

Remembrance Day Observances for Clan Baird at Auld Kirk at Aberdour/St. Drostan's

For the first time in almost 300 years, a leader of Clan Baird and one other family, Phil and Corinne Cox (Phil is a Baird), placed poppy crosses and held a service for those who fell in World War I and World War II, as well as commemorated the Bairds and everyone buried at the Auld St. Drostan's/Aberdour Kirk on the beach in Northeast Aberdeenshire. The Kirk is on the old Baird Estate of Auchmedden, which was lost to debt incurred in support of Bonnie Prince Charlie, after the Rising of '45. The last-named chief, William Baird, 7th Laird of Auchmedden, died in 1777, living on his brother-in-law, William Duff, Earl of Fife's charity, in Aberdeen, and is buried in St. Nicholas Kirkyard. Others who fought with him and two regiments he helped raise with Lord Lewis Gordon and James Moir of Stoneywood, were transported to the American Colonies, breaking up the Clan entirely, fracturing the family and destroying any wealth they had before the Rising.



Adam, Richard, and Corinne at the gate of the Kirkyard

Clan Baird Commander, Richard Baird of Rickarton, Ury, and Lochwood, the first Baird leader since those days, named August 2019 by the Court of the Lord Lyon, as well as the Clan Baird Piper, Adam Cadmarteri, participated in the service written and planned by Corinne Cox. Bairds all over the world celebrated the ceremony through Facebook and the Clan Baird Society website, ecstatic that after so many years, the Bairds are back in the Northeast and have opportunities to honor their ancestors and warriors. The service was observed completely within current COVID regulations.



Adam and Richard at the Baird Aisle

It has been a long exile for the Bairds, but more and more are coming back to their homeland, never forgotten. It gives even more emphasis and meaning to the phrase "Lest we forget". The Bairds have

not, and will not. Commander Richard Baird and the Clan hopes the Remembrance Day Service will become a Clan Baird tradition and looks forward to each year.



Top left: Phil Cox at the Tomb of George Baird

Top Right: The Poppy Cross

Bottom: Adam, Corinne, and Richard in the Kirkyard, placing the crosses