

Remember Those from Whom You Came

Newsletter for The House of MacAlpine

The Worldwide Organization for MacAlpine's



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Time for MacAlpine to have a Chief

Dr Bruce Durie, *Shennachie* to the Chief of Durie

It's been a fertile time of late for new Chiefs and Commanders, to say the least.

Ian Neill Lochnell Malcolm, 20th Laird of Poltalloch is now Chief of Malcolm following his father's death last year. Likewise we lost Maclaren of Maclaren, and we await an announcement about which of Donald's two sons will take up the reins.

As for those Clans and Families lacking a "genealogical" Chief by straight inheritance, MacEwen has selected a Commander, Sir John R.H McEwen, 5th Baronet of Marchmont and *Bardochat*; Charles Robert (Rob) Lund Strachan is Commander of Strachan and expected to be acclaimed Chief of Strachan. There are plans in place for Family Conventions for Logan, McBain, and the Clan comprising Macfie/MacDuffee/Mac *Dubhsith* etc. (but they have to finalise their Clan name first). There are others at various stages of readiness, including Young.

Then there's MacAlpine.

Michael Todd McAlpin was recognised as Commander by the Lord Lyon in April 2017, with a Commission to serve for 10 years. That time is nearing its end. So, the House of MacAlpine is gearing itself up for another Family Convention to identify a candidate for Lyon's recognition as Chief of Name and Arms. A petition has been lodged with the Lyon Court and a Supervising Officer appointed - Dr. Gillian Black, Professor of Scots Private Law at the University of Edinburgh, a Commissioner at the Scottish Law Commission and Carrick Pursuivant at the Court of the Lord Lyon. The Convention will probably take place in the early Summer of 2027 (watch this space!).

That may seem a long time in the future, but it will slip by fast. MacAlpine will announce details soon, including how to be considered for selection as a candidate for Chief, how to take part in the selection process, how to participate in the Family Convention, and so on. This will be a major step for an honourable Highland Name which has never had a Chief, but has made great strides in organising itself and moving forward under Mike McAlpin's Commandership. However, Mike knows as well as anyone that the step from Commander to Chief is not a "gimme", and that there is due process operating under Scots Law and in consultation with the Lyon Court.

But it's not just about having a Chief. Many other things flow from this. Chiefs are invited to join the Standing Council of Chiefs of Clans and Families, the nearest thing there is to a consultative body on such things. Having undifferenced Arms for the Chief means that the vexed question of the Crest Badge can be settled once and for all (it will take the Crest and Motto from the new Chief's Arms). The *MacAlpines* will have a more elevated status than those Clans, Families, Houses and Kindreds who are *Chiefless*, and their chests will swell ever so slightly. It is no small thing to become a Name with a Chief.

Commander's Note

There are three pipe bands that bear the MacAlpine name and wear the MacAlpine tartan.

The Durham Regional Police Band in Ontario, Canada, formed in 1996, and named after the former Chief of Police Kevin McAlpine, pictured is the Band at our tent at the Fergus Highland Games in Ontario, Canada



The Durham Regional Police Band
Ontario, Canada

McAlpine's North Canterbury Pipe Band from Rangiora New Zealand, formed in 1928.

I had the pleasure of getting to know some of the members while they were performing at the Royal Tattoo in Sydney Australia a few years ago.



McAlpine's North Canterbury Pipe Band
Rangiora New Zealand

One of the oldest pipe bands in North America is **The Pipes and Drums of Clan MacAlpine**, established in 1912, and now 113 years old, from Rockford Illinois.

I was with them for their Tartan Day celebration an 2018, and again this year at a Burns dinner .



The Pipes and Drums of Clan MacAlpine
Rockford, Illinois

I have had the honor of meeting and chatting with the members of all three of these terrific bands.

Supporting these bands, and participating in other Scottish heritage events is my honor as your Commander.

The 2025 Games season has officially begun. I hope to see many of you at the many events the MacAlpine's participate in.



Le gach deagh dhùrachd

With every good wish,

Michael T McAlpin

Commander

Name of MacAlpine



Presidents Letter

Here we are already into April and one quarter of 2025 is nearly behind us. Time flies by so quickly, which is why I'm going to remind you that in 2027 we will be holding our family convention in Scotland. So, start planning now and save your funds so you can join us there.

The Highland Game season is upon us. I hope we will see some of you at the games this year. We love seeing our family members and always enjoy meeting new ones. See the list of games at the end of this newsletter where there will be a MacAlpine tent. If your area is not on the list, we are always looking for new people to host for us. We do provide the tent package. One does not need to be a pro in Scottish history or even our family history. You just need to be willing to greet folks and have small conversations. If a visitor has questions, you aren't able to answer, get their contact information and a board member can get back to them. It really is easy and very rewarding. Let me know if you would like to sign up to host.

On a personal note, Robin and I will be celebrating our 25th anniversary this Spring. Robin is the one that introduced me to the Highland Games and in turn, got me plugged in to the MacAlpine family. It has been such a fulfilling path to be part of our efforts to seat a Chief for our family.

In Kinship,

Dale



Commander: Michael T. McAlpin

Society Board Members:

President: Earl Dale McAlpine

Vice President: Mark SC McAlpin

Secretary: Laura McAlpine

Treasurer: Teala Pennel

Membership: Robin McAlpine

Member At Large: Fin Stavnsbo Alpin

Newsletter Editor: Robin McAlpine

The Homestead Project – McAlpin's at Clachandubh

Submitted by
Mark S.C. McAlpin
Sennachie elect

James McAlpin made his home about three miles north and east of Kilmartin, between Loch Ederline and Loch Awe.

He worked a small croft, named Clachandubh (sometimes Clachandoo), likely named after the Clachandubh Burn that runs through it. It was one of the five homesteads on the Glennan Farm. He supplemented his income as the schoolmaster at the village of Ford, about two miles to the North.

James met and married Elizabeth Campbell, daughter of Neil Campbell, Laird of Inverliever. Their first child was born in 1758, and they named him after Elizabeth's father, utilizing the English name Neil, rather than the traditional Gaelic spelling Niall.

A second child, Mary, was born in 1760, and a third, Susanna in 1764. They were devout churchgoers, frequenting the Kilmartin Church where all three children were baptized.



McAlpin's lived there for a century or more, the last being Mary McAlpin in 1885.

The Homestead Project – McAlpine's at Tayvallich

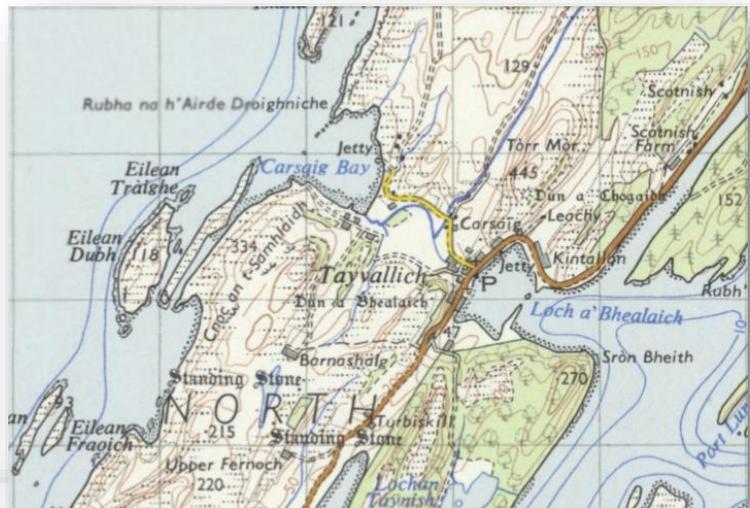
Submitted by
Mark S.C. McAlpin
Sennachie elect

Tayvallich, a picturesque village nestled on the shores of Loch Sween, about 10 miles south and west of Kilmartin on the AB8025 holds a special place in the hearts of the McAlpine family. The name Tayvallich, derived from the Gaelic "Taigh a' Bhealaich," meaning "house of the pass," reflects the village's historical significance as a gateway to the surrounding regions.

The area around Tayvallich has been inhabited for thousands of years, with early settlers arriving after the end of the ice age. These settlers tilled the land and kept livestock for clothing and food. During the medieval period, the area saw the construction of forts or "duns" for protection against raiders. The Vikings also had a presence in the region, using the nearby islands for their longboats. Farming was the primary occupation in the 19th century, with potatoes being exported to Ireland. The village also had a distillery that produced Naphtha from birchwood.

The McAlpine family's presence in Tayvallich dates back to the late 18th century. Margaret McAlpine married Andrew Carswell in 1781. Together, they raised a family in this charming village, contributing to the local community's growth and development. Their children, including Neil, Kirsty, John, and Archibald, were born and raised in Tayvallich, continuing the family's legacy.

Today, Tayvallich remains a beloved destination for both residents and visitors.

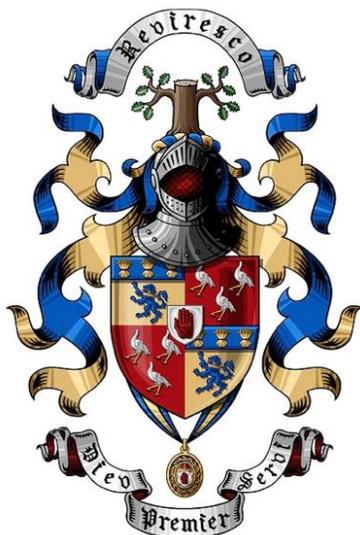


Congratulations to the New Chief of Clan MacEwen

Sir John R.H McEwen, 5th Baronet of Marchmont in the County of Berwick, and Bardrochat in the County of Ayr, Commander of McEwen, had been recognized as Chief of Name and Arms, of the MacEwens.

In 1994 the Clan MacEwen Society began the long journey to have a Chief recognized.

At a Family Convention held in 2014, Sir John was appointed Commander, and in June of 2014 an additional Family Convention nominated Sir John to be recognized as Chief. The Lyon Court has now recognized him as the Chief, and new arms have been recorded.



His old arms were replaced with the new one with supporters. The otter supporters and the pebbled beach represent Otter Ferry, on the shores of Loch Fyne on the Cowal Peninsula

Flowers of the Forest

Etsuko Barbara McAlpine
Etsuko Barbara (Bobbie) McAlpine
June 12, 1923 – March 20, 2025

Bobbie was born on June 12, 1923 in Osaka Japan, the youngest of six children born to Seuchiro and Yuri Uehira. In 1953 she met and married a handsome American sergeant, John L. McAlpine, who was stationed in Japan at the time. Their only child, Mary Ann, was born in 1954, after which the family moved to the U.S.

In 1960, John sadly passed away from a brain tumor. Bobbie never remarried but chose to remain in the United States to raise her daughter. She found a home and community in Vandercook Lake, Michigan where she lived until 1976. She became a dedicated Christian and was active in Vandercook Lake Baptist Church where she made many lifelong friends.

Bobbie worked as a clerk at Consumers Power Company (now Consumers Energy) from 1968 to 1987 when she retired after 19 years of service. In 1976 Bobbie moved to Lansing. She became an active member of Colonial Village Baptist Church (now Lifeway Community Church) and maintained treasured friendships with many congregants.

Bobbie celebrated her 100th birthday on June 12, 2023. Family and friends were on hand to honor her long life at a wonderful party at Independence Village in Grand Ledge where she had lived for a decade. She spent her final year at Fairview Adult Foster Care.

Bobbie leaves behind her daughter, Mary Ann, son-in-law Oscar (Jeff) Baker, many nieces and nephews, “adopted” grandchildren, and numerous friends.



MacAlpine's Celebrate Their Heritage

Replete with Highland Dancers, Pipes and Drums, Burns poetry, the renowned Haggis, and a dram or two, MacAlpine's celebrate their heritage and the immortal bard at Burns dinners, Tartan balls and much more.

Robert Burns is celebrated the world over, and there are many opportunities to enjoy the festivities. From Reno Nevada to Stockholm, MacAlpine's enjoyed the celebration of Burns birthday on January 25th.

Reno, Nevada



Springfield, Missouri



Stockholm, Sweden



Rockford, Illinois



Savannah, Georgia

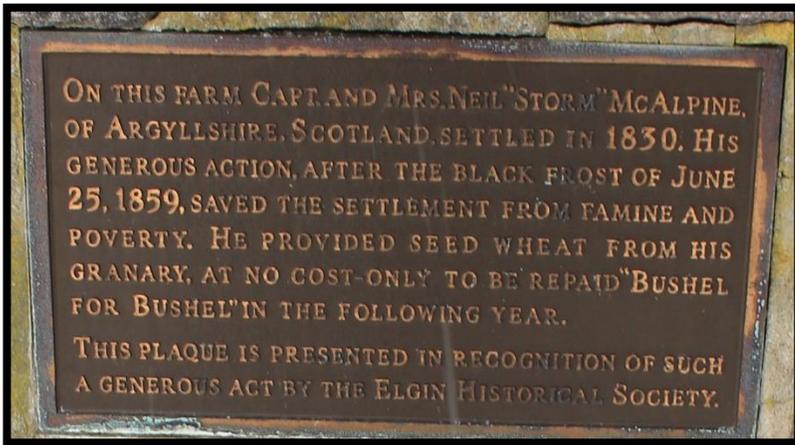


South Carolina

The Tartan Ball was held in the Sweetgrass Ballroom at the Wild Dunes Ocean Resort, Isle of Palms SC. There were several hundred in attendance enjoying, speeches from special guests, bagpiping, Celtic music, dancing etc.



Neil McAlpine, from Kilmartin Scotland to Ontario, Canada



Neil "Storm" McAlpine emigrated from Kilmartin, to the Talbot Settlement on the shores of Lake Erie in Ontario., Canada.

Neil was one of the early pioneers of the settlement, arriving there in 1830, he farmed extensively and when market prices did not suit him, he held his products until another season.

In 1859 the frost killed all the wheat in the Talbot Settlement, but Neil MacAlpine had three thousand bushels in his granary. At first, he exulted in the prospect of selling the wheat profitably, but one day when he was in the nearby village of St. Thomas, he suddenly saw matters in a new light.

Word was brought to him that the local miller wished to see him. When Neil went to the mill, the miller said, "You have some wheat, haven't you?" "I have three thousand bushels." The miller made him a very generous offer, more than what the wheat would be worth as ground flour.

Neil realized that the miller was going to resell it at even higher prices to the struggling settlers who were threatened with famine.

His mind was made up at once.

The next day, being on the Sabbath, and he being an elder of the Kirk, he dressed and went to church early. Standing beside the gate, he whispered to each pioneer as he passed through: "You can get seed grain at my place --- bushel for bushel. For each bushel you take at seed-time, you will bring back one bushel after harvest."

"He made this offer to every member of the Presbyterian Church. When he went home after the service, he remembered that he had made his offer only to Presbyterians. In the settlement there were many people belonging to other churches, so he put his sons on horseback and sent them to the others --- the Baptists, Anglicans, Roman Catholics and Methodists. A young man stood by the gate at each church and whispered to the worshippers as they entered: "You can get seed grain from my father --- bushel for bushel. For each bushel you take now, you will bring back a bushel after harvest."

"On Monday morning the settlers thronged to Neil's farm.

The boys were in the granary measuring out the wheat and filling the bags, and as each settler with his precious store of seed grain came past the house, Neil MacAlpine would hold up his hand and ask: "How many bushels?" --- When they told him the amount, he would add: "Remember now, bushel for bushel. For every bushel you are taking you are to bring me back a bushel after harvest."

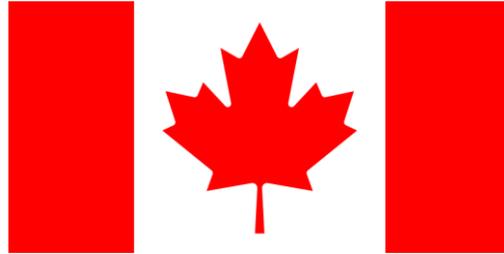
For three days the procession passed Neil's door to the granary and back until all the grain was distributed and every family in the settlement had seed wheat.

Neil McAlpine, from Kilmartin Scotland to Ontario, Canada (continued)

“The story continues about an Irish family which had been helped by Neil many times. A man speaking to the Irishman about the famine said: “You were Catholics, were you not?” “We were.” “But Neil MacAlpine was a Presbyterian.” Drawing himself up to his full height, the Irishman replied: “On Sundays he was a Presbyterian, but on weekdays he was a neighbor.”

Neil died August 20th, 1875, and is buried in St Thomas Church in the village of St. Thomas.

The local citizens put up a cairn and a plaque to Neil at the location of his farm, now the Tufford farm, west of Middlemarch on the north side of Fingal Line.



**Check our Facebook page for upcoming games and all things
House of MacAlpine related**



Scan QR code with your phone

UPCOMING HIGHLAND GAMES

Mark your calendar &
Look for the MacAlpine Tent



Join us at the Loch Norman Highland Games

April 12 & 13, 2025

**4431 Neck Rd,
Huntersville, NC 28078**



Join us at the Savannah Highland Games

May 3, 2025

**Bethesda Academy
9570 Ferguson Ave.
Savannah, GA 31406**



Join us at the Fair Hill Scottish Games

May 17, 2025

**Fair Hill Fairgrounds
4640 Telegraph Rd
Elkton, Maryland**



Join us at the Greenville Scottish Games

May 24, 2025

**3300 Poinsett Highway
Greenville, SC 29613**



Grandfather Highland Games

July 11-13, 2025

**4210 Mitchell Avenue, Suite 2
Linville, NC 28646**



Fergus Scottish festival

August 8-10, 2025

**Centre Wellington Community
Sportsplex 550 Belsyde Ave E, Fergus,
Ontario, Canada, N1M 2W5**



Stone Mountain Highland Games

October 17-19, 2025

**Stone Mountain Park
1000 Robert E Lee Blvd
Stone Mountain, GA 30083**



Charleston Scottish Games

November 7-8, 2025

**Riverfront Park,
061 Everglades Ave
North Charleston, South Carolina**