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2009**

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## Henry S. Baird

*by Joan Kreuser*

Green Bay pioneer Henry S. Baird, 1800–1875, Wisconsin's first practicing attorney, played an important role in law in Green Bay for over half a century. He firmly believed Green Bay would become a prominent place in Wisconsin (originally a part of the Michigan territory) and never regretted his selection of Green Bay as his home.

Baird became Wisconsin's first territorial attorney general and eventually became known as the "Father of the Wisconsin Bar." According to Bob Flatley, well-known Green Bay attorney, who has researched him in depth, Baird found the law dry and irksome and never entirely lost his dislike of it. Attorney Flatley has been known to say, "A community isn't civilized until the first attorney arrives." Some people might disagree.

Baird was born in Dublin, Ireland, and immigrated to Pittsburgh at age five. By the age of 15, he had completed his education and at age 18 started the study of law at a time when there were no law schools, but rather a system in which one studied alongside a practicing attorney in his office until a judge admitted you to practice law in a court.

In 1822, Baird visited Mackinac Island, an important settlement at the time, and in 1824 he married Elizabeth Fisher (half-Indian, half-French) at Mackinac and moved to Green Bay, an area he discovered that did not have any lawyers . . . and thus no competition. Baird's parents objected to the marriage, probably because Elizabeth was only 14 years old and spoke little English.

Judge James Duane Doty and his wife were the first visitors to welcome the Bairds to their new home in the officer's quarters at Fort Smith on the east bank of the Fox River. Doty was the first judge in the area and prior to his term, post commanders at Fort Howard, on the west bank of the Fox River, ran things pretty much to suit themselves. With Doty in place, civil law replaced military

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law in the small settlement and surrounding area.

In 1825, Baird and his wife traveled by canoe to Mackinac Island for the birth of their first child. In route the party stopped in a harbor in what is now Door County and went ashore where the egg throwing tomfoolery that had started in the boats continued on land. After leaving the following morning, members of the group christened the area Egg Harbor, a name that remains to this day. Elizabeth Baird returned to Green Bay when her daughter was six weeks old.

On June 30, 1830, a Menominee Indian named Okewa shot a fellow Indian by accident; as he explained he thought he was shooting a deer. Indian tradition of the day said that by taking a man's life, you forfeited your own. Okewa reported the incident to Chief Oshkosh and Oshkosh and two other members of his tribe drew knives and killed Okewa on the spot.

The trial of Chief Oshkosh, one of the most famous in Wisconsin history, pitted white man's law against Indian tradition. Henry S. Baird was the prosecutor. After hearing arguments from Baird against Chief Oshkosh, Judge Doty, after serious deliberation, acquitted the Chief on the grounds that American laws did not apply to Indians, who were not citizens in any event. Whereas Chief Oshkosh won, it is likely that the case, as well as a few other incidents, cost Doty his judgeship as he was defeated when he next came up for re-election.

In May of 1835, the Baird family moved to Navarino, a newer community located in what is now downtown Green Bay. In 1836, Baird was appointed Secretary to Governor Henry Dodge to deal with the important treaty of Cedar Point. Also in 1836, he was elected to the first Territorial Legislature of the Wisconsin Territory. In December 1838, Dodge appointed him Attorney General of the Territory. In 1846, he served as a delegate to the first Wisconsin Constitutional Convention. In 1853, Baird was the Whig candidate for governor. In 1861 and 1862, he served as Mayor of Green Bay and was also elected Chairman of the County Board, and was for many years president of the Brown County Bar Association. These are some of the many positions the popular and convivial Irishman Baird held during his long and illustrious legal and political career in Wisconsin.

In retirement, Baird chaired the relief campaign for victims of the 1871 Peshtigo Fire.

Henry S. Baird died in 1875 at 75 years of age. His wife Elizabeth survived him by 15 years dying in 1890 at age 80. The Bairds along with two of their daughters and two grandchildren are buried at Woodlawn Cemetery in Green Bay, Wisconsin.

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## **Shamrock Club Member Survey 2008**

Being nearly 50 years old, and wanting to be strong for another 50, your willingness to complete this survey will help us to keep growing! Thank you for your time! (Please feel free to attach separate sheets of paper for additional comments and suggestions.) Click below for a printable form.

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## **Milwaukee President's Message**

We are finally beginning to hope for milder days and more outdoor time, hooray for April, and knowing as Wisconsinites we can see every kind of weather nature has this month. All the gardeners will be planning the garden or starting seeds and waiting to get out and get their hands dirty. Welcome to Spring!

It is the wish of the Shamrock Club Board that our activities in March were pleasing to all. From the SCCGPD concert at our March meeting, to the formal introduction of our honorees, to the informational talk by UWM's John Gleeson. That month was the 49th anniversary of this special club, and we wanted to make it special. The events each day leading up to the parade at the Grand Avenue Mall were created by Westowne Association, and the TV commercials shown on Channel 12 were sponsored by Mo's Pub. If you looked at the commercials carefully, you could spot some of our members making their acting debut.

If you were able to attend the mass at St. Patrick's Church, we enjoyed welcoming Bishop Callahan for the first time and were happy he could be our celebrant. The choir was again under the direction of Bob Harrold and the singing of the choir was a joy to hear. Paula Harrold had stepped in to chair the event and Chuck McLaughlin came forward to tend to all the details that are so important to the mass. Thanks to all of you for all the work this involved and for your dedication each year in the true spirit of love of heritage. After the mass we went back to the ICHC for a breakfast under the direction of Lorraine Neuberg and her volunteers. Well done Lorraine for this and the food for the day.

This all leads up to the marvelous parade under the direction of Mike O'Leary and his many volunteers. Kris Pluskota was the person responsible in all the contacts and mailing to the

participants, and this of course makes Mike's job much easier. Kris was also down on Wisconsin Avenue helping in the parade assemblage. Mike Boyle was on the reviewing stand, and helped with the lineup in advance. Mike has been an integral part of this parade for years, and we thank him. John and Mary Fisher were the skilled judging crew, and their integrity each year is a great addition. John finished this task and then proceeded to the ICHC post parade party.

The post parade party presented the community with the finest entertainment in the state for the day. This is the first time we tried free admission and in a year people are stretched financially, we hope it was well received. Barry Stapleton engaged all the entertainment, and it was well received. Thanks to Al Moss Jr. for boldly stepping up to serve as the chair, and all the hurlers for helping, and to Marianne Fisher for her help while others were at the parade site. Linda Tuescher and Noreen Barclay for the retail area work. Good job each and every one of you.

You must be present at our annual Easter Rising Mass at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. It will commence at 9:30 a.m. this year, and Father Terry Brennan has graciously agreed to be our liturgist for this occasion. The mass is chaired once again by Betty Mikush, and Veronica Ceszynski will take care of the breakfast that follows in the parlor. If you're attending for the first time, we will precede the mass with a reading describing the events in Dublin on Easter Sunday, and how it changed the course of history for the Irish people. It's wonderful to see all the families in attendance each year, and to see the new babies that have been added. Please bring the children, and Easter bonnets are encouraged. We do a collection at this mass, and the money is donated. I can't be specific on this as the board will decide at the next board meeting. Kit and Josie Nash would be pleased to see this tradition has continued to this day.

I'm still watching for you to attend, see you at the meeting.

– **Julie Smith, President**

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## **South Central Shamrock Club April News**

Spring is here for us in Wisconsin. The gardens are in full bloom in one of the most spectacular gardens in Ireland. Thought I would share with you a destination to visit if you are the lucky winner at our St. Patrick's Day Celebration on March 21. We go to press before our raffle winner is announced, so enjoy this about Brigit's

Garden in Roscahill, Co. Galway.

Brigit's Garden takes you on a magical journey through the sacred spiral of the seasons into the heart of Celtic heritage and mythology, making it one of the truly outstanding attractions in Galway.

Themed on the Celtic seasonal festivals, the Garden is regarded as one of the most spectacular gardens in Ireland, set within 11 acres of woodlands and wildflower meadows. A walk through the gardens is a journey through the cycle of the year, each garden representing one of the Celtic festivals: Samhain, Imbolc, Bealtaine and Lughnasa. This seasonal cycle mirrors the cycle of life from conception to old age and death. These are wildlife gardens, designed to reflect the West of Ireland landscape.

**WINTER GARDEN.** The festival of Samhain falls on October 31, and marks the beginning of the yearly cycle for Celtic peoples. This is a time of death and the promise of re-birth, a time of waiting and reflection. It is understood that in the dark silence comes new beginnings. In the Samhain garden, the earth, in the shape of a sleeping woman, wraps around a womb-like pool enclosed in a ring of birch trees, reflecting the stark simplicity of the season. This is a place to be still, dream and prepare for the movement of spring.

**SPRING GARDEN.** Imbolc is the old Celtic name for the spring festival on February 1st, now St Brigit's Day. In the Imbolc garden the path leads through hay meadow and an orchard to a children's glade with its delightful basketwork swings. Further on, a carved triple spiral symbolises Brigit, who is often represented as three sisters or as the three patrons of poetry, smithcraft and midwifery.

**SUMMER GARDEN.** The great fire festival of Bealtaine celebrates the bright half of the year and the coming of summer's warmth. This is the time for sexual awakenings, marriages and the adventures of young adulthood. Diarmuid and Grainne were mythical lovers on the run, and the Bealtaine garden features their bed, a grassy hollow facing the sun. The lovers theme is carried through to the Flame Figures sculpture. A processional way between tall stones has copper flames set into the path and leads to a fire circle, backed by a throne in bog oak and yew.

**AUTUMN GARDEN.** The festival of Lughnasa in August marks the beginning of the harvest and the transition from summer to autumn. Named after the Celtic god Lugh, it symbolizes a time of plenty and celebration. Stone vegetable beds in spiral shapes stand to each side and host an abundance of edible plants: vegetables, flowers and herbs. Two interlinked grassy circles are enclosed with standing stones, making spaces for feasting and dancing. Three yew trees stand outside the exit, symbolising death. The cycle is now complete. See more at [<http://www.brigitsgarden.ie>].

April Birthday Wishes to: Carole Flint 4/1, Virginia Whitty 4/7, Elaine Bentley 4/7, Jane Geoghegan 4/11, John Geoghegan 4/12, George Havey 4/12, Kate Campbell 4/15, Dan Howley 4/21.

April Anniversary Blessings to Ken and Elaine Bentley 4/3, John and Jane Geoghegan 4/12, Bob and Kathy Horkan 4/26, Ken and Elaine Bentley 4/3.

Belated March Birthday Wishes to John Patrick McGowan 3/30 and Jerome Harms 3/15.

APRIL MEETING is Sunday, April 19 at 4 p.m. at the Voyageur.

– **Dana J. Horkan-Gant, Membership Chair**

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## **Easter Rising Mass April 12 at ICHC**

The Shamrock Club's annual Easter Rising Mass will take place at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center on Sunday, April 12, 2009 at 10 a.m. That Mass is said in honor of the members of the Irish revolution who took part in the Easter Week, 1916, Rising. Father Terry Brennan, S. J., will celebrate the Mass.

Joseph Hughes will read the introduction, Derek Byrne will sing the introductory song. Gabrielle Crivello will cantor the liturgical music, and Nancy Crivello will play the liturgical music.

A Continental breakfast will take place after the Mass in Parlor B. We will ask for a free will offering to help defray the costs of the breakfast.

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## **Annual Scholarship Raffle Drawing At April Meeting**

During February, March and early April we sold our tickets for the Shamrock Club Scholarship Raffle. The prizes in 2009 included: a round trip and land package to Castledaly Manor in Ireland; a Belleek China Vase; \$400 Golf package to Brown Deer Golf Course; a stay at the County Clare Irish Inn in Milwaukee, stay at St. Brendan Inn in Green Bay; a night stay at The Irish Cottage in Galena, IL; Silver earrings from Blarney Imports. Tickets are \$5 each or three for \$10.

We awarded four \$500 scholarships for college level students who

qualified in 2008, as well as three Ted Nestor scholarships to the piping school.

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## Color Guard News and Notes

Hello Race Fans;

Alas, 'tis April already and the green season has come and gone.

The band had a fantastic debut at the Shamrock Club's very own St. Patrick's day parade. With the warm weather, it was a great time to be wearin o' the Green.

Congratulations again to all of the very deserving honorees, and especially our very own. In "The Ambassador", as we like to call him, Bill Sherry embodies the very definition of what a Parade Marshal is supposed to be, and I was so proud when they read his name as the recipient. At every gig, he is always talking up the group and its members. He's the best advertising we ever had! He, along with his wife Anna, are as integral members of this family we have.

March also saw us in Chicago's South Side Irish Parade as well as New London's St. Patrick's Day parade. The season is well under way! Please check the website for new additions to April's schedule if any. Right now, you'll see the group at the lovely Easter Rising Mass on Sunday, April 12.

Asides, just a few things going on in the group. Congratulations to Hans Thompsen, who is now a playing member of the pipeline. Can't wait to see a few more faces soon amongst us. A warm welcome to up and coming piper Bob Lannin, and a welcome back to snare drummer Jim Russell who may seem familiar to you as he marched with the group approximately six seasons ago. Also a warm welcome to some of the pipers from Milwaukee Scottish Pipes and Drums who'll be joining us for some of the parades this season. Also, a big congratulations to Dominique, who has worked hard over the winter and will be moving from the color guard to the tenor drum with the other fabulous ladies.

I'll keep this one short. As you are reading this, I am in New York City for the Tartan Day Parade – 750 pipers and counting for this one. It's quite the spectacle. I'll be enjoying a wee pint or ten at the St. Andrew's society and then out to do some serious shopping.

Take a look at some of the events: [[www.tartanweek.com](http://www.tartanweek.com)].

Until the Merry Month of May everyone,

– Noel Tylla, 6th year piper

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### **Shamrock Club Helps Out Again**

On January 12, a Milwaukee newspaper story reported that the Milwaukee High School of the Arts needed all sorts of help in its library. Due to a lack of funding from the school board, the librarian, Karen Ruehl, stated that many needed items were unavailable for the students, such as filing cabinets, periodicals, furniture and even a coat rack.

By a happy coincidence, Jean Bills was vacating her office at the time and had several pieces of office equipment to dispose of, such as desks, cabinets, filing cabinets and, yes, a coat rack. Karen and Jean soon connected and agreed for the transfer of these pieces; on the condition that Karen arrange for transporting them to the school.

When the time arrived Karen was unable to obtain the needed help from her co-workers at the school. She decided that the gift of so many needed items for the library would have to be turned down. At that time, Jean knew that another way might be found. That same night at the Shamrock Club meeting she asked for a volunteer with a truck to do this job. Denis Donohoe raised his hand immediately and came through with the transportation job several days later, with the help of his son-in-law, Bobby McLaurin.

Jean stated "I just knew that someone would step forward at the Shamrock Club, and Denis did." Karen is overjoyed with the "new" furniture that was put to use immediately. "The students love it, and I can't thank Denis, the Shamrock Club and you enough."

The Shamrock Club's reputation for community volunteering really saved the day on this occasion.

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### **Nomination of Milwaukee Officers**

Nominations for officers of the Milwaukee chapter will take place at the March and April meetings. Persons nominated must be members in good standing of the Shamrock Club, with dues paid in

full, and must be present for their nominations. Elections will take place at the May 7, 2009 meeting.

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### **Shamrock Club Upcoming Meetings:**

The Shamrock Club meets the first Thursday of the month, usually at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center. Upcoming meetings will include the following entertainers:

May 7 – Shamrock Club yearly elections at 6.30 p.m. Monthly meeting at 7 p.m.; ICHC; Speaker: Mary Culver “A Year of Images of the Shamrock Club”

June 4 – One of Milwaukee’s dance schools; ICHC; 7 p.m.

– **Sandy Quinlan, VP**

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### **First Friday Lectures**

The Celtic Women First Friday lectures keep getting better and better. With a cup of tea, cookies and treats for all, a wide variety of Celtic topics is very entertaining, often educational and always friendly.

Greene Hall at 3347 N. Downer Ave. on UWM campus is a very Celtic-like venue and very user-friendly for parking, wheelchair ramp, etc. \$7 admission keeps us afloat and your attendance keeps us going. You can pick up a copy of the schedule at any lecture.

On April 3 we will learn about the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, from the president Mary Kuehn.

The original Ancient Order of Hibernians was formed as a secret society in Ireland in the 16th century to protect Catholic masses during the Penal Law days, since the Catholic religion was outlawed. It remains today as a service organization and now the Ladies are included, affectionately known as the “Ancient Ladies.” Their motto is Friendship, Unity and True Christian Charity. Hear about the Milwaukee group which keeps the tradition alive.

This '08-'09 series wraps up with talks about a Scottish Earl; and

Galicia, a little-known Celtic region of Spain. Everyone is invited!

– Jean Bills

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### **Coyote Run At ICHC April 4**

Celebrate the 250th anniversary of the birth of Scotland's bard, Robert Burns, and kick-off Scottish Tartan Week, with *Coyote Run* at 8 p.m., April 4, at the Irish Cultural and Heritage Center, 2133 W. Wisconsin Ave., Milwaukee. The compelling group has won critical acclaim for their mix of Celtic songs, legend and literature. Opening at 7 p.m. is a long-time Milwaukee favorite, *Steel Bonnets*.

Called the "Thinking Person's Celtic Rock Band," *Coyote Run* is a powerhouse group that presents a family performance with literate lyrics, gorgeous melodies and haunting arrangements. The ICHC show will include Burns' songs as well as others from a vast repertoire that sweeps listeners along on a high-energy ride through history.

The April show will mark a return visit for the group who performed for an enthusiastic audience at the ICHC in May 2008. Contributions from the St. Andrews Society and Wisconsin Scottish helped make this special concert possible.

Tickets are \$19 in advance and \$21 at the door with discounts for students and groups. To order tickets online and also view the full Hallamcor concert series, visit [[www.ichc.net](http://www.ichc.net)]. Tickets may also be ordered by calling (414) 345-8800.

– Kathy Schultz

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### **Donn's Poetry Corner**

#### **WARMING INTERLUDE**

*And would you like a cup'o tea, luv?  
Her hands already reaching for the kettle,  
I can see you've braced the elements today,  
They're from the sea, you know,  
All broiled up it is.  
Sit close to the peat, luv,*

*It will warm you soon.  
She placed the steaming cups between us,  
Apologized because there were no scones.  
But then, in a reflective tone  
While gesturing with flowing graciousness:  
You know, our own Frank McCourt  
Once said, "Are we put into this world to be  
busy or to chat over a nice cup of tea?"  
So we sat and sipped and chatted  
Watching the elements unfold thru lace curtains.*

– Grace Goodwin

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### **50th Anniversary Committee**

The 50th anniversary committee is looking for ideas for the Shamrock Club's celebration. Our next meeting is in late April at Josh Walton's house, 2432 N. Lefeber Avenue, Wauwatosa at 7 P.M.

At the April general meeting, we will be taking photos of our past honorees and presidents. Please come down to be shot by Allan Lacosse. We will also be scanning photos for our DVD. The commemorative book's editor, Brian Witt, is going to be looking to get biographies from our past presidents and honorees, Irish Roses, Irishmen, and Parade Marshals.

If you have any suggestions, or wish to join the committee, please contact Josh Walton at (414) 443-0446 or [joshwalton1@yahoo.com].

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### **Flora MacDonald Gammon Receives Prestigious Award**

Flora MacDonald Gammon was named "Exceptional Celtic Woman of 2008" Oct. 10 at the eleventh Conference of Celtic Women in Milwaukee, Wisconsin. Gammon, 62, of Waynesville, NC was the sixth woman so honored, following such luminaries as Morgan Llywelyn of Ireland, Ann Trevenen Jenkin of Cornwall, Margaret Bennett of Scotland, Elinor Bennett of Wales and Dolores Keane of Ireland.

Gammon, a noted vocalist and historian of Scottish traditional music, teaches children throughout North and South Carolina in the Artist-in-School program as well as Elderhostel sessions for adults. She was instrumental in relocating the Scottish Tartans Museum from Highlands, NC to Franklin, NC. She serves on the board of the North Carolina International Folk Festival, Folkmoot USA, and is the director of music for the annual Grandfather Mountain Highland Games.

“Flora MacDonald Gammon has been a stalwart friend and supporter of the conferences of Celtic women since their inception in 1998; she has served as singer, mistress of ceremonies and lecturer of the Scots emigration to America,” stated Jean Bills, founder of Celtic Women International and Conference of Celtic Women in Milwaukee.

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## **Sunshine Club**

John Gleeson’s father recently passed away in Ireland. Shamrock Club member Terrance Smith, brother of Tom Smith, also died recently. Our condolences to these families.

Hospital call: Ron Salmon, John Gleeson and Joe Dowling were all hospitalized recently. All are back home. Keep them in your thoughts.

If you have any information about members, please contact me, Joe Donovan, (414) 259-8040.

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## **Members Doings**

Bill Jaskulski coached his 6th graders at St. Mary’s in Hales Corners to a first place finish at the St. Charles Tournament in Kenosha. Playing on this successful team were two other Shamrock Club members, Nathan Jaskulski and Andrew Ferhenbach. The two boys also play football together and Andrew excels at Irish dancing in addition.

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