSKINS BE GIVEN THEIR MARCHING ORDERS?**



THE black bearskins worn by Buckingham Palace guardsmen could disappear after the Ministry of Defence agreed to meet animal rights activists. And they could be replaced by headwear made from alternative material by designers such as Vivienne Westwood or Stella McCartney. The bearskins, worn by troops for nearly two

centuries, have attracted criticism because they are made from real bear fur. Tomorrow defence procurement minister Baroness Taylor will meet People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals to discuss possible alternatives. The group has asked Miss Westwood and Miss McCartney for help in finding a new design.

*You don't stop  
laughing because  
you grow old's you  
grow old because  
you stop laughing  
Michael Pritchard*

*I hate advice,  
unless I'm giving  
it,  
Jack Nicholson*

Clan Baird  
Scholarship Guidelines

The purpose of the Clan Baird Society Scholarship is to provide financial support toward the study of an element of Scottish culture. This may include Scottish music, dance, language, literature, history, genealogy, politics and religion. Only applications relevant to the study of Scottish study will be considered.

Scholarships will be awarded for \$500.

All applications must be postmarked by XXX

Applicants must be at least 12 years of age; there is no upper age limit.

Applicants may be asked to submit a personal videotape of performance or involvement and are encouraged to include up to three letters of recommendation.

Awards will be based on relevant study and financial need. Race, gender, ethnicity, or religion of the applicant will not be considered.

Preference will be given to immediate family of Clan Baird members but others will be considered.

All scholarship monies must be utilized within 18 months after the award date.

Scholarship recipients must submit a letter of confirmation of enrollment, registration, or apprenticeship in the program toward which the scholarship will be applied.

Scholarship recipients must submit a certificate or letter from the institution, organization, or instructor confirming completion of the program.

*Important: Please answer all questions and follow all instructions in this application.*

Clan Baird Society Scholarship Application

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_ Age: \_\_\_\_\_

College/High School currently attending (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_

Occupation: \_\_\_\_\_

Income information: (if applicant is a minor, please include income information for parent or guardian)

Your income range is (circle one of the following):

Less than \$20,000    \$20,000-\$35,000    \$36,000-\$45,000    \$46,000-\$55,000    More than \$56,000

How will you use the scholarship money if you are chosen as the recipient?

What is your involvement with Scottish culture? How do you feel about this involvement?

Additional comments or information:

SAMPLE

NOTE: THIS IS A SAMPLE PROPOSAL. PLEASE EMAIL THOUGHTS OR SUGGESTIONS TO CLANBAIRD@COMCAST.NET

You may attach additional sheets if needed

Please mail completed application to Clan Baird Society Worldwide:

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX

# REVEALED, the SCOTS who conquered

## Canada

By Steven Henry

FOR thousands of Scottish families, it represented the chance to build a prosperous new life in a country with unlimited potential.

More than one million Scots crossed the Atlantic before journeying into the Canadian wilderness in search of fortune.

Now the travel records of those emigrants will go online today, highlighting the massive scale of the pioneers who set off to tame the 'Last Best West' of the Canadian prairies.

Famous Scots such as Alexander Graham Bell and healthcare trailblazer Tommy Douglas are listed in the register, which can be used by descendants to trace their roots.

The online launch of Canadian Passenger Lists, 1865-1935, reveals incredible details of

the four million Britons who settled in Canada.

Advertised by British colonial authorities as 'The Last Best West' in an attempt to draw prospective immigrants away from the American prairies, Canada's immigration heyday lasted from the late 19th century until the onset of the Great Depression.

The passenger lists, which are held by the Library and Archives Canada, are indexed by name, year of arrival, port of arrival and departure and ship name.

They reveal details about passengers, from their health to religion and even the amount of cash they had when they disembarked.

They also contain information on the vessel, the crew, births and deaths and even marriages, which sometimes took place on board and were overseen by the ship's captain.

The most popular ports of departure were Glasgow and Liverpool and, as the records show, the voyage to Canada was not without its perils.

Among the 4,000-plus recorded voyages detailed in the collection was that of The Empress of Ireland, a passenger ship carrying 1,477 people, which was rammed in dense fog on the St Lawrence River near Quebec on May 29, 1914.

She sank in just 14 minutes, drowning 1,012 passengers and crew.

Many of Canada's early settlers went on to become influential figures in Canadian and world history.

Immigrants appearing in the collection who later made a name for themselves include Alexander Graham Bell, who emigrated with his family from Edinburgh aged 23 in 1870.

They bought a farm in Brantford, Ontario, and it was here he worked on the invention that was to make his name - the telephone.

Falkirk-born Tommy Douglas is also in the lists. He moved with his family to Winnipeg in 1910 and went on to found Canada's free health service.

Simon Harper, the managing director of ancestry.co.uk, which made the records available, said: "This collection is a unique record of the millions who journeyed into the wilds."

## A FEW INVITATIONS FROM VINCENT BAIRD

1. Clan Baird will have a tent at the Salt Lake City Games at Thanksgiving Point, near Lehi, just 20 min. south of Salt Lake City on I-15, June 12-13 at the BCS Busting Utah!!!
2. April 11<sup>th</sup> will be Tartan Days—Tartan Ball!!!!
3. "2010" AGM"!!! "In the heil'ands of Utah" hosted by Vincent Baird. A wonderful time to be had that week. Sailing on the Great Salt Lake!! World's largest Dinosaur Museum, Golf Tournament, a Baird Clan Shanty Game!!! A Shanty Tournament. Visit Park City—Sundance! (movie festival place) Cedar City, Shakespearean Play Festival, dinner-concert and a nite of just Bairds. June 13-14, 2010. Fishing-48 min. away in the (just like) Hiel'ands of Scotland. Visit Bairds Lake, R.B. Bairds Home-singer/song writer. Amusement Parks, Supersliders, and VINCENT BAIRD.

May the best ye've ever seen  
Be the worst ye'll ever see,  
May a moose ne'er leave yer gurnal  
Wi' a tear drap'uz his e'e,  
May ye aye keep hale and he'rty  
Till ye're auld enough tae dee  
May ye aye be juist as happy  
As I wish ye aye tae be.

## MYSTERY MAN EMERGES

The unidentified man in the picture from the Fergus Games has stepped forward and he is David Radley. He, Ann, and Jimmy need help. They need some Bairds who are in the area of Fergus, Ontario on August 7-9 to step forward and March in the "Parade of Clans" For more games information go to [www.fergusscottishfestival.com](http://www.fergusscottishfestival.com). As a person who has marched in parades by myself I do know how lonely it is, and I also know how exciting it is to have other Bairds marching with me.

## EVENT'S IDENTIFIED

### APRIL

11<sup>th</sup>—Tartan Ball—Salt Lake City—Vincent Baird.

### MAY

23-24, Alma, MI., Alma Games hosted by Wrex Diem.

### JUNE

12-13, SLC Games hosted by Vincent Baird.

13<sup>th</sup> Indiana Games, Ft. Wayne hosted by Wrex Diem.

To our knowledge—no other games are being hosted by members OR they wanted to keep it a secret and surprise you when you walked by. We of course will be asking you to submit for July, Aug. and Sept who will be hosting which games etc.

## MORE ON THE MCDUGALL COTTAGE

New member Patricia (Baird) Lawrence was surprised to see the pics of the cottage. The cottage was the home of her Great Uncle James Baird (born March 12, 1868 in Dreghorn, Ayrshire, Scotland). He lived in the cottage from 1901 until his death in 1959. The painted friezes on the wall and ceiling were painted by his brother John Baird (born June 26, 1862 again in Dreghorn). The paintings were scenes from Ayrshire along with some paintings of the Spanish-American War where he served in the U.S. Army.

In the 1880's, many Scots immigrated to Galt (now Cambridge) from Ayrshire. The cottage is used as an interpretive centre honoring those settlers.

Patricia has researched the Dreghorn Bairds to Stevenston, Ayrshire ending with James Baird in the early 1700's. Patricia has exhausted her resources including our Clan genealogist. Can anyone help her with resources or info on any Bairds of Ayrshire. She can be reached at [rellaw@execulink.com](mailto:rellaw@execulink.com)

*People who think straight,  
Don't run around in circles.  
Hillsdale Motel*

*Cutting and pasting is a  
hinder-garden skull and its  
been a long time since I  
left hinder-garden.  
Wrex R Diem*

**MOVING? PLEASE SEND THIS TO:**

**LARRY BURNS, MEMBERSHIP  
CLAN BAIRD SOCIETY WORLDWIDE  
1078 MEADER LANE  
MT. PLEASANT, SC 29464**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

New Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Old Address \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_



**LARRY BURNS  
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