

Remember Those from Whom You Came

Newsletter for The House of MacAlpine

The Worldwide Organization for MacAlpine's



Second Quarter 2025 ~ Volume 68

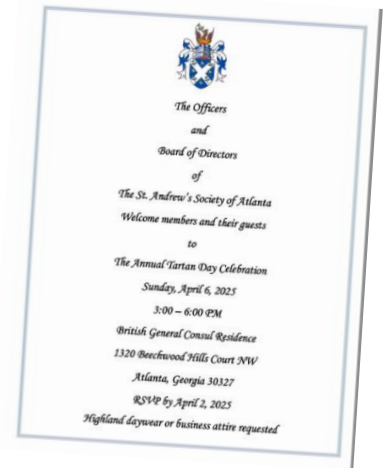
Commander's Note

Carolyn and I had the chance to attend the Tartan Day celebration at the British Consul General's residence on Sunday, April 6th. Tartan Day is a celebration of Scottish heritage held on April 6, the day the Declaration of Arbroath was signed in 1320.

The Tartan Day celebration was started in Canada in 1987 and spread to the United States ten years later; recently, it has also been recognized in Scotland.

The games season is in full swing, and I wish to thank all of those who host the tents at the various games. It is always a pleasure to attend and chat with our kinsmen.

I am also encouraged by the continuing effort to locate the old homesteads. We now have a pretty good catalog of the old sites and continue to add to it. It tells the story of where we lived, how we lived, and often, why we left.



Le gach deagh drachm

With every good wish,

Michael T McAlpin

Commander

Name of MacAlpine



Presidents Letter Meet Finley

Highland Dance Scholarship Recipient

Hi! My name is Finley Figueredo, I am 13 years old (7th grade) and live in Winter Garden, Florida. I began dancing at the age of four and became a Scottish Highland Dancer when I was seven. Over the years, I have developed a strong love for dance, and I am committed to pushing myself to achieve greater success in the world of Highland Dance.

I am so proud to say that I am a Straight-A Student and a member of National Juniors Honor Society while taking all Honors classes and am already taking high-school level courses. My academic achievements reflect my strong work ethic and determination, qualities I also bring to my dance training. As a pre-premier dancer, I was honored to place best overall in multiple competitions, and now, as a new premier dancer, I have continued to achieve success placing in the top five at the competitions I have entered. These experiences have shaped me into a more confident and skilled dancer, but I know that there is still so much for me to learn.

This scholarship would allow me to attend private lessons with my teacher, Kathryn Austin. This will help improve my technique and learn new choreography. I know I will become a stronger dancer by having private lessons which in return will allow me the opportunity to compete at higher levels with other dancers and judges.

I am incredibly grateful for your consideration of my application. If awarded this scholarship, I will dedicate myself to using it to further my development as a dancer. I am excited about the future and look forward to continuing to grow in this wonderful dance form. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

Finley Figueredo



Meet Finley (continued)

Dear McAlpine Clan,

Thank you so much for reaching out and graciously awarding my daughter, Finley, scholarship money to support her Scottish Highland Dancing journey. Please know that the funds will be put to excellent use.

Since submitting her application, Finley competed in the Southeast Regionals Scottish Highland Dance Championship in Savannah, where she proudly placed first in her age group. As a result, she will be representing the Southeast at the U.S. Inter-Regional Championships in Santa Clara, California on July 12th. Finley has been training several hours a day to prepare for this incredible opportunity.

In addition, this September she will attend the 22nd BATD North American Sadie Simpson Scholarships and Highland Weekend. As a scholarship nominee, she will not only compete but also participate in workshops with other top dancers from across North America.

As you can imagine, the costs associated with these events—travel, training, private lessons, and more—add up quickly. Your generous support is deeply appreciated and genuinely helps ease the financial burden on our family.

Attached is a photo of Finley taken in Savannah just after her championship win. We're so proud of her hard work, and your support helps make these experiences possible.



With heartfelt thanks,

Janna Figueredo

House of MacAlpine is happy to announce that we have granted Finley a scholarship to help cover her fees for upcoming competitions. Watch our Facebook page for updates from Finley's mom, Janna. Finley is representing the SE US in Santa Clara on July 12. Keep her in your thoughts and wish her well.

Join me in wishing Finley well as she continues to pursue her Highland Dancing path. We are happy to help you along on your journey.

In Kinship,

Dale McAlpine
President



The Homestead Project – McAlpine's at Arinafad Beg

Submitted by
Mark S.C. McAlpin
Sennachie elect

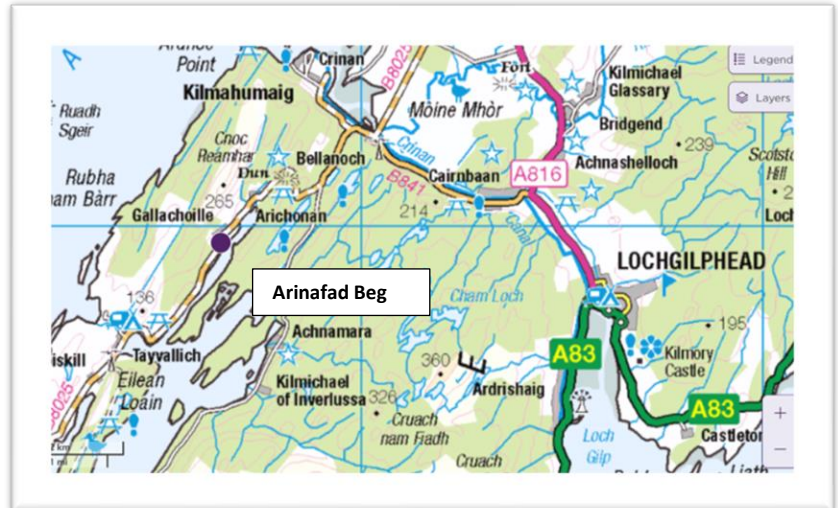
On the B8025 between Kilmartin and Tayvallich, nestled in the rugged beauty of North Knapdale, the small township of Arinafad Beg—also recorded as Ardnafad Beg—holds a quiet but enduring place in the story of the McAlpines. This remote settlement, now a historical site, once echoed with the lives and labors of Highland families, including that of Malcolm McAlpine, who lived there in the late 18th and early 19th centuries.

According to parish records, Malcolm McAlpine was born around 1794 and was married to Catherine Smith of Barbreack. The couple resided in Arinafad Beg. This area was known for its scattered crofting communities and Gaelic culture.

The site is officially cataloged in the Canmore National Record of the Historic Environment under the name Ardnafad Beg. It is classified as a township, though its period remains unassigned, suggesting a long and possibly ancient history of habitation.

Today, Arinafad Beg is remembered through vintage photographs, maps, and local lore. The Francis Frith Collection offers a nostalgic glimpse into the landscape and life of the area, preserving memories that might otherwise fade.

For descendants of the McAlpine family, Arinafad Beg is more than a dot on a map—it is a touchstone to a time when kinship, land, and legacy were deeply intertwined. As we continue to trace our roots, places like Arinafad Beg remind us of where we lived, how we lived, and often, why we left.



Roofless but well-preserved building at Arinafad Beg, the rest of the township is in a more ruinous state

The Argyle Patent

Between 1738 and 1740, three groups of Scottish Presbyterian families from Argyle totaling 472 persons, were brought to the New World by invitation of the Provincial Governor of New York Colony, Alexander Montgomery, who offered a thousand acres of land to every adult, and five hundred acres to every child who paid passage. This land was known as The Argyle Patent, in what is now Washington County, New York, on the border with Vermont.

At that time, the promised area was beyond the frontier, and the Royal government believed that the establishment there of a colony of hardy Highlanders would serve as protection against the oft repeated, and always threatening, incursions of the French and Indians of Canada.

These Highlanders and Islanders had always had a hard life, but hearing of free land and opportunity in America made their life in Scotland seem even harder. They were encouraged by the stories of Captain Laughlin Campbell, director of the project, of the fine lands he had been promised in the upper Hudson Valley. His glowing accounts fired the hopes of the struggling crofters, and he had no trouble in recruiting for his project a considerable company from the glens and mountains of the mainland, including the Kilmartin area, as well as the adjacent islands of Islay and Jura.

The first shipload of emigrants sailed from Islay in 1738, their high hopes for the future somewhat tempered by the tears of parting from their relatives and neighbors. There were 33 families, 135 in total, including 42 children. Dougald McAlpine, his wife Mary McPhaden and their two children, Donald and Mary, were a part of this sailing. With 1,000 acres per adult, and 500 acres per child, their anticipated holding would be 3,000 acres.

The passage took several weeks during which the passengers were subjected to all the discomforts of the ocean travel of those days. The ship was small and was pitched and tossed by the rough seas. The accommodations were crude, without privacy, and each passenger had to provide his own bed and food. Fresh water was limited, and the ship was infested with vermin. They were hungry. They were dirty. They were ill, and there was no doctor among them. They landed in New York in June 1738, exhausted and sick, but still hopeful. They spoke Gaelic only.

Captain Campbell guided them to temporary quarters in this strange, foreign city and at once set about concluding his arrangements for the promised land.

A second shipload sailed in 1739, arriving in New York in June, with 42 families totaling 169 emigrants, 24 of whom were children. The third ship sailed from the island of Jura in 1740. Robert McAlpine arrived on this ship.

Captain Campbell met with delay after delay and disappointment after disappointment.

Corrupt officials demanded not only excessive fees, but the gift of one-half of the lands to be allotted. Neither the emigrants nor Captain Campbell could afford to pay their demands.



The petition for a patent was made in 1738 and signed by Governor Alexander Montgomery. The governor favored the petition and even proposed that each of the settlers be granted, in addition, seven dollars each. The legislature, however, refused to approve it. The Governor made repeated efforts, but the legislature stood firm, and the poor homeless immigrants were the victims.

Captain Campbell did what he was able to care for these newcomers. Nearly all were unskilled except in agriculture. Sixteen found employment and homes in New York City. Eight settled in New Jersey, three in Pennsylvania, two in Albany, three in the Caribbean, and others found work in and around the area. By 1763 thirty-one had died, and the fate of twenty-eight others is not known.

Many who found employment kept in touch with each other. They learned something of the strange language, and the younger ones received enough schooling to read and write. They kept alive the injustice which had been done to them and related the story to all listeners. Some of those who settled in New York and New Jersey had become successful merchants and acquired an education.

The hope of the promised land was never given up and in 1761, another petition for a grant was addressed to the legislature. It was received with some favor but due to the delays which typically accompany all public acts, the petition had to be renewed in 1763.

At last, in 1764, twenty-six years after the first shipload departed from Islay, the New York provincial government granted a patent for upwards of forty thousand acres of land, for distribution among the original emigrants, less than 10 percent of the original. By early 1765 the patent had been surveyed and deeds issued for one hundred and thirty-three lots.

The trustees of the Patent, despite their efforts to find those who were justly entitled to an allotment, were unable to trace all the people who had come to America a generation before in the three ships. Many were found to have died, some without heirs and some with widows and children. Some of the legitimate claimants evinced little or no interest in the project and did not ask for allotments.

The farm lots varied in acreage depending upon the size of the family and, to some extent, upon the expressed wishes of the claimants. Of the signatures of the claimants on the last petition presented to the legislature, over one-half are by mark or crudely made initial, indicating that some progress had been made in Education.

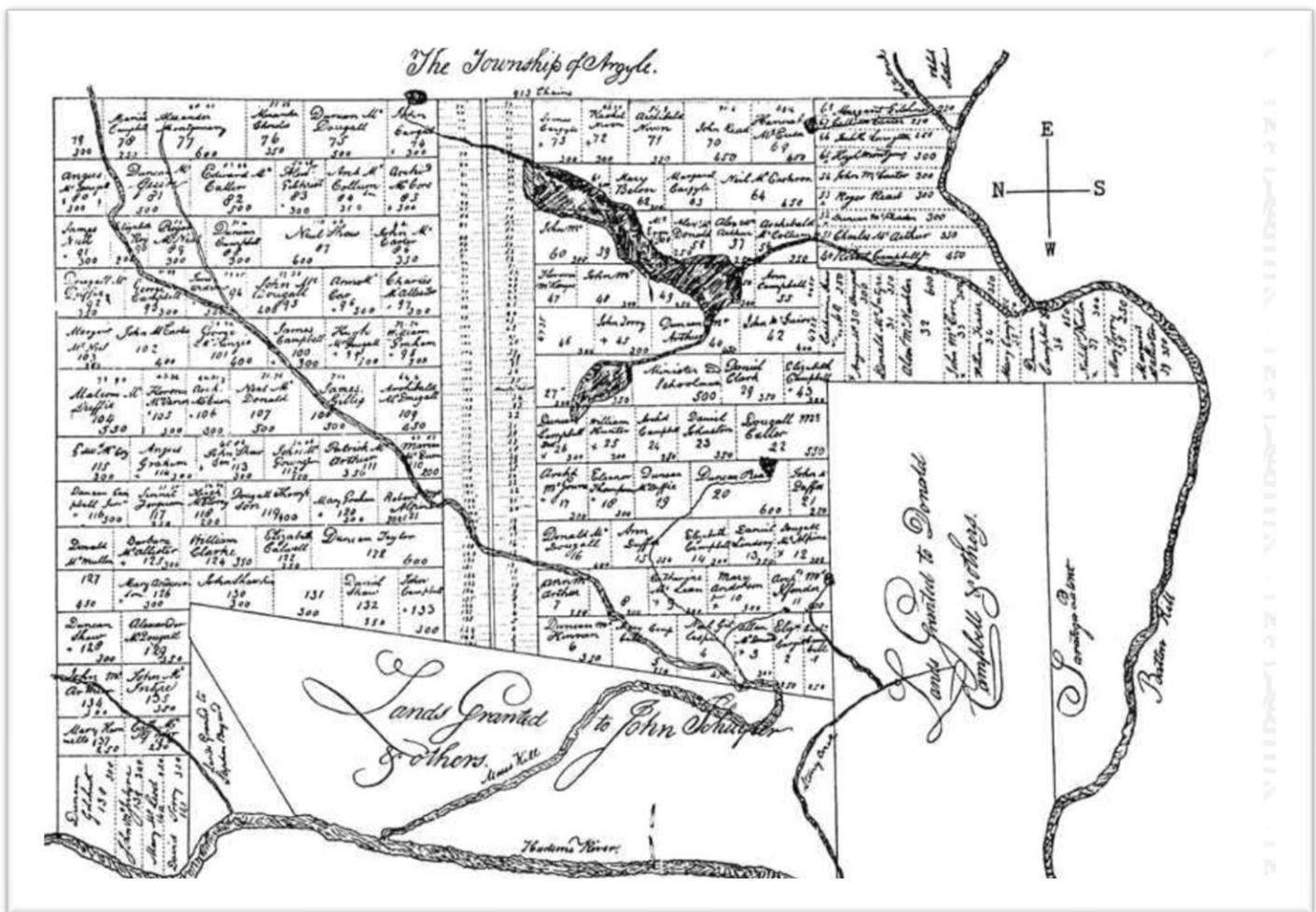
Amongst those who had arrived and finally were granted their lands were Dugald McAlpine, who arrived in July 1738, and Mary McPhaden, his wife, Donald and Mary, his children. Far from the promised 3,000 acres, he finally received 300 acres, sited on the map below as lot 12.

Robert McAlpine arrived on the third ship in November 1740. He received Lot 121, 300 acres. This lot contains all the village of Argyle east of Main Street.

Although the original contract was not kept, in 1764 a large number of these colonists succeeded in securing a grant of 47,450 acres, known as the Argyle Patent, in the township of Argyle and in parts of the towns of Fort Edward, Greenwich, and Salem in Washington County, New York, upon which the Scottish colonists and their descendants took up residence.

- MCALPINE, Dougall, Lot 12, 300 acres
- MCALPINE, Robert, Lot 121, 300 acres

Argyle was officially formed as a town on March 23, 1786. Since many of the original settlers were from Argyll, Scotland, they adopted the name of their native land to the town.



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

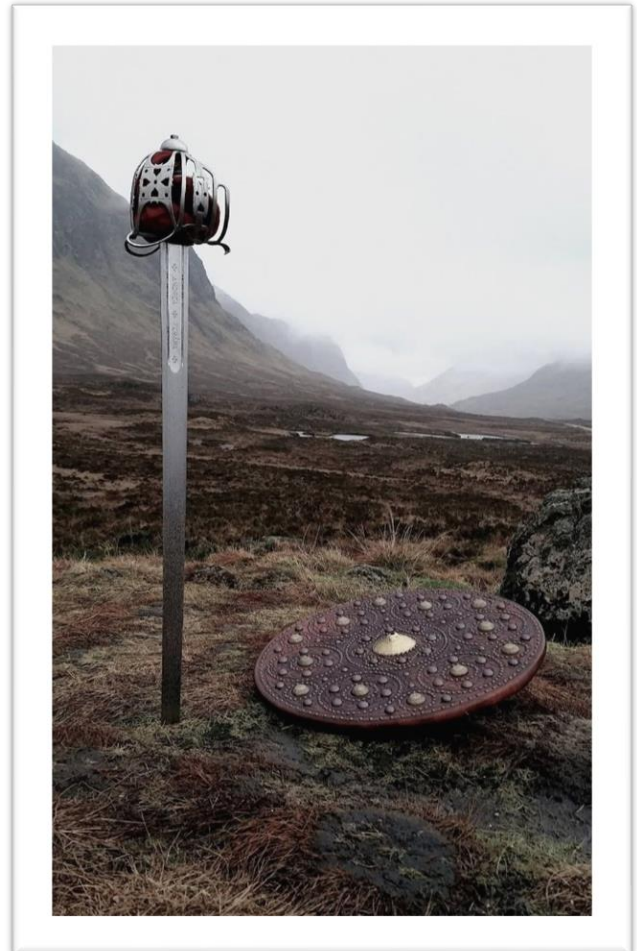
Newsletter Editor: Robin McAlpine

The Fencibles

Fencible men (a word that has gone out of use, but which is derived from the word defencible), were militia raised for the defense of a given district, the term of service being limited. They were generally considered to be all able-bodied men between sixteen and sixty. Their engagement was purely voluntary, and service was restricted to the county in which the force was raised.

A survey from 1692 listed in the “Commons of Argyll” of Fencible Men was made around Kilmartin and Knapdale, showing the following MacAlpines. These are our ancestors. Our Homestead project has located many of the old sites where they lived.

Dun : Mcalpen, from Clachandysart
Johne McCapin, from Kilmartin
John McAlpin from Kilmartin
John McCalpine from Kilmartin
Malcolme McCapin, from Kilmartin
Malcolm McAlpin from Kilmartin
Malcolm McAlpin from Kilmartin
Dougall McAlpin, from Over Shervin
Gilbert McAlpin ab: from Glesvar
John McAlpin, from Auchigdrom
John McCalpine, from Dunanes, Knapdale
John McCalpine, from Ob Campbell, Knapdale
Malcolme McCalpine, from Ob Campbell, Knapdale
Malcolme McCalpine, from Ardchoreine, Knapdale
John McCalpine, from Kilmore, Knapdale
John McCalpin, from Ardnaw, Knapdale
Donald McCalpine, from Dunoristen
Dugald McAlpine, from Duppine, Saddell Paroch,
Killeen
John McAlpine, from Altgaltrichs, Inverchaolain
Duncan McAlpen of Killespickerrill
Duncan McCalpine of Gallichellie
Duncan M'Alpine of Craige*
Malcolm M'Alpine of Arichonan*
Malcolm M'Alpine of Arichonan*



“There is of hielanders in the paroches of Kilmichael, Kilchuslan, Kilkerrin and Kilblain Fencible men had they armes ane hundred and ten men all the armes is eighteen swords and eight guns.

The only parish which is returned as being fully armed is Clachandysart. Each man having a sword and a gun.

Lismore has 55 swords and 41 guns, Kilmore and Kilbride 103 swords and 31 guns.
Knapdale 66 swords and 32 guns, Kilberry 44 swords and 19 guns and Kilfinan 62 swords and 40 guns. Considerable numbers in the various parishes had no arms of any description.

- Scottish Register of Inventories 1693

Savannah Scottish Games

Submitted by:
Charles McAlpine
Coastal Carolina/Georgia

One of the early games to kick off the spring season are the Scottish Games in Savannah, Ga. held this year on May 3rd, 2025. The event is held at historic Bethesda Academy (founded in 1740). These games are growing in popularity in Savannah and double their attendance year over year. Normally held on the main campus, they have grown to where the usual location can no longer support the large crowds any longer. Therefore, Bethesda Academy offered a new field next door this year that is much larger and can accommodate the continued growth and success of the games for years to come. The new location is awesome, and still along the Moon River with plenty of shade under the grand live oaks and expansive views of the river and marsh land.

Our tent was hosted by Charles McAlpine, Sheryl McAlpine and daughter Keelin McAlpine. We also had great help from our friends Michael Croom from Florida, and Cohner McCurry. It's always good to see them and I appreciate their friendship and help. We had a great location where we could watch the games from one side, and turn around to see the tug-of-war games, the kiddie section, and the pipe band competition area that overlooked Moon River. The weather was perfect but a little breezy in the afternoon as the wind came in across the river.

The games were a great success with all the typical heavy athletics, 40 clans represented, 40 vendors in attendance, 6 pipe bands (including the awesome band from Virginia Military Institute), and a larger food court than in years past, dancing competition, birds of prey, sheep herding, etc.

The entertainment was spectacular on the main stage with 5 awesome bands throughout the day including Lochlann, The Wandering Hour, 2 bluegrass bands, and headliners Seven Nations. The main event culminated with a spectacular performance with special guest Ally the Piper! Her performance went well beyond the closing of the games, so you could hang out after hours to enjoy the party if you wished. Thousands did!

Overall, it was an awesome event, and with the new location it will get bigger and better every year! We have a permanent spot at these games, so I encourage you to plan your trip next year and stop in for a visit!





The 63rd Annual Fair Hill Scottish Games

Elkton Maryland May 17, 2025

Submitted by:
Donald Ross McAlpine

For the second consecutive year, the House of MacAlpine hosted a tent in the clan village. Another thing that was also a second consecutive event? Thunderstorms the night before and the morning of- Scottish weather at it's best! Fortunately, the sun came out and chased the clouds away and it turned into a beautiful day.

Set-up for our tent had us sandwiched between the Clan MacAlister and the Clan MacDougall tents. Ably assisting that day was my daughter, Kayla McAlpine and her friend Nate, Ann McAlpine and Richard Campbell (Who wore a magnificent pair of tartan trousers! While we may have been small in numbers, when it came time to march in with the clans, we had some representation.

A significant improvement over last year was the location of the clan village. We were much closer to the athletics/dancing/piping events which led to a much larger amount of pedestrian traffic. We also probably hand-stamped about 50 to 60 kids this year! The hand stamp is very popular with kids when they see it.

As per the usual standards of Highland games, they also had a whisky tasting presentation, but none of us went. I did however have a little libation at the tent!

All in all it was a good day, with good company and fine weather. If you are in the area next year, stop by, we will be happy to have you. Until then, Slainte!





Gallabrae – Greenville Scottish Games

Submitted by:
Charles McAlpine
Coastal Carolina/Georgia

One of the great Memorial Day celebrations in South Carolina are the Gallabrae Scottish Games in Greenville, SC, held on the beautiful campus of Furman University. This is a very popular event and is very much supported by the whole city. It begins with a huge parade down Main Street Friday evening, and a full day of festivities the following Saturday. It's especially nice to see the World War II planes fly over several times, and to watch 4 paratroopers jump out of a helicopter high above and float down to mid field before the games begin. It's a wonderful and heartwarming tribute to our fallen Heros in our military before the actual games begin.

This year our tent was hosted by Mark McAlpin, Michael McAlpin, and Charles McAlpine. (our great ambassadors). It was well decorated and very popular. We had a great location to watch the heavy athletics from one side, and hear the music from the main stage on the other side. I must say that the acoustics from the main stage are the best I've heard at highland games. There is a huge stage and the sound system they use is awesome. The main music performances were from Albannach (one of my personal favorites!). In addition to the traditional sights (games, vendors, kiddie section, food court etc.), this event hosts a British car show so you could wonder by and see old antique MGs, Triumphs, Jaguars, Land Rovers etc. Many of them in mint condition! Beautiful cars!

We also had the pleasure of our friend Shawn McConnell (piper with Savannah Pipes and Drums) stop by and play for us and helped us host the tent. He drew a crowd, not only with his playing, but he showed the crowd the actual mechanics of the instrument, and how they were played up close. It was fun to watch the kids' reaction when he started playing right in front of them! A special thanks for his friendship and stopping by to add something special for the day.

Overall, it was a wonderful event, and I encourage anyone in the area next year to attend. There's a lot to offer, and it's an honor to be part of it all with the House of MacAlpine tent!





**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**



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**

Dram Good Times: A MacAlpine in Speyside

Submitted by Mark S.C. McAlpin, Sennachie Elect

Whisky, kinship, and storytelling from the heart of Scotland

As the unofficial Whisky Ambassador of the House of MacAlpine, I had the distinct pleasure of attending the 2025 Speyside Whisky School, followed by the world-renowned Speyside Whisky Festival. Nestled in the heart of Scotland's whisky country, the school offered an immersive, hands-on education in the art and science of whisky-making. From malting and mashing to distillation and maturation, I gained a deeper appreciation for the craftsmanship and story behind every dram. Many aspects still crafted by hand such as pot still and barrels. The camaraderie among fellow whisky enthusiasts—many of whom shared ancestral ties to the Highlands—made the experience all the more meaningful.

The festival that followed was a spirited celebration of Speyside's finest. I had countless opportunities to share a dram with new friends while exchanging stories about our heritage and love for whisky.

After a memorable tasting session with Gordon & MacPhail, I somehow found myself sharing a dram with none other than Robin Laing, the Whisky Bard himself, along with a few spirited folks from the G&M team. The conversation flowed as freely as the whisky, weaving tales of distilleries, poetry, and Highland lore. It was one of those serendipitous Speyside moments where time slows, and the warmth of good company and fine whisky creates memories that linger long after the last drop.

Part of that memorable evening involved tasting Glendronach 18 Sherry Cask Matured, which boasted rich notes of dark chocolate, dried fruits, and a hint of spice—a true testament to its sherry cask aging process. Another highlight was savoring the GlenAllachie 12, with its delightful balance of honeyed sweetness, vanilla oakiness, and subtle hints of cinnamon. These shared moments—glasses raised, stories told, and laughter echoing through the Speyside air—reminded me that whisky is more than a drink; it's a bridge between generations, clans, and kindred spirits. I return home not only with a few prized bottles but with stories, friendships, and a renewed pride in our Scottish roots.



Charles, Lord Bruce Installed as New Convenor

Standing Council of Scottish Chiefs



Sir Malcolm MacGregor has stepped down as Convenor after a second term in office and Charles, Lord Bruce has assumed the Convenorship of the organization.

Lord Bruce is very active and visible in the Scottish heritage community, on both sides of the Atlantic. He is also very involved in the Family of Bruce International (their clan society), as his elderly father, the Earl of Elgin, Chief of the Bruces, is now over 100 years old!