



the GRYPHON

Published by Clan Baird Society Worldwide

JULY, 2010

Presidents Column

Well now—who'd a thunk that after 26 years after meeting Frances Baird at the Orlando Games in Florida, I would become your Clans next president. Truly what an Honor this is.

At the St. Andrews Games in Livonia, MI, the question ask of each Clan is "What is the Gaelic translation for the word Clan?". The answer is children—but I prefer the answer to be family. Their explanation is "We are all children of our ancestors" and that does make sense. I look at the Clan as one big family. When my son volunteered to be Clan Treasurer, he questioned the issue of nepotism. A number answered back, any Baird filling a position would be nepotism for we are all Bairds.

I am pleased that as we start off after our AGM, we have a full slate of Officers and an Editor, Webmaster, and Genealogist. As we move forward, we will be re-defining a few positions, having them fully functioning in the near future. More clarification on this matter in the October Gryphon. And yes—some changes are in the making.

At this time, I won't raise the issue of Regional Commissioners and their roles.

When ask "What are my goals for the Clan", my first response must be to increase the membership with an emphasis on getting the younger generation involved as members.

Second, now that we have a website, we should expand it with important updated information with pics of Clan activities.

Third, the membership approved a \$500.00 scholarship, and now we must implement that scholarship.

Fourth, we must show our presence at more Highland Games by recruiting new hosts and hostesses. We currently are in SC, MI, NC, KS, UT, NY and GA. More on this subject coming down the road. Lastly—I want to emphasize that this is your Clan. You are as important to it as it is important to you.

A HEARTY THANKS!!

YES!!!! It goes out to Larry Burns who served us faithfully as President, and John Barr who VERY diligently looked after our money, and Xyla Hathaway who carefully kept and updated and researched our Baird genealogy—again to each—a hearty THANK YOU.

SERIOUS QUESTION

A young lady approached your than VP at the Alma Games and ask a lot of questions about the Scottish attire. After a number of answers, she came back with what goes into the sporrán(wallet, keys, cell phone, etc) and than Makayla's next question was "In the ancient days, what did they put into their sporrans?" And to all of you—what is the answer to that?

NEW CLAN OFFICERS AND STAFF

EUREKA!!! At last—Volunteers have stepped up to the plate and at the June 12th AGM, the following were all approved by the attending membership.

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CLAN BAIRD WEBSITE

David Baird of the Virgin Islands is our new webmaster. Upon his appointment, he immediately set out to find a domain name available, secure it, and get it posted on the internet. Our website is clanbaird.net. All information being posted on our website is going through President Wrex to insure relevancy and accuracy. If Wrex is in doubt on the material, a decision by your Board will be made. We encourage information and suggestions. Please send them to Pres. Wrex. PS, I just got word—we also now have clanbaird.com. If you go to either .net or .com, it will get you to our website.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

2011 AGM to be held at the Stone Mountain Highland Games. The date should be about Oct. 15 & 16.

**BECOME AN ACTIVE PARTICIPANT—
CONTRIBUTE TO YOUR GRYPHON!!!**

FLOWERS of the FOREST

Our deepest sympathies go out to those families who have lost a family member.

It has come to our attention that in May '08 that our Clan lost Robert Baird of Apopka, FL. Bairdly LOVE goes out to his wife Mary Baird.



KNOWN EVENTS

We apologize to George Snyder for not listing his hosting of a Clan Baird tent at the Kansas City Highland Games, June 11th-13th.

Now—here are the following games having a Baird tent.

JULY--

8th thru 11th--Grandfather Mountain Highland Games, Linville, NC—no tent—But March with Wilson Harpe in the Parade of Tartans.

10th--Utah Highland Games, Payson, UT. Tent hosted by Clan VP Vincent Baird.

AUGUST--

7th—St. Andrews Highland Games, Livonia, MI. Tent hosted by Clan Pres. Wrex Diem.

14th—Central New York Scottish Games, Liverpool(Syracuse), NY. Tent hosted by Clan Sec. James Baird.

21st—Amherst Museum Scottish Festival & Highland Games, Amhurst(Buffalo), NY. Hosted by Clan Sec. James Baird.

28th—Celtic Festival & Highland Games. Cache Valley, UT. Tent hosted by Clan VP Vincent Baird.

September--

4th—Capital District Scottish Games. Altamont(Albany), NY. Tent hosted by Clan Sec. James Baird.

18th—Charleston Highland Games, Charleston, SC. Tent hosted by Clan Past Pres. Larry Burns.

October--

16th-17th—Stone Mountain Highland Games. Stone Mtn, GA. Tent hosted by Clan Past Pres. Larry Burns.

ADDRESS CHANGES

We have lost touch of 4 members—where Gryphons were returned:

Isaac Baird—Taylorsville, UT

Dorothy Baird Baker—Canyon Country, CA

Merton Nelson Baird—Shippensburg, PA

Ester Baird—Gastonburg, PA

Help us out and let us know of any address changes, so we don't loose track of you—YOU are important to the Baird Clan.

Treasurer's Report—

INCOME DUES 1040.00

EXPENSES

Postage 36.50

Gryphon 299.49

Total 335.99

Net income for Quarter 704.01

Cash in Banks: COLUMBUS, GA 10796.43
San Diego, CA 3000.00

TOTAL: \$13796.43

Alma Michigan Highland Games

The over-riding word for the Alma Games was **HOT!!!** Once past that, from our prime location—the word was—good friends, wonderful extended family(Bairds and Bards) friends, and great music. For the parade of Tartans, we had 9 marching in the parade—see pic—L to R—James Kuhl, Hans Bard, Aidan Bard Kuhl, Vera Bard Kuhl being held by Hollie Bard Kuhl, Boni Bard, Wrex Diem, Randy Bard, and Carole Leyman—pic by Sunny Covell. Robert and Mary Baird of Ann Arbor also visited the Baird tent. Robert sent a pic of wife Mary chatting with host Wrex.

A NOTE FROM MARY BAIRD.

Our newsletters frequently point out the lack of Baird representation at Highland Games. Certainly the Southeastern Bairds do not appear to be very strong as far as manning Baird tents. For the longest time James and Harriet Baird of Melbourne, FL would represent the Clan at the Games and were a delight to visit. James had the largest collection of jokes and Harriet had all the nibblies...so the Baird tent was always the first place my husband and I would go.

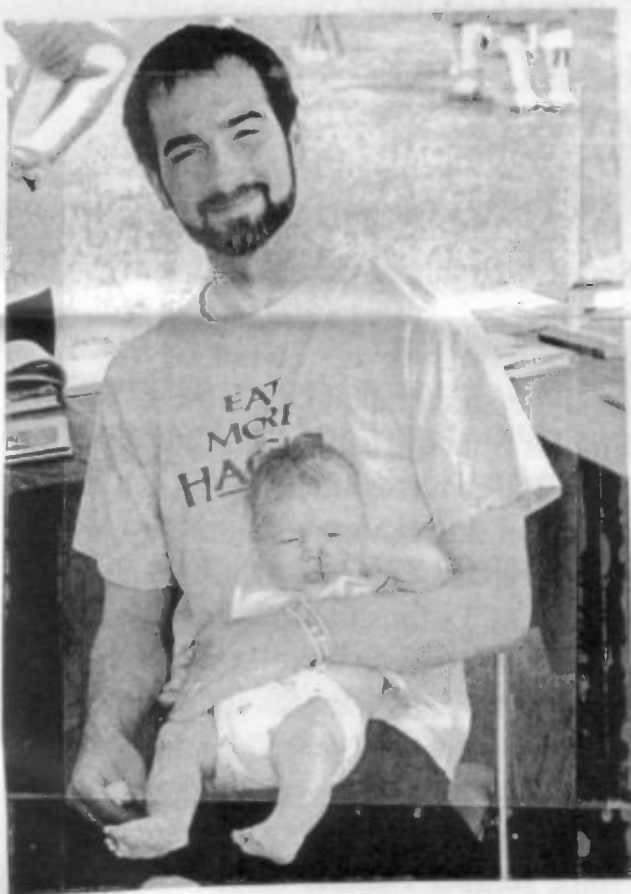
Our local Games are in January, and this Baird is the coordinator of the Scottish Country Dancers and so spends her time at the dance platform and is unable to man a tent.

At a recent Highland Game however, Clan Baird was sort of represented. A couple within our Scottish Country group was being honored as special guests of the Games. As they were ours, we wanted to do them proud during the Parade of Tartans.

We all scurried about grabbing dance flags, Hume/Home flags, Scottish flags, and odd people standing around in order to swell our ranks. Personally, I was beside someone in a Campbell kilt carrying a Clan Hume flag. We staggered and stumbled our way onto the uneven field (aren't they always) and tried to look like an organized unit rather than a motley crew. When we were announced as Clan Hume representing the "Honoured Guests" we had our act together...we were sort of marching in unison and as one—we dipped all flags, did an eyes right and smiled, smiled, smiled. The announcer (who is known to me personally) seemed taken back by the display of so many teeth and seemed to grope for something to say. Spotting me in the group he announced quite proudly..."and there we have CLAN BAIRD." For those on the sidelines that kept track of all of the banners I'm sure there was a little confusion as the Baird one was not evident. All I know is that Clan Baird was acknowledged at the Games in the Parade of Tartans and it was FREE.

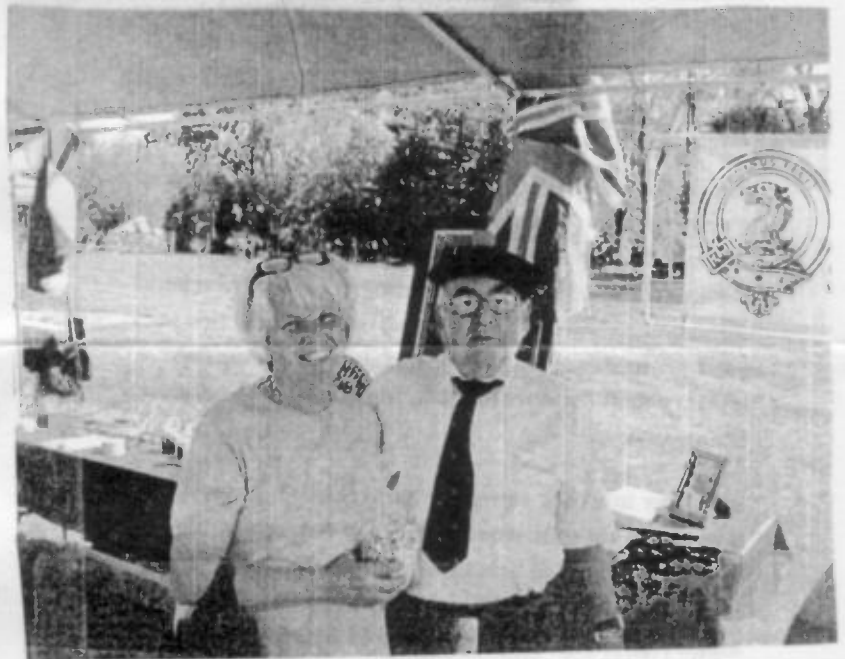
OUCH!!!!

Since our last Gryphon, we have lost a total of 36 members by their not paying their '09 & 10 dues. Financially it is tough out there and we know that. We are sorry to lose those members. That is why each of us needs to recruit new members



OUR NEWEST MEMBER

Vera Baird Kuhl visiting the Baird Tent at the Alma Highland Games. She even got to "ride" in the Parade of Tartans. She is pictured with her father James Kuhl.



EMAIL NOTICE

Recently an email notice was sent out to our membership regarding the AGM meeting in SLC. Unfortunately only 35 members received it because we only had 35 email addresses. Please send your email address to Wrex R. Diem, at alakazam@frontiernet.net. Please also include your name and state so we are sure we connect the correct email address with the correct person.

Salt Lake City

by Larry Burns

The Salt Lake City Highland Games presented all the participants with a little bit of Scottish hospitality in terms of the weather this year; it was chilly and damp. However, everyone had a great time and the Baird hospitality more than overcame the adverse weather... There were about 30 Clans in attendance as well as a large assortment of vendors and food booths.

The Baird tent was sponsored by our Utah state representative Vincent Baird and his wonderful wife "Mimi". The event didn't start off too well as Vince watched his tent get blown and battered into the next county during a nasty rainstorm. However, he secured a new tent and the event proceeded.

Our own (then) Vice-President Wrex Diem was the Master of the Games this year and officially declared the Games open on Friday evening.

One of the lead events of these Games is the tattoo which is presented on Friday evening. The rain caused the tattoo to be moved indoors and shortened somewhat but the entertainment was outstanding. There were several singing and dancing performance exhibitions, two very good professional bagpipe entertainment groups and a military drill team from the area which are the national champions.

Saturday morning saw the weather still threatening but it did clear up somewhat during the day and all the events were held as scheduled. About 40 Baird Clan members, guests, and descendents signed in at our tent and we all enjoyed the exchange of Baird heritage and history.

Wrex and I had quite a surprise...we were talking about George Geldert (a Past-Vice President) and his philosophy of hosting a clan tent when Wrex looked up and we were joined by George and his wife Kellie who had come out from Chicago to visit family and attend the Games.

Later in the afternoon, the Clan Baird annual general business meeting (AGM) was held which was highlighted by the election of a new slate of officers. See the related article which follows.



RAIN KEEPS PEOPLE AWAY

That was the story at the Kansas City Scottish Highland Games. By early Sunday, only about 1500 people had attended the festival. So ran the headline and article in the Kansas City Star for Sunday, 6/13. Yet, four die-hard Bairds were huddled together at the Clan tent throughout what seemed like a monsoon that Saturday morning. No Parade of Tartans this year, as few folks had rowboats with them!! Yet, the Bairds were at the torchlight ceremony on Friday evening as well as the Kirking of the Tartan Service on Sunday morning. We're looking forward to some sunnier weather for next years KC Highland Games. The pic of Kansas Rep. Karen Baird Crigger (L) and Missouri Rep. Cheryl Baird (R) at the evening Torchlight Ceremony and the article was submitted by George Baird Snyder.

2010 Baird AGM

Salt Lake City Games

June 12, 2010

by Larry Burns

The Clan Baird Annual General Meeting was called to order by President Larry Burns with introductions of those in attendance and welcoming comments. Here is a brief summary of the discussion and the results of the election of new Baird Clan officers:

- The reading of the minutes of the 2009 AGM was waived since the minutes were previously published in the Gryphon.
- The Treasurer's report was presented which showed a bank balance of \$13,092.42. This is good news since many other clans are struggling with finances.
- Membership was discussed. Again, good news in that our membership is relatively stable while many clans are seeing serious declines.
- The new Clan Baird website was presented (see ClanBaird.net) as well as the future possibility of the Gryphon being printed and published by email or through the website. More on this in future Gryphons.
- Members in attendance were reminded of the new Clan Baird scholarship which will be presented later this year or early next year. The application form and information is available through Wrex Diem; his email is: (alakazam@frontiernet.net)
- Larry commented on the disappointment of the disbanding of the Clan Baird Society of Atlantic Canada which has been reported in the previous Gryphon. This clan was previously chartered by our Clan Baird Society Worldwide and were very good northern neighbors.
- A discussion ensued about the recent very encouraging increase in volunteers for the Baird Clan. More help is still needed as State Representatives and Regional Commissioners and members to sponsor Baird tents in local Games. Wrex will have more on this in future Gryphons...
- Next followed the election of new officers for the next term. Since there were no candidates opposing the new slate of officers, they were elected by acclamation. The new officers of Clan Baird Society are as follows:

- President....Wrex Diem
- Vice-President....Vincent Baird
- Secretary.....James D. Baird
- Treasurer....Christopher Diem

Larry Burns, (now Past-President!!) congratulated the new officers and made a few transition comments and then presented the new President, Wrex Diem who had a few thoughts to present on his goals as leader of the Baird Clan. Wrex's goals are to increase the Clan membership, recruit new members, and improve the level of volunteerism in the functions of the Clan Baird Society Worldwide. We will hear much more on these topics in upcoming Gryphons.

The meeting was then adjourned with the announcement of the 2011 AGM to be held at the Stone Mountain Games.

Finally, I would like to sincerely thank all of the members and Officers of Clan Baird for their continuing support of the our Clan while I was President...please continue to support our new Officers and help Clan Baird Society Worldwide grow and prosper!!

Yours, Aye! Larry

CUED MILE FAILTE

(100,000 Welcomes)

To our new members since our last Gryphon:

Kyle Kenneth Baird
3550 E. Hidden Mdws. Court
Heber, UT., 84032

Billy D. Baird
6917 Buckhorn Drive
Rowlett, TX., 75089

Julee Baird
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Salt Lake City, UT., 84124

THE CLAN BAIRD TENT



Just a picture of the Baird Clan Tent at the Alma Games. This tent started out 25 years ago as a table, chair, piece of tartan and an enthusiastic member of Clan Baird Society Worldwide.



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