

WILLIAM LYCURGUS BAIRD

by  
Becky Reed

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Addendum to the Pearl Coleman papers pertaining to the genealogy of the different branches of the "Bairds" back to England and Scotland. Our branch begins with Wilson Baird and Sarah Bostick of Tennessee. But this history is of only one branch of the Baird family: William Lycurgus Baird, my grandfather and his descendants.

A little history of the beginning of the Baird name though would be of interest I think. According to a Mr. Chas. Guarine, who seems to be an authority on tracing names to their source. This is what he has to say about the Baird name:  
"The medieval "Bard" was a minstrel as well as a poet, and played an important role in the lives of the Ancient Celtic people. These Bards frequently acted as heralds, celebrating the deeds of God's and Heros. They called men to battle and sang at Royal Festivals. Shakespere was known as "The Bard of Avon." It was natural that a surname would evolve from this position--in this case, eventually becoming Baird, particularly in Scotland. The English version remained primarily Bond; and became an important name there during the 18th century. In Scotland, the Baird ancestry dates back to the de Bard family who held land in La Markenird from the family of de Bigrees. In 1228 the great titles of the land of Richard de Beard on the South side of the Avon were granted to the manks of Lesmanhagen. It is a very old name in the Parish of Ballantrae. Henry de Barde, who became a Knight, received a crown charter from Robert I, during the 1300's. The family name appears often in Scottish history for many accomplishments. Sir David Baird was a famous British General in the 18th century. This surname was also held by several notable educators. The Baird Coat of Arms is a red shield with a gold boar. The boar represents a warrior and was the badge of Richard III of England.

That's all very well, but a far cry from W. L. Baird who was the humble son of Dr. James Baird and Carolyn Hill, born in Gibson County Tenn. in 1840. His grandparents were Wilson Baird and Sarah Bostick--all from Tennessee.

W. L. came to Texas riding a horse all the way from Tenn. to deliver a message to the other Baird's who had migrated and settled in North Texas. He must have liked Texas, for he settled down and married his second cousin, Elander Amanda. (name changed to Ellen Amanda Baird), She was the daughter of David Baird and Winefred Sloss of Simpson County, Ky. Amanda, as she was called, was born in Kentucky, before her parents moved to Texas.

W. L. and Amanda lived on a farm in Eastland County, near Pioneer, Texas. They had five children. Their names were: Lila Sloss Baird, Medicus Edgar Baird, Wm. Monroe Baird, Carrie Adella Baird, and Charley Baird. After they were all grown and married, most of them moved to the "Staked Plaines" (That was what that part of the country was called in those days) in Petersburg, Hale C. Texas.

W. L. and Amanda decided to visit the children, and made the long, slow journey in a covered wagon to the Flaines. I don't know just how long they had been out there when Amanda took ill and died. M. E. Baird, my father, rode twenty-five miles on a horse to get a doctor, but when they got back she had gone. She died of locked bowels, they said. I can barely remember my grandmother as I was only four years old when she died.

Grandpa later sold his farm in Eastland County and moved out there with the children. After a while, I don't know just how long, Grandpa met a widow from Correll Co. Tex. who was visiting relatives out there. Her name was Betsy Griffin. She owned a big farm fifteen miles South of Gatesville, Tex. They got married and moved back to her farm. But later they moved to Abilene, Tex. Then in a few months they bought a ranch thirty miles south of Abilene in the Moro mountains. (Now called Happy Valley). Later they found a place they liked better because it had more suitable farm land for cotton, etc., not just

ranching. This place was five miles south of them in the edge of the little burg of Moro. I was staying with them then. I think I was eight years old when I went to stay with them. This place was in a beautiful spot, surrounded by mountains except right in front. They built a house on the back of the land close to the mountain--then later grandpa built another house for Uncle Charley. Uncle Charley did most of the farm work and looked after the stock. Grandpa lived in this place until his death in 1910. My father brought him to our place in Abilene and nursed him through his long illness. Betsy continued to live on the place and hired help after Uncle Charley and Aunt Dilly moved on a farm close to Cisco, but after a while she moved to Brownwood with her niece. She was in her eighties when she died.

W. L. and Betsy had no children, but here are the children of W. L. and Amanda:  
Lial Sloss was the oldest, a daughter who was born in Honey Grove, Tex. in 1868. She married a minister by the name of John Thomas Phillips in 1884. They lived on the Flaines at Petersburg. They had sixteen children. Aunt Lila died June 28, 1961 in Portalis, New Mexico. Their children according to their son, Wesley Phillips:

1. William Carrell - born 1885 - married Emily Bridges and moved to Fairbanks Alaska in 1925.
2. Ellen Phillips - died at age 10.
3. Thomas Wesley Phillips - born 1888. M. Erma McClish. Lived most of his life in Lubbock, Texas, and still lives there.
4. Nina Phillips - died at age 17 months.
5. Joseph Phillips - died at age 20.
6. Bell Phillips - no information.
7. Winnie Phillips - m. Dink Finn and lived at Lubbock, Tex. She died in 1943.  
Winnie's daughter, Ruth Finn, m. Harvey McGeehee. Taught school in Fort Worth, Tex.
8. Wendell Phillips - lived in San Angelo, Tex.
9. Emma Phillips -- no information.
10. Noah Phillips " "
11. Amos Phillips - lived at Hood River, Colo. M. Lila Ditto, reportedly had six children.
12. Mary Phillips - lived at Slayton, Tex.
13. Paul Phillips - San Angelo, Tex.
14. Silas Phillips - Victoria, Tex.
15. Timothy Phillips - lived at Delta, Colo.
16. Sarah Phillips - no information.

Medicus Edgar Baird, son of W. L. and Amanda Baird, born Feb. 13, 1871. M. Esther Elizabeth Keith 12-25-92. They had two children, Beula, called Becky, and Aaron Paul. I was born in Pioneer, Tex., and I think Paul was born in Plainview, I'm not sure. We lived in Pioneer until I was four years old and then moved to Petersburg. I can remember the long trip well. From Pioneer to Petersburg is a long way especially in a covered wagon. We finally made it though; and when we reached the cap-rock (that's where the low land meets the high) our horses just couldn't pull the wagon up. Daddie had to unload the wagon and carry the things up piece by piece. What a time we had! I'm sure I wasn't much help. Mama was sitting on a rock up on top and Daddie called up to her and said, "What are you thinking about now Esther?" She replied, "I'm thinking about the Devil right now." The "Erakes" under the cap-rock looked like where the gentleman would live. After we got every thing up there, we drove on for a while, and we came to a little lake. Daddie said, "This is a good place to camp for the night." But in the night mama woke up screaming--something cold had crawled across her breast. Daddy hurriedly lighted the lantern and found a gila-monster in bed with us. There was very little sleeping after that. Next day we were driving down the road (more of a trail than a road) and we saw what we thought was a man standing up on the road ahead. We were amazed, we hadn't seen anyone for days, and a man being way out there in the middle of nowhere in that vast flat land seemed impossible. But as we drew closer, it came down and went into a badger hole. It was a badger. He was just as amazed as we were, and standing on hind feet to see us better. Of course the mirage caused the illusion. In those days before the land populated, no trees, no nothing but tall grass waving in the wind. you could emagine seeing all kinds

of things, lakes of water, and all kinds of forms dancing in the wind. The next day we came to a dug-out where some people lived. They were so glad to see us they came running out to meet us. How they survived way out there, I don't know. But they were holding down a land grant from the government. People taking up land out there in those days had to live on the land for a number of months out of the year. We rested up a few days with them, and when we left they walked down the road with us for a mile or two.

We finally arrived at Petersburg and Aunt Dell's. Petersburg was a little burg of several ranch houses, a general store and post office. The store and Post Office were run by a family named White. Aunt Dell married one of the White boys, Uncle John White.

Uncle John and Aunt Dell owned a little adobie house of two rooms. You can emagine how crowded we were. But we were all so happy to be together. The Phillips family also lived there, Uncle John and Aunt Lila. I think Aunt Dell was visiting them when she met and married John White. It's all a little hazy now. But I do remember a big hail storm that killed some calves; and I'll never forget how the mother cows balled for their calves. And the wolves howling at night certainly made an impression on me.

For some reason or another we moved to Plainview. They were having a big land boom, and the place was so crowded we couldn't find a place to live. There were tents, ad people camping out all over the place. Finally we found a place, only because no one else would live in it. It was supposed to be haunted. Daddy said, "I'm not afraid of "Haints" and we moved in. It was a big two story adobie house, and someone had been murdered in one of the rooms up stairs, so the story went; and sure enough there was blood all over the floor in one room. All we ever heard was like someone walking down the stairs dragging a chain or something. Daddie would wait until they got near and then strike a match--nothing.

Then we had an epidemic of small pox, and the people nearly panicked. They took all the patients out on the prarie in big tents. Daddie was vaxinated and went out there to help. When we needed to talk to him, we drove out there in a buggy, and stand way off and shout to him with the wind to our backs. Then Daddie came down with Verola, which is a light form of small-pox.

I don't remember just how long we lived out there until we moved back to Abilene where grandpa and Betsy were living at that time. Daddy got a job as foreman on a ranch south of Abilene, and that's where our troubles started. Paul was three or four years old and I was eight. Mamma didn't like it out there as a ranchers wife. She was young and pretty, and cut off from her family and friends. Anyway she got someone to drive her and the two children to Eastland Co. and her parents. Grandpa Keith, her father was a lawyer, and she didn't have any trouble getting a divorce. But grandpa Keith was a good friend of Daddie's and said it wasn't fair for her to have both children. I was the oldest and was awarded to my father. I'll never forget these awful times; I cried all the way to Cisco where grandpa took me to catch the train to Abilene. But when I saw my Daddie I was so happy to see him I soon got all right. Daddie put me in school, and we did fine until his health got bad and the doctor wanted him to back out West. I went to stay with Grandpa Baird and Betsy. They had moved to Moro by then. I walked two miles to school. For some reason I called Betsy "Ma". She was wonderful to me, she and grandpa both. They were very religious people, and they saw to it that I learned the bible from cover to cover. We went to church on Sunday and prayer meeting on Wed. evening. Had the preacher for Sunday dinner nearly every Sunday. When I look back though, I believe it was the happiest part of my life. I loved it on that farm. Then grandpa moved over to the big farm he bought where there was more room for cotton and feed. But I never liked this place as well as the old ranch place, where it was so picturesque, nestled down behind a mountain on a spring fed creek. But the other place was beautiful too, and not so far to walk to school. I described this place above.

Well, then Daddie married again. His second wife was Miss Ella Williams of Abilene. Daddy wanted me to live with them. Grandpa didn't want me to. They thought I would back-slide

in my religion that they so carefully taught me. Grandpa told me if I would stay with them until I was grown and married they would will me the place and everything. But I wanted to go to the big city, and grandpa gave in with the understanding that Daddie would put me in Abilene Christian College. (Grandpa helped to raise the money to build that college). I started in in the Academy part in the fifth grade, I think. We did fine, Daddy had a good business; Ella and I were great friends. She was only nineteen when they married. After a year or two Daddie added another business (bicycles) in Ballenger. Daddie died Nov. 26, 1950.

The second child of Esther and Edgar (called Ed) Baird, was Aaron Paul Baird, born Aug. 10, 1898. Paul and I were great pals. I guess we enjoyed each other so much because we were together only in the summer. When we were at Moro we roamed those hills like regular hill-billies. We would take sandwiches and be gone all day. Grandpa would say, "As long as they take Shep, the dog along, I know he will bring them back home." One day we found a cave; and we knew there were wild cats in those hills, but we crawled in anyway; we got back a ways where it was nearly dark, and we saw two big eyes a staring at us, and we didn't waste any time getting out of there, and ran all the way home scared to death. We never ventured in that cave again.

One evening after that Aunt Dillie came rushing in the front door, carrying both kids and so frightened she couldn't tell us what was the matter for a while. When she got her breath said a wild cat came to her front door (guess they didn't have screens) and was coming on in---she screamed and the cat backed up a little and she grabbed the kids and went out the back door and ran with them to grandpa's. The cat was trying to get away from the dogs. Grandpa took his gun and went down there but the cat was gone.

Paul moved to Utah when he was grown, and I didn't see him for years. He married a girl by the name of Dorothy Hurley Christensen. They had one son, Homer Hurley Baird- born Nov. 15, 1930. He is called Rocky. I didn't see him until he was a grown man. Rocky married Donna June Weaver---she was a widow with two girls. Bocky and Donna live in Ketchikan, Alaska. Paul died Nov. 4, 1975.

I had one child, a son named Gerald Keith Long--name changed to Reed after I divorced Henry Long and married E. D. Reed in 1923. E. D. made a wonderful father for Gerald and loved him like his own. E. D. died Dec. 6, 1972.

Gerald Reed married Helen Virginia Ball, May 8, 1937. They had three children---Carolyn, B. Nov. 29, 1937; Bill - born Oct. 8, 1940; Gay Ann - B. April 18, 1948. Carolyn married Paul Robert, and they had one son, John Paul Robert - B. Oct. 31, 1965. Bill married Lueda Johnson, and they had two children: Scottie B. May 14, 1963; Gay Ann married Bob Dilg, and they had two children: Keith- born -Jan. 26, 1976; Christopher. born Dec. 24, 1978.

Vernon Edward Baird, son of M. E. Baird and Ella Williams - born June 10, 1906. First marriage to Edna Louise Dalton in Astec, New Mex. Vernon's second marriage was to Francis Alene Taylor.

Vernon Baird and Edna Louise Dalton had one son - Clayton Dalton Baird. Clayton married a girl by the name of JO Ann Garcia, May 1953 in Salt Lake City, Utah. And they had six children: 1st, Ronald Eugene Baird, b. Feb. 4, 1957 in Toole, Utah. (Ronald married Suzanne Elisabeth Richards, June 12, 1980. He graduated from the U. S. Air Force Academy May 28, 1980. He was the most outstanding cadet in mathematics award, and graduated in the top 15% of his class. He is now in Flight Pilots Training at Williams Air Force Base. Arizona. Ronald is now 23 years of age.) 2nd - Shurna Baird, b. Oct. 30, 1958. 3rd, Douglas Baird, b. March 19, 1960. 4th, Eva Kathleen Baird, b. Oct. 17, 1961. 5th, Robert Paul Baird, b. May 26, 1963. 6th, Terp Lynne Baird, b. Sept. 3rd, 1964.

Vernon Baird and Alene Taylor had seven children and they were: Donald Ray Baird, b. Nov. 27, 1940. Carol Ann Baird, b. May 9, 1942. Frances Allene Baird, b. Jan. 30, 1944. Linda Faye Baird, b. April 3, 1946. Verneice Baird, b. July 11, 1947.

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Varnon and Alene Baird cont'd.

Jessie Edzar Baird, b. Sept. 7, 1949. Hymanda Kay Baird, b. Dec. 21, 1950.

Opal Orene Baird, daughter of M. E. and Ella Williams, born April 17, 1909. Married Bob Williamson, April 17, 1927. They lived in Austin, Texas. Bob died Nov. 15, 1960. Opal and Bob's two children lived in Dallas, and after Bob's death Opal moved to Dallas, and is still living there.

Robbie Joann Williamson, daughter of Opal and Bob Williamson, born Jan. 24, 1929. Joann married Earl Willeford, Nov. 1946. They had four children: Becky, b. Aug. 2, 1948. Billy, b. Nov. 26, 1950. Janneta, b. Jan. 6, 1953. Eddie, April 15, 1958. Joann and Earl now live close to Garza Lake at Aubrey, Texas.

Dean J. Williamson, son of Opal and Bob Williamson, B. July 6, 1932. Married Jerry Wilcox. They have three children: Terry, b. Feb. 1, 1958. Robbie, b. March 15, 1960. Jennifer, b. Feb. 26, 1963. Dean and Jerry live in Dallas.

Wm. Monroe Baird, son of W. L. and Amanda Baird, b. 1874. Married Minerva Garrett of Weatherford, Parker County, Texas. They had one child, a daughter named Gladys. They lived in Weatherford most of their married life. Uncle Mon died Feb. 15, 1967.

Gladys Baird, daughter of Monroe and Minerva Baird, b. Nov. 1901. Gladys married Chas. McCullar. They lived most of the time in Weatherford. After Chas. died, Gladys moved to Dallas: but she always longed for home and is now living back in Weatherford.

Charles Wesley Baird, son of W. L. and Amanda Baird, b. Feb. 4, 1876. Married Dillie Melton in Coryell County Jan. 10, 1901. They lived in Eastland Co. near Rising Star, and in Taylor Co. near Moro, Texas: then in Knowles, N. Mex. for a year or two, then back to Eastland County. Uncle Charley and Aunt Dillie had ten children as follows: Archie Baird, B. May 9, 1902, Jonesboro, Tex. Elva Ellis Baird, b. Dec. 30, 1903, Jonesboro. Johnie Leta Baird, b. April 2, 1905, died Nov. 10, 1905, Moro, Tex. Wilmer Lesley Baird, b. June 24, 1906, Moro, Texas. Ruthie Baird, b. July 25, 1910, Knowles, New Mex. Eunice Almeda Baird, b. April 16, 1913, Knowles, New Mex. Neola Dell Baird, b. Aug. 10, 1917, Jonesboro, Tex. O. Dee Baird, b. Aug. 12th, 1920, Jonesboro. Lenine Debbs Baird, b. Nov. 19, 1922. Jewel Dean Baird, b. May 17, 1925, Pioneer, Texas.

Carrie Adella Baird, daughter of William Lycurgus Baird and Amanda Baird, b. March 11, 1880, Pioneer, Texas. Married John Edwin White in 1898, Fetersburg, Tex. Aunt Dell and Uncle John had nine children, and they were: Edwin Monroe White, b. Aug. 26, 1899, Fetersburg, Tex. Clarence Eugene White, b. Feb. 14, 1901. Married Lena Meadows. (Edwin Monroe married Anabel Boydston). Ellen Eunice White, b. April 22, 1903, Fetersburg. Married Hubert Qualls. Almeda Blanche White, b. June 10, 1905, died May 23, 1931. Almeda was married to William Shults. Alta Faye White, b. Feb. 19, 1908, and died Feb. 14, 1970: she was married to Alvin Huff. Rosalee Mae White, b. March 10, 1910. Married Joe Black. Milton Baird White, b. Feb. 14, 1914. Married Ima Faye Acuff. Clovis Denton White, b. April 5, 1917, died Nov. 19, 1980. Clovis never married. All of these were born in Fetersburg. Letha Doris White, b. May 28, 1919, Clovis, New Mexico. Married C. W. Sorgen.

Thanks to all of you for the information you furnished me; and especially to Eunice Qualls, who went to a lot of trouble in rounding up so much material. All information that I have will go to Pearl Coleman, 6422 Vickery Blvd. Dallas, Texas. 75214.

Also to Opal Williamson for all the information she furnished.  
Please excuse all the mistakes. Becky Reed.